



## Cabinet

**Date:** Tuesday, 6 September 2022  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Venue:** Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

**Membership: (Quorum 3)**

Spencer Flower (Chairman), Peter Wharf (Vice-Chairman), Graham Carr-Jones, Ray Bryan, Tony Ferrari, Laura Beddow, Andrew Parry, Gary Suttle, Jill Haynes and David Walsh

**Cabinet Lead Members (6)** (are not members of the Cabinet but are appointed to work alongside Portfolio Holders)

Simon Gibson, Andrew Kerby, Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Byron Quayle and Jane Somper

**Chief Executive:** Matt Prosser, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services Meeting Contact 01305 252234 - [kate.critchell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:kate.critchell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

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## Agenda

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<b>12. AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK AND METAL DETECTING ON DORSET COUNCIL LAND POLICY</b>	3 - 20
<p>To consider a recommendation of the Place and Resources Committee of 28 July 2022.</p>	

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# Recommendation to Cabinet – 6 September 2022

From the Place and Resources Overview Committee of  
28 July 2022

## Archaeological Fieldwork and Metal Detecting on Dorset Council Land Policy

### For Decision

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr L Beddow, Culture, Customer and Community  
Services and Cllr T Ferrari, Economic Growth, Assets & Property

**Local Councillor(s):** All

**Executive Director:** [J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place](#)

Report Author: Claire Pinder  
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**Report Status:** [Public](#)

### Recommendation:

That the Archaeological Fieldwork and Metal Detecting on Dorset Council Land Policy be adopted subject to Cabinet taking into consideration the suggestions made by the Place and Resources Overview Committee as follows:

- Removal of the word 'amateur' from the policy and replacing it in some places with '*non-professional*'
- Including the following wording in bullet point 7 in paragraph 5.1 of the policy on safeguarding issues: '*Demonstrate awareness of health and safety measures appropriate to the activity for which permission is being requested, including safeguarding, as necessary.*'
- Including the following wording in point 3.1 of the policy on highway verges: '*This policy applies to all Dorset Council land, including highways and verges.*'

## **Reasons for Recommendation:**

The old metal detecting on Dorset Council farms policy is out of date and does not include all Dorset Council land. The revised Archaeological Fieldwork and Metal Detecting on Dorset Council Land Policy provides an updated version.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A - Report to Place and Resources Overview Committee – 28 July 2022 – Amateur Archaeological Fieldwork and Metal Detecting on Dorset Council Land Policy (*report includes appendix 1 - Archaeological Fieldwork and Metal Detecting on Dorset Council Land Policy*)

Appendix B – Extract from minutes of Place and Resources Overview Committee on 28 July 2022

## **Background papers**

[Agenda for Place and Resources Overview Committee on Thursday, 28th July, 2022, 10.00 am - Dorset Council](#)

# **Place and Resources Overview Committee 28 July 2022 Amateur Archaeological Fieldwork and Metal Detecting on Dorset Council Land Policy**

## **For Recommendation to Cabinet**

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr L Miller, Customer and Community Services  
Cllr T Ferrari, Economic Growth, Assets & Property

**Local Councillor(s):** All

**Executive Director:** J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

Report Author: Claire Pinder  
Title: Senior Archaeologist (Promotion and Liaison)  
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**Report Status:** Public

### **Summary**

Dorset Council owns land on behalf of and for the benefit of the people of Dorset and is committed to protecting and enhancing the county's environment. Dorset's rich historic environment inspires enormous public interest and enthusiasm. It makes a significant contribution to cultural activities and quality of life and is used and enjoyed by many.

Reputable and proficient metal detectorists are now regarded as part of a wider community of amateur practitioners active in the historic environment. For example, people who, for recreation, carry out systematic fieldwalking and recovery of artefacts from the ground surface. Public participation in these activities has increased, with a recent Covid-19 related boom as more people try to be active outdoors. Many more novices are taking up these activities, often without proper preparation, leading to increased calls on Dorset Council staff time.

Requests for access to land are more frequent, and for a wider range of archaeological fieldwork. Tenants, site managers and front-line colleagues need to know how to handle these requests.

