

East of England (Virtual) Meeting
31 October 2006

A number of difficulties led to a poor response to a late meeting proposal, so it was decided to make use of available technology and hold a virtual meeting by e-mail.

The general feeling was that NatSCA was already fulfilling the role of a SSN, but that regional meetings would be welcome, particularly if funding was available for travel, and if they were at different venues, spread throughout these desolate wastes. Concern was expressed that the establishment of a SSN as another layer of organisation could stretch the already thin resources available to existing groups such as NatSCA and GCG.

Several workshop proposals were made, and the following suggestions received support.

1. Teeth and Bones identification and conservation workshop.

This is to be hosted by the Sedgwick Museum at a venue in Cambridge, sometime next summer. Hopefully this will have wide appeal for non-specialist museum curators and archaeologists as well as NatSCA members. Working in a "soft rock" part of the country, Pleistocene and Holocene mammal remains from a very large part of our enquiries, and the discovery of large bones always brings the curator into the media spotlight, so this is a field where we need to be familiar with the material and the latest conservation techniques.

2. Fur and Feather cleaning and conservation workshop.

This is to be hosted by Ipswich Museum (Conservation Section), who currently have a trainee working on the Great Bass Rock display. This was seen as a good opportunity to share some of their experiences, both of this project and other work they have done on bird and mammal specimens.

3. Extracting Records from Collections.

(Venue to be confirmed). There was active support for a practical workshop and discussion meeting about how to extract biological records from museum collections accurately and efficiently. This would involve local records centres and recorders, as well as curators.