

# Antiquities, ancient monuments and metal detectors: an enthusiast's guide



# ANTIQUITIES, ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND METAL DETECTORS: AN ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE

The soil and water of Finland hide many archaeological relics of different ages and types created by human activity. Out of these, ancient monuments are protected by the Antiquities Act (295/1963). Ancient monuments and other archaeological sites are a part of our shared cultural capital that should be preserved as a heritage for the future generations.

Different kinds of objects or pieces of objects, whose owner is unknown, are also found in the soil and water. Some of them are lost property and some of them are antiquities. Lost property is handled in accordance with the Lost Articles Act (778/1988). As for antiquities, the Antiquities Act applies to them. Information on antiquities, ancient monuments and other archaeological sites can be found from the National Board of Antiquities and the regional museums. The police provide information on lost property. In issues related to military debris, the Finnish Defence Forces must be contacted.

This guide by the National Board of Antiquities provides basic information on antiquities and archaeological sites. In addition, it provides information on archaeological research and other subjects of interest to a metal detection enthusiast. The guide also provides answers to the National Board of Antiquities' most frequently asked questions related to the hobby.



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## I Ancient monuments

Ancient monuments are archaeological sites in our environment created by human activity. They tell us about life in the past, such as work, dwellings, travel and death. Some ancient monuments, such as cairns, hill forts and sacrificial stones, can be easily detected in the environment. Others are hidden below the ground, such as dwelling sites, workplaces and graves. The most common ancient monuments connected to water are shipwrecks and structures at water lines. By studying ancient monuments, we can understand our own history. For example, we can find out how people lived in the past and how their activities influenced the environment. Ancient monuments are protected by the Antiquities Act (295/1963). Excavation in an ancient monument and the protected area around it is not allowed without a permit issued under the law. Among other sources, more information on archaeological sites can be found at the website of the National Board of Antiquities at the address [www.nba.fi/en/cultural\\_environment/archaeological\\_heritage](http://www.nba.fi/en/cultural_environment/archaeological_heritage).

Many enthusiasts have questions related to archaeological sites and how they could avoid accidentally digging within their area:

### Where can I find information on archaeological sites and their locations?

Information on the location and in some cases also the extent of archaeological sites can be found in the Ancient Relics Register maintained by the National Board of Antiquities; it can be found online at the Registry Portal of Cultural Environment. Some of the archaeological sites are only marked with a dot, but others have already been outlined as areas. An archaeological site marked with a dot may still extend over a large area. You can find more information about



Koroistenniemi in Turku is an ancient monument with various structures related to human activity during the Middle Ages that can be easily detected in the terrain.

the Registry Portal of Cultural Environment (in Finnish) at the address [www.kyppi.fi/palveluikkuna/portti/read/asp/default.aspx](http://www.kyppi.fi/palveluikkuna/portti/read/asp/default.aspx).

### How detailed is the information in the Ancient Relics Register?

The information in the Ancient Relics Register is increasing and being continuously completed. The aim is to enter information on known ancient monuments into the register as quickly as possible. The register does not include information on all known archaeological sites, however. Moreover, information on the borders of all archaeological sites has not been entered into the register yet. If you wish, you can comment on the information on the sites by

using the register's feedback function. You can always ask the National Board of Antiquities for more information on how comprehensive the information in the Ancient Relics Register is.

### **When does an archaeological site become protected?**

According to the Antiquities Act, an archaeological site becomes protected at the moment it is found. If an ancient monument is found while digging in the ground or carrying out other work, either on land or in water, or if there are signs indicating the presence of an ancient monument at the findspot of an artefact, the work must be stopped and the site must not be disturbed any further. In addition, the National Board of Antiquities must be notified of the issue immediately for any necessary actions.

### **Are all archaeological sites protected?**

The soil and bodies of water in Finland contain a wealth of relics of human activity that can be studied using archaeological methods. Not all of these sites are protected by the Antiquities Act. However, it is important that even the unprotected sites are preserved for future generations as undisturbed as possible. In addition to browsing the Ancient Relics Register, you can always ask the National Board of Antiquities or a regional museum on whether a site is protected or not.

### **Can you dig on a site that has been released from under the protection of the Antiquities Act?**

An ancient monument is usually released from protection because it has been completely destroyed and does not exist any longer. Before digging such a site, it is important to ask the National Board of Antiquities or the regional museum and confirm whether the information on the lack of protection is absolutely correct. Information on the protection is verified in connection with the enquiry. If the National Board of Antiquities confirms that the site is no longer pro-



Fields and meadows may seem like good places to start looking. However, as threatened natural habitats, they may be protected under the Nature Conservation Act. In addition, they may be protected as ancient monuments.

tected under the Antiquities Act, digging in it is allowed in connection with metal detection, for example. If you find an antiquity or an artefact suspected to be one, or if signs of an ancient monument are found during the digging, you must stop digging immediately and contact the National Board of Antiquities or the regional museum. After this, you must wait for a new assessment of the findspot and the artefact.

### **Why is the findspot important?**

The findspot of a metal object may also be an ancient monument or another archaeological site. You should check what other things can be observed at

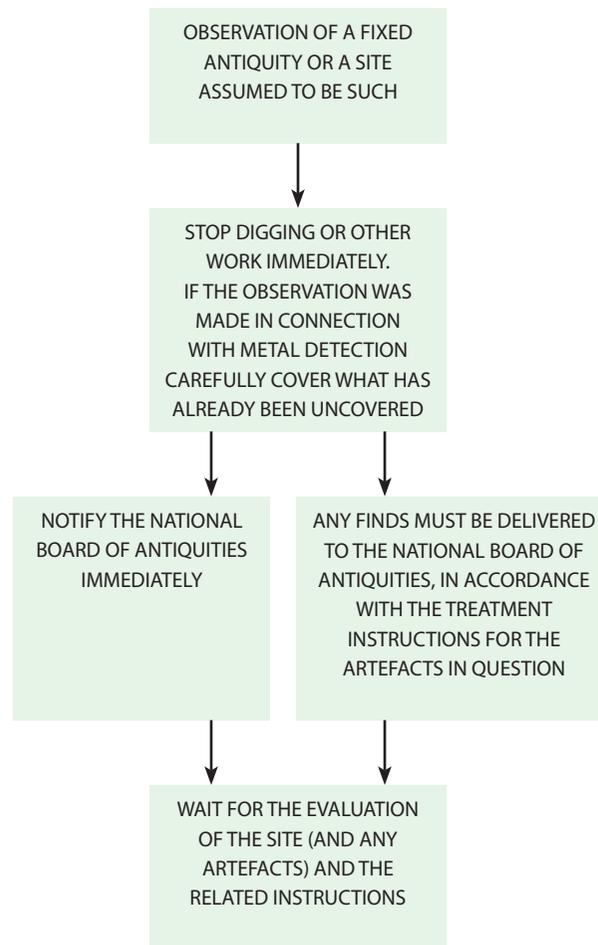
the site in connection with detecting metals. In addition, other possible finds at the site, such as potsherds, should be recovered or photographed. You must not dig in the ground any further to find out more information. Information on all of the observations should be recorded in the National Board of Antiquities' artefact information form. An archaeologist must also assess the findspot. The assessment may take time, because in addition to inspecting the terrain, an investigation in the issue may also require the studying of various historical documents.

