

PAN Portable Antiquities of the Netherlands

Metal detection in The Netherlands

Code of conduct and rules for responsible metal detecting in the Netherlands



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Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed
Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en
Wetenschap



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Colophon

This is a publication of the PAN project, co-ordinated by the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, University of Amsterdam and the Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed (Departement for Cultural Heritage).

Although the content has been compiled with the utmost care, no rights may be derived from it. The content may be subject to change.

The Cultural Heritage Inspectorate and various associations have advised on the contents of this brochure.

The associations Nederlandse vereniging voor metaaldetectie (DDA), The Coinhunters Company (TCC) and Nederlandse Archeologievereniging (AWN) subscribe to this code of conduct and advise their members to follow it.

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Metal detecting is...

...a growing hobby

Metal detecting has become a popular hobby in the Netherlands. It is estimated that between 3,000 and 7,000 people go metal detecting with some regularity. Some hope to make an important historical discovery, such as a Viking sword or a Bronze Age axe. Others are combing beaches for lost watches and euros.

...exciting

Why do people choose to go metal detecting? The thrill of the search plays a major role. You hear a good signal, you start digging...and then....? Often it turns out to be nothing, but sometimes you hold a beautiful object in your hands!

...good for your physical fitness

As a metal detectorist, you are outdoors a lot, you walk and you dig. Being outside a lot and exercising are two reasons for many searchers to take up the hobby.

...good for the soil

Detectorists do not only find objects of silver and copper (and very occasionally gold), but also objects made of lead and zinc: metals that are bad for the soil. If a detectorist takes those objects away, his/her hobby is good for the environment.

...good for our knowledge of the history of the Netherlands

Apart from the pull tabs of cans, aluminium foil and eurocents, detectorists also find objects from the past, such as coins, buckles, brooches or keys. Some are a few hundred years old, others a few thousand. These objects are important in order to write the history of the Netherlands. Not all history (by far) has been written down and ended up in books: There are periods or places about which archaeologists and historians know only very little. Objects found through metal detecting can help to fill those gaps in our knowledge. Our ancestors had these metal objects in their hands!

...sometimes dangerous

Sometimes you also dig up bombs, grenades or live ammunition. It goes without saying that you should stay far away from them and call the police.

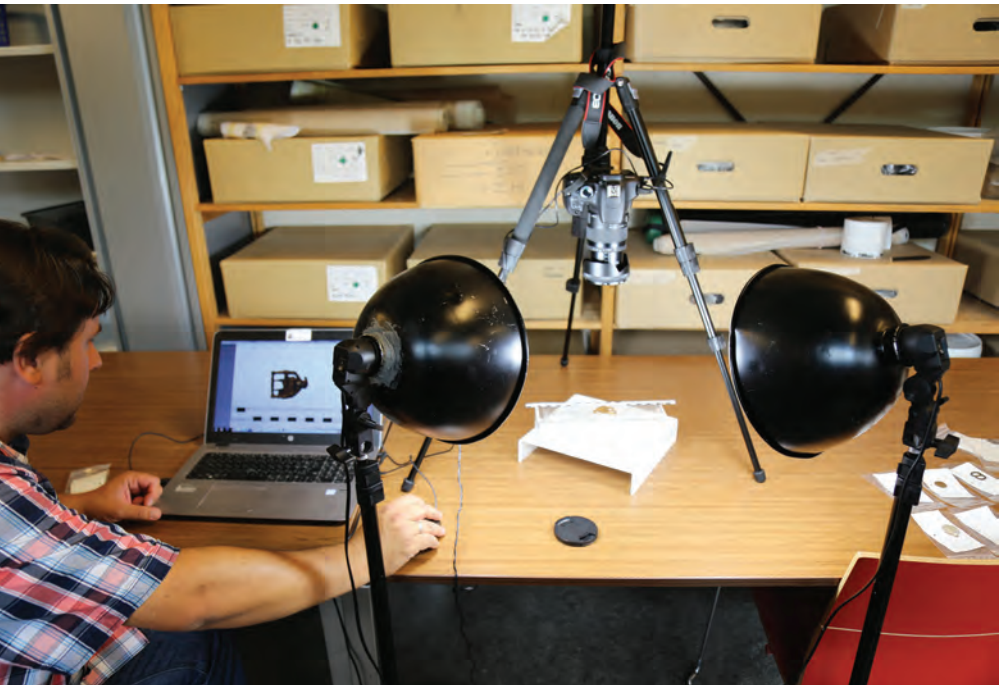
...and not without obligations

In the interest of safety and because of the importance of the finds for the history of the Netherlands, there are rules and regulations around metal detecting. For example, there is a **duty to report**: you are obliged to report what you have found and where you found it. You also have to always ask the landown-

er for **permission** before metal detecting on his/her land.

Non-compliance with these rules may have legal consequences.

In short, metal detecting is good, exciting and important, but not without obligations. Therefore, make sure you know and follow the rules!



Laws and regulations on metal detection

The relevant parts of various laws are summarised here. Detailed explanations with examples follow.

Where are you allowed to search?

The **Heritage Act** of 2016 states that it is forbidden to excavate without a relevant certificate. These certificates are issued to companies and government institutions.

Searching for finds in the top 30 cm of the soil with a metal detector is not prohibited. A special decree exempts this top layer from the excavation ban. Finds in layers deeper than 30 cm may not be excavated. These are subject to the ban on excavation.

It is also forbidden to metal detect or excavate on a protected archaeological monument. On page 8, you will find a web address where you can see whether a certain site is an archaeological monument where no metal detecting is allowed. Private individuals are not allowed to metal detect on an archaeological site. How do you know whether a site on which some digging takes place is an excavation? When asking for permission to search (see page 9), the site manager will tell you whether the site is an excavation and whether metal detecting is or is not allowed here.

