



Dear colleague,

Some of you will already be aware of the MDF topic which raises issues about the article by Dr James Gerrard which appeared in Edition 22 of Digging Deep. These have now been considered by Executive Officers, and it is important that the NCMD responds promptly to the topic in order to bring it to a close. It can be found following this link:- <http://www.metaldetectingforum.co.uk/viewtopic.php?f=10&t=90024>

We do not have the luxury of time which would allow us to wait until our February OGM to discuss the issues. With the help of Steve and with the mandate of Clive as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, we have therefore jointly agreed that the following statement should be issued to our membership in order to make them fully aware of their situation if they decide to use the App.

*As you may be aware, an article by Dr James Gerrard of Newcastle University on contaminated Green waste (CGW) was published in the October 2016 edition of Searcher magazine promoting the use of an App to report instances of CGW. The NCMD reproduced the article in issue 22 of Digging Deep journal with the sole intentions of informing members of what is currently happening in this area and raising awareness of CGW.*

*It has since been brought to the NCMD's attention that the use of the App without the consent of landowners/farmers would be a breach of confidentiality and could result in users losing access to their detecting areas. The App also has the potential to be deliberately misused.*

***Please therefore note that the NCMD has not endorsed the App.***

***The NCMD's advice is that no member should use the App developed by Dr Gerrard to provide information without first obtaining permission from the landowner to do so, and with the understanding that once the information is given over, they will have no control over how it is subsequently used.***

*The NCMD intends to invite Dr Gerrard to attend the next NCMD meeting in February to discuss the wider issues of the App and his research into CGW.*

I would be grateful if you could make the necessary arrangements with your colleagues to email this statement to all NCMD members in your Region at the earliest opportunity. I am liaising with John Maloney to ensure that Independent members are also notified.

It's very frustrating that this situation has arisen but I hope that you will understand why we now have to take this action.

Interestingly, the same article appeared in the October edition of Searcher but nobody at that time seemed to be concerned by it.

If you have any questions or comments, please get in contact with Clive or myself.

Thanks  
Alastair Hackett