### What is the National Board of Antiquities' artefact information form?

Information on the find and the findspot is completed in the artefact information form. This information is important for processing the find and assessing the findspot. When the find is delivered to the National Board of Antiquities or the regional museum, a completed artefact information form is attached to it. You can ask the form from the e-mail address [metallinilmais@ museovirasto.fi](mailto:metallinilmais@ museovirasto.fi).

### Why is the location information on the findspot important?

The aim is to record information on the findspots of antiquities as accurately as possible in the Ancient Relics Register of the National Board of Antiquities for purposes such as archaeolog-



Instructions for the finder of an ancient monument.

ical research. Information on the artefacts that have not been redeemed into the collection of the National Board of Antiquities or in museum collections is also recorded in the archives with their findspot information. The location coordinates of the findspot can be found in the terrain using a GPS device, or later with the Map-Site service of the National Land Survey of Finland, for example. The service can be found at the address <https://asiointi.maanmittauslaitos.fi/karttapaikka/?lang=en> The coordinates are reported in the ETRS-TM35FIN format. Instructions for finding the location information can be found in the instructions for completing the National Board of Antiquities' artefact information form, for example.

### What happens if you find an ancient monument, but do not report the find?

In accordance with the Antiquities Act, finding an object suspected to be an ancient monument leads to stopping the digging and all other work, and the observations must be reported to the National Board of Antiquities without delay. Therefore, failing to report the find is a violation of the law. If the ancient monument referred to in the Act is not known to the National Board of Antiquities, the National Board of Antiquities cannot supervise its protection. In such a case, the site may be destroyed in a land use project, for example.

## Where can you find information on sites dating from the historical period?

Archaeological sites of the historical period date from a time that also has written and pictorial sources. In contrast, artefacts and archaeological sites are the only things that tell about the lives of people in the prehistoric times. General information on the archaeological sites dating from the historical period can be found in sources such as the guide “Historiallisen ajan kiinteät muinaisjäännökset” (in Finnish) on the website of the National Board of Antiquities at the address [www.nba.fi/fi/File/685/rho-historiallisen-ajan-kii.pdf](http://www.nba.fi/fi/File/685/rho-historiallisen-ajan-kii.pdf). Many sites dating from the historical period are also protected under the Antiquities Act.

## Are all military historical sites protected?

World War I sites, including the civil war in 1918, and older military historical sites are protected as ancient monuments under the Antiquities Act. World War II sites and later military historical sites are not protected archaeological sites. However, they are generally valued as sites that tell about the history of our wars and our society. Some military historical sites are also resting places for the dead. There, the sanctity of the grave must be protected. Objects found at unprotected military historical sites may be connected to families and even individuals that are still living. In their case, the Lost Articles Act must be taken into account. In addition, military historical sites from the 1900s, including shipwrecks, may include ammunition and other explosives that must not be disturbed. If you find such an object, you must contact the police immediately via the emergency number.

## Who should be contacted if you notice that an ancient monument has been damaged?

Observations related to damage to an ancient monument, such as marks of digging or earthworks, can be reported using the feedback function of the National

The screenshot shows the 'KULTTUURIYMPÄRISTÖN PALVELUIKKUNA' (Cultural Environment Service Portal) interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'pikahaku kohteen nimellä tai nimen osalla' and a 'hae' button. To the right, there is a link 'siirry kartalle'. The main content area is a grid of nine items, each with a thumbnail image and a caption. The items are: 1. 'Arkeologiset kohteet' (Archaeological sites) with a stone labyrinth. 2. 'Arkeologiset hankkeet' (Archaeological projects) with a glowing green object. 3. 'Hoidetut kulttuuriympäristökohteet' (Maintained cultural environment sites) with a forest site. 4. 'Rakennusperintö' (Building heritage) with a red wooden house. 5. 'Valtakunnallisesti merkittävät rakennetut kulttuuriympäristöt' (Nationally significant built cultural environments) with a red brick building. 6. 'Maailmanperintökohteet Suomessa' (World heritage sites in Finland) with a large brick building. 7. 'Kulttuuriympäristön tutkimusraportit' (Cultural environment research reports) with a map. 8. 'Muinaiskalupäiväkirja - arkeologiset kokoelmat' (Ancient inventory book - archaeological collections) with wooden bowls. 9. 'Rakennetun ympäristön piirustukset' (Built environment drawings) with a wireframe model. On the left side of the grid, there are three buttons: 'KYSY TAI ANNA PALAUTETTA TÄSTÄ PALVELUSTA' (Ask or give feedback on this service), 'TUTUSTU TIETOSUOJAASI JA EVÄSTEIDEN KÄYTTÖÖN' (Get acquainted with your privacy and cookie settings), and 'LATAA MUSEOVIRASTON PAIKKATIEDOAINEISTOJA' (Download the National Board of Antiquities location data). At the bottom of the grid, there is a copyright notice '© Museovirasto'.

The Registry Portal of Cultural Environment maintained by the National Board of Antiquities provides information on subjects such as archaeological sites, the built cultural environment, archaeological fieldwork and the artefacts in the collections. The register is constantly being supplemented and the information changes as our knowledge increases.

Board of Antiquities [www.nba.fi/en/feedback](http://www.nba.fi/en/feedback). The message will be forwarded to the National Board of Antiquities and the party taking care of the issue. The information can also be reported to the Record Office of the National Board of Antiquities at [kirjaamo@museovirasto.fi](mailto:kirjaamo@museovirasto.fi). You can also call the telephone exchange of the National Board of Antiquities, tel. +358 295 33 6000.

