

Beach Detecting Checklist

Plan tides, permissions, equipment, safety and aftercare before detecting on wet or dry sand.

What's inside

- ✓ Clear, practical steps you can use straight away
- 📄 Written for real UK detecting, not theory
- 📄 Plain-English guidance, checked against official sources
- ☆ Free to print, keep and share



Written by
detectorists



Checked against
UK guidance



Free to print and
keep

The tide is the real hazard

Check the tide before you go and agree a turn-back time. Never let a rising tide cut you off. Keep clear of unstable cliffs. No find is worth the risk.

Before leaving home

- ☐ Check who owns or manages the beach
- ☐ Confirm any licence, lease, byelaw or local restriction
- ☐ Check for scheduled monuments, SSSIs or protected heritage
- ☐ Note the tide station, high-water time and safe exit

On arrival & safety

- ☐ Note your rising-tide turn-back point
- ☐ Check the weather warning and daylight window
- ☐ Avoid cliffs and unstable ground
- ☐ Tell someone your plan and return time

Equipment

- ☐ Detector waterproofing level checked (a waterproof coil is not a waterproof control unit)
- ☐ Sand scoop or recovery tool
- ☐ Gloves and a sharps-safe procedure
- ☐ Appropriate footwear and clothing

Afterwards

- ☐ Rinse and dry equipment as the manufacturer advises
- ☐ Record significant finds and report where required
- ☐ Dispose of sharp litter safely

Who owns the beach (check before you detect)

The Crown Estate

A general permissive right applies only to foreshore. The Crown Estate owns in England, Wales and NI, under its current terms and third-party rights.

Crown Estate Scotland

In Scotland, check with Crown Estate Scotland and the relevant owner or manager.

Council or private

Councils, private owners and leaseholders may need their own permission; byelaws can apply.

If it may be wreck material. Material recovered from the seashore or tidal water may be wreck. Report it to the Receiver of Wreck within 28 days.

This resource is provided for general information and personal record-keeping. Rules, official guidance and access arrangements can change. Check the current requirements for the place where you intend to detect.

Get more free metal detecting guides, templates and practical advice at DetectoristWorld.com.