



Historic England



An Eighth report on Local Authority Staff Resources

Produced by Historic England, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation
August 2016

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Figures collected in early 2016¹ show that there were 796.2 full-time equivalent (FTE) historic environment specialists providing advice to local authorities in England. This comprises:
- 524.6 FTEs working on building and area conservation and
 - 271.7 FTEs providing archaeological advice.
- 1.2 In the past 12 months:
- the number of conservation specialists has fallen by 0.5% (-2.8 FTE) and
 - the number of archaeological specialists advising local authorities in England has decreased by 13.5% (-42.5 FTE).
- 1.3 Since 2006:
- the number of conservation specialists has fallen by 35.8% (-292.4 FTE) and
 - the number of archaeological specialists advising local authorities in England has fallen by 33.2% (-135.5 FTE).
- 1.4 In the last 12 months, against a backdrop of a decrease of 5.39% overall (-45.33 FTE) of specialist advisers, the number of planning application decisions and Listed Building Consent decisions (both indicators of workload) has increased by 3.6% and 0.62% respectively (*table 1 and figures 5 and 6*).

¹ IHBC data gathered between January and March 2016; ALGAO data gathered April 2016

2 Introduction

- 2.1 This report compares the levels of historic environment staff resources in local authorities in the early months of 2016 with those available since 2003 but collected consistently since 2006.
- 2.2 This report has been produced by Historic England in partnership with the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO), the forum representing archaeologists working for local authorities and national parks and advising on all aspects of the historic environment; and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC), the UK's lead professional body for built and historic environment practitioners working for the conservation, care, regeneration and future of our valued places.
- 2.3 The data collected for this report is not limited to those FTEs directly employed by a local authority, but reflects the advice provided via the increasing variety of emerging models of service, for example shared services, Service Level Agreements, Trusts and contractors.
- 2.4 This report updates the position recorded in its predecessor report (published in July 2015) on the changes in levels of expert staffing resources in local authorities and includes data available on the numbers of planning application decisions. The source of that data is the Department for Communities and Local Government <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-planning-application-statistics> and it covers the 2015/16 financial year.