The exception to the ban on metal detection applies only on land sites, not on sites in the water. It is forbidden to excavate anything from under water, whether with a metal detector or a magnet. Even objects that are visible on the surface under water may not be taken.

Municipalities can impose additional restrictions on metal detecting in their **Algemene Plaatselijke Verordening (APV, General Administrative Order)**, for example if there are safety risks due to the presence of weapons or ammunition from the Second World War. The AVP can prohibit metal detecting in the entire municipality or it can make exceptions for parts of the municipality. In that case, you should contact your local authority to find out where in the municipality this applies.

In exceptional cases, restrictions on metal detecting are not laid down in the General Administrative Order, but in the gemeentelijke **Erfgoedverordening (Municipal Heritage Regulations)**. All municipal regulations may be found on the Internet. An overview of municipal regulations on metal detecting from the year 2021 may be found on page 21. If a municipality has banned metal detecting in its APV, it is often possible to request an exception. You can send a letter to the municipality requesting an exemption.

Why does the limitation of 30 cm search depth apply?

In the Treaty of Valletta (1992), European countries renewed their commitment to take good care of their archaeological heritage. Undisturbed archaeological sites must remain intact for future research. If this is not possible, e.g. due to building work, they must be professionally investigated.

It is not often that intact archaeological remains can be found in the 30 cm topsoil; this is usually disturbed by ploughing, for example. Finds in disturbed topsoil will corrode more quickly due to the effect of, for example, manure and oxygen. A metal detectorist removing the finds from the topsoil is therefore doing a good job, at least if the information about the finds is reported to the right body. By recovering the finds and reporting them, the detectorist contributes to the knowledge the Netherlands in the past.

In the deeper soil layers below 30 cm, there are often intact archaeological remains present. In these deeper layers, finds lie in contexts and features that provide a lot of information when professionally investigated. Metal finds may be found

together with shards of pottery and other finds in the fill of a pit, a ditch or another feature. With all of these finds, an archaeologist can date the filling of the feature or find out what the context or feature once was part of. If the metal finds, such as coins or brooches, have already been removed, the excavation will yield much less information later on. For this reason, it is not permitted to dig deeper than 30 cm.



Duty to report

Notification according to the Erfgoedwet (Dutch Heritage Act)

The Dutch Heritage Act states that accidental archaeological finds must be reported to the Minister. In practice, this is the Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed (Department for Cultural Heritage, Amersfoort). Objects that were found through metal detecting must also be reported to the Minister. This is laid down in a special decree on metal detecting (Besluit Erfgoedwet archeologie, Archaeological Heritage Decree).

You can find instructions on how and where you can report your finds on pages 14 and 15.

Reporting under the Dutch Civil Code

In addition to the declaration as referred to in the Dutch Heritage Act, there is also an obligation to report treasures in the Dutch Civil Code. A treasure is one or more valuable object(s) that have been hidden for so long that their owner can no longer be traced. Treasure finds must therefore be reported to the municipality in which they were found. But you can also decide to report some individual finds to the municipality. You can do this with the aim of being recognised as the owner of the find (see also the next section on ownership).

Why report it?

Not all history (by far) has been written down in books: there are periods and places that archaeologists and historians know very little about. Metal detector finds can help fill in the gaps in our knowledge of the past. Objects found in the soil can be an indication that a wooden farm building once stood on this spot or that people were buried there. Each object contributes to our knowledge of the site or the region. All finds are important because they increase our knowledge of Dutch history, but metal finds are extra valuable because they can often be dated quite accurately and can thus often give us a date indicating *when* these activities took place.



The ownership of metal detector finds

Legally speaking, three groups of finds are relevant.

The Dutch Civil Code states that a **treasure** belongs to the finder and the landowner in equal shares. The treasure, or its value, must therefore be divided. By no means all (metal detector) finds are a treasure. They must be objects that have been deliberately hidden for so long that the owner can no longer be traced. An earthenware pot full of coins is a treasure; there is no doubt about that. Things are much less clear with individual objects. The finder must report a treasure to the municipality. Afterwards, the treasure belongs 'in equal parts' to the finder and the landowner. In many cases the landowner will have no interest in your metal detector finds and you can probably keep them. However, if a treasure turns out to be worth money, the landowner will probably want to receive half of the finds, or at least half of the value of the finds.

Discarded finds

Finds that are likely to have been discarded deliberately become the property of the finder.

Objects that are likely to have been lost

Objects that are likely to have been lost must be reported to the municipality

in which they were found to give the owner the opportunity to claim them. If no-one has claimed the find after 12 months, ownership reverts to the finder. In practice, it may seem strange to report archaeological finds that are hundreds of years old to a municipality: the likelihood that relatives of the owner will come forward is virtually non-existent. Nevertheless, it may be wise to do so because it allows you to prove your ownership of the finds. This is relevant when selling valuable finds.

Import and export of finds

An export licence must be applied for before Dutch finds can be transported or sent by post to a country outside the European Union (EU). Transporting or sending finds by post from a country outside the EU to the Netherlands also often requires an export licence from the country in question. Licences for export from the Netherlands must be applied for from the Centrale Dienst In- en Uitvoer (Central Import and Export Office, CDIU); applications are assessed by the Erfgoedinspectie (Cultural Heritage Inspectorate). They check whether the find has been excavated lawfully and whether ownership has been obtained lawfully. Special rules apply to finds that have not been excavated lawfully, for example in a place where excavation/metal detection

was forbidden, or at a depth greater than 30 cm. Finds that have been unlawfully excavated/metal detected usually become the property of the province or municipality where they were found. The finder is not allowed to take these finds outside the Netherlands without written permission from the owner.

weapons and ammunition manufactured after 1870. This also applies to empty shells. An exemption may be requested for museum collections.