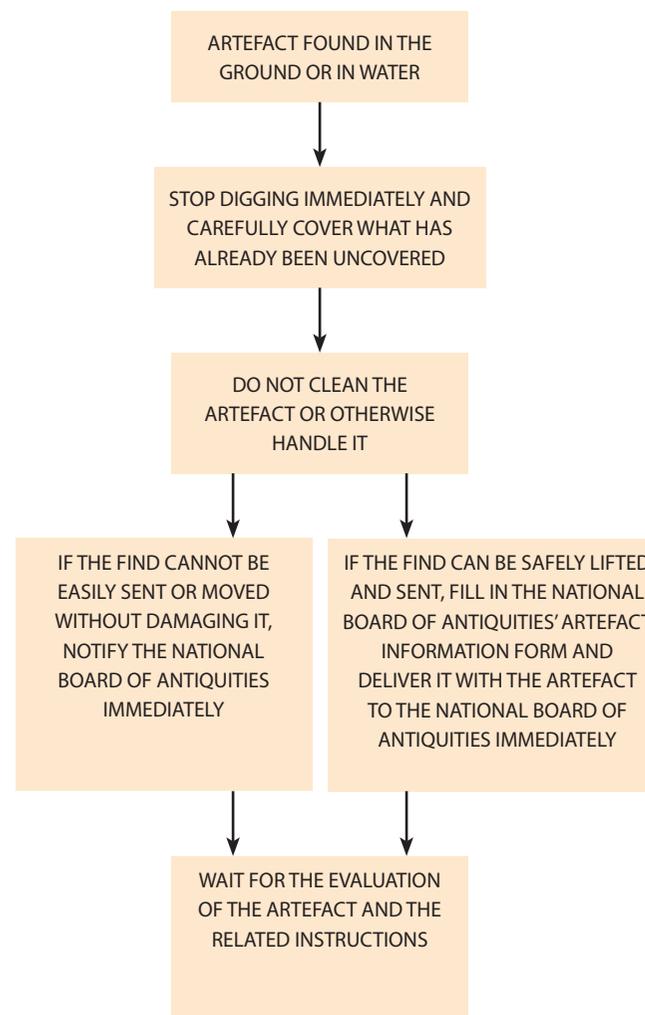
## II Antiquities

In accordance with the Antiquities Act, an antiquity, or a movable ancient object, is a coin, weapon, tool, ornament, vessel, transport equipment, or the like, of which the owner is not known and which can be expected to be at least one hundred years old. Antiquities are kept in the collections of the National Board of Antiquities, regional museums and other museums. By studying the objects, we can find out how the manufacturing, design and use of objects have changed. In addition, they tell about our connections to different parts of Europe and even further away in the world. More information about antiquities and collections can be found at the website of the National Board of Antiquities at [www.nba.fi/en/information\\_services/archaeological\\_collections](http://www.nba.fi/en/information_services/archaeological_collections).

The hobbyists often ask what they should do with the artefacts and where they should send them.

### What should I do if I find an antiquity?

If you suspect that you have found an antiquity, stop digging in the findspot immediately and cover the places that have been dug up. The object and information of the find are to be delivered immediately to the National Board of Antiquities or a regional museum, if it is possible to send or transport the object easily without a risk of breakage. More detailed instructions on how to handle a found artefact and sending it to the National Board of Antiquities can be asked from the e-mail address [metallinilmais@museovirasto.fi](mailto:metallinilmais@ museovirasto.fi).



Instructions for the finder of an antiquity.

### Should the find be cleaned or restored?

The find must not be cleaned in any way. You should only gently shake any loose soil off. This will ensure that you do not accidentally remove something that could be of crucial importance in assessing the nature of the find and the findspot. You must not try to restore or conserve the object yourself before delivering it to the National Board of Antiquities or a regional museum. Doing that might even accidentally destroy the object. Moreover, you might make it impossible to identify the object by trying to restore it yourself. Various treatments with different chemicals, for example, may destroy the object later or prevent its appropriate conservation.

### How do I store and send the find?

You should already carry suitable packing materials when moving in the terrain. Such materials include tissue paper, cardboard boxes with lids, cotton wool as a support material and resealable plastic bags. Moist iron and organic materials, such as wood, bone and textiles, are to be kept moist, wrapped in plastic and stored in a cool place. Other metals and finds are stored dry. The find is packed for transport so that it cannot move or break. Resealable plastic bags, crumpled paper and sturdy cardboard boxes are good packing materials, for example. You can send it to the National Board of Antiquities by post free of charge, if you state at the post office that the delivery concerns a customer return. The find is to be sent to the following address: National Board of Antiquities, Sturenkatu 2a, 00510 Helsinki. The following text is to be marked on the envelope or package: "Asiakaspalautus, sopimustunnus 610146" (Customer return, return ID 610146). When sending finds of precious metals, jewellery in particular, the National Board of Antiquities should be contacted to make a separate agreement on delivering the find.



Finds packed by the finder sent to the National Board of Antiquities. The numbers on the bags refer to the specific information on the findspot reported by the finder in the artefact information form.

### What do I do with artefacts found in water?

An artefact found in water can also constitute a movable ancient object referred to in the Antiquities Act. In addition, finds from shallow waters may be the only indication of an old shipwreck. They may also tell about a historic wreck deeper in the water. An antiquity found in the water is to be kept in a lidded container full of water, and reported immediately to the National Board of Antiquities or a regional museum. A separate agreement is made on delivering the find for study by an archaeologist. An object that has been in the water for a long time may be fragile and easily damaged when it comes into contact with air and dries out, which must be taken into account when storing and transporting it.

### What do I do with coins I have found?

Coins found in soil or water that are at least one hundred years old are movable ancient objects referred to in the law. All such finds of money are to be reported to the National Board of Antiquities or a regional museum, from which the information will be forwarded to the Coin Cabinet of the National Museum of Finland. If necessary, the reporting method can be agreed upon in more detail with the Coin Cabinet. The Coin Cabinet is responsible for numismatics, or the identification and research of money, on the national level. Its aim is to record information on all finds of money and their findspots in Finland in its archive, so that the information is available to researchers and citizens. Individual finds of money are usually stored in the Coin Cabinet's collections. If the coin is a part of a larger set of finds, it is most likely stored as a part of the archaeological collections.

### Should I donate the find or offer it for redemption?

The finder of a movable ancient object referred to in the Antiquities Act must offer his or her find for redemption. Instead of offering it for redemption, the finder can also donate the find. The information on the finder is stored in the archive records. If the National Board of Antiquities

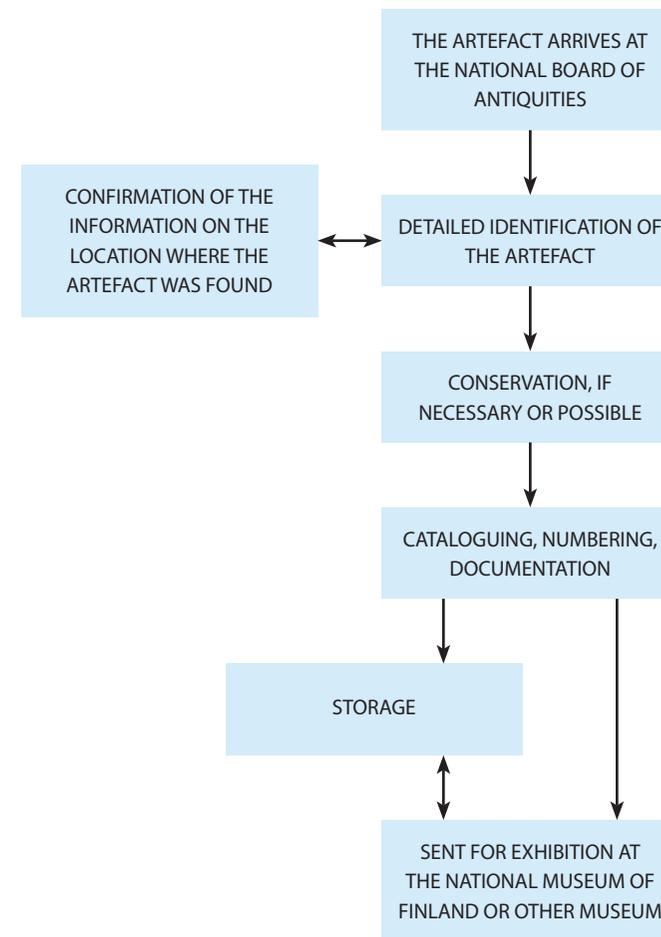
does not accept or redeem the find or transfer its right of redemption, the find is returned to the finder.