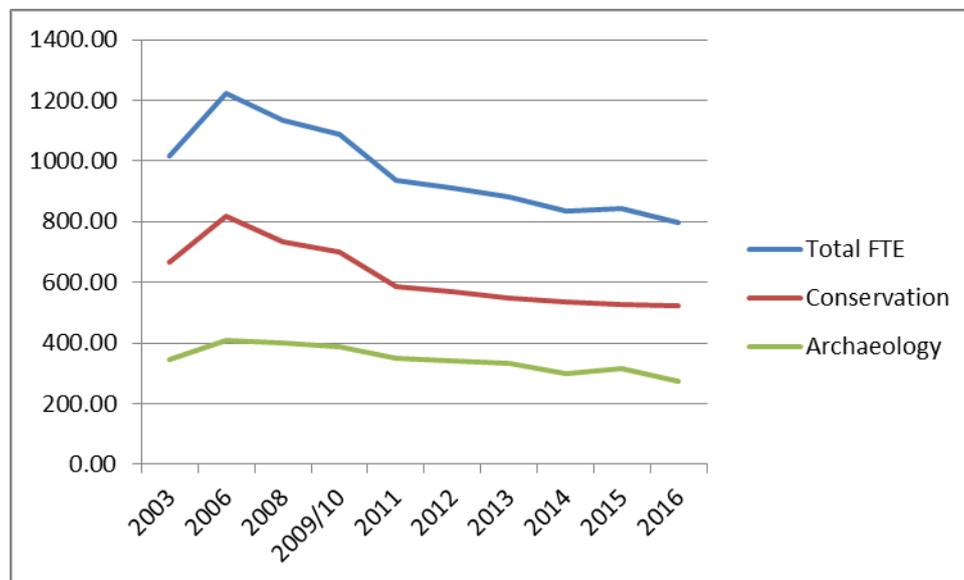
3 Local authority specialist provision

- 3.1 In early 2016 there were 796.2 FTE historic environment specialists providing expert advice to local authorities in England. This was made up of 524.6 providing advice on building and area conservation and 271.7 providing archaeological advice.²
- 3.2 These figures are for permanent, temporary, and consultancy full- and part-time staff (shown as FTE). The posts are those for which a related historic environment professional or academic qualification is required and for other staff, not qualified, who are engaged on equivalent work. Administrative staff are not included. Time spent directly managing staff is counted, as it has a direct consequence for the management of the historic environment. The management time of the head of a historic environment team is therefore included, whereas that of the head of a group which includes the historic environment team is not.

² Figures rounded up to one decimal place

- 3.3 The data was collected by ALGAO and IHBC. ALGAO has been collecting figures on local government archaeological staff resources on an annual basis since 1998; IHBC has also produced consistent figures in 2006, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 with broadly equivalent figures available from the Local Authority Conservation Provision Survey of 2003. Although there is more data for the archaeological resource, this report looks at the years for which both archaeological and building conservation data is available. These are 2003, 2006, 2008, 2009/10, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.
- 3.4 The data shows that the aggregate decrease in specialist advice is continuing. The number of specialist providing archaeological advice dropped steeply by 42.5 FTE and the number of conservation specialists providing advice continued a steady decline by 2.8 FTE (*figure 1*).

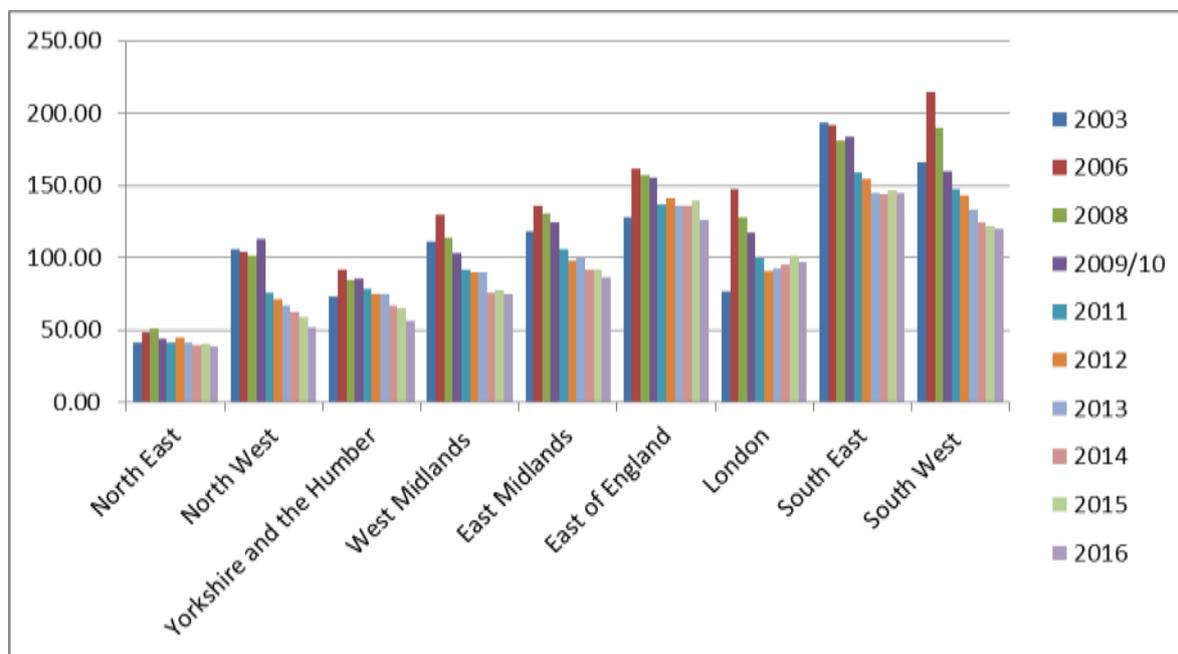
Figure 1, conservation, archaeological and total specialist advice expressed as FTEs



