

Tree Management and Social Housing in England

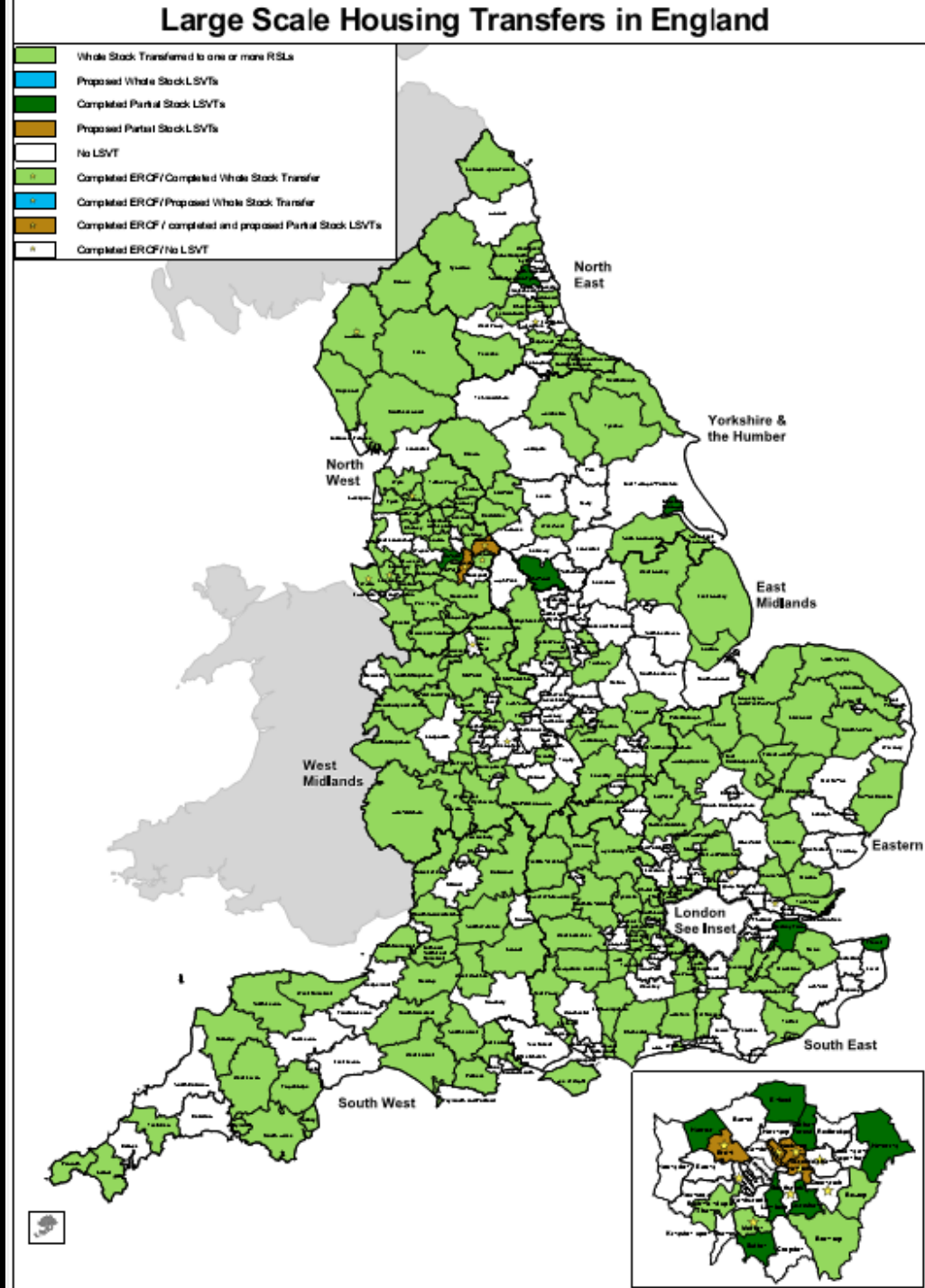
Paul Barton



2.3 million homes

10% of total housing stock

Large-scale voluntary stock transfers







Policy has focussed
on quality of homes.

A Decent Home:
Definition and
guidance for
implementation

June 2006 – Update

housing



68





1860s social
housing.

Founder of
National
Trust

Improved mental wellbeing of residents

Caring for trees is a means to that end





Legal duty of care

Management pro-active or reactive?

Tree management and registered providers

Trees and residents

16. Approximately how many phone calls/letters/emails from residents do you receive per month that refer to trees?

17. Why do residents contact you about trees?

Please rank in order of the most common to least common
Drag items from the left-hand list into the right-hand list to order them.