Weapons and ammunition

The **Weapons and Ammunition Act** states, among other things, that it is prohibited to transport or possess (parts of)



Before you start

Do not search in municipalities with a ban on metal detecting

On page 21 you will find a list of municipalities in which there is a complete or partial ban on metal detecting. Regulations on metal detecting can be found in the Algemene Plaatselijke Verordening (General Administrative Order, APV). Each local authority has such a Algemene Plaatselijke Verordening, which can be found on the Internet.

What is the reason that you are not allowed to search in some municipalities?

It may be for safety reasons, for example because the municipality was the scene of heavy fighting during World War II and there is a high risk of finding unexploded ammunition. Other municipalities have banned metal detecting because they have valuable archaeological monuments within their municipal boundaries.

Please note: some municipalities have banned metal detecting in their Algemene Plaatselijke Verordening but provide an exemption (i.e. a permit). If you want to search in that municipality you should write a letter to the town council and aldermen to ask for an exemption

Do not search on archaeological monuments

Some sites are protected because important archaeological features are still preserved in the soil. Metal detecting is prohibited by law on these sites, even in the upper 30 cm. In order to check whether your intended detecting site is a protected national National Monument you can consult the following website:

<https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/onderwerpen/bronnen-en-kaarten/overzicht/archeologie-in-nederland-amk-en-ikaw>

The unit 'zeer hoge archeologische waarde – beschermd' (= 'very high archaeological value - protected') contains areas where no detector may be used. There are also provincial and municipal monuments. Send an email to the municipality or province to ask how you may find out where in their area you are not allowed to search.



Ask permission to search in advance

Before you start detecting, always ask permission in advance from the owner of the land and, if necessary, from the tenant or manager of the land.

In nature reserves belonging to, for example, Staatsbosbeheer or Natuurmonumenten, metal detecting is often forbidden. It is advisable to call or send an email with the question whether metal detecting is allowed in the specific area where you want to go.

Please note: it is always necessary to ask for permission to metal detect on a piece of ground, even if the owner is absent or if you think that the area belongs to the municipality or province.

All the rules in this folder only apply to the Netherlands.

Do not cross the border with your metal detector. It is forbidden to metal detect in almost all other countries in Europe. In countries where it is allowed, you often need a badge and there are often rules about the obligation to report and leave the finds until they are documented by a museum.

If you do want to search abroad, be sure to inquire after the rules first. Also bear in mind that the rules may differ per region within a country.

Who is responsible?

An example.

Sometimes it happens that a metal detectorist asks permission from a farmer to go metal detecting on his land. The farmer says that metal detecting is fine, but that the detectorist may not report his finds to the authorities. The farmer is afraid that he may have restrictions imposed on the manner in which he may work his land in the future if an archaeological findspot is found on his land.

But reporting the finds (see 'After searching') is obligatory according to the Heritage Act. This is the responsibility of the detectorists. In the above case, it would be best not to start detecting on the land of the farmer at all, because once you have found an archaeological object, you immediately have an obligation to report the finds to PAN. If you detect a treasure, you also have the obligation to report it to the municipality. If you go looking for something after talking to the farmer and you find something, you either have to break the law or the break your promise to the farmer.

Metal detection is exciting and has many positive aspects...but it is not without its obligations!

During detecting

It is important to remember that you are a guest on someone else's land. If you do not cause any inconvenience and leave everything tidy, chances are that you will be welcome again. Every detectorist is an ambassador of his/her hobby!

There are also issues surrounding safety and the documentation of the locations you should pay attention to.

Write down the exact coordinates of your find

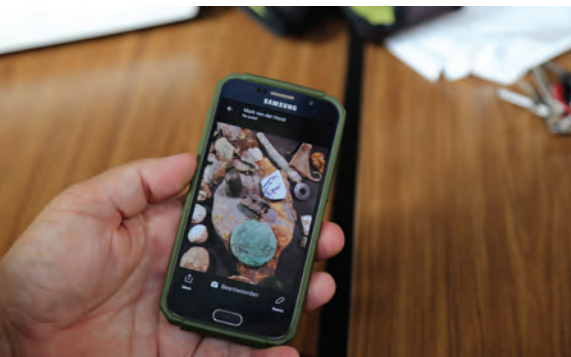
It is valuable for archaeologists to have the exact coordinates of every find. Especially when there are many finds close to each other on a site and there may be an excavation in the future, it is very valuable to know exactly which find was made at which precise spot. It would be best to determine the location of all finds, but certainly the finds that you immediately recognise as a coin, jewellery, buckle or other object older than 100 years. Recording the exact location can be done in a number of ways:

- Modern detectors have a built-in GPS. Use a separate bag for each find and write the coordinates with an indelible pen on the bag. Another manner is to save the coordinates in the GPS and write the registration number that the GPS gives each registration onto the bag.
- PAN also has its own app now, in which you can pinpoint the exact location you are searching at that moment. You can download the app and manual here:

<https://portable-antiquities.nl/pan/#/public/melden>

Packaging

- When you find something beautiful, you naturally want to know what it is. Usually, the find has to be cleaned first. Be careful not to rub too hard, because some finds are very fragile. If the finds come from oxygen-poor soil and you bring them to the surface, they can quickly discolour. It is therefore best to wait with the cleaning until you get home.
- What then is the best way? Rinsing the find with a little water will do no harm. It is best to then put the find in a bag or box with a little moist soil: not too dry, but not soaking wet either.



