Chapter 9
No Room for Good Intentions? Private Metal Detecting and Archaeological Sites in the Plow Layer in Norway

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Introduction

Private metal detecting is a widespread hobby in Norway, and its popularity has increased considerably over the last few years. This has resulted in some spectacular finds made by private metal detectorists, but it has also revealed that the relationship between private metal detecting and professional archaeology is not without tensions.

The Norwegian Cultural Heritage Act (NCHA) of 1978 doesn't mention metal detecting, but it generally regulates any activity which can influence on protected archaeological sites or monuments. The concept of *automatic protection* in the NCHA raises questions about definitions and recognition of archaeological sites and monuments. Professional archaeologists, cultural heritage managers, and private metal detectorists have therefore asked for national guidelines with clear definitions and *do's and don'ts*. The Directorate for Cultural Heritage (Riksantikvaren) published national guidelines for the private use of metal detectors in 2017 (Directorate for Cultural Heritage 2017), and this chapter is inspired by my involvement in the process of developing and writing these guidelines. The reflections and conclusions, however, are personal and don't necessary represent those of the directorate.

A possible strength of the NCHA is the *automatic protection* of archaeological sites and monuments older than 1537. Automatic protection doesn't separate between visible and non-visible sites, or between known or listed sites and the previously unknown ones. The principle of the NCHA is that any site or monument of a certain age has equal juridical protection, even if located in the plow zone. However, the automatic protection precludes the free private use of metal detectors

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on automatically protected sites regardless of whether the intention is to rescue archaeological objects from chemical and mechanical degradation in the topsoil.

In this chapter I problematize the compatibility of private metal detecting with the principle of automatic protection of archaeological sites and monuments. My aim is to show some of the challenges the Norwegian cultural heritage management is facing when confronted by a growing group of stakeholders whose good intentions can be inconsistent with the wording of the law.

To describe the particularities of the Norwegian situation, I find it necessary to place it in a juridical context. I therefore commence by providing necessary background information about the most important articles in the NCHA when discussing private metal detecting. I also outline some principles of the organization of the Norwegian cultural heritage management (see also Gundersen et al. 2016: 161–162).

This chapter only addresses private metal detecting in the plow zone on farmed land. Only 3% of Norway's land area is currently cultivated. While small, these areas contain a large part of Norway's archaeological heritage. The same areas are also very popular among private metal detectorists, especially among the detectorists who are searching for archaeological objects. A fundamental question is therefore: *what do archaeological objects in the plow layer represent?*

The Norwegian Cultural Heritage Act and Private Metal Detecting

As long as one has the landowner's consent, and the activity is not in conflict with the NCHA or other laws or regulations preventing digging in the ground in the actual area, private metal detecting is legal in Norway. As opposed to the legal framework in two of our neighboring countries, Denmark and Sweden, the NCHA doesn't mention metal detecting. Several aspects of the law are nonetheless important when considering the relationship between professional archaeology and private metal detecting (Gundersen et al. 2016: 161).

The NCHA, article 3 states that without permission from the authorities, it is illegal to initiate any measure which is liable to damage or disturb any archaeological site or monument which is *automatically protected*, or to *create a risk* of this happening. In practice, this means that private use of metal detectors on automatically protected sites and monuments with the intention to dig for archaeological objects is illegal, since the digging and/or removal of objects is liable to damage or disturb such sites, or *create a risk* of this happening. There is, however, a very important exception in section "The Organization of Norwegian Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management": if the ground above any automatically protected site or monument has previously been used for grazing or cultivation, it may continue to be used in this manner unless the cultural heritage authorities decide otherwise and as long as the soil is not plowed or otherwise worked deeper than previously

without the permission of the authorities. This can be perceived as farmers' and landowners' rights having priority over archaeological remains on agricultural land. However, the juridical exception only applies to ordinary farming activities, such as plowing or harrowing. All other activities on the same sites, including private metal detecting, have to comply with the main rule of the article. This is an important and contested issue in discussions about private metal detecting on archaeological sites in cultivated areas.