Comments about tree condition	
Requests for trees to be pruned	
Requests for trees to be planted	
Requests for trees to be felled	

18. Does your organisation have a tree policy or strategy? *

- Yes
 No

19. Do you feel confident that your organisation is currently fulfilling its legal duty of care with respect to trees? *

- Yes
 No
 Comments

Personnel

Budgets

Strategic
management

Barriers

Responses covered 680,000 properties

29% of England's private social housing stock



Average number
of properties per
organisation:
14,500

87% manage ex-
council stock



49%



21%

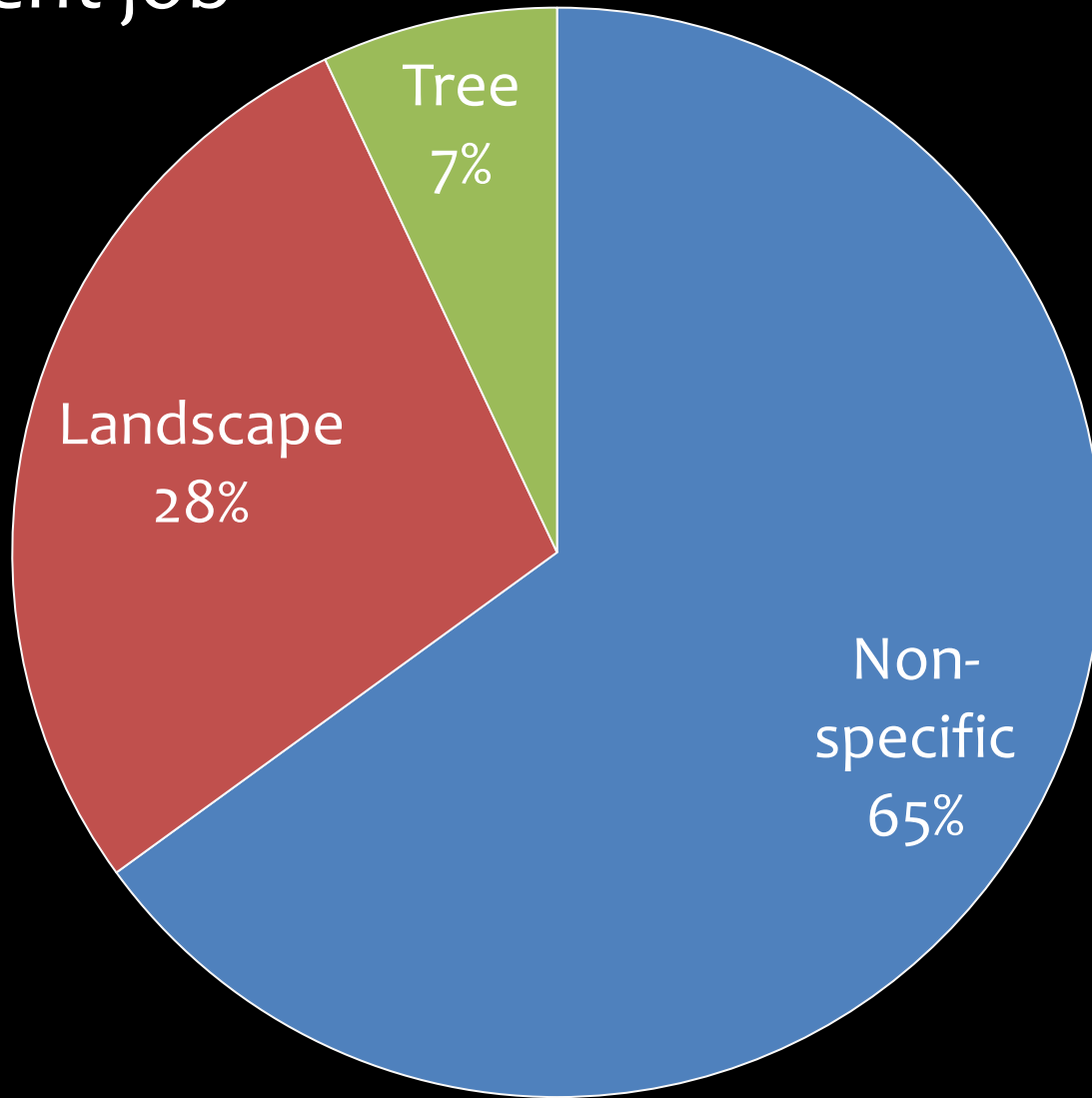


24%



6%

Respondent job titles



57% had no
formally qualified
staff

32% had one
qualified person

... but only 6%
above level 3 NQF



Qualification	% of total
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Arboriculture (<level 3)	17.1%
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Arboriculture (>level 3)	5.7%
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Arboriculture (not specified)	11.4%
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Horticulture (<level 3)	8.6%
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Landscape design	2.9%
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Non-relevant / informal / unspecified	45.7%