Treasure: do not dig

If you find several objects close to each other with the metal detector, there is a good chance that you have found a treasure. This could consist of coins, but also prehistoric axes, for example. It is also possible that the detector gives a signal because of a coin, but that this had been put into a grave together with ceramic beakers and pitchers.

- After the metal detector has given his signal and you started to dig, it is obligatory to stop after reaching a depth of 30 cm anyway - but it also very desirable to stop if you find more than one find. The reason for this is because archaeologists can gain a lot of knowledge if they can investigate how objects were deposited together in the past.
- Searching with a metal detector can therefore easily cause damage and information about the past can be lost in the process. Stop searching when you find several finds in the same place and call the municipality, which will then call in an archaeologist.



An example: coin treasures were often put into the ground in a ceramic pot, but sometimes also in wooden boxes. By now, a few hundred years later, the wood has decomposed. If a detectorist finds coins stuck together, stops and calls in an archaeologist, the treasure can be excavated with great care and attention. For example, archaeologists can record the iron nails from the wooden box lying under and around the coins. They may be the last traces that prove the treasure was originally buried in a wooden box. But if the detectorist digs on through the earth and only pulls the coins from the soil, that information is lost.

Weapons and ammunition

- Upon detection of sharp ammunition, stop digging immediately and call the police. You must keep a safe distance until the police or the Explosives Clearing Service (EOD) arrives.
- If you find weapons or blown-up ammunition dating from after 1870, you must leave these behind. The law does not permit owning and/or transporting them. Please note: this also applies to parts of weapons. Please leave them at the edge of the plot in such a manner that the landowner can easily find them. Warn the landowner; he/she must remove the finds or have them removed.

Human remains

- If you find anything that could be connected to an accident or crime, call the police.
- You may find human remains (skeleton parts, with or without clothes), but also a bag with personal belongings.
- When you find human remains in connection with military equipment or the remains of an aircraft or vehicle, stop digging immediately and call the police.

Respect for nature

- Do not disturb herds of animals in nature reserves and avoid nests and burrows.
- Do not dig up trees or bushes or destroy plants (or their roots).

Leave everything tidy

- Immediately plug up any holes you dig during your search.
- Take all your rubbish with you; don't leave cans, packaging, papers, plastic bags and so on behind.
- Remove all finds from the ground, including 'worthless' items such as aluminium foil, pieces of lead, iron nails and so on.



After searching

Bear in mind that when you excavate finds out of the ground, you are actually a kind of museum curator: it is your job to look after the finds and the information value of the finds. The cleaning of the finds, the storage of all the information and reporting the finds to archaeologists is all part the responsibility of the detectorist who removes the finds from the ground.

Careful cleaning and photographing

Cleaning

Once at home, you can start cleaning the finds. Please note that there are many methods in circulation, but not all of them are harmless. Some methods damage the find and even if the object is initially clean, the cleaning agent used may continue to chemically work even after cleaning and thus damage the find.

- Recommended: Rinsing with water and gentle rubbing usually does no harm. If a find is fairly clean, microcrystalline wax can keep the find beautiful and protect it from grease and dust.
- Not recommended: smearing the find with Vaseline (petroleum jelly), boiling the find in paraffin, putting the find in cola or citric acid, cleaning in a tumbler. These methods were recommended in the past in advertisements or advised by other detectorists, but are no longer recommended.

They may work in the short term and clean the object, but they can also seriously damage the find. The chemical effects of many cleaning agents continue even after you have stopped cleaning!

- Is a find important to you? Then consider having it cleaned and stabilised by a professional.
- If it is an important find that is also of interest to museums, you can offer to give the find to a museum on a long-term loan, in exchange for professional cleaning and conservation.

Taking photographs per search day and location

To report finds to archaeologists or to post finds on a forum, a digital photograph is required. It is useful to take photographs after every day of searching. You can put a note in the picture next to find, that records the day and place, for example: 'Finds from Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, field 21'.

It is best to photograph finds that you recognise as objects of more than 100 years old individually.

Finds whose age and function are unclear may be grouped together, for example six pieces per picture. It is best to photograph an object from different sides. Place a folding ruler or tape measure next to the find so that it is clear how large the object is.



Report the finds to the archaeologists

When the finds are reasonably clean, it is time to report them to archaeologists.

- What finds must be reported?

Generally, all finds must be reported, but nobody needs modern material such as aluminium foil and cans. In practice, all finds dating from before 1946 can provide valuable information.

- What else is important?

List the finds in order of location.

- Where do I report?

By law, you must report your finds to the minister. In practice, that is the Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel

Erfgoed (Department for Cultural Heritage, RCE). PAN is the database that is

used for these finds. You can find PAN here: <https://www.portable-antiquities.nl/> and send an email to the central email address (pan.fgw@vu.nl).

- The RCE also maintains the information system for excavations, for example. PAN and Archis remain entirely separate. Old find reports are, however, in Archis and, like PAN, are only retrievable by professionals. Archis is protected by DigiD and e-Recognition.
- PAN reports finds to NUMIS (the Dutch numismatic find database), which handles the coin evaluations for PAN. A separate report to NUMIS is therefore not necessary.

Reporting a treasure to the municipality

Upon the discovery of a treasure, reporting it to the municipality is mandatory. Only through this report can you demonstrate that you, as the finder, are entitled to half of the treasure.

Informing the landowner

If you have found a treasure, you must inform the landowner. Tell him/her that you are going to report the find to the municipality and that he/she is entitled to a share.

Storing your finds per location

It is advisable to save your finds per find location. If you have already reported the finds to PAN, this is less important, as the relevant information will already have been stored. Make sure that new finds that have not yet been reported are kept separate per location. If you have not yet reported the finds to PAN, then keep all the finds together per location. Make sure that the information about the find location is written down on a paper with the finds, so that others (such as your family) know where which find was made. If you do not want to do this, for example because you want to show your best finds together in a display case, then make sure that there is a paper record in the

house that indicates which finds were found at what location.

