

BEGINNER CHECKLISTS · FREE RESOURCE

Beginner Metal Detecting Checklist

The essential kit, preparation and responsible-detecting steps needed before your first outing.

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

You need far less than the adverts suggest. Start with the essentials and add the rest as you go.

✓ Must have

- ☐ Permission from the landowner or authorised land manager
- ☐ A detector
- ☐ A suitable digging tool
- ☐ A finds pouch and a separate litter pouch
- ☐ A charged phone
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Weather-appropriate clothing

☆ Strongly recommended

- ☐ A pinpointer
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Spare power or charging
- ☐ Finds bags and labels
- ☐ A small first-aid kit
- ☐ Headphones
- ☐ Insurance or membership (see note)

📅 Before your first trip

- ☐ Learn the basic controls
- ☐ Practise with surface targets or a safe test bed (avoid buried services)
- ☐ Practise neat, tidy recovery
- ☐ Read the site rules and any restrictions
- ☐ Check the weather and any hazards
- ☐ Agree a check-in or return time
- ☐ Tell someone where you are going

Insurance may be required. A landowner, club, rally or organised event may require you to hold insurance. Check before you go; many detectorists get cover through a membership body.

☆ Do not rush to buy

You do not need multiple coils, aggressive cleaning tools or gadgets to start. Learn your machine on easy ground first; the kit can come later.

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