

Metal detector users want good cooperation to take care of the invisible cultural heritage for the future

Erik Rønning Johansen
Deputy chairman, NMF



Norges
Metallsøkerforening
(NMF)

- A nationwide organization founded in 1991
- 7 local clubs and approx. 830 members across the country



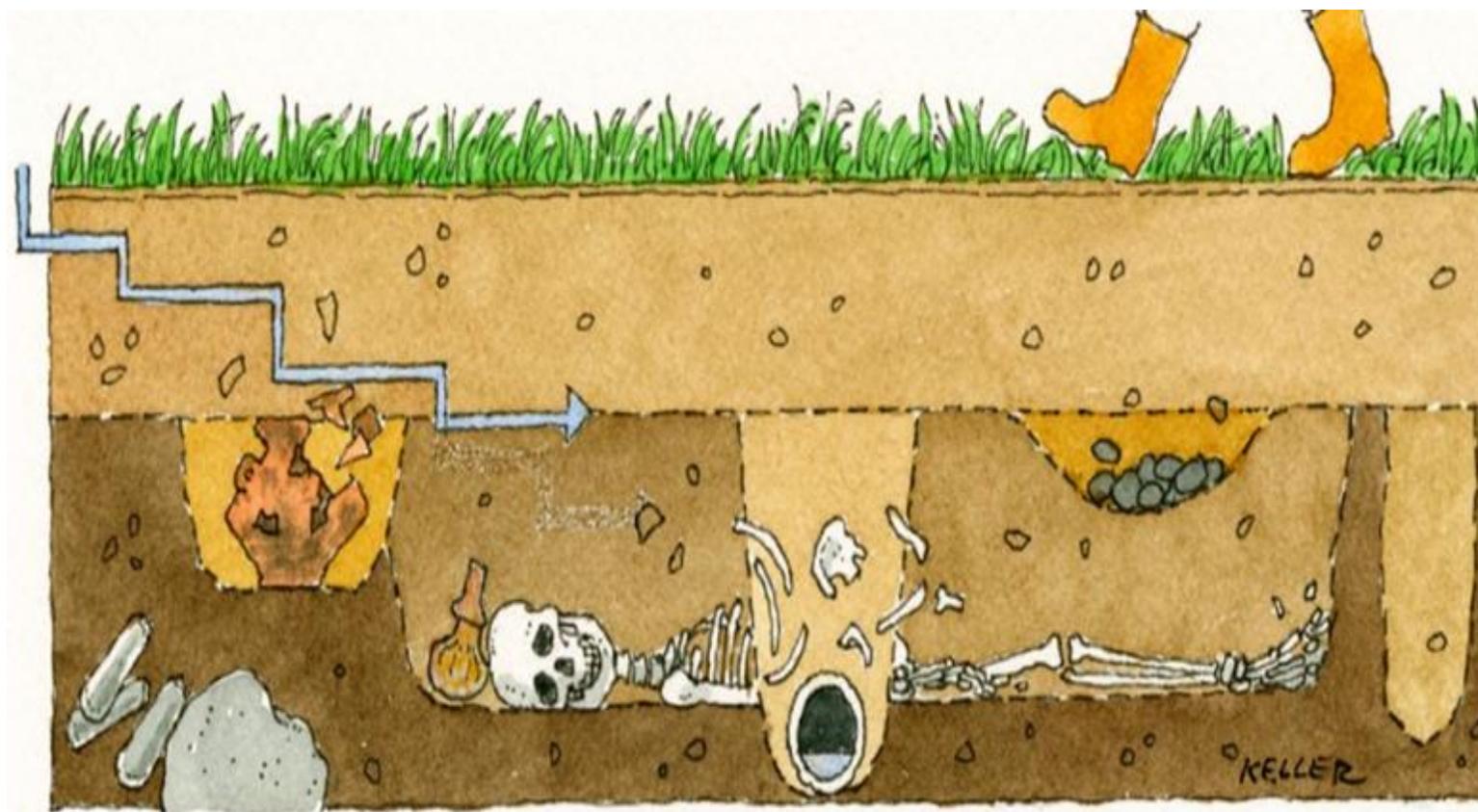
The Norwegian Cultural Heritage Act:

- All loose objects older than 1537 and coins older than 1650 are the property of the state → must be submitted to the county
- Sámi finds and Sámi places older than 1917 are protected
- The landowner and tenant decides if metal detecting is allowed on their property
- Landowners are entitled to 50% of any finder's fees for objects that are handed in and, also all objects with a clear connection to the farm
- Information of automatically protected monuments and sites can be found in the *Askeladden* database

Most
plougfinds are
rubbish!

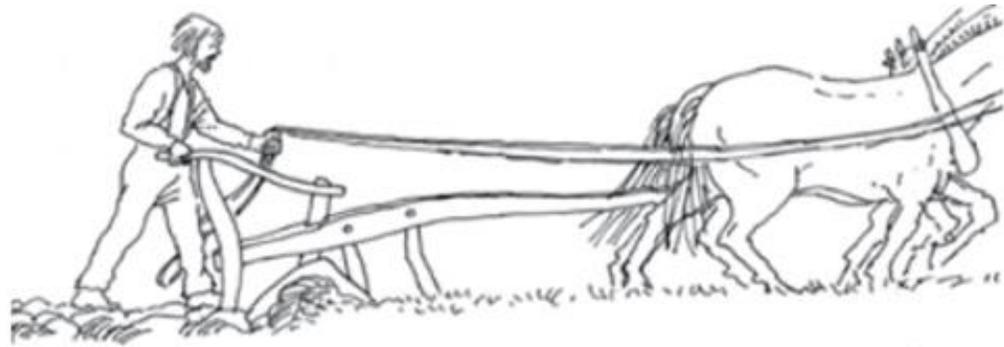


About 90% of the finds are in the ploughlayer



Drawing by Karl-Fredrik Keller

Ploughing



Drawing by Karl-Fredrik Keller

We (NMF) believe that good cooperation between the authorities, voluntary organizations and private actors is the most important guarantee for safeguarding the invisible cultural heritage for the future

Some examples of our finds:



Courtesy: Classical Numismatic Group, Inc.



Vestre Huseby – Råde (SE Oslo)



- The NMF detected here in 2014 and in 2016
- We were invited by the county council to collaborate in 2019
- Viken county council has carried out mechanical trial excavations without the use of metal detectors

An excavation in 2021

- 3000 m² excavated by the Cultural History Museum in Oslo
- The turf layer was removed mechanically
- NMF was not asked to volunteer – **why?**



We want to work actively to preserve the cultural heritage and the environment by:

Reducing the loss of cultural heritage (it is normally only us who do it in the plough layer, where 90-95% of historical objects are located)

Being an active supplement to state and other public bodies

Removing rubbish from the fields (we are after all called garbage collectors)

Thank you!

Erik-joh@online.no

More information is available here: <https://nmf.nu/>