### What does redeeming an object mean?

In accordance with the Antiquities Act, the National Board of Antiquities has the right to redeem an antiquity, meaning a movable ancient object referred to in the Antiquities Act, for the collections of National Museum of Finland or transfer its right of redemption to another museum or institution. Not all of the artefacts assessed and considered to be antiquities are redeemed. If the decision to redeem the artefact is made, compensation is paid for it. The compensation is determined by the nature of the artefact. When assessing the artefact's nature, its significance as an object that tells about our history is considered. No finder's reward is paid for antiquities, unless there is a particular reason to do so. Rewards are usually associated with objects referred to in the Lost Articles Act.

### What will happen to the antiquity at the National Board of Antiquities?

When a find arrives at the National Board of Antiquities, several experts participate in handling it. After the artefact is received, cooperation is usually needed to date it and identify it in



Processing antiquities at the National Board of Antiquities.

more detail. In addition, the artefact may also need cleaning and conservation by a professional conservator so that it can be preserved. Artefacts that have been in the water for a long time need to be conserved by a conservator specialised in handling waterlogged materials. After identification, the artefact is catalogued, meaning that it is assigned its own main identifier or sub-identifier depending on the find as a whole. In connection with cataloguing, the artefact is given a verbal description and a picture is drawn of it. After cataloguing, the artefact is either kept in storage or it may be exhibited at a museum. In addition to handling the artefact, information related to its findspot is also investigated by means of a terrain survey, for example. Because different kinds of finds are constantly arriving at the National Board of Antiquities, the processing usually takes several months.

### **How can I find out if a find I sent to the National Board of Antiquities has been included in the collections of the National Museum of Finland?**

When an antiquity is included in the collections, it is recorded in the journal of ancient relics. Information on artefacts included in the collections can be browsed in the journal of ancient relics at the Registry Portal of Cultural Environment (in Finnish): [www.kyppi.fi/palveluikkuna/portti/read/asp/default.aspx](http://www.kyppi.fi/palveluikkuna/portti/read/asp/default.aspx).

### **Would the National Board of Antiquities like people to look for artefacts for its collections?**

Metal detection is a hobby that enthusiasts engage in due to their own interests. The National Board of Antiquities does not advise people to engage in metal detection for purposes such as increasing the collections of museums or the Board. Instead, the National Board of Antiquities encourages metal detection enthusiasts to seek opportunities to cooperate with archaeological field-



The archaeologist's toolbox includes implements for purposes such as recording information on the archaeological site and material for packing the found artefacts.

work professionals. In fact, the best way to add artefacts to the collections is via archaeological fieldwork. There, archaeologists study the locations of the finds and their connection to the archaeological site using scientific methods. The observations are recorded in a research report as maps, images and texts for the information of all people interested in the subject. This gives the artefact a story and connects it into a larger whole of knowledge about our history. Even enthusiasts can participate in discovering the story of the artefact by working at the findspot according to the instructions of the National Board of Antiquities.



Metallic objects usually only form a small part of the find as a whole that tells us about human activity.

### **Which finds are the most important?**

All antiquities that tell us about the lives of the people in the past are equally important from the point of view of archaeological research. From a historical perspective, even finds that seem insignificant at a first glance may in fact be very important. Different kinds of finds tell about human activity. Finds also provide new information on material culture in the different parts of our country. For this reason, the artefacts or at least the information related to them are

recorded in the archives of the National Board of Antiquities for the use of researchers and citizens. By studying artefacts and archaeological sites, researchers can form a picture of what has happened in the past. Even something that the finder may consider simple or uninteresting can still provide unique and new information about the past to an expert. This is why it is important to report all finds or observations related to the findspot, instead of only picking and choosing the ones you assume to be the most important.

### **Who owns an object found in the soil?**

The objects referred to in the Antiquities Act and the Lost Articles Act do not become the property of the finder or the landowner at the time of their discovery. Their ownership is determined based on the law. A found object that is less than one hundred years old, the owner of which is not known, is lost property. Its ownership is determined based on the Lost Articles Act and the case is handled by the police. A found object that is at least one hundred years old, the owner of which is not known, is a movable ancient object. Its ownership is determined based on the Antiquities Act and the case is handled by the National Board of Antiquities. Military debris is the property of the Finnish Defence Forces under the Decree on the Finding and Salvaging of Items of the Finnish Defence Forces (84/1983).

### **What happens if I do not report an antiquity or an object I think is an antiquity that I have found to the authorities?**

Concealing, damaging, changing, handing over, acquiring or exporting a movable ancient object referred to in the Antiquities Act is a violation of the law. The perpetrator of such an act can be sentenced to a punishment and the loss of any rights to the find, such as the right to compensation for redemption.

### **What should I do, if I find that antiquities or objects I assume to be antiquities are being sold?**

The sale of an antiquity can be reported to the National Board of Antiquities by using the feedback function, for example: [www.nba.fi/en/feedback](http://www.nba.fi/en/feedback). The message will be forwarded to the party handling the issue at the National Board of Antiquities. The information can also be reported to the Record Office of the National Board of Antiquities at [kirjaamo@museovirasto.fi](mailto:kirjaamo@museovirasto.fi). You can also call the telephone exchange of the National Board of Antiquities, tel. +358 295 33 6000.

### **How can you buy or sell artefacts?**

A person who owns an artefact legally can sell it, and such an artefact can also be bought. A person who owns an artefact legally can usually clearly prove his or her ownership of the artefact. In general, people mainly become legal owners of antiquities after the redemption case by the National Board of Antiquities has been processed, if the antiquity has not been redeemed. A written receipt of the decision on the artefact's ownership should be requested from the National Board of Antiquities, if it has not been received for any reason. You should also remember that antiquities cannot be exported without an export permit. If the antiquity in question has been imported from abroad, it must be imported into Finland with a permit. Finland and 126 other states, including all of Finland's neighbouring countries, have ratified the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. In the States Parties to the Convention, exporting cultural property requires a permit, and a State Party can demand the return of artefacts exported without a permit.