## Appendix A

The Amateur Archaeological Fieldwork and Metal Detecting on Dorset Council Land Policy is an update of the previous policy on metal detecting on county farms which is now outdated as it does not include all of Dorset Council land or all archaeological fieldwork activities.

The update of this policy relates to historic building recording and archaeological fieldwork by individuals, special interest groups such as metal detecting clubs, local history and archaeological societies, students, academic researchers.

This policy provides clarity to Dorset Council staff, DC tenants and members of the public and clearly states that amateur archaeological fieldwork and metal detecting is not permitted on land owned or managed by Dorset Council unless permission has been granted based on an approved programme of archaeological investigation or research.

Through this policy Dorset Council is establishing best practice as a responsible landowner and steward of Dorset's cultural heritage and historic environment.

The work relating to this policy sits with in the Historic Environment Record Team at Dorset History Centre under the Senior Archaeologist (Promotion and Liaison).

**Recommendation:** That members of the committee comment, as appropriate, on the policy and recommend it to Cabinet for adoption

### **Reason for Recommendation:**

The old metal detecting on Dorset Council farms policy is out of date and does not include all Dorset Council land. The revised Amateur Archaeological Fieldwork and Metal Detecting on Dorset Council Land Policy provides an updated version.

#### **1. Financial Implications**

No financial implications

#### **2. Climate implications**

No Climate implications

#### **3. Well-being and Health Implications**

No Well-being and health implications

#### **4. Other Implications**

None

## **5. Risk Assessment**

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

## **6. Equalities Impact Assessment**

An EqIA screening has been carried out which has indicated that the policy is neutral in impact and does not require a full EqIA,

## **7. Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Amateur Archaeological Fieldwork and Metal Detecting on Dorset Council Land Policy

## **8. Background Papers**

### **9.1 Introduction**

Dorset Council owns land on behalf of and for the benefit of the people of Dorset and is committed to protecting and enhancing the county's environment. Dorset's rich historic environment inspires enormous public interest and enthusiasm. It makes a significant contribution to cultural activities and quality of life and is used and enjoyed by many. It complements interests such as the natural environment to draw people to engage with and be more active in the wider landscape.

Archaeology and research into local history are popular recreational activities, engaged in by many locals and visitors. Dorset's important archaeology attracts research by a wide range of students and more senior academics.

Archaeological and Heritage sites are protected by a range of laws covering heritage protection and activities in the countryside, as well as theft and heritage crime as part of rural crime in general. These include:

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, under which archaeological excavations in scheduled monuments require consent from Historic England in addition to consent from the landowner.
- Treasure Act 1996
- The Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Schedule 2.1 (k)

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- Highways Act 1980, Section 131
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Excavations require consent from Natural England in addition to consent from the landowner

### 9.2 **Dorset Metal Detectorists Liaison Scheme**

In June 1994 Dorset County Council established an identity card scheme for metal detectorists working in Dorset who subscribed to the Dorset Code of Best Practice (developed in collaboration with scheme members). The scheme still plays a role in educating novice detectorists and developing best practice in partnership with experienced detectorists.

### 9.3 **Previous Policy of metal detecting on Dorset County Council Farms**

The policy on metal detecting on county farms [MetalDetectingonDorsetCouncilFarms.pdf](#) was agreed by Dorset County Council's Planning and Economic Development Committee (5 March 1996) and Amenities Committee (13 March 1996). The policy stated that permission for metal detecting would be granted only with the tenant's consent, and if the applicant demonstrated a track record of recording and reporting of finds to a high standard. All finds would remain the property of the Council. When it was introduced, the policy was innovative and widely applauded. It is now rather dated. Circumstances have changed. The Treasure Act 1996, the national Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) <https://finds.org.uk/> and action by reputable metal detectorists (national bodies such as the National Council for Metal Detecting, metal detecting clubs and individuals) to promote responsible metal detecting now provide a strong framework for the reporting and recording of finds made by the general public.