Why record finds per location?

You may know the location of all your finds now, but in ten or twenty years' time you probably won't. Besides, no-one has eternal life. If you fall ill, your finds will probably be the last thing you'll be worrying about and spending time on. If you are no longer there, and the sites are not recorded, then a lot of information will be lost. Perhaps a single coin or beautiful piece of jewellery will have some market value, but the scientific value of the entire collection is gone. It is therefore important to record the find locations directly.



How do you record the finds and find locations?

Example 1: keep all finds from one location in one box, and include a paper on which the exact location is indicated. This can be the written coordinates, or a printout of a map from the internet, on which you mark the plot where you found them with a colour.

Example 2: take a digital photograph of each find and put them in folders on your computer, where the folder has the name that you have given the find location. Make sure that each of the folders also contains a digital map showing the location of the site.

Backup and open digital data

- When you use the PAN app or save your find location any other way on a smart-phone, ensure that you make regular back-ups. You would not be the first detectorist to lose your data permanently by theft or a crash of your phone.
- It is also necessary to make regular backups if you store digital data on a laptop or other computer.
- An important step in everything you do digitally: make sure your family can access those files. When the files are stored in a computer with a strong password and your family does not have access to that password, then the



information will still get lost if you get sick, have an accident or die.

There are a lot of misunderstandings circulating about reporting your finds. Here are some questions and answers:

- *Will I lose my finds if I report in PAN?*
No, no organisation can claim your finds, provided they were found according to the rules. However, you must share a treasure with the landowner. You may lose a find that has been dug up illegally - for example from a layer deeper than 30 cm or in a place where it is not allowed - because such a find is the property of the municipality or province. Individual finds that are not part of a treasure are in practice the property of the finder and do not have to be shared with the landowner.
- *Is there any way for others to see my name and address in PAN?*
It is possible to report a find in PAN under a self-chosen name (alias). Address details will not be stored. You can choose to leave your e-mail address, which will give you an account in PAN to view your own collection, but it is not obligatory.
- *Can others see my search locations in PAN?*
In PAN you cannot see the exact location on the public website: the



whole municipality where the find was discovered is shown. So nobody can see where exactly the find was made. Only recognised archaeological researchers are given a special login and they can see the exact locations of the finds. However, they are not free to publish them or give them to others; we established rules prohibiting this. Older find reports can be found in Archis. Archis does not have a public website and, like PAN, can only be accessed by professionals. Archis is now secured by DigiD and e-Recognition.

- *Does reporting in PAN also have advantages for me?*
All your finds are clearly organised in PAN. It is a nice overview of your collection. Moreover, each object is provided with a determination.

Buying and selling of finds

Metal detector finds become your property (and in the case of treasure finds, half of them become your property). This means that you may also sell them.

But please note, that different rules may apply, and you must first report your finds to the appropriate authorities (see pages 14 and 15, reporting to archaeologists and the municipality). Please also note that you must keep the finds available for at least six months after reporting them, so that archaeologists can properly investigate and document them.

What do you need to be aware of when selling?

Write the PAN registration number on the bag containing the find or in the accompanying papers.

When you sell a find that is going to a country outside the EU, whether by post or by hand, you must apply for an export licence from the Centrale Dienst In- en Uitvoer (Central Import and Export Office).

What do you need to consider when buying?

If you want to buy an archaeological object, ask whether it has already been reported to the authorities and whether it has a registration number.

If you buy an object from abroad, make

sure that it is legally exported from that country. For questions about the import or export of cultural heritage, please contact the Cultural Heritage Inspectorate (Erfgoedinspectie).

Giving your find to a museum or archaeological depot.

If you have found one or more exceptional objects or if you are getting a bit bored with your finds, you may want to consider giving your find on long-term loan to a museum.

If you want to hand over your collection permanently, for example because you are getting older and your family has little interest in the finds, you can offer the collection to the Provincial Depot for Archaeological Finds (Provinciaal Depot Bodemvondsten) in the province where they were found.



Associations, forums and authorities

Associations

In the Netherlands there are two national associations for metal detecting. Both publish a magazine for their members and organise search days and other events.

The Coinhunters Company

was founded in 1982 for metal detector hobbyists, collectors and amateur archaeologists. The Coinhunter Magazine publishes articles on archaeological finds, other hobby-related news is shared and questions from members are answered.

The Coinhunters Company / Magazine
Grootestraat 13
6634 AC Batenburg
0620066486
thecoinhuntermagazine@gmail.com
www.thecoinhunter.com

The Coinhunters Company

DDA Nederlandse vereniging voor metaaldetectie

was founded in 1992 with the aim of improving the relationship between amateur detectorists and (amateur) archaeologists, and to promote the reporting of finds made with a metal detector to the appropriate authorities. Nowadays, the

association also aims at metal detection outside the members, and to cooperate with other institutions in matters related to metal detecting.

DDA Nederlandse vereniging voor metaaldetectie
Hanzeboulevard 41
3829 GE Hooglanderveen
secretariaat@detectoramateurl.nl
www.detectoramateurl.nl



DDA
Nederlandse Vereniging
voor Metaaldetectie

AWN

Nederlandse Archeologievereniging AWN is a national association for volunteers in archaeology. They do not focus specifically on metal detecting, but detectorists can pursue their hobby in a club setting. There are 24 regional departments that each organise activities in their own region.