In Norway, the Danish more liberal attitude to private metal detecting is often referred to as a more preferable system than the Norwegian one (Kvanli and Sørensen 2016; Maixner 2015a; Martens 2016; Skre and Pilø 2016). Nevertheless, private metal detecting is illegal on protected sites in both countries. In the Danish Consolidated Act on Museums (Danish: *Museumsloven*), metal detecting is explicitly mentioned as an illegal practice on protected sites, and in the NCHA, private metal detecting is implicitly illegal because it is an activity liable to disturb (automatically) protected sites. Hence, the difference between the systems in the two countries lays in *what* is protected by law. That is, the automatic protection in the NCHA means that many sites which are *not* protected in Denmark *are* protected in Norway and as such illegal to detect upon.

Article 4 in the NCHA states that all archaeological sites and monuments predating 1537 (the Reformation in Norway), and all Sami sites older than 100 years, are automatically protected. Among the mentioned types of protected sites are all kinds of settlements, burials and graves, workshop sites, marketplaces, traces of land cultivation, roads and tracks, etc. ØKOKRIM[1] states that there has to be actual traces, "for example charcoal from a fireplace, waste, parts of tools from the medieval period or older" (my translation) (Guribye and Holme 2001: 46) for a site to be automatically protected. All *known* sites and monuments are listed in the Norwegian national cultural heritage database *Askeladden*, which is publicly accessible. By 2017, almost 160,000 different archaeological sites are listed and mapped in the database. It is, however, assumed that an even larger number of sites are yet to be discovered.

Article 6 states that all automatically protected sites shall have a security zone, extending 5 m from the site's boundary. The security zone extends in all directions around the site or monument and also up and down (Guribye and Holme 2001: 64). The security zone has the same juridical protection as the site itself. According to this understanding of the law, anything which is illegal at a site (for instance, digging after metal detector signals) is also illegal in the soil (even, for instance, the plow layer) above an automatically protected site.

Article 12 states that all objects older than 1537, coins older than 1650, and Sami objects older than 100 years belong to the state regardless of who the finder or land owner is and regardless of how they are discovered. In the following I will refer to such objects or artifacts as "archaeological objects."

[1]The Norwegian National Authority for Investigation and Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crime.

Furthermore, article 13 states that it is illegal to damage any archaeological movables and that the finder of such an object is obliged to report it to the right authority. Finally, article 13 states that the finder might be eligible for a reward, the size of which is decided by the authority.

These articles of the NCHA are important in order to understand why the relationship between private metal detecting and professional archaeology in Norway can be experienced as problematic. The consequences of automatic protection of archaeological sites in the plow layer, and the conflicting value positions between legal protection of archaeological sites and the wish of private metal detectorists to rescue objects, challenges the principles and practices of the Norwegian cultural heritage management.

The Organization of Norwegian Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management

The complete organization of the Norwegian cultural heritage management is complex. With regard to the relationship between private metal detecting and archaeology, there are three different authorities to be aware of:

- Archaeologists at the 19 different Norwegian County administrations, and the Sami Parliament, constitute the level of primary contact between private metal detectorists and the official cultural heritage management. Any object mentioned in the NCHA article 12 or 13 is to be reported to the county archaeologists. The county archaeologists are also responsible for recording new archaeological sites and monuments in the *Askeladden* database.
- There are five regional archaeological museums in Norway, all organized as university museums. The museums are, among other things, responsible for the collections of archaeological finds in their respective region. Any object reported or delivered to the county archaeologists is eventually brought to these five museums.
- The Directorate for Cultural Heritage has the national responsibility for the management of all archaeological sites and monuments. The directorate is authorized to give permission to either disturb or remove protected archaeological sites and monuments, often on the condition that a developer pays for an archaeological excavation and documentation. Further, the directorate is responsible for issuing national guidelines and other relevant material concerning archaeological sites and monuments and their management, such as the recently published national guidelines for the private use of metal detectors (Directorate for Cultural Heritage 2017).

