

SEARCHES OF THE ATLAS OF FOREST RIGHTS – A GUIDE

There are several ways of undertaking a search - by personal visit to the Public Records Office or the Verderers' Office, via an e-mail request, or by formal written request.

1. Making an appointment to visit the office - Tel: 023 8028 2052

Requests for searches may be made by contacting the Verderers' Office in advance. Whilst inspection of the Atlas is technically possible on a do-it-yourself basis, most people require assistance. For this reason, and because some Verderers' staff time is inevitably taken-up providing that assistance, we regret that we need to make a charge of £20.00 per property.

For all searches we require an extract from a modern Ordnance Survey map, preferably at no smaller scale than 1/2500 identifying the property and the surrounding area. The property which is the subject of the search must be clearly indicated on the plan. The easiest way of doing this is to draw round the boundary of the property on which the search is to be undertaken with a coloured pen. The plan is vital to our investigation. We cannot carry out a search with just with an address or postcode.

2. Request for a search result by email to office@verderers.org.uk

If you request a search by email (and have attached the relevant map as described above) and you require the result by email, the scale of charges set out below will apply as it is technically a written search result. We are, however, happy to telephone as well with the result of the search, subsequently confirmed by email. For these services the charge is the same as that made if you had applied by letter. We will require payment, by cheque, in advance.

3. Request for a formal written search result

If you require the result of the search by formal letter, (usually required by Solicitors) our fees, with effect from the 1st December 2014, are as follow. The search will be carried out on receipt of your cheque in payment.

Under 1 acre	£80.00
1 to 5 acres	£120.00
5 to 10 acres	£160.00
10 to 50 acres	£240.00
50 to 10 acres	£320.00
Over 100 acres	fee to be agreed

If you visit the office for a search, and then request a written search result we may not be able to produce this on the actual day you call in. We will require payment in advance, and upon receipt of payment the letter will be sent to you.

4. The Forest Right of Common of Fuelwood

We receive many enquiries from people keen to find out if their property benefits from the right to free wood. Very few properties (only about 100) benefit from the Right of Fuelwood (or Estovers as it was once called). Those that do are always situated within the Forest. It is safe to say that all the properties that benefit from this right are now listed in the Verderers' Office and most, if not all, are in receipt of their annual allocation which is managed by the Forestry Commission. Searches for fuel rights will be charged at the rates set out above.

5. Payment

Please make cheques payable to the *Verderers of the New Forest*. We regret we cannot accept card payments.