

Newbies — What are you getting yourself into ?

- 1 The hobby can be addictive and expensive.
- 2 Don't count on finding treasure, very few people do.
- 3 Be prepared to travel.
- 4 Be prepared to knock on doors to get permission and often be refused, join a club, attend a [commercial metal detecting rally](#) or go on the beach.
- 5 Be prepared to dig up scrap lead and iron, tin cans and [green waste](#).
- 6 Be prepared to put the hours in.
- 7 Be prepared to record your finds and find spots with the [Portable Antiquities Scheme \(PAS\)](#). PAS will photograph, weigh, measure and ID your finds and create a personal database for your finds on their website.
- 8 Be patient and expect a steep learning curve.
- 9 The benefits of metal detecting.

Before you detect

- 1 [Get NCMD insurance](#)
- 2 [Register with the PAS.](#)
- 3 [Know who your local Finds Liaison Officer \(FLO\) is.](#)
- 4 [Read The Countryside code.](#)
- 5 [Read the Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales \(2017\).](#)

Seeking land

- 1 [Avoid detecting on scheduled land, sand dunes and battlefields.](#)
[Avoid land that has been pasture for 50 years or more.](#)
- 2 Avoid fields used by horses as even the filled holes can become a hazard.
- 3 Research areas occupied or cultivated in the past.

Approaching the landowner

- 1 Get permission off the landowner face to face and not off a tenant.
Detecting without the landowners permission is illegal.
- 2 Agree finds ownership of non treasure non valuable and valuable finds with the landowner, ideally with a search agreement.
- 3 Agree it's ok to record the finds and findspots with the PAS, to record them to a 10 figure National Grid Reference with a Global Global Positioning System (GPS) or a Mobile phone APP.
- 4 Agree the method of showing finds with ID's to the landowner ie before you leave the site, or by email, PAS records etc.
- 5 [Print off and give the landowner a copy of the PAS "Metal detecting on your land know your rights" document.](#)
- 6 Agree to give notice of your visit to detect the land in advance.
- 7 Agree to notify the landowner and the PAS immediately if you find [Treasure](#) & to notify the landowner and [the Police](#) if you find [Munitions](#).

Tips when knocking on doors

- 1 Print off a map of the land for the landowner to mark his/her fields on.
- 2 Exchange names, home and email addresses and telephone numbers.
- 3 Be on your best behaviour as you are now an ambassador for the hobby.