

# West Suffolk Council – East Town Park, Hardwick Heath and Nowton Park



## Metal detecting permit terms and conditions

The permit holder has the permission of West Suffolk Council to go on foot onto the areas indicated in section one hereof which is the property of West Suffolk Council to search the areas for treasure, antiques, metal, any other matter or object of that type including coins and artifacts, as a recreational pursuit subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. This permit hereby granted extends only to the purple areas as indicated on the site maps available on our website and within day light hours during normal opening times.
2. No searches are permitted in the pink areas as indicated on our maps which include football pitches and play areas.
3. This permit shall remain in force for a period of 12 months (as specified on the permit), subject to the rights of termination provided.
4. The permit holder is permitted to carry out searches in the defined areas on the following basis:
  - 4.1. A metal detector may be used for such purpose.
  - 4.2. Only the surface of the ground may be investigated, and the ground must not be excavated below 30 centimeters depth to ensure that the archaeological integrity of any embedded find is retained.
  - 4.3. No mechanical tool, plant or equipment may be used for excavation.
  - 4.4. Any hole however small or shallow must be refilled so that the ground is reinstated to its condition before digging or excavation was commenced by the permit holder so as not to create a hazard to other users of the public park.
5. The permit holder is required:
  - 5.1. To report all archaeological finds to the Portable Antiquities Scheme and follow the code of practice for responsible metal detecting in England and Wales. For more information visit [www.finds.org.uk](http://www.finds.org.uk)
  - 5.2. Contact Suffolk County Council as the main provider of archaeological advice in Suffolk. For more information visit <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/culture-heritage-and-leisure/suffolk-archaeological-service/>

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service  
Bury Resource Centre  
Hollow Road  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP32 7AY  
Phone: 01284 741230  
Email: [archaeology@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology@suffolk.gov.uk)

- 5.3. To report the find of any item which may or which on reasonable grounds is likely to be treasure within the meaning of the Treasure Act 1996 to the Coroner's Court for the district within 14 days of the date of the find and to provide written evidence to West Suffolk Council that this has been undertaken. Any reward to be paid pursuant to the Treasure Act 1996 shall be determined by the appropriate authority. Apportionment will be agreed between the permit holder and West Suffolk Council but generally this will be in equal shares.
- 5.4. To report the find of any item of value such as jewellery and coins (excluding individual or small quantities of modern coins up to the value of £20) to West Suffolk Council and the Police within 14 days of the date of the find. The value of such a find will be determined by agreement between the permit holder and West Suffolk Council or by valuation by at least two other persons selected by West Suffolk Council and the permit holder, or by sale for the highest available price. Any monies received shall be divided equally between West Suffolk Council and the permit holder (after the deduction of any costs).
6. West Suffolk Council reserves the right to ownership of all or any objects found by the permit holder and the granting of this permission does not transfer any such rights to the permit holder. The permit holder may not claim ownership or rights to any objects found in the defined area by virtue of this permit.
7. The permit holder shall endeavour not to interfere with any persons exercising public rights in the public park of any description and shall not interfere with any property within the grounds of the public park known to be the property of any other party.
8. West Suffolk Council may restrict or prohibit access to any part of the public park at any time without notice and terminate the permission hereby granted immediately in the event of the applicant being in breach of any of the conditions contained herein.
9. The permit holder enters the public park at their own risk and no liability shall attach to West Suffolk Council in any respect of any injury including death, loss, damage whatever, including due to negligence, to the permit holder or any property of the permit holder whilst in the public park. The permit holder will indemnify West Suffolk Council against all actions, proceedings, claims, demands, damages, costs and losses relating to or arising out of the exercise of any rights covered by, or related to this permission and arising from the failure of the permit holder to report any finding to the relevant person, or authority

pursuant to the terms of this permit.

10. The permit holder will be responsible for obtaining any other necessary permission including those of adjoining landowners in pursuit of a search.
11. This permission is personal to the applicant and non-transferable.
12. The applicant may be asked to produce their permit by any council representative to affirm the right of the person to be metal detecting on council owned land.
13. West Suffolk Council reserves the right to temporarily suspend metal detecting activities at any of the licensed sites during public events that may cause conflict with other users.
14. Lost or stolen permits will not be replaced. No refunds are available.