



National Council for Metal Detecting

Member of: The Central Council of
Physical Recreation.

NCMD News and Views. SPRING 2008

The National Council would welcome
replies and comments on the
information contained in
News and Views. Email editor
at:

bobbaldock@btinternet.com

NCMD Membership.

For membership joining applications,
information and fees please contact:
John Rigby, Membership Secretary.
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Enquiries.

For all other enquiries please
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NCMD Website: www.ncmd.co.uk

NCMD Forum: <http://ncmd-forum.com>
Or www.ncmd-forum.com

1. Membership Renewals

Just a reminder that NCMD membership
renewal is due from April 1st. Please
ensure you renew and maintain the
support of your region and the national
organisation.

2. Improved NCMD Civil Liability Insurance.

Your civil liability insurance cover has
been increased to £10 million. Your
2008/9 membership card will show the
old figure of £5 million as cards were
printed prior to the increase being
applied.

3. NCMD Forum. Have You Signed Up Yet?

Take advantage of automatic e-mail of
NCMD information. Find out 'Whats On'
Look at members finds. Use the facility
provided on the NCMD Forum.
Just log-on to www.ncmd-forum.com, fill
in the simple registration using your
NCMD membership card number and you
will receive NCMD News & Views
automatically. Additionally you will have
access to a vast library of metal detecting
related information.'

4. Natural England

Environmental Stewardship. Entry Level / Higher Level.

The handbook for Entry Level & Higher
Level Environmental Schemes is
currently being revised. The revised
handbook will apply to new ELS/HLS
contracts and will not be retrospective. It
will however apply to current ELS
agreements when they come up for
renewal from 2010. The NCMD, along
with others, is actively involved in the
preparation of the sections related to
metal detecting.
Amongst the changes will be a
clarification of metal detection access

procedures and inclusion of a reference to the voluntary Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detection.

Archaeological parties have raised concerns with Natural England over the holding of metal detecting rallies on ELS land and metal detecting on uncultivated land including permanent pasture. An update of the final wording will be published when more details are known.

5. Portable Antiquities Scheme

The Future of the PAS.

As at 1st May no further news has been received from DCMS on the way forward for the PAS.

The PAAG (Portable Antiquities Advisory Group) meeting planned for April 1st has been deferred until the middle of May.

Landowners Leaflet.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme have renewed their intent to produce and issue this leaflet last discussed in 2005. Its intended purpose (according to the PAS) is to advise landowners and tenants of their rights with respect to people seeking to access their land to search for archaeological material including the use of metal detectors.

The NCMD have submitted detailed comments and observations. We remain concerned over a number of details surrounding the intended issue of such a leaflet. It has not been made clear if it is intended to replace a variety of outdated and factually incorrect leaflets previously issued by other bodies and interested parties or merely to accompany these.

A Code of Practice for Rallies in England & Wales.

NCMD have been asked for comments on a draft code prepared by PAS. We have responded with critical comment on the content which is due to be discussed at the next PAAG meeting, when, presumably a second draft will be issued

for further comment by members.

It is understood that PAS have discussed the content of the code and its implementation with commercial rally organisers.

Who's Who on The Portable Antiquities Advisory Group. PAAG.

This is a series of articles outlining the members of the PAAG and explaining who they are and the work they do.

The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers UK. ALGAO.

A national organisation with individual associations in England, Scotland and Wales

They provide a forum representing archaeologists working for local authorities and national parks throughout the UK. Its members are senior professional archaeologists employed by local authorities to provide advice on archaeological conservation and management.

The Association addresses a wide range of issues and concerns relating to the historic environment and works in partnership with national agencies and other organisations to develop Historic Environment Records / Sites and Monuments Records (HERs / SMRs).

Other areas where they offer advice include Planning and legislation, Countryside, Urban, Maritime, Historic Buildings, Historic Landscapes.

6. Nighthawking Project.

Oxford Archaeology (the contractor carrying out the project on behalf of English Heritage) are continuing with data collection which is due for completion in April 2008. Current activity includes distributing an open letter more widely to farmers and landowners as part of their data collection exercise.

It is believed that the BBC will be making

a programme on the subject of nighthawking in the Autumn and it is likely that Oxford Archaeology will contribute to this. This will be after the final project report is produced.

The NCMD attended the steering group meeting held in April and will attend the full project board meetings as observers.

A report back on the final results of the project will be published in the autumn.

7. NCMD FINDS COMPETITIONS 2007.

The Annual Karolyn and Robin Hatt Memorial Finds Competitions.