### 9.4 **Reason for the review of the Metal Detecting on Dorset County Farms policy**

The reasons for the need to renew the policy are:

- a) LGR – Dorset Council now has a great deal more land and the old policy only covers Dorset Council county farms not all Dorset Council land
- b) Public participation in these activities, especially metal detecting has increased, with a recent Covid-19 related boom as more people try to be active outdoors. Many more novices are taking up these activities,

## Appendix A

often without proper preparation, leading to increased calls on Dorset Council staff time.

- c) Requests for access to land are more frequent and are coming into a range of teams leading to uncertainty over what activities are permitted. Tenants, site managers and front-line colleagues need to know how to handle these requests.
- d) There are more requests for access to DC land for a wider range of archaeological fieldwork rather than just metal detecting.

### **10.0 The revised Amateur Archaeological Fieldwork and Metal Detecting on Dorset Council Land Policy**

- 10.1 The Amateur Archaeological Fieldwork and Metal Detecting on Dorset Council Land Policy states that amateur archaeological fieldwork and metal detecting is not permitted on land owned or managed by Dorset Council unless it is part of a part of an approved programme of archaeological investigation/research.
- 10.2 This policy applies to all amateur archaeological activity and metal detecting.
- 10.3 This policy does not relate to research or fieldwork by archaeological buildings specialists or archaeological contractors undertaken as part of the planning process or commissioned by Dorset Council as landowner.
- 10.4 If permission is granted, it will be to a named individual, small group of named individuals or responsible body such as a university, local club, or society.
- 10.5 Written permission will be in the form of an Archaeological Research Agreement document signed by Dorset Council (Senior Archaeologist (Promotion and Liaison) and relevant service or site manager), any tenant, and all individuals to whom permission is granted, or the nominated responsible person in the case of an organisation such as a university for a specified area and time.
- 10.6 Requests for permission to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation/research will be made through the Historic Environment Record service at Dorset History Centre and be signed off by the Senior Archaeologist (Promotion and Liaison) before permission is granted.
- 10.7 All finds remain the property of Dorset Council.

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- 10.8 Information will be provided on the Dorset Council website, with links to external sources of information, activity-specific standards, and guidance. This will be promoted to current contacts and via the Communications Team.
- 10.9 Tenants, site managers and front-line colleagues will be provided with role-specific information, so they are equipped to handle requests to carry out this sort of fieldwork.
- 10.10 Dorset Council colleagues will be informed of the new policy and will be encouraged to include details of this policy in their site information and promotional material where appropriate
- 10.11 The policy will be reviewed at three yearly intervals.

**Footnote:**

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

# Archaeological Fieldwork and Metal Detecting on Dorset Council Land Policy

Ref. No.	
Category:(Y/N)	
People	
Place	
Corporate	
In Constitution	

## Policy Details

<p>What is this policy for?</p>	<p>This policy covers the carrying out of historic building recording and archaeological fieldwork and metal detecting, on Dorset Council land by non-professional or academic groups and individuals.</p> <p>This policy ensures Dorset Council will develop and implement best practice as a responsible landowner and archaeological curator, so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The wishes and interests of our tenants are respected.</li> <li>• Tenants and staff are equipped to deal with requests for access.</li> <li>• Important archaeological and natural environment sites are protected.</li> <li>• Any permitted fieldwork is done legally, to a good standard, and with consideration to other people and the environment.</li> <li>• Significant archaeological objects are made available to the people of Dorset and for future research (this usually means deposition in a museum).</li> <li>• High quality information is gathered about the historic environment of land owned by Dorset Council, to feed into its future management.</li> </ul>
<p>Who does this policy affect?</p>	<p>This policy affects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals, special interest groups such as metal detecting clubs, local history and archaeological societies, students, academic researchers, and others wishing to carry out archaeological fieldwork on land owned by Dorset Council.</li> <li>• Dorset Council farm tenants.</li> <li>• Staff managing Dorset Council Country Parks and other Dorset Council owned sites such as playing fields.</li> <li>• National and local museums, and anyone with an interest in the history and archaeology of Dorset.</li> <li>• Local communities, and people seeking peaceful recreation outdoors.</li> <li>• Other Dorset landowners.</li> </ul>
<p>Keywords</p>	<p>archaeology, detecting, detectorist, farm, fieldwalking, finds, geophysical survey, historic building recording, historic environment, metal detecting, metal detector, treasure</p>
<p>Author</p>	<p>Claire Pinder, Senior Archaeologist (Promotion and Liaison) 01305 224921 <a href="mailto:claire.pinder@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk">claire.pinder@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</a></p>

