



Support The Hobby

I would like to point out to the News Brief readers that there are a number of organizations taking on the challenge against various types of legislation dealing with metal detecting and gold prospecting. MDHTALK's recommendation is to visit their website and give strong consideration to joining the fight. In some cases your support may be to send emails and / or write a letter to specific legislators or to provide funds to help with the fight. Here are the organizations and a link to their website.

[Go to the Join The Fight MDHTALK Webpage to read more about each of these organizations](#)

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What is a News Brief? The news brief provides a brief look into any news event. The intent of the news brief is to provide you, the reader, with news clips on what was taking place in the hobby last month. To read the whole story select the Article Link or go to [MDHTALK.org](#). There are more news stories placed on the MDHTALK website for March the news stories listed in the MDHTALK News Brief are just a portion of all the hobby related news reported the past month. **The news Brief is now available in Adobe PDF format, there is a link at the top of this webpage.** The news brief is no longer emailed; it is only available on the MDHTALK website and can be downloaded.

The Website's featured article for this month is: **Where is it Legal to Metal Detect?**

[Download This Article](#) (Updated 11-28-18)

This question should be easy to answer but that is not the case. There are no uniform state laws or regulations across the fifty states or are there uniform municipal codes for the many thousands of cities and counties in the U.S. One way to get a handle on laws and regulations for your area is to join a local metal detecting or gold prospecting club. These clubs will usually know what the local law and regulation situation is for the hobby. So lets take one section of the U.S. at a time and try to find some answers.

National. There are a number of federal acts that control what can or can not be done on federal properties. These acts are the:

- **1906** [American Antiquities Act](#)
- **1966** [National Historic Preservation Act As amended through 2000](#)
- **1997** [Archaeological Resources Protection Act](#)
- **1990** [Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act](#)

Each of these acts places protection for America's antiquities plus use restrictions on federal lands, historical sites and Native American Indian burial grounds.

The **1906 and the 1997** acts have an impact on the National Park System, National Monuments, National Sea Shore Beaches, Civil & Revolutionary War Battlefields, and to some extend on Native American lands. These acts indirectly make metal detecting illegal in any of these places. If caught metal detecting or have a detector in your possession while on any of these protected places it can be a felony with tough penalties.

Hobby Related News

General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

Other News Sources

- Mike Gipson shares metal detecting expertise at The Gathering Place. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detect your way on holiday. [Article Link](#)
- Janesville woman searching for man who found her 66-year-old ring. [Article Link](#)
- The Curse of Oak Island recap: Team dismantles crane pad, and finds lead pieces that resemble lead cross. [Article Link](#)
- Albuquerque man creates 'Treasure Mission' to find hidden cash. [Article Link](#)
- The Final Treasure from the Tolkien Hoard. [Article Link](#)
- Metal Detector? Heart Rate Monitor? Smart Phone Hacks

- **American Digger Relic Roundup.** For diggers and collectors of history. An hour long program every Monday Night at 9:00 PM eastern standard time. Join your hosts Butch Holcombe, Jeff Lubbert and Heath Jones as they explore the past. Learn more about Metal Detecting, Treasure hunting in all it's forms, and the preservation of history. [Hour Long Programs](#)
- **American Mining Rights Assn** is not a gold club but rather an advocacy group for miners and public land users to preserve and maintain their rights as they pertain to access to their public lands. [March News](#)
- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [March News](#)
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ)** [March News](#)
- **PLP -Public Lands for the People** [Website](#)

- you might know about. [Article Link](#)
- Dirt fishin'. [Article Link](#)
- The Curse of Oak Island recap: Hinge and crib spikes found in Smith's Cove, but team must abandon H8 operation. [Article Link](#)
- Byesville man hunts to 'save some history'. [Article Link](#)
- The Curse of Oak Island: The team finds a possible treasure chest hinge as well as startling clues at the bottom of the ocean. [Article Link](#)
- Detectorists and treasure hunters flock to cyclone-damaged beaches in search of booty. [Article Link](#)
- MINELAB Returns to 2019 IWA Outdoor Classics With Latest Tech. [Article Link](#)
- What Has Been Found on Oak Island? [Article Link](#)
- Buried treasure? Naples metal detectives seek to unearth beach artifacts. [Article Link](#)

U.K. News

- Redefining 'Treasure': a public consultation and new guidance for landowners. [Article Link](#)
- Jewellery from Bronze Age a 'notable' find. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunter's amazing gesture after he digs up ROLEX watch. [Article Link](#)
- Cadbury's Chocolate Blasted For Sponsoring Archaeological Vandalism. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeologists slam 'stupid' Cadbury treasure hunt that could see people prosecuted for trespassing. [Article Link](#)
- Anglo-Saxon gold pendant just over half an inch wide valued at £145,000 is declared treasure - but the metal detectorist who found it in 2017 will only get a fraction of its worth. [Article Link](#)
- After Official Inquest Roman Coins Found in Britain Determined to be "Treasure". [Article Link](#)
- Jersey's 5,000-year-old monument 'damaged by detectorist'. [Article Link](#)

- **1715 Fleet Society** [April Newsletter](#)

- SJAFB metal detecting enthusiast returns lost dog tags. [Article Link](#)
- Return of the ring. [Article Link](#)
- Lost class ring returned to owner. [Article Link](#)
- Kind strangers use a metal detector to find WWII dog tag and trace it to Wisconsin family. [Article Link](#)

North America Archaeology News

- Southeast Students Use Geophysics to Map Local Archaeology Site. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeologist debunks alien influence, other conspiracy theories in archaeology. [Article Link](#)
- Study of old slave quarters in Maryland leads to scientific breakthrough. [Article Link](#)
- Sea otter archaeology could tell us about their 2-million-year history. [Article Link](#)
- History project becomes display with National Park Service. [Article Link](#)
- Piece of Wall Surrounding 1700s Charleston Unearthed. [Article Link](#)
- U.S. returns hundreds of artifacts to China after an Indiana man acquired them illegally. [Article Link](#)
- Ancient artifact unintentionally discovered by Washington archaeologist has 'great significance' [Article Link](#)

W.W. Meteorite News

- Using Landmine Detectors, Meteorite Hunt Turns Up 36 Space Rocks in Antarctica. [Article Link](#)
- Amazing Images Capture Giant Fireball Exploding Over the Bering Sea. [Article Link](#)
- US detects huge meteor explosion. [Article Link](#)
- The mystery of the 'meteorite' that struck the Isle of Lewis. [Article Link](#)

Redefining 'Treasure': a public consultation and new guidance for landowners This article appeared in issue 349 of Current Archaeology.

The Heritage Minister has proposed a series of changes for the way Treasure finds are processed, and the PAS has released new metal-detecting guidance for landowners.

With recorded Treasure finds hitting a record high for the second year running (CA 347), Heritage Minister Michael Ellis MP has launched a public consultation on a review of the Treasure Act 1996.

Currently, Treasure is defined as gold and silver objects over 300 years old, or groups of coins and prehistoric metalwork (see <https://finds.org.uk/treasure>). Under the proposed plans, this definition would be widened to include all finds that are over 300 years old and worth over £10,000. Such a step would avoid future cases like that of the Crosby Garrett Helmet (CA 287), a rare Roman cavalry helmet that, being made of copper alloy, did not qualify as Treasure (which museums are entitled to acquire) and was sold to a private collection.

Other considerations affect the Treasure process itself, including suggesting time-limits for some of the individual stages, and creating a legal duty for someone who acquires a find that they reasonably believe to be Treasure to report it to the Coroner.

Michael Lewis, Head of Portable Antiquities and Treasure at the British Museum, commented: 'The Treasure Act [which lays a legal duty on a finder to report possible Treasure] has been very successful in ensuring that the most important archaeological finds have been acquired by museums, of which the Staffordshire Hoard is probably the most famous. Much of this success (in England) is thanks to the PAS and its national network of locally based Finds Liaison Officers, who liaise with finders – mostly metal-detectorists – to encourage them to record their discoveries. In 2018, this included 1,071

New metal-detecting guidance for landowners

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), working with the Country Land & Business Association (CLA) and the National Farmers' Union (NFU), has developed guidance for landowners who allow hobby metal-detecting on their land. Metal-detecting, when undertaken responsibly (in accordance with the Code of Practice on Responsible Metal-Detecting in England and Wales) can add value to archaeology. The purpose of this new guidance is to enable landowners to be better informed about metal-detecting, the law regarding searching for archaeology, and how metal-detecting can best contribute to our understanding of the past.

Michael Lewis, head of the PAS, said: 'It is up to the landowner to decide who they allow to search for archaeology on their land, although some parts of their landholding might be out of bounds: for example, it is illegal to detect on scheduled monuments in England without the permission of Historic England. Metal-detecting in the UK is not regulated – therefore, while there are people out detecting with genuine passion for the past, others are merely treasure-hunters with little regard for archaeology. For the landowner, this represents a challenge, since most will only want to give permission to people who will do the right thing, especially as some land will have been cared for by generations of the same family. This new guidance therefore recommends that landowners have a written agreement with would-be finders,

Treasure finds and almost 70,000 other items.

