

 **SCOPE**

METAL DETECTOR/TREASURE SEEKER



VLF.TR 990 B

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

VLF.TR 990B OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

INTRODUCTION

IMPORTANT: To protect your investment complete both sections of the guarantee at the back of this instruction booklet and return the reply-paid portion to C-Scope. This is particularly important in order to obtain the free second year parts guarantee. Please retain the original packing box. In the event that your detector should ever require to be serviced, this package will be most suitable for postal protection.

C-Scope detectors are recognised as the finest detectors available. They are designed with lasting quality in mind, high technology input, and above all, value for money.

The only way to realise this value and quality is to carefully study and understand this instruction manual. You will then be able to obtain all of the advantages designed into your detector. It is also strongly recommended that you experiment with the detector's operations indoors in air, with various test samples, in order to learn to identify and understand the detector's capabilities and responses. It is best to lay the detector on a table with the search head off the end and to pass test objects across the search head to best stimulate actual responses.

FEATURES

Before progressing to the controls and the operating procedure it is important to understand the principles of operation of the 990-B.

The 990-B's principle features are:

- | | |
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| Audio Ground Exclusion: | Elimination of ground effect. |
| Meter Discrimination: | Rejection of iron and small pieces of silver paper via the signal meter. |
| Meter and Sound Discrimination: | Rejection of iron and small pieces of silver paper via the signal meter and loudspeaker and/or headphones. |

GROUND EXCLUSION

What is ground exclusion?

On some sites mineralisation caused by iron deposits or iron oxides or wet salt sand makes it difficult to operate a detector successfully. The effect of these minerals is termed "GROUND EFFECT". In practice, the signal of the detector alters if the search head is not kept exactly steady during sweeping or the gap between the search head and ground varies. If the tuning level increases upwards, as on inland sites when the detector head is inadvertently raised, the signal may be confused with a target signal.

The 990-B offers two modes of ground exclusion:

- A preset ground exclude setting for use on mineralised inland sites, G I.
- A variable ground exclude setting for use on wet salt sand beaches, or for total iron rejection on non-mineralised inland sites, G II.

Inland Mineralised Sites:

The G I mode is the mode in which "Ground Exclusion" is achieved on the majority of inland sites.

Beach and Non-Mineralised Inland Sites:

The G II mode enables the detector user to ground exclude on wet salt sand beaches by using the variable ground exclude control knob identified as "LEVEL", positioned directly above the ground exclude control knob G I & G II. The G II mode also enables the operator to use the detector for total iron rejection on non-mineralised inland sites.

DISCRIMINATION (Rejection)

What is discrimination?

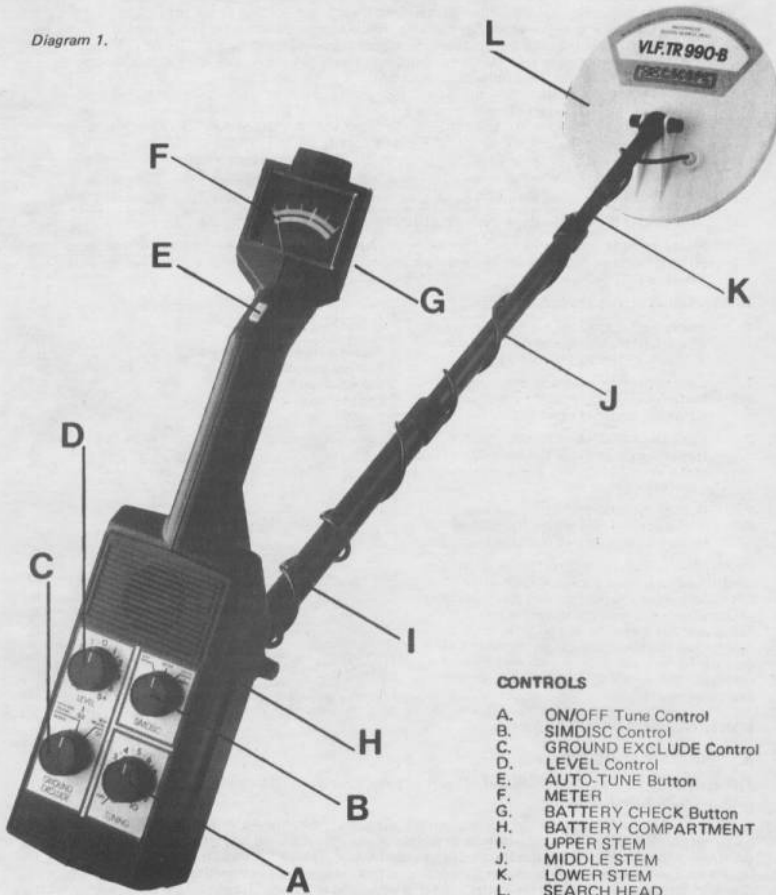
It is an obvious advantage when metal detecting to get different signals for worthwhile as opposed to worthless objects, and therefore be able to discriminate or differentiate in various ways. Basically a rejected item will cause the signal to fall. The meter needle will drop to the left, and the sound level will die away and/or decrease in frequency. On the other hand, a good target object will cause the signal to rise. The meter needle will move to the right and the sound level and frequency will increase.

