

PERMISSION PACK · FREE RESOURCE

Landowner Approach Scripts

Ready-to-adapt wording for asking permission in person, by phone, email, letter or social message.

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**

Use these as a starting point and adapt them in your own words. Be polite, be brief, and always make it easy for the landowner to say no.

Doorstep introduction

When to use: You have knocked on the door of a farm or house.

30-SECOND VERSION

"Hello, sorry to bother you. My name is [name] and I live in [area]. I am a responsible metal detectorist and I wondered whether you might ever consider allowing detecting on part of your land. There is no pressure at all."

LONGER VERSION

"...I would always arrange visits in advance, fill holes properly, respect crops and livestock, and follow any rules you set. I can leave you a short letter with my details if that is easier, and you can think it over."

What not to say: Never imply you have a right to access the land, or that they will make money.

Farmyard / in-person chat

When to use: You have met the farmer while they are working.

30-SECOND VERSION

"Morning. I will not keep you, I know you are busy. I am a local detectorist and wondered if you would ever consider letting me detect a field or two. Happy to leave my details and let you think about it."

LONGER VERSION

"...I always fill my holes, close gates, keep away from livestock and machinery, and I would show you anything interesting I found. Totally up to you, and no problem at all if not."

What not to say: Do not push for an answer on the spot, or launch into a long speech while they are working.

Telephone call

When to use: You have a phone number for the landowner.

30-SECOND VERSION

"Hello, is that [name]? My name is [name], I am a local metal detectorist. I am ringing to ask whether you would ever consider allowing detecting on your land. Is now a bad time?"

LONGER VERSION

"...I always arrange visits in advance, fill every hole, respect the land and show any finds. I am fully happy to put it in writing. Would it help if I sent you a short letter with my details?"

What not to say: Do not use a hard-sell or pressure tone. Let them end the call comfortably.

Email or letter

When to use: You are writing rather than calling.

30-SECOND VERSION

Keep it to one short paragraph: who you are, where you are from, that you detect responsibly, and a polite ask. See the free Permission Letter template for full wording.

LONGER VERSION

Add: how you protect the land, that you will arrange visits, that you will share finds and handle anything reportable properly, and that permission is entirely their choice.

What not to say: Avoid long, formal or legalistic wording. Warm and brief works best.

Social media message

When to use: You are messaging via Facebook or similar.

30-SECOND VERSION

“Hi [name], I hope you do not mind me messaging. I am a local responsible detectorist and wondered if you would ever consider allowing detecting on your land. No pressure at all, happy to share references.”

LONGER VERSION

Keep it short and friendly; offer to speak by phone or in person, and to provide proof of insurance if you hold it.

What not to say: Do not send the same copy-paste message to dozens of people; personalise each one.

Follow-up after no reply

When to use: A week or two has passed with no response.

30-SECOND VERSION

“Hi [name], just a gentle follow-up on my note about metal detecting. No worries at all if it is not for you, I completely understand. Thank you for considering it.”

LONGER VERSION

Keep it light and one-time only. If there is still no reply, leave it there.

What not to say: Do not chase repeatedly or sound impatient.

However they reply, keep it warm and low-pressure. A good response now often turns into a permission later.

🕒 After “not at the moment”

When to use: They have said no for now, but not a flat no.

30-SECOND VERSION

“That is absolutely fine, thank you for letting me know. Would you mind if I checked back another time? Either way, I appreciate you considering it.”

LONGER VERSION

Thank them genuinely, leave the door open, and respect their answer.

What not to say: Do not argue or try to change their mind.

☆ Response after permission is granted

When to use: They have said yes.

30-SECOND VERSION

“Thank you so much, I really appreciate it. I will always arrange visits in advance and treat your land with care. When would suit you for a first visit?”

LONGER VERSION

Confirm the practical details and offer to put the arrangement in writing (see the Permission and Finds Split agreements).

What not to say: Do not turn up unannounced or assume more access than agreed.

Doorstep and farmyard etiquette. Do not enter a yard or field uninvited, respect any signs, avoid dark or inconvenient times, and never distract someone operating machinery. Only offer references or insurance if you genuinely have them. A relaxed, respectful approach can make the conversation easier. No means no, and one polite follow-up is enough.

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.