This regional but partly centralized model for cultural heritage management has created a significant (literal and figurative) distance between most people and their "nearest" archaeologist. In comparison, Denmark, which is sixth the size of Norway, has ca 30 authorized archaeological museums (Dobat 2016: 54).

Private Metal Detecting in Norway

There are no certain data on the number of active metal detectorists in Norway, but several authors have pointed to a growing activity the last few years (Kvanli 2016: 6; Maixner 2015a: 201; Rasmussen 2013: 50, 2014a: 84, 2014b: 213; Rolfsen 2016: 111). Rolfsen (2016) suggests that there was around 2200 active detectorists in Norway in 2015 but also that around 20,000 metal detectors had been sold nationwide. (By 2018 Norway has a population of 5.3 million.) A possible indication of the size of the metal detector community in Norway may be the largest online social media forum for metal detectorists, the closed Facebook group "Metal detector in Norway" (Norwegian: *Metalldetektor i Norge*) which has 7700 members (as of June 2018). In comparison, the largest archaeology group, the open Facebook group "Archaeology in Norway" (Norwegian: *Arkeologi i Norge*), has fewer than 4400 members. Obviously the metal detecting group also has a lot of non-detecting members (myself included). However, it is also clear that a lot of detectorists are not active users of Facebook or other social media.

Naturally, the fields of interest of metal detectorists in Norway vary a lot. It ranges from Second World War objects, seventeenth- to nineteenth-century coins, modern jewelry, and meteorites to archaeological objects. However, even when searching for other things, all detectorists may come into contact with archaeological objects as defined by the NCHA, or protected archaeological sites or monuments. Still, the arising challenges and possible controversies are mostly concerned with detectorists who are intentionally and specifically searching and looking for archaeological objects. That there is an escalating interest in such archaeological objects from private metal detectorists is also clearly reflected by the number of objects delivered to the largest archaeological museum in Norway too. The Museum of Cultural History at the University of Oslo received ten times as many objects in 2015 as it did in 2010 (Skre and Pilø 2016: 36). In 2016 a further increase of 75% was seen (Skogsfjord 2017).

From Trophies to Context: Archaeological Objects in the Plow Layer – Stray Finds or Parts of Automatically Protected Sites?

Metal detecting is an extremely object-focused branch of archaeology. Digging small holes to retrieve single objects in the ground resembles the early days of archaeological practice (Rolfsen 2016: 123). Dobat addresses the trophy-hunting character of metal detecting in Denmark and warns that the focus on treasure trove and esthetic parameters, at the expense of smaller fragments and more ordinary objects, eventually will result in misrepresentative assemblages (Dobat 2016: 57). Feedback on Norwegian Internet forums, both from fellow detectorists and professional archaeologists, shows a trophy-hunt situation similar to that described by Dobat. Complete and whole objects, objects of gold and rare coins, are typically

praised much more than smaller or damaged pieces. As all archaeologists know, the research value of an object has often very little to do with criteria such as rarity, degree of fragmentation, or being of precious metal, if the context is corrupted. Except from tagging the county or municipality where the object has been found, information on context is rarely given in online forums. Still, fellow detectorists, as well as renowned archaeologists, are quick to congratulate finders of the most "flashy" objects. That is, objects are praised as trophies, rather than as artifacts of archaeological value. If private metal detecting shall make the most out of its potential as a valuable contribution to professional archaeology, the focus must shift from perceiving objects as trophies to valuing their original contexts.