4 Regional breakdown

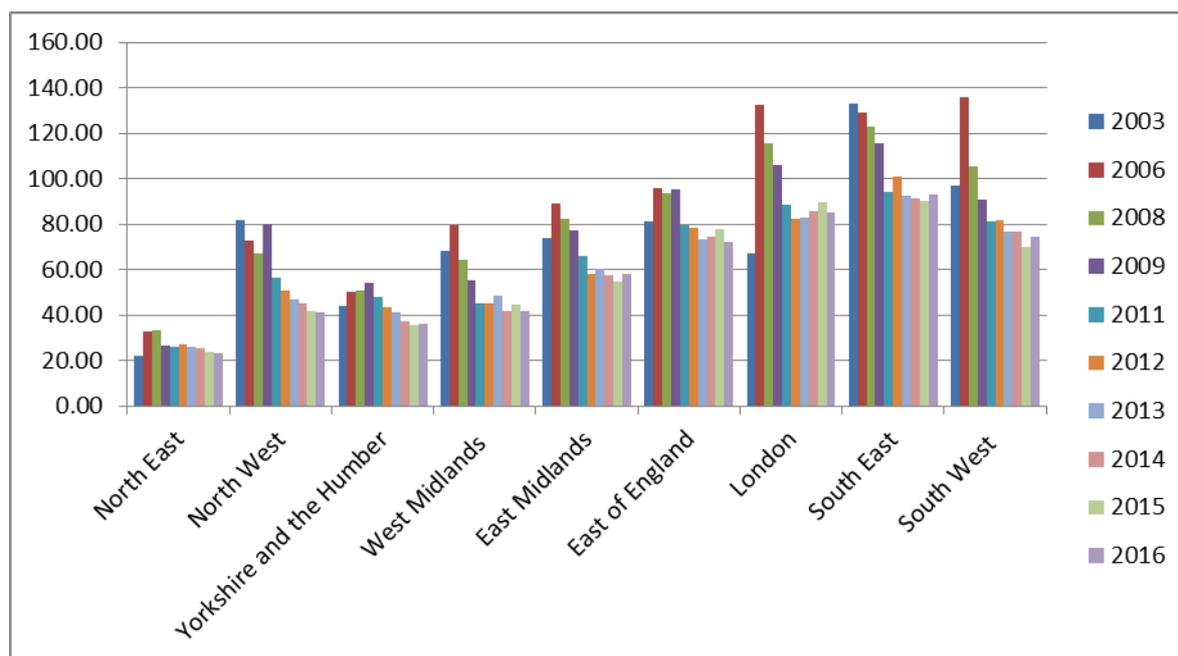
- 4.1 The regional breakdown of the data highlights a major feature of the impact of the recent local authority budgetary cuts. It is clear that their impact and how authorities have responded to them has varied from place to place.
- 4.2 The breakdown in *figure 2* shows that in 2016 the numbers of specialist historic environment advisors continued on an aggregated downward trend losing a combined total of 45.3 FTE across England, with Yorkshire and the Humber having the greatest combined decrease of 12.9% (-8.4 FTE) followed by the North West 12% (-7FTE), and the East of England 9.5% (-13 FTE, the highest *actual* loss of staff).