### III Archaeological research

Archaeological research is a systematic study of human activity in the past, conducted by using scientific methods. It tells us about our history, the life of people in the past and the factors that have influenced it. Archaeological research can be conducted by means such as archaeological fieldwork by using destructive and non-destructive methods at the archaeological site. Destructive methods, such as excavation, damage the archaeological site. Non-destructive methods provide information about the site without damaging it. In connection with destructive methods, the observations are considered from different points of view and recorded by many different methods for study by other researchers and citizens. Destructive research requires a permit granted by the National Board of Antiquities based on the Antiquities Act. Actions such as taking a sample of an artefact also constitute destructive research, and they also require a permission granted by the National Board of Antiquities.

Questions regarding archaeological research in metal detecting as a hobby often concern finding out who is conducting research and how to join:

#### **Where do you apply for permission to dig an archaeological site?**

Anyone who plans any kind of digging of an archaeological site or its protected area must contact the National Board of Antiquities. In accordance with the Antiquities Act, the National Board of Antiquities can grant permission to another party to study an archaeological site by excavating. The application for permission is submitted in writing and a research plan is attached to it. The basic prerequisite for receiving a research permit is that a person trained as an

archaeologist is responsible for fieldwork. More information about research permits and plans related to excavation can be found at the website of the National Board of Antiquities at the following address: [www.nba.fi/en/cultural\\_environment/archaeological\\_heritage/guidelines\\_for\\_procedures](http://www.nba.fi/en/cultural_environment/archaeological_heritage/guidelines_for_procedures). If the excavation is connected to a land use project, such as construction, the National Board of Antiquities or the regional museum is contacted. More information about excavation in connection with different kinds of land use projects can be found at the website of the National Board of Antiquities.



At archaeological excavations, the locations of the finds and their relationship to the archaeological site are studied and recorded accurately.

### **Who should I contact, if I want to participate in archaeological research?**

The Universities of Helsinki, Oulu and Turku, as well as certain regional museums, conduct archaeological research. You can contact them and ask about opportunities for cooperation. You can also ask parties conducting archaeological fieldwork about opportunities for cooperation.

### **How do prehistory and the historical period differ from each other?**

Humans have lived in the region of Finland for thousands of years. In archaeology, this time is divided into shorter periods, such as prehistory and the historical period. We can only find information on life during the prehistoric times by studying ancient monuments and antiquities. Information on human activity in historical times can also be obtained from various written sources. Traditionally, the end of prehistory is defined as 1150 CE in Western Finland and ca. 1300 CE in Eastern Finland. In Northern Finland, you could even say that prehistory only ended during the 1600s. In practice, the sources on the older historical period for the Finnish region are slight, and the information on human activity found in archaeological sites and artefacts is very important from the point of view of research until the 1600s–1700s.

### **Why should you not dig up artefacts in cultivated fields?**

Cultivation damages ancient monuments and other archaeological sites. However, even in these sites the structures and strata created by human activity have usually been preserved under the ploughed layer. Based on research, we know that usually artefacts have not moved far from the place in which they ended up in the past. Due to the back-and-forth movement of ploughing, the finds only move for distances ranging from tens of centimetres up to a few metres. They may wear down somewhat, but they can still remain a significant part of

the information contained in the archaeological site as a whole. For this reason, only digging out the metallic objects is not good. It is recommended that even objects found in the ploughed layers of fields should only be dug out when the information on them and the other information contained in the archaeological site are investigated in connection with scientific research, for example. Different objects found together and connected to the circumstances of their discovery tell us more than isolated finds.



Results of archaeological study are made available to the public as books and exhibitions at the National Museum of Finland and in other museums, among other ways.

### **Does metal detection help with archaeology?**

Metal detection can help with archaeology in many ways, as long as it is done within the framework of legislation and other restrictions. In addition, an enthusiast interested in the past should understand the study of archaeology and history, and its goals. Archaeology studies the whole site consisting of the finds and the findspot, as well as the way the site increases our knowledge of the past. The study is conducted according to the established methods of scientific research. Scientific research can also be conducted in cooperation between archaeologists and enthusiasts. Therefore, the finding of artefacts is not the goal of archaeology in itself. From the point of view of archaeology, the finding of artefacts can lead to the discovery of new information, such as new and previously unknown ancient monuments and archaeological sites. This makes it possible to protect new sites, and it also increases our knowledge of human activity in the past. It is particularly interesting to find previously unknown sites in areas, in which little or no archaeological sites are known. Many such areas still remain in the soil and waters of Finland.

## IV Metal detection as a hobby

A metal detector is a tool originally developed for the use of professionals in finding metal in the soil or water. Its use has slowly become more common among ordinary people as hobby equipment, too. Some of the enthusiasts are interested in finding modern objects, such as jewellery and other lost property. Others are also interested in the past, such as sites related to our wars and other historical locations. In Finland the enthusiast must be familiar with the various laws and other norms guiding detection.

General questions on metal detection as a hobby concern the places where you can dig and what other related issues you must take into account in detecting metal:

### Where can you detect metal?

You can detect metal in all places, in which it has not been expressly forbidden by law, other grounds, or prohibitions. When digging, the effect of legislation, everyman's rights and the rights of the landowner must be taken into account.

### Where is digging prohibited?

Digging at an archaeological site and the protected area around it without a permit issued under the law is prohibited. The extent of the archaeological site can be found by asking the National Board of Antiquities or a regional museum. Digging in the soil in the immediate vicinity of an archaeological site is not recommended, because the borders of the site are rarely precisely known. Therefore, a digging near a protected archaeological site, at a distance of less than 200 m, is not recommended. Digging is prohibited in areas protected by the Nature Conservation Act. If the landowner or his or her repre-



The World War II fortifications in Harparskog, Hanko, are not ancient monuments, but they are nevertheless important sites that tell about our history and should be preserved.

sentative has prohibited digging, this must also be respected. In addition, there may be areas on land and in water where movement and digging is prohibited due to special reasons.

### How do I take the landowner into account?

You should make an agreement with the landowner on digging in his or her land. In addition, you should come to an agreement on whether the landowner will allow the finder to keep any objects he or she has found, provided that legislation does not have any bearing on their ownership. In addition, people moving on land and in water must take the limitations of everyman's rights



The artefacts found in the excavation of the burial site in Pikku Linnamäki (Lesser Castle Hill) in Porvoo and the information on their location in the ground have provided a great deal of information about topics such as the burial methods used in the past.

into account. Movement must not cause unnecessary damage, inconvenience or disturbance, and the domestic peace must not be disturbed.