A fundamental question which must be addressed is therefore: what do objects in the plow layer represent? Are they just randomly lost objects – stray finds – or are they pieces of (automatically protected) archaeological sites (Tonning et al. 2017)? There is of course no definite answer to this question. Objects, coins, clothing equipment, and tools are regularly lost today. This also happened 1000 years ago. A single object might represent just that: an incidentally mislaid or lost object. But where are most objects actually lost? The value assigned to metal detecting finds from an archaeological perspective is, quite commonly, that they represent something beyond the objects themselves. They represent settlements and villages (e.g., Dobat 2013), marketplaces (e.g., Bill and Rødsrud 2013; Kvanli and Sørensen 2016), grave fields (e.g., Cerbing 2016), workshop areas (e.g., Maixner 2015b), and other kinds of sites – in addition to the random lost objects. The dilemma is that it is at times difficult to decide when an object is just that – an object that could rightfully be considered a closed entity – and when it is part of a more complex situation?

Most detectorists who are interested in archaeological objects have a sincere interest in history and know their archaeological periods (e.g., Ferguson 2013: 4; Thomas 2009: 1). When looking for a potentially good site, they often use the same sources, methods, and criteria for evaluating the find potential as professional archaeologists. Hence, when private metal detectorists deliberately look for sites hoping to find archaeological objects, they are in many cases actually searching on (until now unknown) sites that are automatically protected by the NCHA. Moreover, when a good site is identified, some will want to continue to search at this site. At the same time, seeking recognition, both from fellow detectorists and professional archaeologist, many detectorists want their finds to be recognized as archaeologically significant. In a legal sense, however, these desires appear mutually exclusive.

A problem also lies in different practices among professional archaeologist and institutions. Several authors have pointed out how the county administrations in Norway have different practices when it comes to recording sites based on objects from private metal detecting (Rasmussen 2014a; Maixner 2015a, 2016; Feveile 2015; Kvanli and Sørensen 2016; Skre and Pilø 2016). While some counties practice a restrictive management policy, others regard private metal detecting as a

Table 9.1 The dilemma of private metal detecting and archaeological objects

Stray find	Part of (automatically protected) archaeological site
Private metal detecting can continue without interference by the cultural heritage authorities	Private metal detecting should stop unless permission is given by the cultural heritage authorities
Limited archaeological value	High archaeological value

means to rescue endangered objects (Maixner 2015a: 203–204). Different practices result in different recording and labeling of the same types of sites and very different opportunities for the continued private metal detecting on discovered sites (Table 9.1). Maixner is critical of the restrictive practice she has observed in some counties and claims that the use of the "automatic protected" label can be interpreted as an expression of a cultural heritage policy seeking to exclude large areas from private metal detecting (Maixner 2015a: 207). At the same time, she argues that the metal detecting finds are representations of important archaeological sites, such as workshop sites, settlements, or grave fields (Maixner 2015b, 2016). Herein lays a dilemma. In my opinion this is contradictionary, since such sites are automatically protected according to the NCHA.

Another example is described in an article by an experienced private metal detectorists and an archaeologist at a county council (Kvanli and Sørensen 2016). In 2012 the county archaeologists performed an ordinary archaeological survey on a field planned for development. The survey was carried out by stripping off parts of the top soil with an excavator and looking for structures cut into the underground. No structures were found, and the area was cleared for development. Later, some private metal detectorists searched the site and found several objects such as hack silver, dirhams, Viking age, and medieval coins and weights (Kvanli and Sørensen 2016: 43). Kvanli and Sørensen rightfully use this example to show how private metal detecting can be a valuable contribution to other archaeological methods. Based on the finds, they defined the site as a marketplace dating from the Viking period to the seventeenth century (Kvanli and Sørensen 2016: 43). That is to say, it is a site protected by the NCHA.

These two examples bring us to the core of one of the great challenges and possible incompatibilities between private metal detecting and the wording of the NCHA. Supporters of a liberal attitude toward private metal detecting emphasize the great value of metal detector finds in Norwegian archaeology by arguing that they represent archaeological sites and not "uninteresting stray finds without context" (Kvanli and Sørensen 2016: 43, my translation). Such recognition of archaeological objects as small parts of automatically protected sites will necessarily have consequences for the continued use of private metal detectors at the same site (Table 9.1).