Figure 2, all specialist advisers combining conservation and archaeological FTE broken down by Historic England local office area (referred to as 'regions' in previous reports)



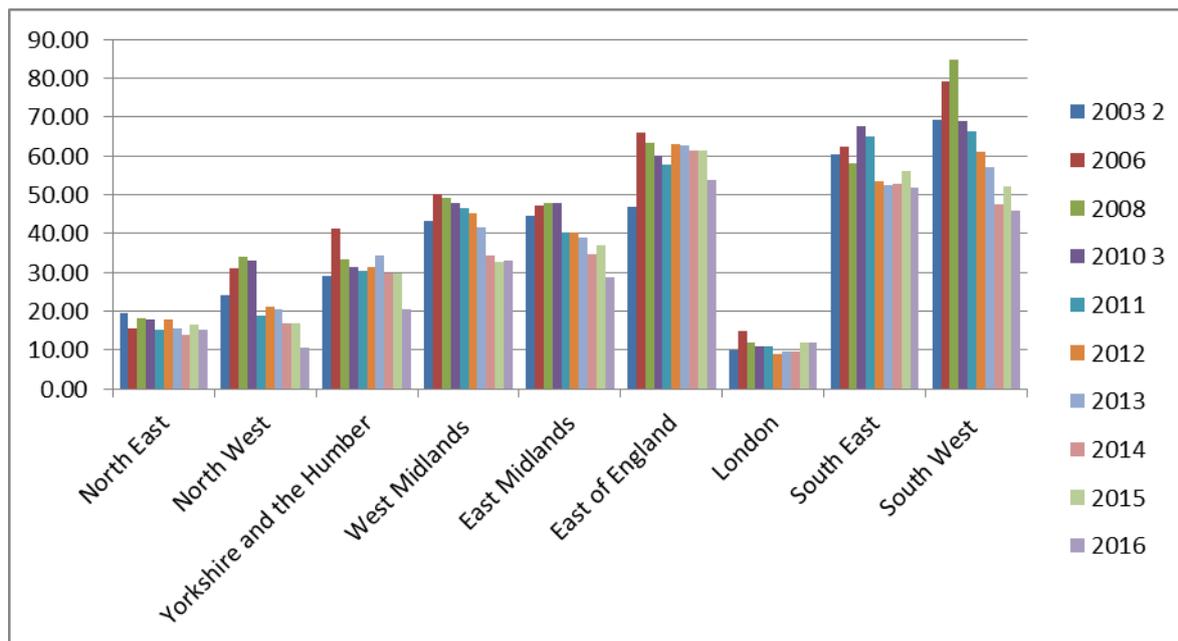
4.3 Figure 3 shows that nationally conservation specialists decreased by 0.5% since 2015, yet there are significant changes across the regions with the East Midlands increasing by 6.3% and the South West by 6.5% whilst the East of England decreased by 7.3% and London by 5.4%.

Figure 3, total FTE conservation



4.4 An equally uneven regional pattern followed in the number of archaeological specialists with all regions decreasing in number with the exception of small increases in London of 1.69% (0.2 FTE) and the West Midlands 0.79% (0.26 FTE), figure 4. The North West decreased by 37.1% (-6.25 FTE), followed by Yorkshire and Humber 30.4% (-9 FTE) and East of England 12.4% (-7.6 FTE). The East Midlands saw a decrease of 22.8% (-8.4 FTE).

Figure 4, total FTE Archaeology



5 Planning data 2014/15

5.1 The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG)³ planning data shows that the number of planning application decisions and Listed Building Consent application decisions have both risen since 2015.

Table 1, Planning and LBC decisions 2015 and 2016

	2014/15	2015/16	% change
Planning Application decisions	409,800	424,707	+3.63
Listed Building Consents decisions	30,005	30,193	+0.62

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-planning-application-statistics>

Figure 5 shows an overall decline between 2003/4 and 2009/10 followed by a relative plateau with small fluctuations year on year. 2016 shows an increase of 3.6% from 2015.