Does this policy relate to any laws?	The policy relates to a range of laws covering heritage protection and activities in the countryside, as well as theft and heritage crime as part of rural crime in general. These laws include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</li> <li>• Treasure Act 1996</li> <li>• Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Schedule 2.1 (k)</li> <li>• Highways Act 1980, Section 131</li> </ul>
Is this policy linked to any other Dorset Council policies?	No
Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)	N/A
Other Impact Assessments	N/A

### Status and Approvals

Status	<i>Live/draft</i>	Version	2
Last review date		Next review date	
Approved by (Senior Officer/Director)		Date approved	
Member/ Partnership Board Approval		Date approved	

# Archaeological Fieldwork and Metal Detecting on Dorset Council Land Policy

## Policy summary

<p><b>Purpose</b></p>	<p>This policy sets out Dorset Council’s criteria and conditions for the carrying out of historic environment fieldwork, especially in relation to metal detecting, on council land by non-professional or academic groups and individuals.</p> <p>Fieldwork of this sort is not permitted unless it is part of a project approved by Dorset Council’s Senior Archaeologist, and subject to a written agreement.</p>
<p><b>Scope</b></p>	<p>This policy relates to historic building recording and archaeological fieldwork by individuals, special interest groups such as metal detecting clubs, local history and archaeological societies, students, academic researchers.</p> <p>This policy does <u>not</u> relate to research or fieldwork by archaeological buildings specialists or archaeological contractors undertaken as part of the planning process or commissioned by Dorset Council as landowner.</p> <p>This policy covers all land owned by Dorset Council.</p>

## Glossary

*Fieldwalking:* The systematic recovery and recording of artefacts found on the surface of ploughed fields. Finds are recovered by walking across the field in an organised fashion.

*Geophysical survey:* Ground-based physical sensing techniques. The systematic measurement of variations in magnetic and electrical properties is used to map below-ground archaeological remains.

*Historic building survey:* Observation, investigation and recording of historic buildings ranging from simple photographic recording to more complex intrusive archaeological investigation.

*Historic Environment:* The historic environment is all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.

*Historic Environment Record (HER):* The Dorset HER is a record of historic buildings and archaeological finds and features in the county, and part of a national network. Information in the HER supports the work of Dorset Council and BCP Council in areas such as planning, historic buildings, and land management.

*Metal detecting:* Use of a hand-held electronic instrument to detect metal. Mostly done by amateur groups and individuals

*Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS):* A national scheme for the voluntary recording of finds set up by the DCMS in 1997. Dorset and Somerset run a joint scheme. PAS Finds Liaison Officers play an important role in the recording and reporting of finds of potential treasure.

## 1. Background to the policy

## **1.1 Introduction**

Dorset Council owns land on behalf of and for the benefit of the people of Dorset and is committed to protecting and enhancing the county's environment. Dorset's rich historic environment inspires enormous public interest and enthusiasm. It makes a significant contribution to cultural activities and quality of life and is used and enjoyed by many. It complements interests such as the natural environment to draw people to engage with and be more active in the wider landscape.

Every year many thousands of archaeological objects are discovered in England and Wales. People using metal detectors unearth most of these, but chance finds are also made by those out walking or digging in their gardens, or just out and about in the countryside.

Archaeology and research into local history are popular recreational activities, engaged in by many locals and visitors. Dorset's important archaeology attracts research by a wide range of students and more senior academics.

## **1.2 Dorset Metal Detectorists Liaison Scheme**

In June 1994 Dorset County Council established an identity card scheme for metal detectorists working in Dorset who subscribed to the Dorset Code of Best Practice (developed in collaboration with scheme members). The scheme flourished and still plays a role in educating novice detectorists and developing best practice in partnership with experienced detectorists. It provides a place for friendly and constructive discussion of matters of local and national interest relating to metal detecting, for example the Government's consultation in 2019 on the revision of the definition of treasure in the Treasure Act 1996 and related codes of practice.