Automatic Protection of Sites on Farmed Land: Saving Sites or Sabotaging Archaeology's Good Helpers?

In practice, an archaeological site has to be recognized before it can be treated as protected by the law. And if a known site is *not* recognized as protected by representatives of the official cultural heritage management, it will not be treated as protected by anyone else either. The recognition of a site by the county archaeologists is therefore the key for a site's experienced status of protection. In online discussion forums, and even in academic articles (Maixner 2015a; Kvanli and Sørensen 2016), this has been misunderstood as the *act of protecting* a site by the county administrations. Although wrong, this perception is understandable. The juridical protection of a site is given by the law as automatic protection when fulfilling the right age criteria. The *experienced* protection is given through recognition by the cultural heritage management.

The NCHA operates with strict categories; either a site is protected or it is not protected. There are no "maybes" or "almosts." The *Askeladden* database, however, also operates with the category of "unresolved" (Norwegian: *uavklart*) somewhere between these categories. The category is meant for sites and monuments where additional investigations are needed to decide if the site is subject to automatic protection or not (Directorate for Cultural Heritage 2016). The status was originally meant for sites where it is difficult, or impossible, to decide the *age* of the site. Since 2010 ca. 7000 sites have been labeled "unresolved" in the *Askeladden* database. About half of these are so-called find spots, where the age is already decided by recognition of the artifact(s) as older than 1537 and thus necessary to report to the cultural heritage authorities.

Within the Norwegian cultural heritage *management,* the unresolved status in the database should work as a warning flag. Sites with this status shall be treated as automatically protected according to the *precautionary principle*. If such a site is threatened by any form of development or building activities, it has to be examined more thoroughly before any decision to build or not can be made. When it comes to private metal detecting, the unresolved status has been treated just the opposite way; as long as the site is *not* labeled as automatically protected, it has been regarded as open for continuous metal detecting (Maixner 2015a; Kvanli and Sørensen 2016). The recognition of a site as either automatically protected or "just" unresolved has consequently been imperative to future (legal) private metal detecting on the site. In the new national guidelines for private metal detecting, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage advocates that private metal detectorists shall act with caution and therefore advises against metal detecting on "unresolved" sites or close to previously known automatically protected sites (Directorate for Cultural Heritage 2017: 3). It is still too early to say if this will have any effect on the practice of private metal detecting on "unresolved" sites or on the different county administrations practices of labeling sites.

The previously mentioned exception in the NCHA section "The Organization of Norwegian Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management" secures the farmers'

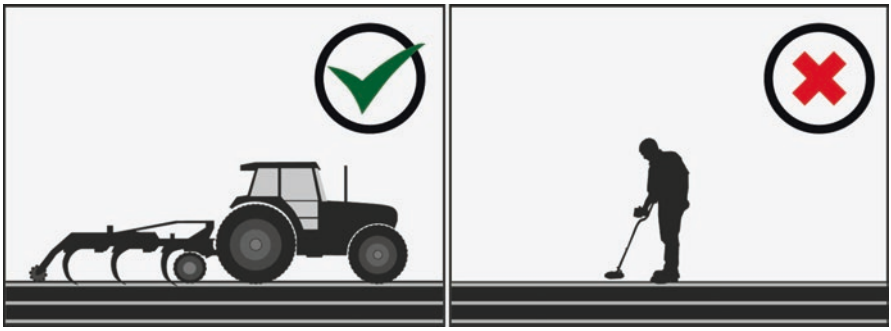

Fig. 9.1 The plow layer paradox: Farming activities are still legal on automatically protected sites, while private metal detecting is not. Illustration: Astrid J. Nyland

right to the continuous use of his or her land for ordinary farming activities, even on automatically protected sites. All other activities which are liable to damage or disturb the site or even create a risk of this happening are illegal, unless one has been given permission by the cultural heritage authorities. This also includes private metal detecting.

