



PORT OF LONDON  
AUTHORITY



**The Port of London Authority  
and Crown Estate Commissioners**

**Permit to Search the Thames Foreshore**

**Conditions of Use**

The Port of London Authority ("the PLA") and the Crown Estate Commissioners ("the Commissioners") on behalf of the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty acting in exercise of the powers of the Crown Estate Act 1961 allow the person mentioned in Schedule 1 to this Permit ("the 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 in Note 1 at the end of this Permit) 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 business) subject to the conditions set out in Schedule 2 to this Permit.

This Permit shall be in force for a period of one year from 1 April, in the year of issue.

This Permit may be terminated by either party giving to the other seven days previous notice in writing expiring at any time and 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. Upon termination or revocation the Holder shall immediately return this Permit to the PLA. The PLA is authorised to execute this Permit on behalf of the Commissioners.

for and behalf of the PLA for itself and on behalf of  
the Commissioners

Date of Issue:

Type of Permit:

I agree to the terms of this Permit and to accept the conditions set out in Schedule 2.

the Holder      Date:

## SCHEDULE 1

### The Holder

Name	Address

## SCHEDULE 2

### Permit Types and Use

1. The Holder, while on the bed or shore of the Thames shall carry the Permit ID Card issued as part of this Permit, which must, on demand, be shown by him or her to an officer of the PLA or a police officer.
2. The Holder shall pay a fee (as published by the PLA) for the issue of this Permit and the Permit ID Card.
3. One Day or Standard Permits allow surface investigation of the foreshore only up to a depth of 3 inches, or 7.5cm. No tools other than hand tools shall be used for such excavation.
4. A Mudlark Permit allows investigation of the foreshore only up to a depth of 3 feet 3 inches, or 1.0m. No tools other than hand tools shall be used for such excavation. Such Permits are only available to current members of the Society of Thames Mudlarks.
5. The PLA issues a Code of Practice for foreshore investigation, which shall be adhered to at all times. Failure to adhere to the Code is a breach of Permit conditions and will result in revocation of the Permit.
6. Every hole (however small or shallow) must, before the Holder leaves it and before the next inundation of the tide, be refilled so that the bed or shore is reinstated as nearly as possible to its condition before the digging was started.
7. The Holder must not work on the same hole on successive low waters without refilling the hole before the tide comes in. See condition 6 above.
8. The Holder must not deposit on the bed or shore any litter nor interfere in any way with any flora, fauna, birds or fish.

9. The Holder must not interfere with any person exercising a public right to fish on the bed or shore nor with anyone mooring or boarding or landing from a vessel nor with anyone exercising any other right to be on the bed or shore nor with any river works moorings navigation aides or other similar objects on the bed or shore.
10. The Holder must comply with all legislation, rules, regulations and byelaws applicable to the bed and shore and the use he or she is making of it.

### **Limiting Access**

11. The PLA and the Commissioners reserve the right to temporarily prohibit access to any part or parts of the bed and shore covered by this Permit from time to time without incurring any liability to the Holder.
12. Any notice shall be served either personally or by leaving it at the party concerned's last known address or by prepaid registered or recorded delivery post addressed to the party there.

### **Reporting and Recording Regime**

13. All objects of archaeological or historical interest found by the Holder must be taken to the Museum of London for identification and recording within one month of finding.

The Holder must provide the Museum with full details of the location and circumstances of discovery and leave the finds with the Museum until they have been recorded under the provisions the national Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). The Museum will return the objects to the finder with a copy of the identification and PAS record as appropriate.

14. The Holder will provide the PLA with a copy of the information provided by the Museum of London (see 13. above, i.e. the PAS record) at the time of expiry of each Standard or Mudlark Permit (31 March each year), or on the expiry of a Day Permit.

New permits will not be issued unless the Holder provides this information to the satisfaction of the PLA.

15. 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.
16. The Holder will indemnify the PLA and the Commissioners against all actions proceedings claims demands damages costs and losses brought against either the PLA or the Commissioners or both of them, and relating to or arising out of the exercise of the rights granted by this Permit.
17. The Holder consents to his or her personal details being recorded and retained by the PLA and the Commissioners for the purpose of their estates management.