## **1.3 History of metal detecting on council land**

Following the setting up of the liaison scheme, a policy on metal detecting on council farms was agreed by Dorset County Council's Planning and Economic Development Committee (5 March 1996) and Amenities Committee (13 March 1996). The policy stated that permission for metal detecting would be granted only with the tenant's consent, and if the applicant demonstrated a track record of recording and reporting of finds to a high standard. All finds remained the property of the Council.

When it was introduced, the policy was innovative and widely applauded. It is now rather dated. Circumstances have changed. The *Treasure Act 1996*, the national Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) <https://finds.org.uk/> and action by reputable metal detectorists (national bodies such as the National Council for Metal Detecting, metal detecting clubs and individuals) to promote responsible metal detecting now provide a strong framework for the reporting and recording of finds made by the general public.

## **1.4 Context of the new policy**

Reputable and proficient metal detectorists are now regarded as part of a wider community of non-professional practitioners active in the historic environment. For example, people who for recreation carry out systematic fieldwalking and recovery of artefacts from the ground surface.

Public participation in these activities has increased, with a recent Covid-19 related boom as more people try to be active outdoors. Many more novices are taking up these activities, often without proper preparation, leading to increased calls on Dorset Council staff time.

Requests for access to land are more frequent, and for a wider range of archaeological fieldwork. Tenants, site managers and front-line colleagues need to know how to handle these requests.

## 1.5 Objectives

As a responsible landowner and steward of Dorset's cultural heritage and historic environment, we seek to follow and develop best practice. We must ensure that:

- The wishes and interests of our tenants are respected.
- Tenants, site managers and front-line colleagues are equipped to handle requests to carry out this sort of fieldwork.
- Important archaeological and natural environment sites are protected.
- Fieldwork is done legally and with consideration to the environment.
- Finds are recorded and reported to the highest standard.
- Significant archaeological objects are made available to the people of Dorset and for future research (this usually means deposition in a suitably accredited museum).
- Below-ground archaeology is not disturbed unnecessarily and without proper archaeological oversight.
- Finds are treated and stored with care, and
- We get high quality information about the historic environment of the land that we own, to inform and enhance its management.

## Policy details:

### 2. Policy

2.1 Archaeological fieldwork and metal detecting is **NOT** permitted on land owned or managed by Dorset Council unless it is part of an approved programme of archaeological investigation/research

### 3. Coverage

3.1 This policy applies to all Dorset Council land, including highways and verges.

3.2 This policy applies to all archaeological activity, including metal detecting.

3.3 This policy does **not** relate to research or fieldwork by archaeological buildings specialists or archaeological contractors undertaken as part of the planning process or commissioned by Dorset Council as landowner.

### 4. Permission granted for programme of archaeological investigation

4.1 Permission can be granted to named individuals and or a small group of named individuals or to a responsible body such as a university or a local club or society.

4.2 Written permission can be obtained through an Archaeological Research Agreement signed by Dorset Council (Senior Archaeologist and relevant service or site manager), any tenant, and all individuals to whom permission is granted, or the nominated responsible person in the case of an organisation such as a university.

4.3 Permission will be for a specified period only, after which it will be reviewed. Renewal is not automatic.

4.4 Permission will apply to a defined area. No 'blanket' permission for Dorset Council land will be granted.

4.5 Permission will only be granted with the agreement of the tenant and/or site manager and may be terminated at any time at their request.

