

POLICY ON METAL DETECTING ON BATTLEFIELD SURVEY	
Prepared by: G Foard: 31/07/2004 Updated by G Foard: 15/05/2006	Validated by: Trustees of the Battlefields Trust: 2004 Michael Rayner: 16/05/2006

A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT IS TO BE PROVIDED TO ALL THOSE DETECTING ON TRUST SURVEYS. A COPY OF THE WAIVER FORM TO BE SIGNED BY THEM AND BY A TRUST REPRESENTATIVE AND FILED WITH THE SURVEY RECORDS



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POLICY ON METAL DETECTING ON BATTLEFIELD SURVEYS UNDERTAKEN BY *THE BATTLEFIELDS TRUST*

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Metal detector users play a central role in battlefield survey. Across the world, collaboration between them and battlefield archaeologists has led to the recovery of a wide range of data which is transforming our understanding of past military action.
- 1.2 This document has been prepared by **The Battlefields Trust** to define how it aims to achieve the most fruitful partnership between *bona fide* detectorists and archaeologists in the Trust's battlefield survey projects. It should be used in conjunction with any specific method statement prepared for an individual survey. It also represents the Trust's guidance to others as to best practice in battlefield survey.

2. Project Coordinator

- 2.1 All battlefield surveys or excavation projects involving metal detector users will have a nominated Project Coordinator, who will have the necessary battlefield archaeology experience and expertise to achieve the best results from metal detector operators in the field.
- 2.2 The Project Coordinator will be responsible for maintaining a register of nominated detector users involved in the survey; arrange site access; ensure best practice in survey and recording methodology is applied throughout the survey; seek to ensure appropriate arrangements are made for essential conservation of and deposition of finds in an museum archive; brief the nominated detector users and ensure that they adhere to the principles set out in the written agreement.
- 2.3 The Project Coordinator will liaise with the appropriate Local Archaeological Officer and the Finds Liaison Officer regarding all relevant aspects of the

survey. Where the survey is on a Registered Battlefield the Project Coordinator will advise the Battlefields Inspector of English Heritage.

3. Nominated detector users

Nominated metal detector users on battlefield surveys must agree to abide by the Policies, Guidelines and Agreements of **The Battlefields Trust** and to follow the specific survey and recording methods defined for the survey.

4. Written agreements

All such work will be regulated by formal written agreements, signed by the Project Coordinator and the nominated detector users. This is to ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with a set of principles agreed at the outset of the project.

5. Health and Safety

All those working on a battlefield survey have a responsibility at all times to look after their own welfare and those with whom they work. An outline Risk Assessment for battlefield survey, prepared by the Trust, is appended to this policy document and should be read by all those taking part in a battlefield survey.

6. Insurance

Nominated detector users will be given free membership of The Battlefields Trust for the duration of their involvement in the survey and will be covered by The Battlefields Trust's insurance while undertaking survey work. This insurance cover comprises Public Liability of £5,000,000, to protect the interests of the landowner and third parties, as well as cover for the volunteers themselves.

7. Finds ownership

Nominated detector users will be required to sign a written agreement waiving their rights to ownership of all finds so that, subject to landowner agreement, these may be incorporated into the site archive. They will also be required to waive all rights to claim any reward under the Treasure Act 1996, in accordance with section 81 of the *Treasure Act Code of Practice*.

8 Reporting of Treasure Finds

Treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district in which it is found either within 14 days after the day of discovery or within 14 days after the day it is realised the find might be treasure. The project coordinator, in consultation with the relevant Finds Liaison Officer, should make the report or ensure that a report is made.

Find covered by the Act:

- A metallic object, other than a coin, that is at least 300 years and of which at least 10 per cent, by weight of metal, is gold or silver. If prehistoric then it is Treasure if any part is gold or silver.
- Two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find (i.e. found in the same place as, or previously together with the other object).

- All coins from the same find, if at least 300 years old (if containing less than 10 per cent of gold or silver then there must be at least ten of them). They are from the same find if they are:
 - hoards that have been deliberately hidden
 - smaller groups of coins, such as the contents of purses, that may have been dropped or lost
 - votive or ritual deposits.
- Any object, whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, another object that is Treasure.
- Objects that are less than 300 years old, that are made substantially of gold or silver, that have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery and whose owners or heirs are unknown.