'Since 2001, the last time the Act was reviewed, the world of metal-detecting and archaeology has substantially changed, and therefore this consultation is timely. In essence, it explores three main areas. First, should the definition of Treasure be changed to ensure more archaeological objects can enter into public collections, capturing nonmetallic items also? Second, normalising the Act so it better reflects current practice, and helping those involved with the processing of Treasure better to understand their obligations. Third, some changes are proposed that will ensure third-parties that come into possession of potential Treasure (such as antiquities dealers and those who inherit unreported Treasure) make proper due diligence checks, and also giving the enforcement authorities more time to pursue prosecutions under the Act.

'The consultation ends with some questions that explore wider issues of reporting and recording. It asks, for example, whether all archaeological finds should be owned by the Crown (as in Scotland) or whether searching for archaeology should be licensed (as in Northern Ireland). It also highlights the fact that many detectorists wish to be better acknowledged for their contribution to the past, and therefore suggests dedicated training to give them the skills and expertise. Ultimately, it is up to the public to decide how the Act might be moulded in the future to better protect the past.'

The consultation closes on 30 April. For more information, and to have your say, visit www.gov.uk/government/consultations/revising-the-definition-of-treasure-in-the-treasure-act-1996-and-revising-the-related-codes-of-practice

outlining clearly the nature of the permission and what happens to any finds that are discovered.'

He added: 'By law, all archaeological finds (apart from those that are Treasure) belong to the landowner. Although most archaeologists will believe that such finds should end up in public collections, most museums are unable to take in everything that is found, even if it is donated. This guidance therefore suggests that landowners ask to see all items found on their land, and that archaeological finds are recorded with the PAS. In the case of Treasure (which finders are required to report by law, and which museums are entitled to acquire), landowners might waive their right to a reward, so that important finds can be acquired by local museums.

'In essence, the guidance reminds landowners that they have an important role in ensuring the history of their land is protected and preserved, and that this story of the past is also shared.'

For the full guidance and a pdf of the leaflet 'Metal-detecting on your land – know your rights', visit <https://finds.org.uk/getinvolved/guides/guidancelandowners>.

Event News

Metal Detecting & Gold Prospecting Events.

Now is the time to start planning and getting your club's 2018/19 hunt information on the web. The sooner it is out and available to the metal detecting community the greater the chance for people to see it and give your event some consideration.

[Select here to View the Complete Event Details for April](#)

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)

- **April 06, 2019** (One Day)
Orlando, Florida
7th Annual Sunshine Shootout & Relic Hunt
Central Florida Metal Detecting Club
- **April 09, 2019** (Five Days)
Stanton, Arizona
2019 Stanton Outing
LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn
- **April 13, 2019** (One Day)
Cumberland, Rhode Island
Rhode Island Relics - Pound The Ground Part 2
Rhode Island Relics
- **April 13, 2019** (One Day)
Stanton, Arizona
2019 Open Detector Hunts: Kids to Pros at Stanton
The Lost Dutchmans Mining Assn

- **April 13, 2019** (One Day)
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
2019 LRRC Spring Club Hunt
Lancaster Research & Recovery Club
- **April 13, 2019** (Two Days)
Cashmere, Washington
20th Annual Gold & Treasure Show
North Central Washington Prospectors
- **April 13, 2019** (One Day)
Huntington State Beach, Huntington Beach, California
32nd Annual Hunt Rendezvous
West Coast Prospectors and Treasure Hunters
- **April 20, 2019** (One Day)
Memphis, Tennessee
32nd Annual Spring Seeded Club Hunt
Memphis Metal Detecting Club
- **April 20, 2019** (One day)
Memphis, Tennessee
2019 Spring Hunt-Members Only
Memphis Metal Detecting Club
- **April 23, 2019** (Six Day)
Marlborough, New Hampshire
BONE #26 In Memory of Howard Johnson
Streeters Treasure Hunting
- **April 26, 2019** (Three Days)
Carthage, Texas
2019 - Annual Treasure Show
TAMDC - Texas Assn of Metal Detecting Clubs
- **April 27, 2019** (One Day)
Portage, Indiana
EXP Deus Bootcamp
Instructor: Andy Sabisch
- **April 27, 2019** (One Day)
Wabasso, Florida
11th Annual Treasure Hunters Cookout
Treasure_Hunter
- **April 27, 2019** (Two Days)
Sapulpa, Oklahoma
33rd National Open Hunt
Three Forks Treasure Hunters Club
- **April 27, 2019** (One Day)
Raidersburg, Montana
16th Annual Rick Radke Memorial Metal Detector Hunt
Headwaters Chapter of the GPAA
- **April 28, 2019** (One Day)
Portage, Indiana
The Minelab Bootcamp - Hosted by Andy Sabisch
Minelab
- **April 30, 2019** (Five Days)
Huntington, Oregon
2019 Outing: Common Dig "Dirt Party" at Blue Bucket
LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn