

RESEARCH & FIELD PLANNING · FREE RESOURCE

Field Search Plan

Map search lines, completed areas, productive zones and find references so a permission can be covered methodically.

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**

Field reference		Date	
Entry point		Hazards / restricted areas	

N ↑

Search direction

Search spacing

Completed areas

Productive areas

Find refs

Cover ground methodically rather than wandering. Common approaches:

Ways to search a field

≡ **Parallel lines**

Walk straight, evenly-spaced lines across the field

⊙ **Cross-grid**

Walk the field again at 90° to catch missed targets

☆ **Expand a signal**

Circle outwards around a good find to find more

📍 **Recheck edges**

Gates, paths, field corners and former buildings

✓ **Slow & overlap**

Overlap each sweep; slow down over busy ground

📋 **Log as you go**

Mark completed and productive areas on your plan

☆ **Test your assumptions**

Areas of past activity (gates, paths, former buildings) may be productive, but record the evidence and test your idea rather than assuming. High or dry ground is not always best. Note what changed after you detected, to avoid confirmation bias.

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.