9. Access and supervision

9.1 Access times shall be agreed between the Project Coordinator and the nominated detector users.

9.2 No detecting should take place except under supervision of the Project Coordinator or a representative of the Battlefields Trust specified by him.

10. Acknowledgement

The role of metal detector users in the project will be acknowledged in all publicity, interim reports, museum displays or final publications arising from it.

APPENDIX 1: Risk Assessment

BATTLEFIELD METAL DETECTING SURVEY RISK ASSESSMENT & MITIGATION GUIDANCE	
The Battlefields Trust	
Prepared: G Foard 26/10/2005	Validated: M Rayner 26/10/2005

A first aid kit will be carried at all times when a project team in the field and information provided as to the nearest A&E department.

A record of any accidents to volunteers or Battlefield Trust officers will be maintained.

- ***Slips & trips etc***

Important to take extra care near trenches and deep ditches, including those with water. Also likely to be exacerbated in icy conditions.

Care to be taken when climbing fences and gates.

Dangers of barbed wire also to be noted.

- ***Digging, pegging etc***

Danger of injury, particularly to feet, from digging and inserting grid markers.

Metal detectorists cannot not wear steel capped boots or similar protective footwear, so particular care must be taken.

Markers for transects to be suitably flagged for visibility

Digging tools to be suitable for the task and well maintained

Metal ranging poles not to be carried vertically within 6m of overhead cables.

- ***Manual handling***

Carrying of heavy or large amounts of survey equipment such as ranging poles, marker flags, detectors and digging tools.

Equipment to be spread between the survey team as far as practicable.

- ***Low temperatures***

Fieldworkers are likely to be in the field for up to 7 hours in very cold conditions in the winter. All should ensure they wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

- ***High temperatures***

Fieldworkers are likely to be in the field for up to 7 hours without cover in the summer. They must ensure to carry plenty of water and to wear suitable clothing, especially a hat to protect against sunstroke.

- ***sharp objects in the ground***

Glass attached to bottle tops and other such items.

Care to be taken in removing objects by hand.

- ***Road traffic***

Fieldwork will involve crossing of roads. Particular care is needed when walking along or crossing roads.

Parking of vehicles by fieldworkers to be in suitable locations where they do not cause a safety hazard.

- ***Stock***

Dangers of stock, such as bulls, to be assessed before entering any field. Also care taken to ensure gates are closed to avoid any incidents caused by stock escaping onto roads etc.

- ***Lone working***

Lone working will not normally be practiced. Metal detecting will normally be conducted with a team of two or more individuals.

Where lone working is unavoidable then a mobile phone will be carried at all times; also the person undertaking the work will report in to the Project Coordinator or other agreed responsible person as appropriate, when starting work and when completing work on each specific day.

- ***Weil's Disease***

Risk of contracting Weil's disease (Leptospirosis).

Avoid standing or running water where rats may be active. Wash hands before handling food or eating.

APPENDIX 2: Formal Agreement for Metal Detectorists



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FORMAL AGREEMENT FOR METAL DETECTORISTS WORKING ON BATTLEFIELD SURVEYS WITH THE BATTLEFIELDS TRUST

TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE STARTING WORK ON SITE

BATTLEFIELD NAME:

I agree, when working on the above survey, to abide by the principles and conditions set out in the Trust's **POLICY FOR METAL DETECTING ON BATTLEFIELD SITES**

I agree to waive all rights of ownership to all finds so that these may be incorporated into the site archive.

I also agree to abide by section 81 of the Treasure Act (1996) Code of Practice¹ and, as such, I hereby waive all rights to rewards for objects discovered that could otherwise be payable under the Treasure Act 1996.

I, (Name in block capitals).....
have read and understood the above agreement and will abide by its conditions.

Signed:

Detectorist:.....Date:/...../.....

Signed:

On behalf of The Battlefields Trust.....Date:/...../.....

¹ Section 81 of the Treasure Act Code of practice:

"Rewards will not be payable when the find is made by an archaeologist or anyone engaged on an archaeological excavation. In cases of uncertainty archaeologists are recommended to require any individuals for whom they are responsible, or to whom they have given, or for whom they have sought, permission to search, to sign a statement waiving their right to a reward. If there is doubt as to whether the finder was an archaeologist (or a person engaged on an archaeological excavation or investigation), the Treasure Valuation Committee shall decide". Treasure Act 1996. Code of practice (Revised) (England and Wales, DCMS, London (2002).