The full discrimination facilities of this detector will be described in more detail under the heading "OPERATING THE DETECTOR IN THE FIELD".

If an object is very close to the search head, conflicting signals may occur: These signals are characterised by hard swings of the meter needle from left to right. If you encounter such problems you should raise the search head a few inches, retune and rescan. You should now receive a clear signal.

These anomaly signals are caused by the object overloading the signal. Normally iron fragments or wire on the surface cause this phenomenon.

Diagram 1.



CONTROLS

- A. ON/OFF Tune Control
- B. SIMDISC Control
- C. GROUND EXCLUDE Control
- D. LEVEL Control
- E. AUTO-TUNE Button
- F. METER
- G. BATTERY CHECK Button
- H. BATTERY COMPARTMENT
- I. UPPER STEM
- J. MIDDLE STEM
- K. LOWER STEM
- L. SEARCH HEAD

ASSEMBLY

How to assemble your VLF.TR 990-B.

Your 990-B comes to you dismantled for ease of packing. To assemble follow these few easy steps:

1. Locate the stems in the special compartment in the packaging.
2. Loosen and remove the two screws and nuts from the base of the control box.
3. Insert upper stem I into the aperture at the base of the case and replace the two screws and nuts and tighten.
4. Loosen and remove the knurled nut from upper stem, slide it over middle stem J, insert middle stem into upper stem, align knurled nut and fasten it.
5. Attach lower stem K to the search head L with the nut and screw provided.
6. Loosen and remove knurled nut from middle stem, slide it over lower stem, insert lower stem into middle stem, align knurled nut and fasten it loosely. Then twist lower stem and search head in a clockwise direction until the cable is loosely wound around the whole stem assembly.
Ensure that the cable is not wound too tightly and that there is sufficient slack at the search head end to avoid cable breakage should the head be removed in relation to the stem. Now firmly tighten the knurled nut of lower stem. Your detector is now ready for use, except for the power supply.

BATTERIES

Now that you have assembled your 990-B, all that is required before you use it is the power supply.

Your 990-B is powered by 4 Type PP3 batteries.

Please note: It is advisable to use batteries manufactured by a well-known manufacturer as 80% of faults occurring with metal detectors can be traced to faulty or badly connected batteries.

To fit batteries proceed as follows:

1. Apply gentle pressure on the ribbed part of the battery cover and push the cover forwards (towards the meter).
2. Locate the battery leads and connect the batteries ensuring that they are connected correctly (polarity) and firmly.
3. Place the batteries and leads into the special recess, replace the battery cover and slide it firmly into place until you hear it click into position.
4. Repeat this operation on the other side of the control box where the second battery compartment is located.

Battery life will be extended if headphones are used. The headphone socket is located on the left hand side of the control box, on its underside. In the event that the detector is not being used for a long period of time (over 2 months) or stored, it is strongly recommended that the batteries should be removed from the detector, thus avoiding possible leakage and expensive repairs.