AWN
Grebbeweg 24-A
3911 AW Rhenen
Tel. 0317 – 613050

h.kluitenberg@caesar-advies.nl
www.awn-archeologie.nl



AWN
Nederlandse
Archeologievereniging

Forums

There are many online forums and Facebook groups on archaeological finds and metal finds occupy an important place among them.

Here are four Dutch-language forums that each have several thousand members; this list is by no means exhaustive.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/metaaldetectorsgebruikersforum/>

www.bodemvondstenwereld.nl

www.pieppiep.nl

www.vondsten.nl

Authorities

Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed
(Department for Cultural Heritage, RCE)
Smallepad 5
3811 MG Amersfoort
033-4217421
info@cultureelerfgoed.nl

Inspectie Overheidsinformatie en
Erfgoed (Inspectorate for Government
Information and Heritage)
Postbus 16478
2500 BL Den Haag
070-4124012

Centrale Dienst In- en Uitvoer (Central
Import and Export Office)
Postbus 3070
6401 DN Heerlen
088 - 151 21 22

Portable Antiquities of the Netherlands (PAN)

PAN is a partnership between various universities, the RCE, De Nederlandsche Bank (the National Dutch Bank), various museums associations and voluntary organisations, all coordinated from the University of Amsterdam.

The aim of this consortium is documenting the collections of finds of metal detectorists. It has developed the website www.portable-antiquities.nl for this purpose.

Overview of the Algemene Plaatselijke Verordeningen (General Administrative Order, APV) on metal detecting

Please note: this overview is updated until the summer of 2021. General Administrative Orders are subject to change.

No rights can be derived from this overview.

It is up to the detectorist to regularly check the AVP of the municipality in which you want to search on a regular basis.

There are municipalities which will grant exemptions

	Municipality	Status
A	Aa en Hunze	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Aalsmeer	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Aalten	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Achtkarspelen	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 1-1-2020)
	Alblasserdam	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Albrandswaard	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Alkmaar	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Almelo	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Almere	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Alphen aan den Rijn	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Alphen-Chaam	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Altena	No restrictions on metal detecting (previous restrictions removed)
	Ameland	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Amersfoort	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Amstelveen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Amsterdam	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Apeldoorn	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Appingedam	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Arnhem	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
	Assen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Asten	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 02-08-2021)
B	Baarle-Nassau	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)

Baarn	Ban on metal detecting for a part of the area of the municipality
Barendrecht	No restrictions on metal detecting
Barneveld	No restrictions on metal detecting
Beek	No restrictions on metal detecting
Beekdaelen	No restrictions on metal detecting
Beemster	No restrictions on metal detecting (wordt in 2022 toegevoegd aan gemeente Purmerend)
Beesel	No restrictions on metal detecting
Berg en Dal	No restrictions on metal detecting
Bergeijk	No restrictions on metal detecting
Bergen (L.)	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
Bergen (NH.)	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
Bergen op Zoom	Ban on metal detecting in all areas of archaeological value
Berkelland	No restrictions on metal detecting [previous restrictions removed? Online general administrative order valid until 01-05-2021]
Bernheze	No restrictions on metal detecting
Best	No restrictions on metal detecting [previous restrictions removed]
Beuningen	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
Beverwijk	No restrictions on metal detecting
Bladel	No restrictions on metal detecting
Blaricum	No restrictions on metal detecting
Bloemendaal	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
Bodegraven-Reeuwijk	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
Boekel	No restrictions on metal detecting
Borger-Odoorn	No restrictions on metal detecting
Borne	No restrictions on metal detecting
Borsele	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 23-01-2021)
Boxmeer	No restrictions on metal detecting
Boxtel	No restrictions on metal detecting
Breda	No restrictions on metal detecting
Brielle	No restrictions on metal detecting
Bronckhorst	No restrictions on metal detecting
Brummen	No restrictions on metal detecting
Brunssum	No restrictions on metal detecting
Bunnik	Ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
Bunschoten	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 15-01-2021)
Buren	No restrictions on metal detecting

C	Capelle aan den IJssel	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Castricum	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Coevorden	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 20-10-2020)
	Cranendonck	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Cuijk	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 01-07-2019)
	Culemborg	No restrictions on metal detecting
D	Dalfsen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Dantumadiel	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 15-12-2020)
	De Bilt	No restrictions on metal detecting
	De Fryske Marren	No restrictions on metal detecting
	De Ronde Venen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	De Wolden	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 6-11-2019)
	Delft	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Delfzijl	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
	Den Helder	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Deurne	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Deventer	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Diemen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Dinkelland	Ban on metal detecting for a part of the area of the municipality
	Doesburg	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Doetinchem	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Dongen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Dordrecht	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Drechterland	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Drimmelen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Dronten	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Druuten	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Duiven	No restrictions on metal detecting
E	Echt-Susteren	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Edam-Volendam	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
	Ede	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
	Eemnes	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Eemsdelta	Prohibition of metal detection for parts of the municipality (merging of the municipalities of Appingedam, Loppersum and Delfzijl since 1-1-2021). General prohibition of metal detection for the entire former municipality of Delfzijl, online general administrative order valid until 1-1-2018. New General administrative order for Eemsdelta not yet available.

