

# Baginton Parish Council

## Metal Detecting Policy

### Introduction

1. This document sets out the policy of Baginton Parish Council regarding requests for permission from individuals and organisations to conduct metal detecting on land it owns, leases or manages.
2. This policy recognises that removal of an archaeological object from its context, unless carried out by an experienced archaeologist, can cause the loss of valuable contextual information, as well as damage to the artefact itself.
3. Any unauthorised detecting constitutes vandalism under the Criminal Damage Act 1971.

### Policy

4. Metal detecting is not permitted on any areas of land owned, leased or managed by Baginton Parish Council, including land to which the public has a right of access.  
The main concerns are: -
  - a. damage to roots, plants, wildlife.
  - b. creation of trip hazards.
  - c. removal of artefacts from their original position thereby losing vital archaeological information.
  - d. damage to related archaeological deposits.
  - e. unreported discoveries.
  - f. risk of discovering ordnance.
5. Baginton Parish Council may consider metal detecting permissible in the following exceptional circumstances: -
  - a. where detecting is part of an approved programme of archaeological research. Any such proposal must be approved by the Full Council.
  - b. where detecting is necessary to recover personal items that have been lost or surface metal that would cause damage to people or machinery. Permission will be limited to surface detecting only and no excavation will be allowed.
6. Persons carrying out metal detecting activity must be members of a recognised metal detecting club or archaeological research organisation and abide by their code of practice (preferably the Code of Conduct of the National Council for Metal Detecting [www.ncmd.co.uk](http://www.ncmd.co.uk)), including relevant licensing and £10m public liability insurance.