



The Port of London Authority and Crown Estate Commissioners

Permit to Search and Dig the Thames Foreshore

The Port of London Authority ("the PLA") and the Crown Estate Commissioners ("the Commissioners") on behalf of the King's Most Excellent Majesty acting in exercise of the powers of the Crown Estate Act 1961 allow the Creative Permit Holder to go on foot on the bed or shore of the Thames west of the Thames Barrier site (but not on those parts of the said bed or shore not in the ownership of the PLA or the Commissioners or on any part scheduled as an ancient monument or any other part specified below) and to search the bed and shore as a recreational pursuit of the Holder (and not in the course of or for the purpose of any commercial business) subject to the conditions set out in this document.

The PLA and the Commissioners reserve the right without previous notice to revoke the Permit at any time. Any termination or revocation shall be without prejudice to any prior remedy or claim of the PLA or the Commissioners arising under this Permit. The PLA is authorised to execute this Permit on behalf of the Commissioners.

Conditions of Use – Digging Permit

Any holder of a permit acknowledges that the River Thames foreshore can be a hazardous environment due to the composition of the foreshore, the tidal state of the river and any Permit issued by the PLA is given strictly on the condition that no liability is attached to the PLA or to the Commissioners in respect of any death, injury, loss or damage sustained by the Holder or to his/her property, whether arising from negligence or otherwise while accessing or searching on the foreshore or arising from the exercise of the rights granted by this Permit.

A Permit Holder understands and accepts that they access the foreshore of the Thames entirely at their own risk.

Permit Restrictions

1. The Holder, while on the bed or shore of the Thames shall visibly display a copy of the Permit issued, which must, on demand, be shown to an officer of the PLA or a police officer. All permit holders must also have a form of photographic ID with them at all times.

2. This Permit allows digging within the boundaries of the City of London to a maximum depth of 1.3m below the existing foreshore level. Elsewhere, the depth of any excavation is to be limited to 0.6m. In both cases, any other restrictions apply as shown on the relevant mapping. No mechanical tool, plant or equipment may be used for any excavation.
3. This Permit does not allow the Holder to sell items found on the foreshore.
4. The PLA issues a Code of Conduct for foreshore searching which shall be adhered to at all times. Failure to do so is a breach of these Permit conditions and may result in the revocation of the Permit.
5. Any hole dug by the Holder (however small or shallow) must, before the Holder leaves it and before the next inundation of the tide, be refilled with the excavated material so that the foreshore is reinstated as near as possible to its condition before the excavation.
6. The Holder must not interfere with any person exercising a public right to fish from the foreshore nor with anyone mooring or boarding or landing from a vessel nor with anyone exercising any other right to be on the foreshore nor with any river works, moorings, navigation aids or other similar objects on the foreshore.
7. The Holder must comply with all legislation, rules, regulations and byelaws applicable to the foreshore and their use of it.

Restricted Areas

8. This permit only applies to land within the ownership of the PLA or the Commissioners to the west of the Thames Barrier. Searching the foreshore down river (east) of the Thames Barrier is not permitted.
9. The Holder must not dig or search:
 - a. On any part of the foreshore of the Thames which has been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM):

	SAM list entry number
Queenhithe Dock, City of London	1001994
Foreshore adjacent to the Royal Palace at Greenwich	1410710
Launch ways of the SS Great Eastern	1423608

- b. The foreshore in front of the Tower of London
 - c. The foreshore within the defined exclusion areas at the Palace of Westminster and 85 Albert Embankment.
 - d. Any foreshore not the ownership of the PLA or the Commissioners.
10. Maps showing the restricted areas are available through the following link: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4862a5ceb3a74674a6f40f65a3035a18/>
11. The Holder must not search or dig within 10 metres of the following locations, which may be accessible from the foreshore at low water:
 - a. All London passenger piers and operational cargo-handling berths
 - b. Thames Flood Barrier in Woolwich Reach

- c. Gas pipelines at Blackwall Point and Beverley Brook
 - d. HMS President (MoD), Wapping
 - e. Lock entrance to St Katherine's Dock
 - f. The London Eye
 - g. Thames House, Millbank
 - h. IMO Building, Albert Embankment
12. The PLA and the Commissioners reserve the right to temporarily prohibit access to any part or parts of the foreshore covered by this permit from time to time without incurring any liability to the Holder. Any such prohibitions will be publicised on the PLA's website: www.pla.co.uk/thames-foreshore-permits
13. Any Permit Holder found to be searching and/or digging in a restricted area will have their permit permanently revoked.
14. Whilst searching the foreshore, Digging Permit Holders must note the sensitive nature of the following areas where digging is restricted to 7.5cm below the existing foreshore level:

Location description	Items	Grid Reference
Putney Railway Bridge to Western Boundary of Wandsworth Park	Fish trap, remains of boats and palaeo-ecological deposits	TQ2450 7550
Cheyne Walk, opposite Munro Terrace to Battersea Bridge	Fish traps, submerged forest, Bronze age skull	TQ2680 7740
Vauxhall, upriver from Vauxhall Bridge to Riverside Court	Timber platform uprights, bronze age finds in association	TQ3015 7800
Southwark, Cannon St Railway Bridge to London Bridge	Numerous prehistoric, Roman and later finds and river structures	TQ3270 8040
Greenwich, Greenwich Pier to Trinity Hospital	World Heritage Site	TQ3860 7805
Bermondsey, Chambers Wharf St Saviours Dock to Fountain Stairs	Flint artefacts, medieval skeleton, timber structures, nautical artefacts	TQA3435 7980

Reporting and Recording of Finds

15. All finds must be recorded and reported through the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and Permit Holders must follow directions relating to the finds from the Finds Liaison Officer.
16. The PLA and the Commissioners reserve their rights in relation to the ownership of objects found, and the granting of permission under this Permit does not operate to transfer any such rights to the Holder.

17. There is to be no disposal of any collection of finds (of one item or more) from the Thames Foreshore whether financial or otherwise without informing the PLA first and adhering to the PLA's decision as to the course of action to be followed.

Applying to renew a Digging Permit

18. Any Digging Permit Holder wishing to renew their permit, must, at least one month prior to the expiry of their current permit, provide a report to the PLA and the London Museum detailing the year's activities (including location and depths dug) and finds.
19. Failure to submit a report, even if no visits have been made to the foreshore, may result in the permit renewal being refused.

Miscellaneous

20. In any video and/or other media appearances by the Permit Holder relating to searching the foreshore, the Holder must inform the audience of the requirement for a permit to search the foreshore. Any transgression of this condition (at the PLA's discretion) may lead to the permanent revocation of a permit.
21. The Holder consents to their personal details being recorded and retained by the PLA and the Commissioners for the purpose of their Estates management and the issue of relevant communications and to this information being provided to the London Museum (formerly known as the Museum of London) and the Metropolitan or City of London Police where the PLA considers it appropriate.
22. The parties do not intend the terms of this Permit to be enforceable by third parties under the provisions of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.