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## **NSCG Newsletter**

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Having not known what to expect (the museum was one of the few not listed in our tourist guidebook) I came away feeling that my knowledge had been enriched and despite all of its former problems the museum definitely has an important standing in other European national museums. The NSCG held a Pyrite Decay Meeting on 27th February at the

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## Pyrite Decay Meeting

Adrian M Doyle, Conservator, Palaeontology Conservation Unit, Department of Palaeontology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD U.K.

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The NSCG held a Pyrite Decay Meeting on 27th February at the Natural History Museum. The day, which was an experimental format, was split into two discrete events:

The morning was taken up by 6 excellent and varied presentations covering topics relating to pyrite decay problems including Curators needs, Preventive and remedial treatments including a case study, barrier films, pyrite mineral and paper label problems.

In the afternoon, the 25 attendees visited the Palaeontology Conservation Unit to watch demonstrations of 2 treatments for pyrite decay: Ethanola mine thioglycollate and the Ammonia/Polyethylene glycol treatment. It was also an opportunity to have a good nose around and discuss other conservation issues.

The event was a success for both the organisers and attendees although the bad weather north of the border prevented some people attending. I also I believe the format hit the right balance.

A full report will appear in the next newsletter, but in the meantime I would like to thank those people who made the event a success notably Paul Brown, Sue Lewis, Bob Entwistle, Jill Kerr, Paul Davis, David Gray, Caroline Buttler, Alison Stooshnov, Joy Irving, Gill Comerford, Kevin Webb, Michelle Laundry.

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A questionnaire, included in the meeting pack, has given us an idea on what the membership would like to see in a further 1 day meeting and has been useful feedback - watch this space! Caroline Buttler, Alison Stooshnov, Joy Irving, Gill Comerford, Kevin Webb, Michelle Laundry.

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## *"Death by a Thousand Cuts"*

The meeting of the UKIC Archaeology Section December 2000

Bob Entwistle, Ipswich Museum, High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 3QH  
E-mail: bobbyent@supanet.com

### **The loss of conservation posts and conservators**

On December 12 the UKIC Archaeology Section organised a half-day conference to discuss the worrying trend in conservation job losses in local authority and county council run museum services.

"Over the past decade conservation posts have been lost in local government and other public sector organisations. Three quarters of museums services believe their in house conservation services are now inadequate.