

# Jobs in British Archaeology 2006

James Drummond-Murray

By the time you read this it will be nearly 2008 but here is the review of jobs in IFA's Jobs Information Service for 2006. The number of jobs slipped back slightly from the high of 2005 but was still a healthy 199.

For site assistants, from the 39 different advertisements, there was a slight improvement in pay but the rate of increase of the previous two years slowed markedly. Compared to virtually all other categories site assistants certainly got a raw deal this year (not for the first time I hear them chorus). It will be interesting to see next year's figure as the word on the street is that it has been hard to find site assistants this year. Supervisors were almost stationary last year, still below the AIFA minimum of £16,137 (though 'supervisor' means different things in different organisations: IFA's new benchmarking exercise may achieve greater standardisation here). The field officer / project officer grade marched forward by £1000 as did

project managers (never a grade to be left behind). Junior CRM/SMR posts moved forward a respectable £1400 on average from 29 posts advertised but, in a leap reminiscent of FTSE's directors, senior posts increased by £4000 from 12 advertisements and smashed through the £30k barrier (as in 2002 but that was only from two jobs). Specialists made a welcome leap forward, up over £2000 to £19,250 – perhaps there is a future in brick and tile after all. Illustrators were up £2k to £17,734, again a healthy increase from a healthy number of jobs (28) after several years of stagnation. Let us hope this is a start of a trend and not a one-off.

Overall there has been an encouraging growth for most groups, apart from those at the very bottom – site assistants. This must not be allowed to become a trend. Under £300 a week is simply not acceptable.

The only category that saw a decrease was consultants, whose average dropped around £500.



	AV WAGE 2006	NO OF ADS	MENTION IFA	AV WAGE 2005	AV WAGE 2004	AV WAGE 2003	AV WAGE 2002	AV WAGE 2001	AV WAGE 2000	IFA MINIMA APRIL 06
Excavator/ site assistant	£14,294	39		£14,179	£13,710	£12,903	£13,232	£12,378	£12,024	£13,854 (PIFA)
Supervisor	£15,879	17		£15,900	-	£14,765	£14,806	£12,741	£12,868	£16,137 (AIFA)
Field Officer / Project Officer	£18,593	31		£17,598	£16,563	£16,592	£18,489	£15,572	£15,518	£20,895 (MIFA)
Project manager	£23,350	23		£22,259	£20,957	£19,701	£21,536	£20,881	£19,447	
Junior CRM / SMR	£19,380	29		£17,992	£16,941	£17,274	£15,563	£17,532	£15,608	
Senior CRM / SMR	£30,104	12		£26,024	£21,397	£23,840	£30,605	£23,012	£23,486	
Specialists	£19,250	13		£17,011	£15,254	£17,170	£14,992	£16,531	£14,632	
Illustrators	£17,734	28		£15,778	£15,992	£16,914	£14,085	£14,908	£15,497	
Consultants	£19,421	7		£20,000	-	-	-	-	-	
		199 (210)								