### **Can you dig in a place that is assumed to be an archaeological site?**

You should not dig a place that you or another person suspects of being an archaeological site. The site must be reported to the National Board of Antiquities, which investigates the nature of the site as an ancient monument referred to in the Antiquities Act. Such sites include old dwelling sites visible

in the terrain, or dwelling sites and sites of other activities found in the terrain based on old maps, for example. You can also see different kinds of features in the terrain, such as pits, rock piles or mounds that appear to be unnatural or made by humans. They can indicate that the place is an archaeological site. The Ancient Relics Register of the National Board of Antiquities includes potential archaeological sites. They are places assumed to be archaeological sites, in which an archaeological survey has not been carried out in the terrain and no other sufficient information has been received yet to confirm that they are archaeological sites. In these sites, the ground should also be left undisturbed. If you want to detect metal at such a site, you should contact the National Board of Antiquities first.

### **When do you need to stop digging?**

According to the Antiquities Act, digging must stop if an object assumed to be at least 100 years old is found in a bog or deep in the ground, or if the location in question indicates the existence of an ancient monument. In that case, digging must be stopped immediately and the pit must be covered up. After this, the National Board of Antiquities must be contacted immediately. The expression “deep in the ground” in the Act refers to soil layers deeper than the topsoil.

### **Why do you have to stop digging?**

Digging the findspot destroys the soil layers around the find, and any other information related to the find that the soil may have preserved will be irrevocably lost. Without information on the more specific history of the object and the location, its dating and discovering its purpose may be impossible. In fact, when detecting metal, you should always consider whether digging in the site is sensible or not. The data related to the object in the soil may be more significant than any individual found object. For example, a buckle from clothing does not provide very much information as an individual find. But if it is found in an archaeological excavation in connection with soil that contains

bone fragments and carbon, it tells that the site is probably an ancient burial ground.

### **Do you need to be able to identify a find or an archaeological site?**

You do not need to identify the find or archaeological site yourself. You can and should ask an expert. Always contact the National Board of Antiquities, if you suspect that you have found an antiquity or an ancient monument referred to in the Antiquities Act, or if you are not sure what you have found.

### **Who should I contact at the National Board of Antiquities?**

You can always contact the National Board of Antiquities via the service e-mail address: [metallinilmaisina@museovirasto.fi](mailto:metallinilmaisina@museovirasto.fi). Instead of e-mail, you can also call the telephone exchange of the National Board of Antiquities, tel. +358 295 33 6000. In connection with underwater finds, you can contact the service e-mail address [meriarkeologia.mv@nba.fi](mailto:meriarkeologia.mv@nba.fi).

## V Metal detection enthusiasts and legislation

When using a metal detector, you should pay particular attention to the Antiquities Act, the Lost Articles Act, the Criminal Code and everyman's rights. The legislation can be found at the Finlex Data Bank of Finnish legislation [www.finlex.fi/en](http://www.finlex.fi/en). You can always ask for more information about legislation from the National Board of Antiquities

With regard to legislation, many questions concern the Antiquities Act and everyman's rights:

### **Antiquities Act: ancient monuments**

The Antiquities Act (295/1963) protects ancient monuments as well as wrecks of ships and other vessels that can be considered to be over one hundred years old, or parts thereof, without a separate decision. Without permission issued under the Act, it is forbidden to excavate, cover, alter, damage or remove ancient monuments or wrecks of ships, or to disturb them in any other way. According to the Act, an ancient monument also includes the area that is essential for the preservation of the monument. This area around the ancient monument is called the protected area. Excavating the soil within an ancient monument or its protected area is prohibited without a permission granted under the Act. If a previously unknown ancient monument or a site assumed to be such is found in connection with detecting metal, the digging and other activities must be stopped and the find must be immediately reported to the National Board of Antiquities.

### **Antiquities Act: antiquities**

According to the Antiquities Act, antiquities are movable ancient objects that are at least 100 years old and that do not have a known owner. If such an artefact is found, the finder must immediately contact the National Board of Antiquities and/or deliver the artefact to the National Board of Antiquities or a provincial museum. The artefact must not be cleaned and it must remain in the condition it was found in, and the finder must provide information regarding the location where the artefact was found. According to the Act, the location where the artefact was found must be left otherwise untouched if the artefact was found in a bog, below ground, or if the location shows signs that an ancient monument may exist there. The stipulations of the act concerning antiquities also apply to artefacts connected to wrecks of ships or other vessels that are at least 100 years old, found in the sea or in bodies of water.

**The Lost Articles Act (778/1988)** provides for lost property which is not antiquities. According to the Act, the finder of lost property must immediately contact the owner or the police and hand over the item. If the lost property is of low value and if its owner would be difficult to find, the finder can keep it. Both monetary and sentimental value must be taken into account.

**The Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996)** regulates movement in nature and the utilisation of nature, among other things. According to the Act, destroying and changing nature is prohibited in protected natural areas. Anyone planning to dig the ground in a protected natural area must contact the regional Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centre).

Of the regulations in the Criminal Code (1889/39), particular attention should be paid to the regulations on the protection of relics, environmental protection, the protection of property and the sanctity of the grave. Breaching the sanctity of the grave violates both the family and the memory of the deceased. According to law, it is forbidden to unlawfully open a grave or exhume a corpse, a part thereof, a coffin or a burial urn. Furthermore, it is prohibited to damage or desecrate a grave or a memorial of the dead.

Everyman's rights are an established custom, based on various laws. They ensure that people residing in Finland have the opportunity to move in the terrain, regardless of the owner or possessor of the area. However, taking advantage of everyman's rights must not cause damage or a disturbance. The people moving in the terrain must respect the rights of the landowners. Everyman's rights also apply to government and municipal land. More detailed information about everyman's rights can be found at the website of the Ministry of the Environment at the following address: [www.ym.fi/en-US/Latest\\_news/Publications/Brochures/Everymans\\_right](http://www.ym.fi/en-US/Latest_news/Publications/Brochures/Everymans_right).

According to the Decree on the Finding and Salvaging of Items of the Finnish Defence Forces (84/1983), lost property that has clearly belonged to the Finnish Defence Forces or the defence forces of another country must be immediately reported to the Finnish Defence Forces. The report can also be made via the police, the border guard or the customs authorities. However, if the found object is clearly of no value or significance, the obligation to report does not exist. Explosives found in the terrain are always to be reported to the police via the emergency number.



Everyman's rights ensure the opportunity to move in the terrain and on the water in various places, such as the Kukonharju canal on the border between the municipalities of Ruokolah-ti and Puumala. However, the movement must not cause disturbance or inconvenience.

## VI The ABC of metal detection as a hobby

Are you interested in metal detection? You can find more information on metal detection and archaeological sites from the websites of the National Board of Antiquities and many of the regional museums. You should also study the legislation.

In Finland, you can detect metal within the limits of the everyman's rights. However, you cannot dig the soil in places such as ancient monuments protected by the Antiquities Act, sites suspected to be ancient monuments, or areas protected under the Nature Conservation Act without a separate permit. Digging nearby a protected ancient monument, at a distance of less than 200 metres from the site, is not recommended.