4.6 Permission may be terminated at any time if conditions are not being met.

### 5. Procedure for seeking permission

5.1 Requests for access should use a template provided by Dorset Council. As part of this the applicant will submit a research plan appropriate to the activity for which permission is being requested. In this plan, the applicant must:

- Demonstrate awareness of relevant legislation such as the Treasure Act 1996 and Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
- Undertake all normal due diligence in relation to statutory designations such as Scheduled Monuments and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
- Demonstrate a good track record of work appropriate to the activity for which permission is being requested. For example, in the case of metal detecting, frequent and detailed reporting finds to the Portable Antiquities Scheme.
- State arrangements for care and storage of any finds recovered, and specialist technical support such as finds identification, reporting and illustration.
- State plans for reporting and publication of the results of the project, and archive deposition, as appropriate.
- State plans for dealing with complex discoveries such as *in situ* hoards or human remains, including what arrangements have been made for emergency archaeological support.
- Demonstrate awareness of health and safety measures appropriate to the activity for which permission is being requested, including safeguarding, as necessary.
- Consider the practical aspects of their use of the site, including matters such as access, car parking, times of use, day-to-day reporting to the tenant and/or site manager and to Dorset Council's Historic Environment Record Team.

The level of detail required will vary according to the complexity of that activity. Standards and guidance are available from a range of organisations such as Historic England, the Council for British Archaeology, and the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and applicants will be directed to appropriate material and training.

5.2 The research plan must be agreed by the Senior Archaeologist (Promotion and Liaison) before permission is granted.

5.3 The applicant must have or demonstrate that they could obtain appropriate Public Liability Insurance.

## **6 Conditions**

6.1 All finds remain the property of Dorset Council.

6.2 The applicant is expected to waive entitlement to any reward under the Treasure Act 1996 (and subsequent revisions).

6.3 Costs consequent upon the activity for which permission is granted will not be borne by Dorset Council. These include the costs of care and storage of finds, publication of results, archive deposition, and additional archaeological support necessitated by discovery of complex finds such as hoards or human remains.

6.4 The condition of all the land or property must be reinstated and the costs of making good any damage or paying compensation to cover these costs must be borne by those undertaking the activity and will not be borne by Dorset Council.

6.5 Other conditions, such as a no drones fly zone and/or no dogs or animals allowed on site, may be applied to permissions according to circumstances and the wishes of the tenant or site manager.

## **7 Implementation**

7.1 All requests for access will be coordinated by the Dorset Council Historic Environment Record Team.

7.2 Information will be provided on the Dorset Council website, with links to external sources of information, activity-specific standards, and guidance. This will be promoted to current contacts and via the Communications Team.

- 7.3 Tenants, site managers and front-line colleagues will be provided with role-specific information, so they are equipped to handle requests to carry out this sort of fieldwork.
- 7.4 Dorset Council colleagues will be informed of the new policy and will be encouraged to include details of this policy in their site information and promotional material where appropriate.
- 7.5 Feedback on the process and information provided will be sought. These will be revised where necessary.
- 7.6 The policy will be reviewed at three yearly intervals.

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**Extract from draft minutes of Place and Resources Overview Committee – 28 July 2022**

**Archaeological Fieldwork and Metal Detecting on Dorset Council Land Policy**

The committee received and considered a report of the Senior Archaeologist (Promotion and Liaison) regarding the adoption of a new policy related to permissions required for amateur archaeological work and metal detecting on Dorset Council land.

Councillors considered the issues arising from the report and during discussion the following points were covered:

- Use of the word 'amateur' in the policy as the view was expressed that this could be ambiguous as the policy applied to people with a wide range of archaeological experience. Officers agreed to consider this following the meeting
- It was suggested that some information around safeguarding should be included in the policy, due to the possible involvement of younger persons in these activities. This would be considered by officers following the meeting
- The arrangements for how found items were dealt with was discussed and comparisons made with the approach taken in the private sector and other organised archaeological activities
- It was noted that the proposed policy did not cover work commissioned by Dorset Council as landowner for planning or land management purposes
- The inclusion of highways verges as council owned land would be clarified within the policy and guidance to be produced
- Following discussion with the council's S151 officer, it had been agreed that charges would not be made for drawing up agreements in this area as the administrative burden would outweigh the benefits of providing access and guidance for all. This would be kept under review.

**Recommendation to Cabinet**

That the Archaeological Fieldwork and Metal Detecting on Dorset Council Land Policy be adopted subject to Cabinet taking into consideration the suggestions made by the Place and Resources Overview Committee as follows:

- Removal of the word 'amateur' from the policy
- Including information around safeguarding issues
- Clarification within the policy that highways verges are included as council owned land.

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