CONTROLS AND WHAT THEY DO

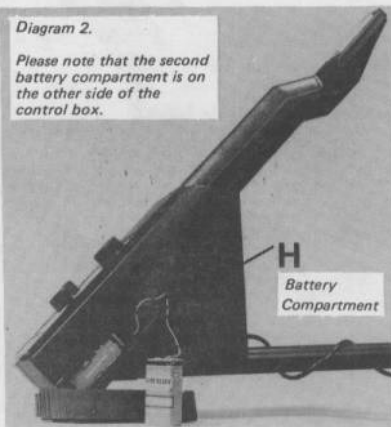
A. ON/OFF TUNE CONTROL

This control turns the detector on and off and sets the tuning level. It must be used in conjunction with the Auto-tune Button E.

To tune the detector to the optimum level, press and hold the Auto-tune button, then switch on the detector and turn the tune button in a clockwise direction until a faint sound can be heard and the meter needle is in the TUNE section of the signal meter. Only then should the auto-tune button be released. Any tune setting above or below this optimum level will reduce the sensitivity of the detector. When using the detector in the field it is advisable to release the auto-tune button only when the search head has been lowered to its operational or search height — i.e. 1/2" - 1" above ground level.

Diagram 2.

Please note that the second battery compartment is on the other side of the control box.



B. SIMDISC CONTROL

This control enables the user to select the mode of operation desired:

- OFF - In this position the detector will give a positive signal to all metals, both via the sound and meter channel, providing that the ground exclude switch is in the G I setting.
- METER - In this position the detector will ground exclude via the sound channel, whilst simultaneously rejecting iron and small pieces of silver paper via the meter channel.
- METER & AUDIO - In this position the detector will still ground exclude, but also identify the nature of the find in the following manner:
 - a) A negative signal against iron on the signal meter, and a possible unchanged needle position for small pieces of silver paper.
 - b) An increase in sound loudness, however the frequency will decrease for iron, and an increase in sound loudness with a possible slight frequency change for small pieces of silver paper.

C. GROUND EXCLUDE CONTROL

This control enables the user to select a mode of operation best suited to the site to be worked, for instance:

G I is the mode to be used on mineralised inland sites and can be used in conjunction with any one of the Simdisc modes described above depending on the nature of finds the user wishes to locate or reject. In this setting the level of ground exclusion is pre-set.

G II is the mode best suited to beaches, but can also be used on non-mineralised inland sites when ground effect is not particularly serious but the rejection of iron is specifically desired. In this setting the user can finely adjust the level of ground exclusion required for wet salt sand by using the "LEVEL" Control D.

D. LEVEL CONTROL

This control is used in conjunction with the G II mode and acts as a variable ground exclusion control to allow the user to accurately set the level of ground exclusion required on particular beach sites, or allows adjustment to the rejection level against iron and small pieces of silver paper.

E. AUTO-TUNE BUTTON

The Auto-tune button is the most used control on the detector. It must be pressed and held whenever an alteration is made to any one of the four other controls and should only be released once such alterations have been completed. It also acts as a memory retune button and will, when pressed, recall the optimum tuning level should the detector drift out of tune due to temperature changes, search head to ground level changes or when false signals are received. Please note that the auto-tune button should only be released after initial tuning, mode changes etc. once the search head has been lowered to the operational search height. Searching should always take place with the auto-tune button released.

F. METER

1. The meter will give a visual indication of the optimum tuning level when the needle is in the central TUNE position.
2. When using the detector in the meter discriminate mode it will show a negative response to unwanted items (needle will swing to the left from its central position).
3. When pinpointing a target signal, the fullest deflection of the meter needle to the right will indicate that the object is situated under the centre of the search head.
4. The meter acts as a battery check - See G.

G. BATTERY CHECK

As a guide to the battery condition a Battery Check Button G. is provided. To check battery condition switch on the detector by turning the On/Off switch in a clockwise direction whilst simultaneously pressing the auto-tune button, once the detector is tuned release the auto-tune button and then press button G situated under the meter. If the needle on the meter swings into the bold red sector the batteries are in good condition. Should the needle not reach this sector of the meter and remain, the batteries will need to be renewed. The use of headphones is recommended as these not only offer longer battery life but also ensure that the user will hear the slightest signal change, which could indicate a valuable find which otherwise could be missed.

H. BATTERY COMPARTMENTS

There are two battery compartments on the 990-B and these are situated on the left and right hand sides of the detector control box and are covered by easily-opened covers.

I, J, & K. STEMS

These are assembled by fitting the upper stem to the main body of the detector in the aperture provided and by inserting the middle and lower stem into one another. A knurled nut containing a plastic olive

effects the tightening. It is recommended that the knurled nut is removed from the base of the stem, placed over the thinner of the stems of any two being connected together before sliding this stem into the thicker one. The knurled nut can then be offered up to the thread on the thicker stem and tightened.

L. SEARCH HEAD

The concentric coil arrangement of the search head is designed to transmit and receive a magnetic field and detects the changes that occur when metal is present. Because the receive coil is in the centre and the transmit coil around the perimeter, the hot-spot or pinpointing area is in the exact centre of the search head.

C-Scope search heads are fully waterproof and can therefore be immersed in rivers, rockpools etc. up to the lowest knurled nut. After use, particularly in salt water, it is advisable to wash off the search head and lower stem in fresh water, carefully wiping dry with a soft cloth. It must be remembered that the search head is very sensitive to temperature changes. It is therefore important to allow the detector to reach the temperature of the surroundings in which it will be used. For example, if you take the detector from a hot car on a cold day, the detector signal will drift and be unstable until the head has absorbed the temperature change.

OPERATING PROCEDURE

The fundamental principle of detector operation is that the detector must be tuned to the correct level. This is the level when the signals are balanced, and this is indicated by the detector being neither silent nor sounding off. In fact, the correct tuning level is the threshold setting when the sound is just beginning to break through.

For best results, it is important to set this tuning level accurately and to maintain it at all times when searching.

Follow this procedure:

1. Set the detector to the desired ground exclude position G I or G II.
2. Set the Simdisc control to the desired mode of operation:
Off, meter discrimination or meter and audio discrimination.
3. Press and hold auto-tune button, turn on the detector by rotating the On/Off tuning control until a faint sound is heard. Lower the search head to the operational/ searching height and only then release the auto-tune button. You are now ready to commence searching. Should the tuning level alter for any reason simply retune the detector by pressing the auto-tune button.

OPERATING THE DETECTOR IN THE FIELD

What now follows is a brief guide on how to obtain the best results from your newly-acquired detector and how to recognise the signals given by the detector.

1. On inland sites select G I.
2. On a beach with wet sand select G II.

Having selected the main mode of operation, G I or G II, you can now decide which mode of discrimination you wish to operate in:

a) — G I, Simdisc OFF

In this setting the detector will give a positive signal to all metals. Meter needle swings to the right and the sound increases in loudness.

b) — G I, Simdisc Meter

In this setting the detector will give a negative meter reading to iron, however the sound will increase in loudness. The signal received from a small piece of silver paper will be an increase in sound loudness and a slight negative or unnoticeable meter change. Larger pieces of silver paper and all other metals will give a positive signal both on the signal and meter channel. Meter needle swings right and sound increases in loudness.

c) — G I, Simdisc Meter and Audio

In this setting the signals given by the detector against iron are negative indication by the meter, increase of sound loudness combined with a lowering of frequency.

Small pieces of silver paper are indicated by an increase in sound loudness, however the frequency may not alter and the meter needle will remain in the centre or just slightly move to the left.

Larger pieces of silver paper and other metallic objects will be indicated by a meter needle swing to the right, an increase in sound loudness combined with an increase in frequency.

d) — G II Simdisc OFF

In this setting the detector will give a negative meter reading to iron, meter needle swings left and sound disappears. All other metals however will give a positive signal both on the sound and meter channel.

e) — G II Simdisc Meter

In this setting the detector will give a negative meter reading to iron and the sound disappears. The signals produced by small pieces of silver paper are that the sound and meter indication may not alter.

Larger pieces of silver paper and other metals will be signalled by an increase in sound loudness and a meter needle deflection to the right.

f) — G II Simdisc Meter and Audio

In this setting the signals given by the detector against iron are negative indication on the meter and a disappearing sound.

Small pieces of silver paper may be indicated by a slight change in meter reading and/or sound level and frequency.

All other objects will be signalled by a meter deflection to the right and an increase in sound loudness and frequency.