The annual competitions are based upon metal detecting finds made by members during a calendar year 1st January to 31st December. The current competition is for the year 2007.

Entries are in three classifications – coin, artefact and hoard.

Regional Representatives are requested to arrange for regional entries to be available for the final judging to be held at the NCMD Ordinary meeting to be held in October/November. Further details are available from your Regional Representative.

Hoard entries should be submitted to Hilary Fagin, Competitions Manager, contact email shown below, accompanied by good, clear photographs including one photo of the complete hoard.

The following information is requested to accompany each entry.

Name, address (not for publication) and approximate age of finder. NCMD Region and Club name if applicable. A brief but accurate identification and description of the find, approximate date of recovery, type of site i.e. ploughed, pasture, beach etc. The general area of recovery, county or parish. Add any additional information you feel is significant.

Individual NCMD members and those clubs not registered with a Region should

submit entries to Hilary our competition manager.

e-mail: alex182sa@blueyonder.co.uk

Finders are welcome to accompany their entries to the finals. Speak to your representative regarding arrangements.

8. NCMD application for Representation on Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel. SAFAP

Our President, John Wells, has written to the Scottish Parliament to ask that consideration be given to having an NCMD representative on SAFAP once the Panel membership is reviewed later this year.

The advantages of doing so would be:

- (a) To properly represent 'finders' and also possibly fulfil the role of a 'lay' member.
- (b) To bring knowledge and expertise in the identification and/or valuation of metal artefacts.
- (c) To bring Scotland into line with the long established Treasure Valuation Committee (TVC) structure in England which includes as one of its members, the General Secretary of the NCMD. The NCMD considers that there is no logical reason why the two Treasure systems should differ materially in its composition, and the inclusion of an NCMD representative would bring a consistency to the process at a national level.

We have received a reply noting our request and this will be considered as part of a review of cultural bodies under plans by the Scottish Government for reforming the public sector and its numerous bodies.

9. Heritage Bill. Heritage Protection for

21st Century.

The White Paper for this Bill was presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State in March 2007.

Draft legislation to unify heritage protection regimes, allow greater public involvement in decisions and place heritage at the heart of the planning system, has now been published by Culture Secretary Andy Burnham.

The draft Heritage Protection Bill, the first legislation in this area for 30 years, will now be scrutinised by Parliament. It includes plans to:

(a) create a single simple system for designation – to be called the Heritage Register – which will replace listing, scheduling and registering, and give the public a greater say in what gets protected with new consultation rules;

(b) devolve responsibility for designating land-based assets in England from the DCMS to English Heritage;

(c) reform the marine heritage protection regime in England and Wales, by broadening the range of marine historic assets that can be protected and bringing greater flexibility to the licensing system;

(d) introduce a system for provisional registration to give ‘interim protection’ to historic assets while they are being considered for designation, and create new appeals procedures against land-based designation and marine licensing decisions;

(e) put the historic environment at the heart of the planning system by replacing listed building consent and scheduled monument consent with a new Heritage Asset Consent, and merging conservation area consent with planning permission and secure the basis for informed stewardship of the historic environment by placing local authorities under a duty to maintain or have access

to an Historic Environment Record (HER).

Culture Minister Margaret Hodge commented:

“This draft Bill is a really important step along the way to making our system of heritage protection more democratic and, where necessary, more effective. It has been many years in preparation and will make a real difference to the way that ordinary people all over the country engage with our built environment.

“We are publishing it in draft to encourage the widest – and most searching – scrutiny possible, from Parliament and the public. I very much look forward to debating its principles over the months to come.”

Legislation to enact the proposals will come before Parliament when Parliamentary time allows.

NOTE: *The heritage protection system in England comprises the systems of listing buildings, scheduling ancient monuments, designating historic wrecks and registering historic parks, gardens and battlefields.*

The heritage protection system in Wales comprises the systems of listing buildings, scheduling ancient monuments, designating historic wrecks and registering parks, gardens and landscapes.

10. NCMD Annual General Meeting.

The A.G.M. of the NCMD will be held on Sunday 15th June, 2007 at 10.00 am. This will be followed by the Ordinary Meeting.

Nominations for the positions of the officers for 2008/9 should be made in writing to the General Secretary. Nominations should be signed by both the proposer and nominee. Officers standing down this year are: Chairman,

Vice Chairman, Membership Secretary,
Treasurer and Public Relations Officer.

Propositions for changes to the current Constitution should also be submitted in writing. Copies of the current constitution, (version June 2007), are available from the Secretary.

Submissions for any of the above items must be received by the Secretary 28 days prior to the meeting.