

NCMD POLICY No.6 Issue 1

STATEMENT ON THE RECORDING OF FINDS WITH THIRD PARTIES

1. In England and Wales, the NCMD recognises that landowners hold a legal title to all non-Treasure items found by metal detection or other means on their land. In doing so, NCMD members need to recognise that they have a duty of care both to the preservation of the find and the security of the land on which it is found.

Before seeking to record any non-Treasure finds and findspots with third parties, they should ensure that they have full permission from the landowner to do so and only then to an accuracy and detail to which all relevant parties feel comfortable. Note that it is the landowners right to restrict the reporting of (non-Treasure) items to a parish or Grid reference.

Landowners should be made aware that the findspots of Treasure items should be recorded to at least a 10m square (equivalent to 8-digit National Grid Reference).

Portable Antiquities Scheme representatives should be made aware at the time of recording that any grid references denoting a findspot(s) should be made safe when logging the item(s) onto their records. Landowners should be made aware that, whilst unlikely, a leak of a grid reference is a possibility.

Where landowners have entered into an agri-environmental scheme, conditions of recording finds may differ. The onus is on the detectorist to seek this information from the landowner at the time of acquiring permission to detect.

2. In Northern Ireland, all historical finds and findspots must be reported regardless of legal title.
3. The position in Scotland is significantly different as neither finders nor landowners have any legal ownership rights to humanly-made objects found in the ground. All such objects belong to the Crown and can be claimed by the Crown.

If the Crown decides to claim an object, an ex-gratia equivalent to the full market value is normally paid to the finder. Whilst finders have no legal obligation to share their rewards with landowners, it is strongly recommended that a sharing agreement be reached at the time when landowner's permission is obtained otherwise the hobby risks being brought into disrepute.

Landowners should be advised that you have a duty to record findspots as accurately as possible as part of the reporting process.

For further information go to: www.treasuretrovescotland.co.uk.