PLEASE NOTE

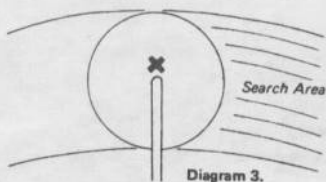
Although the level control primarily acts as a variable ground exclude control when used in conjunction with the G II mode, it can, if set above or below the central position, slightly affect the discrimination capability of the detector against small pieces of silver paper both in the G I or G II modes of operation. The above described signals should therefore only be seen as broad guidelines.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT BEFORE YOU USE THE DETECTOR OUTDOORS, YOU EXPERIMENT INDOORS WITH VARIOUS TEST SAMPLES AND NOTE THE SIGNALS GENERATED.

USE IN THE FIELD

Detection Area

TR detectors employ a Total Response search head which means that the object can be detected across the full width of the search head.



Detection Range

Detection ranges will vary depending on the size of the object, the length of time an object has been buried, and the type of ground the object is buried in. The best ground conditions are dry well compacted soils then coins can be found at the greatest depths if they have been buried for some time and the coin has interacted with the salts in the ground, thereby appearing larger to the detector. The worst conditions for detecting are on loosely compacted or freshly dug ground or when the object has only recently been buried. In these conditions detection range will be reduced. 90% of all objects are found within 6" of the surface. Adverse soil conditions can reduce depth of detection by more than half.

Determining the Target Size and Depth

An operator who is familiar with his instrument will be able to do an excellent job of determining object size, shape and depth before he digs. The technique is learned from careful analysis of the audio signals coming from the detector. Each time a signal is heard, listen for any peculiar characteristics it may have; determine over how large an area you get a detector signal; and try to 'outline' the object before you dig. Listen for the sharpness or dullness of the signals and determine the magnitude of strength of the signal. A coin will have a sharp signal, a nail a fuzzy signal.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Care of Your Detector

The working life of your detector will be shortened by careless use or neglect of the unit. Think of your detector as a scientific instrument NOT A TOY. Your detector is designed to withstand rugged handling on any terrain, but mis-use or lack of due attention will tell in the end.

After using your detector in a hostile environment (salt water, sand etc.) the exterior parts of the casing should be wiped with a damp cloth, paying particular attention to the head, and carefully wiped dry. Foreign particles in the control box can be removed by brushing carefully (or with compressed air or vacuum cleaner).

Salt Damage

If you use your detector continually in a salty environment, particularly when the wind is blowing off the sea, salty air can penetrate the control box.

Corrosion can occur in vital parts of the delicate electronic circuitry.

It is, therefore, recommended that precautions such as covering the control box with polythene be taken to avoid damage.

The guarantee cannot cover such occurrences and any repairs needed because of salt water or spray will be charged.

The Use of Solvents

It has been found that some types of solvent used for cleaning circuitry will in fact melt the plastic covered components.

The life of the controls may be extended by periodic (100 hours of use) application of small quantities of light lubricant to the spindles, threads and knob grub screw ('3 in 1' or similar household oil is suitable). This operation requires the knobs to be removed.

Light packing grease should be smeared on the threads of the locking collar, and at the same time, the head fixing bolt. Do not store the detector in a damp place.

If the detector is to be stored, remove the batteries as they may leak and corrode the surrounding electronics.

Detector Not Operating

- (A) Check the condition of batteries.
- (B) Interchange batteries and ensure connections are correct and secure.
Battery life can vary tremendously between makes, therefore your 'new' batteries may already be insufficiently powerful to run your detector.
- (C) Check the search head cable connector is properly attached to the control box.

Oscillating Signal Accompanied by Slight Meter Fluctuation

- (A) Caused most often by outside equipment such as fluorescent lights, taxis, radios, power lines and other metal detectors working nearby. Little can be done to alleviate the problem except to find a new site.

Intermittent Sound From Speaker

- (A) This could be due to poor battery connections. Ensure they are tight and the batteries are securely clipped into place.
- (B) Radio transmission from passing taxi or vehicle using radio transmitter equipment.

The Detector Drifts out of Tune

- (A) Temperature drift caused by the change in air temperature when a machine is moved from a house or a car into the open.
- (B) The greater the change in temperature the more the drift, and up to 30 minutes may be needed for the electronic circuitry to acclimatize itself.
- (C) Sometimes battery drain can cause drift of signal. Replace batteries and this should help to maintain a stable signal.

Before returning a detector for repair to C-Scope ensure you have done the following:

- (A) Read instructions thoroughly.
- (B) Tried new batteries and checked procedure outlined above.
- (C) Speak to local dealer about performance of the detector, especially if you are still unfamiliar with metal detectors in general.

Return detector with letter giving details of fault.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Do not interfere with archaeological sites or ancient monuments. Join your local archaeological society if you are interested in ancient history.
2. Do not leave a mess. It is perfectly simple to extract a coin or other small object buried a few inches under the ground without digging a great hole. Use a sharpened trowel or knife to cut a neat circle or triangle (do not remove the plug of earth entirely from the ground); extract the object, replace the soil and grass carefully and even you will have difficulty in finding the spot again.

3. Help keep Britain tidy – and help yourself. Bottle tops, silver paper and tin cans are the last thing you should throw away. You could well be digging them up again next year. Do yourself and the community a favour by taking all the rusty junk you find to the nearest litter bin.
4. Do not trespass. Ask permission before venturing on to any private land.
5. Report all unusual historical finds to the local museum and get expert help if you accidentally discover a site of archaeological interest.
6. If you discover any live ammunition or any lethal object such as an unexploded mine, do not touch it. Mark the site carefully and report the find at once to the local police.
7. Learn the treasure trove laws and report all finds of gold or silver objects to the Police. If a coroner's inquest finds that the objects were deliberately concealed with the intention of retrieving them, they become the property of the Crown and therefore Treasure Trove. But even if the British Museum decides to exercise its right to keep the property, the finder is granted the full market value.
8. Respect the Country Code. Do not leave gates open when crossing fields, and do not damage crops or frighten animals.
9. Never miss an opportunity to show and explain your detector to anyone who asks about it. Be friendly. You could pick up some useful clues to another site. If you meet another detector user, introduce yourself. You may learn much about the hobby from each other.
10. Remember that when you are out with your detector, you are an ambassador for the amateur metal detecting fraternity. Do not give us a bad name.

A GUIDE TO METAL DETECTING

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RIGHT APPROACH

Your detector alone is not a guarantee of successful metal detecting. Any detector needs an operator, and for the best results the operator needs the right approach, attitude and technique. Too many beginners neglect the importance of pre-planning and research before using their detector in the field, and patience and technique during the actual search.

A successful search should begin with research sometime before the day of the actual search. The extent and thoroughness of your research will be one of the major factors in the success of your detecting. You should aim to get as complete an understanding as possible of the local history and geography.

The key to the choice of the site is to think of people, where they congregated over the past few hundred years. What were their customs and pursuits? Where did they spend money? Where did they carry money? The answers are not Roman sites, nor are they associated with mystic treasure stories of crocks of gold. Rather, they are unassuming, undramatic places, like public footpaths and ancient rights of way, old houses and so on.

When you have chosen your site, allocate a whole day from early morning to early evening for the search. Make sure that you have all equipment you are likely to need. Your detector should be checked before starting out, and you should always carry a spare set of batteries. You will also need a strong, sharp trowel. It is also a good idea to have a set of lines and pins so that you can lay out your search area scientifically. Most beginners make the mistake of rushing about hoping to chance upon a rare find. If for example, this happened to be a valuable ring that was buried 4" deep on the site you were searching, if you rushed about haphazardly and quickly on the site, the odds would be very much against your finding it. On the other hand, if you pegged out the area scientifically and searched slowly and thoroughly, the odds of finding the ring would be much more in your favour.

Remember, **BE PATIENT** and **WORK SLOWLY**. Do not try to cover too large an area. Restrict yourself to a small area and work through it thoroughly. Make a note of the position and extent of the area, and then when you return you can start again further on without missing any ground or covering the same area twice.

It is also important to keep the detector head as close to the ground as possible. Ideally, you should "iron" the ground with the search head of the detector, so that you do not lose any detection range.

Similarly, if you work slowly and carefully you should be able to distinguish the faint signals as well as the clear-cut signals and further increase your finds.

The technique of getting the best out of your detector is not learnt overnight. You need to get as much experience as possible so that you can recognise every kind of signal. Indeed, a good detector operator can often tell you what is being detected before it is unearthed.

WHERE TO LOOK

It has already been mentioned that the most profitable sites are those where people have congregated, walked, or lived over the past few hundred years, or even longer.