## NOTES

1. The Holder must not go (and dig):
  - a) onto private property; or
  - b) onto those parts of the bed or shore of the Thames not in the ownership of the PLA or the Commissioners, that is:
    - i) **the former GLC foreshore at Lambeth**, and
    - ii) **the Bridewell Estate foreshore, Wapping**,which are shown on the attached plan; or
  - c) in respect of a One-day or Standard Permit only, onto any part of the bed and foreshore between the **Tower of London** and the upstream end of **Victoria Tower Gardens**, Westminster, as shown on the attached plan; or
  - d) onto any part of the bed or shore of the Thames scheduled as an ancient monument (the only part so listed at the date of issue of this Permit is **Queenhithe Dock**, City of London (Monument 118A).
  
2. Digging on the foreshore in the following areas is limited to a depth 3 inches or 7.5cm:
  - i) **Putney Railway Bridge to Western Boundary of Wandsworth Park**  
[TQ2450 7550] Fish trap, remains of boats, and palaeo-ecological deposits. (FWW04).
  - ii) **Cheyne Walk: Opposite Munro Terrace to Battersea Bridge**  
[TQ2680 7740] Fish traps, submerged forest, Bronze Age skull. (FKN01).
  - iii) **Vauxhall: Upriver from Vauxhall Bridge to Riverside Court**  
[TQ3015 7800] Timber platform uprights, Bronze Age finds in association.
  - iv) **Southwark: Cannon St Railway Bridge to London Bridge**  
[TQ3270 8040] Numerous prehistoric, Roman and later finds and river structures. (FSW12).
  - v) **Tower of London: Tower Pier to Tower Bridge**  
[TQ3360 8045] World Heritage Site.
  - vi) **Bermondsey: Chambers Wharf, St Saviour Dock to Fountain Stair**  
[TQ3435 7980] Flint artefacts, medieval skeleton, timber structures, nautical artefacts. (FSW01).
  - vii) **Greenwich: Greenwich Pier to Trinity Hospital**  
[TQ38607805 World Heritage Site.
  
3. Metal detectors may be used on the foreshore. The PLA does not regulate the use of metal detectors. Whilst this Permit does not cover the use of metal detectors when searching the foreshore, any digging resulting from such use is always subject to the requirements of this regime.
  
4. Where an object found by the Holder is treasure or is believed by the Holder to be treasure, as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, then in addition to reporting the find to the Museum of London, the Holder must notify the find to the Coroner for the district in which the object was found, within 14 days as required by the Treasure Act 1996.

5. If, while on the bed or shore of the Thames in pursuance of this Permit the Holder uses any apparatus which requires the consent or licence of any authority other than the PLA and the Commissioners, the Holder must first have obtained such consent or licence.
6. The Holder should bear in mind the tidal nature of the river and find out beforehand the estimated times of High and Low Water on the days he/she intends to go onto the foreshore. A copy of the current PLA Tide Tables and Port Information Handbook may be obtained by sending a **46p** Stamped Addressed Envelope to the address below.
7. In view of the currents and the strength of the tide it is strongly recommended that the Holder does not swim in the Thames.
8. If desired, application for renewal of this Permit shall be made **at least one month before it expires** to the PLA at the address below.
9. 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.
10. It is recommended that all persons searching and digging on the foreshore carry suitable Civil Liability Insurance cover.
11. The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) publishes guidance on safety in excavations. It is recommended that Mudlark Permit Holders obtain copies of the relevant information sheet(s) and adhere to the published advice, as appropriate. (See Construction Information Sheet No. 8).

### Contact Information

**The Port of London Authority**  
Marine Administrative Support  
(Foreshore Permits)  
London River House  
Royal Pier Road  
Gravesend  
Kent DA12 2BG

Tel: 01474562284  
Fax: 01474 562277

**Museum of London**  
London Wall  
London EC2Y 5HN

Tel: 020 7600 3699

**Portable Antiquities Scheme**  
Finds Liaison Officer

Tel: 020 7814 5733

or [www.finds.org.uk/involved/regional.asp](http://www.finds.org.uk/involved/regional.asp)