It is obvious that the plow zone does not provide favorable conditions for archaeological objects or sites. The yearly cycle of plowing, fertilizing, harrowing, and harvesting with heavy machinery is probably any archaeologist's nightmare. It is therefore tempting to support the view that all archaeological objects in the plow zone should be rescued from these detrimental conditions as soon as possible. This view is the main argument for a more liberal attitude toward private metal detecting in Norway (Maixner 2015a; Martens 2016; Skre and Pilø 2016; Kvanli 2016; Kvanli and Sørensen 2016), and private metal detectorists also promote themselves as "rescuers" or the "unsung heroes" of the archaeological heritage (Norwegian metal detecting society (NMF) 2016), emphasizing their good intentions. Further, it has also been claimed that county administration which labels sites as automatically protected based on metal detecting finds in the plow layer does so to prevent or reduce metal detecting (e.g., Maixner 2015a: 209; Skre and Pilø 2016: 36), i.e., not because the sites are actually automatically protected. Comments in online forums also show that private metal detectorists often perceive the labeling of a site as automatically protected as a punishment or sabotage of honest detectorists abiding the law.

All in all, this has led to a widespread reluctance to recognize and label sites as automatically protected based on metal detecting finds, since this in practice will end the free use of metal detectors on the site (Fig. 9.1), and consequently all remaining artifacts will be lost forever.

In my opinion, this position represents a fallacy. As mentioned, the great value of metal detecting finds is that they represent true archaeological sites, and not just stray finds. Such sites are by definition automatically protected in accordance with the NCHA, provided that they fulfill the age criteria. Further, the five archaeological museums have the opportunity to arrange metal detecting campaigns on protected sites within their own designated museum district, using both their own employees

and voluntary (or even paid) private metal detectorists. There are numerous successful examples of metal detecting campaigns where voluntary private metal detectorists have invested hundreds, even thousands, of free working hours for the archaeological museums, detecting on automatically protected sites in the plow layer (e.g., Bill and Rødsrud 2013; Jacobsen and Brandlien 2013; Maixner 2015b; Ødegård 2017; Øhrn 2016). In addition, private metal detectorists also have the opportunity to apply to the cultural heritage authorities to perform searches by themselves. Only three applications have been received at the Directorate for Cultural Heritage during the last 3 years. One was granted, while two have been denied.

The vulnerability of archaeological artifacts due to farming activities on automatically protected sites also has to be weighed against possible negative effects caused by uncontrolled private metal detecting if the same sites are not recognized as protected. For instance:

- It is naïve to believe that all private metal detectorists are honest (Gundersen et al. 2016; see also Hardy 2017). Illegal activities (i.e., not reporting archaeological finds to the authorities) are much more difficult to discover if the site has no restrictions on the use of metal detectors. Dishonest detectorists can easily slip an object into the pocket and claim they found nothing.
- There have been unfortunate episodes where eager detectorists have dug deeper than the actual plow layer and thereby caused damage to undisturbed archaeological structures and contexts. Digging small shovel-sized holes is not the best method to identify important contextual information, layers in particular.
- The cultural heritage management has no means to demand that private detectorists use global positioning systems (GPS), or even maps, if a site is not protected. Incomplete and inaccurate mapping greatly reduces the archaeological value of any archaeological object. As noted by several authors, the spatial distribution of objects found by metal detectorists is important even in the plow layer where the objects have been moved from their original context by farming activities (e.g., Bill and Rødsrud 2013: 6; Dobat 2013: 708; Henriksen 2016; Kvanli and Sørensen 2016: 43; Maixner 2015b; Östergren 2013; Ulriksen et al. 2015: 114).
- The failure to recognize an archaeological object is a challenge that both archaeologists and detectorists face. Inexperienced private metal detectorists can accidently remove important artifacts from archaeological sites (e.g., Ferguson 2016: 120; Maixner 2015a: 206).