Houses If you live in a Victorian house you might not even have to leave your home for your metal detecting. Old houses have seen remarkable amounts of money pass over the threshold during their history. Britain has had its fair share of misers, and it is surprising how many little hoards or boxes containing savings turn up.

One area to concentrate on is under skirting boards, where coins or rings might have rolled. Doorways too, may prove rewarding as many money transactions take place there. Old fireplace and chimneys should be well scanned with the detector, as these are favourites for finding hoards, etc. The floorboards should be examined carefully and special attention paid to short lengths which could conceal caches. It is also surprising how much money is lost in old chairs, so give them a look over. And then, of course, the garden should be thoroughly examined. The amount of coins lost in old houses cannot be over-estimated. Most coin shops confirm that many people bring coins in for valuation that they have found *accidentally* in their houses. A deliberate search in a house of the right age can hardly fail to be rewarding.

Rivers The best parts of rivers to concentrate on are (1) public footpaths along river banks. (2) Bends of the river where erosion has been taking place. (3) Bends in the river where coins are likely to be deposited against a particular bank by the action of the current. (4) Areas downstream of old drainage pipes or upstream of projections such as wooded piers, or other obstructions. (5) Old fords or bridges. (6) Areas exposed at low tide where eddy action has been taking place.

Tidal rivers are particularly interesting, as once you have found a good site or spot where coins have collected due to the currents, you can search the area well one day and still return at a later date for more rewarding finds. Rivers tend to sort out their load and distribute it according to weight along the bank in places like those itemised above.

Beaches Beaches are, without a doubt, the favourite haunt of the average British metal detective. At one time or another, almost everybody has made the journey to the coast. The beaches are the only place where people undress publicly; anyone who has attempted to change into a bathing costume discreetly and then store their coins on the open sand knows the chances of losing not only coins, but jewellery and wristwatches, too.

Once an object has been mislaid on the beach, it is maddeningly difficult to find it again.

There is also a high incidence of wrecks along our coasts, the contents of which are deposited at intervals on our beaches.

These factors contribute to make our beaches probably the richest site for the amateur metal detective. The best times to explore beaches are after heavy storms when the sand has been thoroughly stirred up and shifted. A good place to concentrate on is along or just below the tide marks, which are easily identified by the lines of debris that are left. Under piers or alongside breakwaters also usually pay dividends.

Other good sites are:- Fairgrounds, Children's Playgrounds, Tobbogan runs and Demolition Sites.

METAL DETECTING AND THE LAW

RIGHTS OF THE FINDER

The rights of the finder fall into two distinct classes. The first relates to objects that have recently been lost, and the second to items of gold or silver which are subject, or might be subject, to the laws of the Treasure Trove.

In the first place, where the object has been recently lost and found and is valuable, it should be handed to the Police as soon after it has been found as possible. The Police will then attempt to locate the owner. If they succeed in locating the owner, he has the legal right to the object and is not legally bound to reward the finder. That is a matter for the owner's conscience.

In the event of the Police failing to locate the owner they will probably return the object to the finder. If, however, the owner makes a claim for the object at a later date, the finder must return the item to the owner.

If the owner is not located the finder has the best rights to ownership, provided that the object was not found on private property, in which case the owner of the land often has a better right than the finder. The solution here, of course, is to obtain permission beforehand and to come to some agreement with the landowner with regard to the division of any finds.

If on the other hand, the find of gold or silver can be proved to have been deliberately concealed, with a view to recovery at a later date, the find comes under the laws of the Treasure Trove. If the objects cannot be proved to have been deliberately concealed, the find cannot be declared Treasure Trove. Usually this point centres around the quantity of coins in a hoard, or whether the find is in a container. Obviously, if there are a hundred or so coins in a pot, they were almost certainly deliberately concealed. If, however, there are only one or two coins, it is more likely that they were lost accidentally.

If the objects are declared Treasure Trove, the finder has no need to worry, for he is rewarded with a cash settlement to the full market value of the find.

When the objects are not declared Treasure Trove, the owner of the land on which the find was made usually has a better claim to ownership than the finder.

In Scotland all newly discovered ancient objects of all metals, whether deliberately concealed or not are subject to the same procedure as Treasure Trove finds in England.