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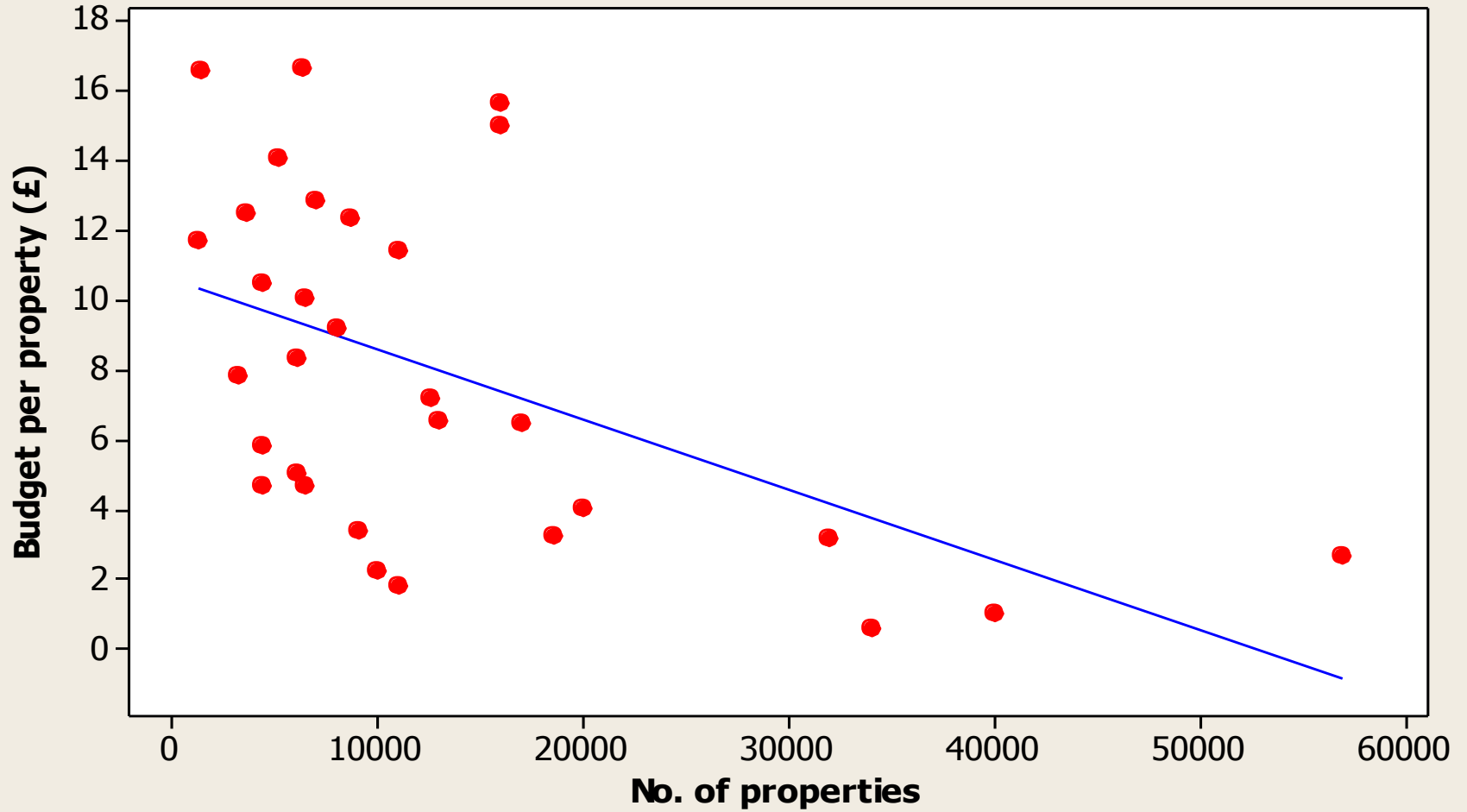
72% have a specific tree budget

Average budget:
£72,000 p/a

£3.61 per resident per year.



Scatterplot of Budget per property (£) vs No. of properties



Expenditure on trees



15%



80%



5%

Average actual spend
in 2011/12 was £70k

59% had a tree
inventory

No difference of
large vs small

75% were created by
external
consultants

Average of 3731
trees



Strong relationship between presence of inventory and level of planned tree works

	Inventory present	Inventory not present
Programme of tree works	56%	16%
No programme of tree works	4%	24%

- 54% have a GIS
- Of those that have a GIS, 72% have trees mapped
- 39% of respondents have trees mapped on a GIS





66% had a
policy/strategy
document

Documents
reviewed were high-
level policies rather
than long-term
strategies

Opinions on barriers to good management



RECOMMENDATION 1

Have at least one member of staff with a relevant tree-related qualification



RECOMMENDATION 2

Create an inventory to enable a planned and systematic approach



RECOMMENDATION 4

Develop a strategy specific to the organisation through consultation with residents

