



Diversity of the historic environment

In the Bill 'Diversity of the historic environment' the Government presents proposals and assessments that aim to create the conditions for preserving, using and developing the historic environment and to ensure that present and future generations have access to a great variety of historic environments.

Work involving the historic environment and traces of the past encompasses important future issues. The historic environment is a versatile resource for social development that is of great importance for public health, outdoor activities and growth throughout the country. In an inventive, creative and dynamic Sweden, humanistic and historical perspectives should be given good opportunities to influence the development of society and the transition to sustainable use of the landscape. The proposals and assessments contained in the Bill contribute to creating the conditions for this.

New national objectives for historic environment initiatives

In its Bill, the Government proposes new national objectives for historic environment initiatives. Central government historic environment initiatives should promote:

- a sustainable society with a great variety of historic environments that are preserved, used and developed;
- public participation in historic environment initiatives and opportunities to understand and take responsibility for the historic environment;
- an inclusive society where the historic environment is a common source of knowledge, education and experiences;
- a holistic approach to landscape management where the historic environment is harnessed in the development of society.

These objectives will guide central government historic environment initiatives. They should also be able to inspire and guide policy at local government level.

Clearer and more modern legislation concerning the historic environment

In the Bill, the Government proposes the following amendments to the *Act concerning Ancient Monuments and Finds* (1988:950). It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 1 January 2014.

Title of the Act and its introductory provisions

The title of the Act, *the Act concerning Ancient Monuments and Finds*, will be changed to *the Historic Environment Act*.

It must be stated in the introductory provision of the Act that the historic environment is a matter of national interest and that responsibility for the historic environment is shared by all. The introductory provision will also make clear that the aim of the Act is to ensure that present and future generations have access to a great variety of historic environments.

The county administrative boards' responsibilities regarding the historic environment will be made more explicit through the clarification that the county administrative boards are responsible for the central government historic environment initiatives implemented in the counties.

Meänkieli will be referred to in the rules of consideration concerning good place-name practice. This means that, as far as possible, Meänkieli will be used along with the Swedish, Sami and Finnish names on maps and on signs and other directions in multilingual areas.

Ancient remains and archaeological finds

The general definition of 'ancient remains' will not change, but a clarification will be introduced to the effect that a relic that can be assumed to have come about or, in the case of a shipwreck relic, been lost in 1850 or later is not covered by the general definition.

The county administrative board may, through decisions in individual cases, declare a relic that can be assumed to have come about in 1850 or later an ancient remain, if there are special reasons because of its historic value.

The 1850 limit will also apply to certain archaeological finds known as stray finds.

Metal detectors

The provisions relating to metal detectors will be clarified so as to be compatible with EU law, while providing protection for cultural heritage. A permit will still be required for the use of metal detectors and for carrying metal detectors at ancient remains, except in specified cases.

The provision on the permit decision process will be clarified. It will make clear that a permit to carry and use metal detectors may only be issued for activities related to searching for other objects than archaeological finds or that are part of public research.

Buildings

The qualification criterion for historic building status will be changed from a building or structure that is exceptionally remarkable because of its historic value to a building or structure of exceptionally high historic value.

The county administrative boards will take over responsibility from the Swedish National Heritage Board for certain decisions regarding more contemporary church sites and cemeteries.

Commissioned archaeological services

The county administrative board should be able to require that results of an archaeological survey be conveyed, for example through showings and lectures.

The Government's assessment is that the Swedish National Heritage Board's commissioned archaeological services be transferred to the National Historical Museums. This change means that the National Heritage Board will gain a pure government agency role and thereby improved conditions for strengthening and developing commissioned

archaeological services by providing guidance, supervision and follow-up.

The National Heritage Board should work to promote effectiveness and increased competition in commissioned archaeological services. However, the Government assesses that the exemption from the procurement legislation should remain in the *Act concerning Ancient Monuments and Finds (1988:950)*.

The terminology relating to the provisions on archaeological services will be modernised.

Role of the Swedish National Heritage Board to be expanded

The National Heritage Board should be allowed to issue regulations for the enforcement of Chapter 2 on ancient monuments and Chapter 3 on historic buildings in the *Act concerning Ancient Monuments and Finds (1988:950)*. This will create opportunities for a more uniform application of the law.

The Government believes that the National Heritage Board should strengthen efforts to develop and quality assure the information on ancient remains that the agency manages. Through a special investment, the Government intends to set aside funds for this purpose annually over a five-year period under appropriation 7:2, Grants for the conservation of historic environments.

Amendment to the Archives Act

A provision will be introduced in the *Archives Act (1990:782)* to the effect that the Government may issue regulations prescribing that certain municipal archive authorities may conduct archival work on documents from government agencies and bodies under the supervision of the state archive authority, i.e. the National Archives. It is proposed that the amendment enter into force on 1 January 2014.



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