Figure 5, number of planning decisions

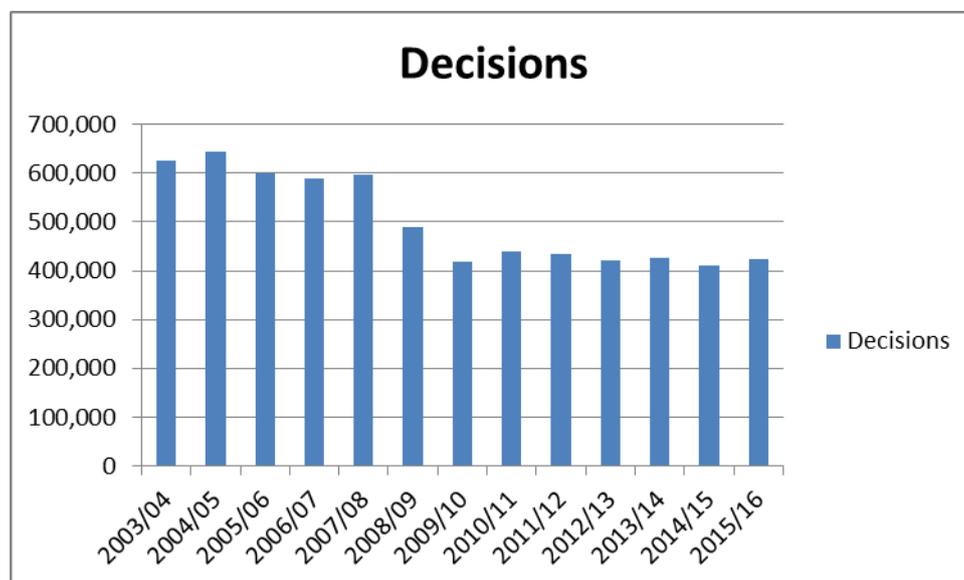
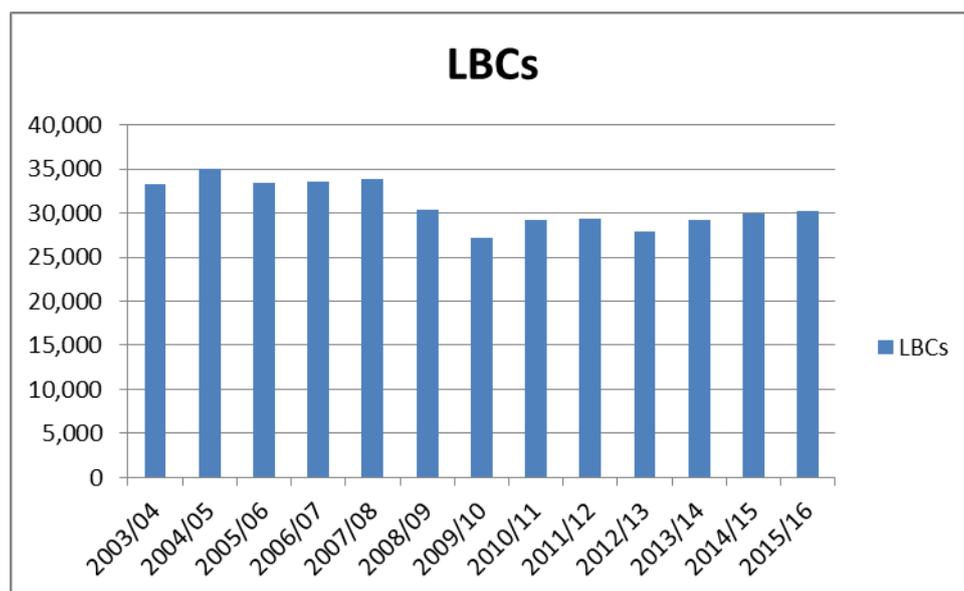


Figure 6 summarises the number of listed building consent decisions between 2003/04 and 2015/16. There was a discernible fall between 2003/04 and 2009/10 and a gradual overall increase over the period 2009/10 and 2015/16.

Figure 6, number of Listed Buildings Consents decisions



Sarah Reilly, Local Government Impacts Officer, Historic Environment Intelligence Team, Research group
 Sarah.Reilly@HistoricEngland.org.uk
 August 2016