Based on these arguments, I suggest that sites in the plow fields can benefit from being recognized as automatically protected. The automatically protected label provides possibilities to control the private use of metal detectors on a potentially significant archaeological site. In this way, it is up to the cultural heritage management, i.e., the competent authority, to decide whether metal detecting is allowed on the site and on what conditions. Furthermore, responsible and experienced private metal detectorists can be recognized and included in fruitful cooperation between so-called amateurs and the professional cultural heritage management. The use of GPS with tracking log, systematic reporting from both “positive” and “negative”

searches, mandatory reporting of all finds (not just the ones easily recognized as archaeological objects), and limitation on digging depth and correct handling of objects are relevant requirements for most sites. However, such conditions can only be required if the site has been recognized and labeled correctly. As long as the site is not recognized as protected, it is only the land owner who can limit and regulate private metal detecting on the site.

Friend or Foe: Archaeology for the People/Concluding Remarks

Norwegian archaeological practice is almost exclusively a business for the public sector. The civil society is rarely directly involved in archaeology, except as visitors to sites and museums, as landowners, or as developers. A lot of the media coverage on archaeology in Norway concerns the restrictions, costs, delays, and difficulties it poses for developers. One could say that archaeology needs all the friends it can get.

Several authors have emphasized that private metal detectorists often are very serious and committed to their hobby (e.g., Dobat and Jensen 2016; Ferguson 2013: 5). Presumably, private metal detectorists are more interested in archaeology than the average Norwegian. They visit museums, read archaeological literature, and show a genuine and honest interest in archaeology and history. Private metal detecting also gives archaeology a lot of positive media coverage. The childhood dream of finding a treasure is thriving in most people, and the media seem to love the lucky finder (e.g., Dobat and Jensen 2016: 72; Thomas 2016: 140). Spread across the country, in small communities and large towns, private metal detectorists are in contact with farmers, land owners, and the general public on a daily basis, to an extent that the archaeological community cannot compete with. A lot of private metal detectorists are great ambassadors for archaeology, even if detectorists as a group of course represent a wide spectrum of interests and motivations.

Moreover, as mentioned, private metal detectorists are valuable contributors to archaeological research and management projects. Several Norwegian counties use private metal detectorists as volunteers in surveys at a regular basis. Cooperation between so-called amateurs and professionals is valuable for both groups. Archaeological objects, sites, and monuments are our shared resources that belong to everyone.

In other words, there are plenty of reasons why Norwegian archaeology should keep private metal detectorists as good friends. It is, however, necessary to ask: how is this possible within the frames of the NCHA?

In this article I have tried to show how the principle of automatic protection can be incompatible with free private metal detecting, even if the intention of the detecting is to rescue archaeological objects in the plow zone. In my opinion this is not necessarily a disadvantage.

When archaeologists are looking for areas where they expect to find archaeological objects, and find them, we are quick to label the site as a settlement or any other kind of automatically protected site. Why is it different for private metal detectorists? If friends don't trust each other's qualifications and experience, are they really good friends? In my opinion we should embrace responsible private metal detectorists as true allies and recognize that also "amateurs" can be valuable contributors to Norwegian archaeology in the twenty-first century. Implicitly this will lead to restrictions on free private metal detecting on more archaeological sites. It is however not necessarily the end of private metal detecting on the site for all future to come. There are several examples of fruitful cooperation between professional archaeology and private metal detectorists. Recognizing the site as an automatically protected site, and thus the finder as a trustworthy friend, is a way of limiting uncontrolled private metal detecting. In my opinion it is also a way of recognizing conscientious private metal detectorists as important contributors to professional archaeology and metal detecting as a very important archaeological method.

Finally, it has not been within the scope of this article to discuss all aspects in the relationship between private metal detectorists and professional archaeologists in Norway. At present the Norwegian cultural heritage management has been put to a test. Different stakeholders have different, sometimes even conflicting, values. I truly believe that private metal detecting will be a valuable contribution to professional archaeology for years to come. We need to find good solutions for cooperation between "amateurs" and professionals within the current juridical framework. I believe it is possible, also without circumventing the concept of *automatic protection*.

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