If you think that you may have found a previously unknown ancient monument, stop digging. You must also stop digging if the artefact is found below ground or in a bog. If you think that you have found an antiquity or an ancient monument referred to in the Antiquities Act, contact the National Board of Antiquities. You do not need to identify the find or the site yourself – you can ask an expert.

Remember to ask the landowner's permission to dig and make an agreement at the same time on whether the landowner will allow you to keep any objects you find or not. Observe the everyman's rights when moving in the environment.

Objects referred to in the Antiquities Act and the Lost Articles Act do not become your property, even if you have found them and have received the landowner's permission to keep them. Military debris is the property of the Finnish Defence Forces. Contact the authorities to find out who owns the object.

Objects in the ground are often fragile and break up when excavated. Do not rush when digging and use a trowel, brush and palette knives as tools. If the find is very fragile, you can lift it into a box still inside a clump of soil and support it so that it cannot break. If you find objects that are not made out of metal, recover or photograph them, too. They are important for dating and determining the nature of the find, among other things.

You should keep suitable packing materials with you already when moving in the terrain. These include tissue paper, cardboard boxes with lids, cotton wool as a support material and resealable

plastic bags. Do not clean the finds. You can try gently brushing them with a soft brush. Do not wash them or treat them with any chemicals. Store moist iron and organic materials, such as wood, bone and textiles, by keeping them moist, wrapped in plastic and in a cool place. Do not separate metals from organic materials; keep them together in moist, cool conditions, regardless of the type of metal. Dry iron and other metals and finds are stored dry. Keep artefacts found in water in a lidded container full of water.

Observe the environment at the findspot. The terrain may have visible structures, such as rows of stones, rock piles, building foundations, mounds or pits. The soil may have carbon, soot, quartz flakes or dirty, sticky soil. Record all observations and include them in the National Board of Antiquities' artefact information form. Also record the coordinates with a GPS device or with the help of online map services.

### **National Board of Antiquities**

Postal address: PO Box 913, FI-00101, Helsinki

Telephone: +358 295 33 6000

Street address: Sturenkatu 2a, Helsinki

[www.museovirasto.fi](http://www.museovirasto.fi)


**ARTEFACT INFORMATION FORM** (see instructions for completion at the end)

- for reporting the find of a movable ancient object referred to in the Antiquities Act (295/1963)

 Sturenkatu 2a  
 FI-00101 Helsinki  
 tel. +358 295 33 6000  
 www.museovirasto.fi

- artefact information form filled in as an example, 2014

**1. ARRIVAL INFORMATION** (the arrival information is filled in at the National Board of Antiquities)

<b>Arrival date:</b>		<b>Municipality:</b>	
<b>Reg. no.</b>		<b>Base map sheet:</b>	
<b>Coordinates:</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>z</b>
	<b>x</b>	<b>y</b>	

**DEAR FINDER OF AN ANTIQUITY**

Every antiquity or piece of one is important in studying the past of our country. These finds are particularly important when studying periods, from which no or very little written information has been preserved. The finds also provide important additional information on other periods. The find of an artefact can also be connected to the finding of a previously unknown ancient monument.

In accordance with the Antiquities Act (295/1963), all objects found in the ground that can be assumed to be at least one hundred years old must be delivered to the National Board of Antiquities for study as soon as possible without cleaning them and with detailed information on the circumstances of the find. If this is not possible, the National Board of Antiquities must be informed of the find without delay. Instead of the National Board of Antiquities, the find and its information can also be delivered to a regional museum.

Sufficient information of the findspot is crucial for evaluating the significance of each find. For this reason, we ask you to fill in this artefact information form and send it with the find. Because there may be a dwelling site, a burial ground or some other ancient monument protected by the Antiquities Act at the findspot, the site must not be excavated without permission from the National Board of Antiquities.

If it is necessary to study the site by archaeological excavation, for example, this is discussed with the landowner. The aim is to conduct the research without causing unnecessary inconvenience, and any possible damage will be compensated for.

If the National Board of Antiquities decides to redeem the find, the finder is entitled to a compensation for the find. The compensation is determined by the nature of the item. If the find is donated to the collections, the finder receives a certificate of honour. Objects found within a known ancient monument are the property of the state without compensation in accordance with the Antiquities Act.

The finder may request that the find be placed in a local or regional museum or a similar public collection. Such a request is usually taken into account unless the find is not exceptionally important, provided that the management and facilities of the collections in question are appropriate for the purpose.

The National Board of Antiquities or a regional museum should always be consulted in all questions related to antiquities and ancient monuments.

## 2. FINDER'S INFORMATION

<b>Finder's name:</b> Tobias Evert Maattila
<b>Postal address:</b> Maattilantie 1
<b>Post office:</b> 00001 Maattila
<b>E-mail address:</b> tobias.evert.maattila@maattila.fi
<b>Telephone:</b> 000 - 1234 5678
<b>The finder's name can be published on the website of the National Board of Antiquities (please answer yes or no):</b> yes

## 3. INFORMATION RELATED TO REDEMPTION AND DONATION

<b>Nature and description of the find (axe, potsherd, ring, coin, buckle, etc.):</b> hinge, bottle, pipe bowl?, thimble?	
<b>Information on the material of the find(s) (clay/ceramics, bronze, iron, silver, stone, bone, horn, etc.):</b> iron (hinge), glass, brass?	
<b>The find is donated to collections:</b> yes	<b>The find is offered for redemption:</b>
<b>Request for the placement of the find:</b> Maattilanvaara Museum	

## 4. BASIC INFORMATION ON THE FINDSPOT

<b>Municipality:</b> Maattilanvaara			
<b>Village:</b> Maattila			
<b>Part of village:</b> Vanhakylä			
<b>Property (name):</b> Maattila			
<b>Property (register no.):</b> 00X-001-000X-0001			
<b>More specific name of the site (field, hill, heath, shore, etc.):</b> Maattila home field			
<b>Location of the findspot (direction and distance) in relation to a church or another clearly defined known location:</b> 18 km south-west from the Maattilanvaara Church			
<b>Distance (in metres, estimated) and direction of the findspot from the closest clearly defined location (house, boundary marker, crossroads, bridge, river, lake, etc.):</b> 55 metres west from the main building of the Maattila farm			
<b>Location coordinates of the findspot (ETRS-TM35FIN):</b>	<b>N:</b> 7236848	<b>E:</b> 326643	<b>Altitude, m above sea level:</b> 10 m

**Nature of the findspot (forest, field, rock, cobble deposit, lake bottom, alluvial land, bog, shore, bank, etc.) and soil (clay, topsoil, sand, etc.):**

a sandy hillock in the middle of a field, with rocks and bushes of different sizes

**Attachments:**

- a copy of the map (base map or a map of the property) and/or a hand-drawn map of the findspot

- if possible, photographs of the findspot

- if possible, photograph(s) of the find

## 5. INFORMATION OF THE LANDOWNER OF THE FINDSPOT

**Landowner's name:**

Enny-Martta Maattila

**Address and post office:**

see Section 2.