	Eersel	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Eijsden-Margraten	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Eindhoven	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Elburg	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Emmen	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 22-3-2019)
	Enkhuizen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Enschede	Ban on metal detecting in certain parts of the municipality (because of the chance of finding ammunition)
	Epe	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Ermelo	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Etten-Leur	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 05-05-2021)
G	Geertruidenberg	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
	Geldrop-Mierlo	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Gemert-Bakel	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Gennep	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
	Gilze en Rijen	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
	Goeree-Overflakkee	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
	Goes	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
	Goirle	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
	Gooise Meren	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
	Gorinchem	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Gouda	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Grave	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 19-12-2020)
	Groningen	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated.
	Gulpen-Wittem	No restrictions on metal detecting
H	Haaksbergen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Haaren	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
	Haarlem	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Haarlemmermeer	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Halderberge	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 01-04-2021)
	Hardenberg	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Harderwijk	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Hardinxveld-Giessendam	No restrictions on metal detecting

Harlingen	No restrictions on metal detecting
Hattem	No restrictions on metal detecting
Heemskerk	No restrictions on metal detecting
Heemstede	No restrictions on metal detecting
Heerde	No restrictions on metal detecting
Heerenveen	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 5-7-2019)
Heerhugowaard	No restrictions on metal detecting; municipal redivision 2022: becomes municipality Dijk en Waard
Heerlen	No restrictions on metal detecting
Heeze-Leende	No restrictions on metal detecting
Heiloo	No restrictions on metal detecting
Hellendoorn	No restrictions on metal detecting
Hellevoetsluis	No restrictions on metal detecting
Helmond	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 01-01-2020)
Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht	No restrictions on metal detecting
Hengelo	No restrictions on metal detecting
Het Hogeland	No restrictions on metal detecting
Heumen	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
Heusden	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order geldig t/m 19-12-2020)
Hillegom	No restrictions on metal detecting
Hilvarenbeek	No restrictions on metal detecting
Hilversum	No restrictions on metal detecting
Hoeksche Waard	Total ban on metal detecting for the entire municipality (see Erfgoedverordening, Heritage Ordinance; exemption possible?)
Hof van Twente	No restrictions on metal detecting
Hollands Kroon	No restrictions on metal detecting
Hoogeveen	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 21-5-2021)
Hoorn	No restrictions on metal detecting
Horst aan de Maas	No restrictions on metal detecting
Houten	Ban on metal detecting for a part of the area of the municipality
Huizen	No restrictions on metal detecting
Hulst	Total ban on metal detecting for the entire municipality (exemption possible)
I IJsselstein	No restrictions on metal detecting
K Kaag en Braassem	No restrictions on metal detecting
Kampen	No restrictions on metal detecting
Kapelle	No restrictions on metal detecting

	Katwijk	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
	Kerkrade	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Koggenland	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Krimpen aan den IJssel	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Krimpenerwaard	No restrictions on metal detecting
L	Laarbeek	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 24-12-2020)
	Landerd	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Landgraaf	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Landsmeer	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Langedijk	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated (see Erfgoedverordening); municipal redivision 2022: becomes municipality Dijk en Waard
	Lansingerland	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Laren	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Leeuwarden	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Leiden	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
	Leiderdorp	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Leidschendam-Voorburg	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
	Lelystad	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Leudal	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Leusden	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Lingewaard	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
	Lisse	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Lochem	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Loon op Zand	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 23-12-2020)
	Lopik	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Loppersum	No restrictions on metal detecting (gemeente Eemsdelta from 1-1-2021)
	Losser	No restrictions on metal detecting
M	Maasdriel	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 23-12-2020)
	Maasgouw	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Maassluis	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Maastricht	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
	Medemblik	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Meerssen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Meerijstad	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 15-05-2020)

	Meppel	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Middelburg	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Midden-Delfland	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Midden-Drenthe	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Midden-Groningen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Mill en Sint Hubert	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Moerdijk	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Molenlanden	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Montferland	No restrictions on metal detecting (previous restrictions removed? online general administrative order valid until 14-11-2018)
	Montfoort	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Mook en Middelaar	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
N	Neder-Betuwe	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Nederweert	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Nieuwegein	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated (online general administrative order valid until 14/10/2020)
	Nieuwkoop	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Nijkerk	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Nijmegen	Total ban on metal detecting for the entire municipality (exemption possible)
	Nissewaard	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Noardeast-Fryslân	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Noord-Beveland	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
	Noordenveld	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated. online general administrative order valid until 31-10-2018
	Noordoostpolder	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Noordwijk	Ban on metal detecting for a part of the area of the municipality
	Nuene, Gerwen en Nederwetten	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Nunspeet	No restrictions on metal detecting
O	Oegstgeest	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Oirschot	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated. GB vervallen.
	Oisterwijk	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
	Oldambt	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Oldebroek	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Oldenzaal	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Olst-Wijhe	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Ommen	No restrictions on metal detecting

	Oost Gelre	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Oosterhout	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 07-05-2021)
	Ooststellingwerf	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Oostzaan	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Opmeer	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Opsterland	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 1-3-2018)
	Oss	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Oude IJsselstreek	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Ouder-Amstel	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Oudewater	Possible restrictions
	Overbetuwe	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
P	Papendrecht	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Peel en Maas	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Pekela	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 1-1-2021)
	Pijnacker-Nootdorp	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Purmerend	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Putten	No restrictions on metal detecting
R	Raalte	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Reimerswaal	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
	Renkum	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
	Renswoude	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Reusel-De Mierden	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Rheden	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
	Rhenen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Ridderkerk	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Rijssen-Holten	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Rijswijk	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Roerdalen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Roermond	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Roosendaal	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Rotterdam	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Rozendaal	Total ban on metal detection for the entire municipality (exemption possible?)
	Rucphen	No restrictions on metal detecting
S	Schagen	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
	Scherpenzeel	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated

Schiedam	No restrictions on metal detecting
Schiermonnikoog	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 14-11-2014)
Schouwen-Duiveland	Total ban on metal detecting for the entire municipality (exemption possible)
's-Gravenhage	No restrictions on metal detecting
's-Hertogenbosch	No restrictions on metal detecting
Simpelveld	No restrictions on metal detecting
Sint Anthonis	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 21-02-2019)
Sint-Michiëlsgestel	No restrictions on metal detecting
Sittard-Geleen	No restrictions on metal detecting
Sliedrecht	No restrictions on metal detecting
Sluis	Total ban on metal detecting for the entire municipality (exemption possible)
Smallingerland	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 22-3-2013)
Soest	Ban on metal detecting for a part of the area of the municipality
Someren	No restrictions on metal detecting
Son en Breugel	No restrictions on metal detecting
Stadskanaal	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 2-3-2006. Consolidated version valid from 8-12-2017)
Staphorst	No restrictions on metal detecting
Stede Broec	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
Steenbergen	No restrictions on metal detecting
Steenwijkerland	No restrictions on metal detecting (previous restrictions removed? online general administrative order valid until 18-09-2018)
Stein	No restrictions on metal detecting
Stichtse Vecht	No restrictions on metal detecting
Súdwest-Fryslân	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 9-1-2019)
T Terneuzen	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 01-07-2021)
Terschelling	No restrictions on metal detecting
Texel	No restrictions on metal detecting
Teylingen	No restrictions on metal detecting
Tholen	No restrictions on metal detecting
Tiel	No restrictions on metal detecting
Tilburg	No restrictions on metal detecting
Tubbergen	No restrictions on metal detecting
Twenterand	No restrictions on metal detecting

	Tynaarlo	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 1-1-2019)
	Tytsjerksteradiel	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 1-10-2010)
U	Uden	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Uitgeest	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Uithoorn	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Urk	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Utrecht	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated in Erfgoedverordening
	Utrechtse Heuvelrug	No restrictions on metal detecting
V	Vaals	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Valkenburg aan de Geul	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Valkenswaard	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Veendam	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 1-1-2021)
	Veenendaal	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Veere	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
	Veldhoven	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 01-01-2020)
	Velsen	Ban on metal detecting for a part of the area of the municipality
	Venlo	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Venray	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Vijfheerenlanden	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Vlaardingen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Vlieland	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 12-6-2011)
	Vlissingen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Voerendaal	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Voorschoten	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Voorst	No restrictions on metal detecting (previous restrictions removed? online general administrative order valid until 15-12-2020)
	Vught	No restrictions on metal detecting
W	Waadhoeke	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Waalre	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Waalwijk	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 16-01-2019)
	Waddinxveen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Wageningen	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Wassenaar	No restrictions on metal detecting
	Waterland	No restrictions on metal detecting

Weert	No restrictions on metal detecting
Weesp	No restrictions on metal detecting (from 24-03-2022 gemeente Amsterdam)
West Betuwe	No restrictions on metal detecting
West Maas en Waal	No restrictions on metal detecting
Westerkwartier	No restrictions on metal detecting
Westerveld	No restrictions on metal detecting
Westervoort	No restrictions on metal detecting
Westerwolde	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated (online general administrative order valid until 1-1-2021)
Westland	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
Weststellingwerf	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 27-7-2017)
Westvoorne	Possible ban on metal detection for areas to be designated
Wierden	No restrictions on metal detecting
Wijchen	Ban on metal detecting for a part of the area of the municipality
Wijdemeren	No restrictions on metal detecting
Wijk bij Duurstede	No restrictions on metal detecting
Winterswijk	No restrictions on metal detecting (previous restrictions removed?)
Woensdrecht	No restrictions on metal detecting (online general administrative order valid until 21-5-2021)
Woerden	Prohibition of metal detection for areas to be designated
Wormerland	No restrictions on metal detecting
Woudenberg	No restrictions on metal detecting
Z	
Zaanstad	No restrictions on metal detecting
Zaltbommel	No restrictions on metal detecting
Zandvoort	No restrictions on metal detecting
Zeewolde	No restrictions on metal detecting
Zeist	Prohibition of metal detection for areas to be designated
Zevenaar	No restrictions on metal detecting
Zoetermeer	No restrictions on metal detecting
Zoeterwoude	No restrictions on metal detecting
Zuidplas	No restrictions on metal detecting
Zundert	No restrictions on metal detecting
Zutphen	No restrictions on metal detecting
Zwartewaterland	No restrictions on metal detecting
Zwijndrecht	No restrictions on metal detecting
Zwolle	No restrictions on metal detecting

Brief summary

WHERE YOU MAY SEARCH:

- Do not search in municipalities where a detector ban is in force. Check the General Administrative Orders (APV) of the municipality. Every municipality has an APV on the Internet.
- Do not search on archaeological monuments. The list of national monuments can be found at <https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/onderwerpen/bronnen-en-kaarten/overzicht/archeologie-in-nederland-amk-en-ikaw>
- For detecting on regional monuments, mail the municipality and province.
- Do not search with a metal detector or magnet under water, neither on the waterline, not in the floodplains of rivers.
- Always ask permission to search from the landowner.
- Do not search deeper than 30 cm.

DURING THE SEARCH:

- Write down the exact coordinates of your find.
- Treasure find: Do not dig. Stop searching and call the municipality, which will call in an archaeologist.
- Weapons and ammunition or human remains: stop searching and do not move anything. Call the police.
- Do not cause any inconvenience.
 - Do not block roads or paths when parking.
 - Respect local rules such as Sunday rest.
- Do not disturb any animals, caves or nests.
 - Do not damage (the roots of) trees, bushes or plants.
- Leave the site tidy.
 - Close up dug holes.
 - Take all finds with you.
 - Do not leave any waste behind.
 - Close access gates when entering and leaving the grounds.

AFTER THE SEARCH:

- Report all individual finds and treasure finds to PAN. In principle, all finds from before 1946 are interesting. Take pictures of the finds, arranged by day and per location.
- Report treasure finds to the municipality.