
EPSOM AND WALTON DOWNS CONSERVATORS

TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR USING A METAL DETECTOR ON EPSOM DOWNS

EXPIRY DATE: 31 December 2023

Once you have applied and your application is successful you will receive your metal detector permit in the post. The permit is a photo ID card (photocard) and permits the holder to go onto Epsom Downs for the purpose of searching with the aid of a metal detector for coins and other artefacts resting on or immediately below the surface of the ground, subject to the conditions hereof. All finds remain the property of the Company.

The following conditions apply:

1. The permit to detect will be for a period of one year when an application should be made for renewal. Applications and payment for a permit can be made online by visiting www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/thedowns from 10am on the 1st working day in January. There are a maximum of 25 permits available and so permits will be offered on a first come first served basis. Online applications will be ordered and only the first 25 complete applications will be successful. Permits are priced at £46 each.
2. Following notification that an application and payment has been successful, the applicant will have 10 working days to send a current passport size photograph to Epsom & Ewell Borough Council. An option to upload a photograph is available online but this is not necessary at the time of submitting the application. Please ensure the photograph is a head shot with the applicant facing the camera.
3. On receipt of a completed application form including a photograph of the applicant and successful payment transaction, a permit will be produced and sent to the applicant. The permit is specific to an individual and cannot be transferred. At the discretion of the Conservators, to be confirmed in writing, one companion may also be given permission to detect but must accompany the permit holder. The permit holder will be responsible for ensuring that the companion understands and abides by these terms and conditions.
4. The permit must be carried by the holder each time a visit is made and must be produced if required by a Downskeeper. There will be a replacement charge of £5 for all lost or damaged permits.
5. The area to which the permit relates is shown on the accompanying map. Metal detectors must not be used on parts of the Downs which are used as racecourse training grounds, golf fairways or greens. Please consult the Downskeepers at their office near Tattenham Corner if in doubt.
6. The Epsom & Walton Downs Bye-Laws must be observed at all times.

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7. The permit holder shall indemnify and keep indemnified the Conservators and the Company against all actions, claims, demands, proceedings, damages, losses, costs, charges and expenses whatsoever in respect of, or in any way arising out of the exercise of this permit, including injury to, or death of, any person and loss of, or damage to any property, except and to the extent that such injury or loss arises out of the act, default or negligence of the Conservators or the Company.
8. The permit holder enters onto the land entirely at his/her own risk and shall not hold the Conservators or the Company liable for any loss or injury sustained as a result of entering onto the land, except where such loss or injury arises out of the negligence of the Conservators or the Company.
9. The permit holder will take care to minimise damage to plants and other wildlife and must not use metal detectors at any time on the grass areas of Walton Downs.
10. To avoid nuisance to other users of the area, headphones must be worn at all times when detecting.
11. All holes made as a result of investigating actual or potential finds must be backfilled promptly, carefully and safely and any turf disturbed must be replaced.
12. All objects and coins found will remain the property of the Company, with the exception of finds which come under the terms of the Treasure Act 1996 (the Act), unless these are disclaimed later. Finds of an archaeological nature (in general those thought to predate c1700AD) should be reported to the Finds Liaison Officer (details can be found in the accompanying leaflet *Archaeological finds in Surrey: Recording and identifying*).
13. Most ancient and some more recent objects may be retained by the Conservators or the Company for allocation to a museum or other permanent collection. However, the Conservators or the Company may, at its absolute discretion, return the objects or coins to the permit holder.
14. The permit holder must satisfy the Conservators that he/she is familiar with the Code of Practice of the Treasure Act 1996 and must abide by the terms of it and any subsequent revisions or amendments which may come into force.
15. Finders of Treasure on Epsom Downs waive their right to any ex gratia payment that may be offered by way of reward as an incentive for reporting the find.
16. In the event of a find of Treasure being disclaimed and returned to the finder it will remain the property of the Company and must be handed over to them. The Company may, at its absolute discretion, return the find to the finder.
17. In the event of the permit holder believing he/she has discovered a hoard, whether scattered or undistributed, or other deposit of archaeological interest, work must cease

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immediately and the matter be reported as soon as possible to the Finds Liaison Officer and the Conservators.

18. The permit holder must record as closely as possible, preferably using GPS, the findspots of all finds or archaeological interest (i.e. those predating c1700AD).
19. If live ammunition or other hazardous objects are found the permit holder must mark the spot clearly and report to the Police immediately.
20. Any failure by a permit holder to comply either with the above conditions or the Epsom & Walton Downs Bye-Laws will lead to automatic revocation of the permit. Downkeepers are authorised to seize the permits of offenders and request them to leave the Downs.

Date: 3 January 2023

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