**E-mail address:**

enny.martta.maattila@maattila.fi

**Telephone:**

000 - 2345 6789

## 6. A MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE FIND

**Time and manner of the find (working on the field, metal detection, taking sand, roadworks, etc.):**

found on 29 February 2014 while practicing the use of a metal detector in the home field

**Observations at the findspot (there must not be any further digging at the site to make observations) such as mounds, rock piles, building foundations, rows of stones, pits and other structures that can be observed on the surface:**

There is a hillock rising up from the field at the findspot with rocks of different sizes. The rocks have been taken from the field and piled on the site. It seems like there was an oven that broke apart in place on top of the mound or some other pile of rocks with bricks in it (map, pictures).

**Observations in the soil (there must not be any further digging at the site to make observations), such as burnt soil, carbon, soot, burnt rocks, coloured earth or other marks resulting from human activity:**

There are pieces of bricks and carbon in the topsoil of the field around the mound.

**Observations of potsherds, quartz flakes, shards of burnt bone and slag or similar:**

A large number of shards of window glass were found on site (see photograph)

**Depth of find:**

Roughly 5 cm from the surface of the topsoil

## 7. OTHER INFORMATION

<b>Have there been objects found at the findspot or its vicinity before, and if so, when?:</b> Glass shards have sometimes been found on site while ploughing
<b>The current location of any objects that may have been found on site earlier:</b> In the field
<b>Old stories or lore related to the findspot or the nearby area:</b> It is said that there was once a small cottage on the site, in which a family distantly related to Maattila lived. From there, they moved on to Muuttilla as crofters and later they got a farm of their own.
<b>Who could act as a guide at the findspot (name, address, contact information)?:</b> The finder can act as a guide, contact information can be found in Section 2.
<b>Additional information:</b> According to old knowledge, the site of the oldest smithy should also be located in the Maattila home field, but it has not been found yet

## 8. SIGNATURE

<b>Date:</b> 29 April 2014	<b>Place:</b> Maattilanvaara
<b>Sender/bringer of the object (name in block letters and signature):</b> <i>Enny Martta Maattila</i> Enny Martta Maattila	
<b>Address and contact information of the sender/bringer of the object:</b> Contact information in Sections 2 and 5	

## ATTACHMENTS: MAP COPIES, PICTURES OF THE FINDSPOT AND THE FIND(S)

- a map extract or a hand-drawn map
- picture(s) of the finds
- picture(s) from the findspot

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING IN THE ARTEFACT INFORMATION FORM

- Instructions for filling in the National Board of Antiquities' artefact information form in order to report a find of a movable ancient object referred to in the Antiquities Act (295/1963)

The artefact information form is a document related to the find, and the information in it is recorded by the National Board of Antiquities. A carefully completed artefact information form provides sufficient information for processing the find. The form can be completed electronically and printed out. When completing the form electronically, the amount of text in the fields is unlimited. You can attach an unlimited number of pictures and map extracts electronically in the attachment section. If necessary, you can also order a paper form from the National Board of Antiquities.

The completed artefact information form is delivered with the find to the National Board of Antiquities. The find should be packed for the transport so that it cannot move. Good packing materials include resealable plastic bags, crumpled paper and a sturdy cardboard box, for example. You can send to the National Board of Antiquities by post free of charge, if you state at the post office that the delivery concerns a customer return. Found objects are sent to the following address: National Board of Antiquities Sturenkatu 2a, 00510 Helsinki. The following text is marked on the envelope or package: "Asiakaspalautus, sopimustunnus 610146" (Customer return, return ID 610146). If the find involves precious metals or jewellery, the National Board of Antiquities should be contacted to make a more detailed agreement on its delivery.

### Section 1. Arrival information

- The section of the form is filled in at the National Board of Antiquities when processing the find.

### Section 2. Finder's information

- The finder's name and contact information are filled in the form, including the postal address, post office, e-mail address and telephone number. The information makes it possible to contact the finder concerning issues such as redeeming the find or if additional information on the findspot is needed.

### Section 3. Information related to redemption and donation

- The find(s) and the material, of which the find is made (if known), are described in the form in more detail.
- With the word **yes**, information on whether the finder wants to donate the find or offer it to be redeemed is filled in the form. The National Board of Antiquities needs information about the issue as soon as the find arrives.
- You can add a wish regarding the placement of the find in the form. You can also leave the section blank.

### Section 4. Basic information on the findspot

- General information on the findspot is filled in the form. The information is important in specifying the exact location of the findspot. The name and register number of the property can be left blank, if they are difficult to find.
- The location of the findspot in relation to its environment can be found by using a map, for example, in addition to making observations in the terrain. The distances can be measured on a topographic map on paper or on an electronic map. The location coordinates of the findspot can be found in the terrain using a GPS device or later with the MapSite service of the National Land Survey of Finland, for example. The coordinates are given in the ETRS-TM35FIN format.
- A paper map printout or copy is always attached to the form in addition to reporting the location information as coordinates, for example. Errors can occur while copying coordinate information.

The address of the MapSite service of the National Land Survey of Finland is <https://asiointi.maanmittauslaitos.fi/karttapaikka/?lang=en>. Find the location using the mouse (hold down the left mouse button) to move the map and the + and - buttons on the zoom bar (right-hand side of the screen) to zoom in and out.

Measuring distance: Find the location on the map. Click the ruler icon in the menu bar on the upper left-hand corner of the screen ('Measure distance' tool). Click on the location of the find on the map and then click on the location that you wish to measure the distance to. The tool will then display the distance in the map view.

Determining location coordinates: Find the location on the map. Click the square that says XY under the zoom bar in the right-hand side of the screen. Then click on the location of the find on the map. The coordinates of the location will then be displayed in the Coordinates window. You can verify the location on the map by clicking the Add marker button in the Coordinates window.

**Section 5. Information of the landowner of the findspot**

- The name and contact information of the landowner of the findspot are filled in the form, including the postal address, post office, e-mail address and telephone number. The information makes it possible to contact the landowner concerning issues such as investigating the findspot.

**Section 6. More detailed description of the time and place of the find**

- General information on the findspot is filled in the form. The information is important in investigating whether there is an ancient monument at the findspot, among other things.

**Section 7. Other information**

- Filling in other observations and information on the findspot in the form is recommended. They may be crucial in assessing the find and the findspot.

- The information of a person who can act as a guide at the findspot is also important for reasons such as a possible inspection of the findspot. If the finder acts as a guide, a reference to Section 2 can be added. If the landowner acts as a guide, a reference to Section 2 can be added.

**Section 8. Signature**

- The form is signed and dated. For the contact information of the sender/bringer of the object, a reference to Section 2 or 5 can also be added, if necessary.