

## Appendix B

### SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS

Below is a summary of the questions set out in the consultation paper to which we would specifically like answers. Please ensure that you include the question number(s) in your response. However, when responding, please feel free to make any additional comments or raise other points that you consider relevant.

#### Question 1

The NMR currently holds the major resources listed below. Which of these categories do you think are most important? Please rank the top three in order of importance (1 being the highest, 3 being the lowest):

- a) Photographs and drawings of buildings, monuments and archaeological sites
- b) Architectural and archaeological research and survey reports
- c) Air photographs of England
- d) Access to databases of statutorily protected sites, such as listed buildings and scheduled monuments
- e) The national database (or Inventory) of monuments, buildings and maritime sites, representing the wider historic environment, not just statutorily protected sites.

Comment *This question poses artificial choices: (a) (b) and (c) are all significant, complementary, and overlapping to some extent, and (d) will be identified within (e).*

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#### Question 2

In its acquisitions policy, which one of the following should the NMR focus on?

- a) Only archives and information generated by English Heritage
- b) Archives and information generated by English Heritage and English Heritage-sponsored projects
- c) Archives and information from a more diverse range of sources

Comment *The NMR's should develop an acquisitions policy to meet national information gathering and research agendas, and not be dictated by English Heritage involvement – or otherwise.*

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#### Question 3

Currently the NMR does not seek to develop its holdings by systematically seeking out records on particular subjects or by commissioning new material. Do you think it should?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Don't know

Comment *The NMR has a central role in promoting both the gathering of records and consistency of standards. Whether it should take a pro-active role in developing its own records will depend on whether specific priorities can be identified which justify such an approach.*

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### Question 4

If you are aware of any other material which you would expect the NMR to collect and maintain please tell us.

Comment *The NMR should be promoting*

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### Question 5

The NMR currently holds archives and databases which are national in scope. Is the NMR an appropriate home for these?

- a) Yes  
 b) No  
 c) Partly

If the answer is no, or partly, should efforts be made to transfer any of the material to other national, regional or local institutions? If so, which material?

Comment

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### Question 6

Which one of the following three options should we pursue?

The contents of the NMR database should be:

- a) As comprehensive as possible, covering all types of buildings, monuments or archaeological landscapes and sites  
 b) Selective, based on sites judged to be nationally important, sites included in national research programmes and English Heritage's own work  
 c) Distributed in its entirety to a network of local and/or regional record systems who would take over responsibility for management and dissemination of the digital text records

Comment *(c), if copied in its entirety, without relinquishing overall responsibility. A national overview has to be combined with local accessibility and dissemination. The contents of the database could be distributed electronically to a network of systems, with scope for interpretation and use at regional and local levels. However any strategy needs to combine the long-term management, conservation, and use of hard copy records with dissemination of digital records.*

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### Question 7

In developing its services, which three of the following areas should the NMR give priority to? Please rank 1-3 in order of priority (1 being the highest):

- a) Personal research / leisure interest  
 b) Primary / secondary education  
 c) Further / higher education  
 d) Academic research  
 e) Conservation (e.g. of historic buildings)

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- f) Media / commercial publishing

Comment *This question raises issues in relation to which services the NMR provides directly, and which are provided elsewhere using its data. The needs of personal researchers and primary /secondary education are likely to be best served by local record offices or HERCS; the NMRs prime role is likely to relate to the more specialist interests as listed.*

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### Question 8

Which three online services should the NMR give priority to in the future? Please rank 1-3 in order of priority (1 being the highest):

- a) Access to catalogues of NMR archive collections
- b) Index to the archives and data sets held in other institutions
- c) Access to digital copies of photographs and drawings of buildings and monuments
- d) Access to digital copies of aerial photographs
- e) The inventory of buildings and monuments linked to maps
- f) Educational resources (e.g. curriculum relevant image packs for primary, secondary or tertiary education)
- g) An internet portal through which users can access and search the digital resources of the whole historic environment sector

Comment *(g) chosen provided that it includes (a), (b), (c) etc.*

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### Question 9

Is there any service you would add to the list of options in Question 8?

Comment \_\_\_\_\_

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### Question 10

In what other ways might the services provided by the NMR be improved and developed?

Comment \_\_\_\_\_

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### Question 11

Which of the following do you think that the NMR should give priority to? Please rank these from 1 to 3 (1 being the highest):

- a) Improving access to its own records
- b) Continuing to offer and develop existing advice and guidance to other heritage professionals who maintain archives and record systems
- c) Providing more formal advice and guidance in related areas of staff expertise.

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If you believe that the NMR should be providing advice and guidance in other areas, please specify which areas.

Comment \_\_\_\_\_

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### Question 12

Please select one of the following. The NMR should fund service provision:

- a) By charging users on a cost-covering basis
- b) By charging users, retaining a margin to fund new developments
- c) By charging some users and using this income to provide a free service to other users
- d) By raising external funding for its services, even if this determines priorities
- e) None of the above

Comment *only commercial users should be charged* \_\_\_\_\_

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### Question 13

What aspect of the NMR's services do you / your organisation value most highly?

Comment *access to national and local information* \_\_\_\_\_

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### Question 14

Are there any other comments you would like to make about the role of the NMR?

Comment \_\_\_\_\_

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