



Ministry
of Defence

Secretariat
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Kingston Road
Sutton Coldfield
B75 7RL

E-mail: diosec-parli@mod.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/DIO

30 August 2018

Ref. FOI 2018/10724

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 18 August 2018 requesting the following information:

"I'm enquiring as to if you have any sites that I would be able to metal detect on, I live in the Spalding area, so anywhere in a 60 mile radius would be great"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held.

It is MOD policy to prohibit use of metal detectors on MOD land. Applications are refused on safety grounds and grounds that the activity may result in damage or disturbance to items of archaeological interest.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the below extracts from Joint Service Publication (JSP) documents produced by the Ministry of Defence which supports the information provided above.

JSP 362, Chapter 15, Para 1517: The use of metal detectors by members of the public on MOD land is prohibited, and consequently any applications received, no matter what the object of the search, are to be refused.

JSP 362, Vol 3, Section 3, Leaflet 12, Para 12-103: The use of a metal detector may result in damage and disturbance to items of archaeological interest and should not be permitted on MOD property, with the exception of the use by personnel engaged in Explosive Ordnance Disposal work or Improvised Explosive Device drills in training. The use of geophysical prospection equipment by professionals or consultants as part of an archaeological assessment of a site is permissible providing relevant clearance.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made in writing within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat