

PTES UK Mammal Grants
Guidance for Applicants
July 2026

1. Purpose of PTES UK Mammal Grants

PTES funds work on British mammal species across the UK. Priority is given to research undertaken to understand the ecological and conservation needs of species previously listed on the UK BAP priority list. In particular we are interested in work that unlocks a conservation issue – something that has clear, practical implications for further conservation of one or more species. Funds will be awarded for research into understanding what conservation actions are needed which could include testing methods of conservation translocations, trialling different habitat management schemes, investigating novel monitoring methods, particularly for species where none exist, or other scientific research into how to address threats facing our endangered species.

Applications will be welcomed from voluntary conservation organisations, scientific researchers and consortia for financial support for work that relates to the conservation of mammals in the United Kingdom.

PTES has identified three key themes under which there are a variety of research questions to be addressed which will help to inform and direct future conservation work on the UK's priority mammal species. These research questions reflect priorities identified by the various species expert groups and other published targets.

Grant proposals that address any of these questions are more likely to be given priority although proposals addressing other emerging conservation issues will also be considered.

Priority research themes:

1. Habitats for mammals: research into how best to improve and restore habitats, manage habitat for particular species and address habitat fragmentation, modification and loss issues.
2. Human impacts and mitigation: how to mitigate the impacts of human activities on species and their habitats, including climate change, housing and building development, road and infrastructure development, farming, food production and land management, Invasive Non-Native Species and diseases, and toxic chemicals and pollution.
3. Monitoring mammals: better methods for estimating distribution and abundance, establishing national monitoring schemes

Recent successful projects can be found at <https://ptes.org/grants/uk-mammal-projects/>

2. Criteria

- Applications are welcomed from voluntary conservation organisations, scientific researchers and consortia for financial support for work that relates to the conservation of mammals in the United Kingdom. **Only one application can be submitted from each organisation.**
- These grants are suitable for research or conservation projects that focus on one or more UK mammal species, or their habitat. Where possible it would be beneficial if research is undertaken on more than one species. PTES prioritises over-arching issues that affect different species in various environments. However much of the work needed, by its very nature, will be species-specific
- Projects that are addressing or working towards one or more of our priority research themes
- Priority will be given to work likely to further the aims of UK Species Action Plans/Threatened Species Recovery Actions
- Priority will be given to those projects that focus on sound research or conservation work that is likely to lead directly to practical conservation outcomes that can then be implemented more widely across the species' range.
- Priority will be given to applications for projects working on species that have less support in the UK (e.g. water shrews, polecats, stoats, weasels, harvest mice, marine mammals, brown hares and mountain hares etc). Unless testing something very novel we are unlikely to support projects on species that have been the focus of largescale, well-funded projects recently such as pine martens, beavers, water voles and wild cats.
- Individual awards are likely to be between £10,000 and £20,000. The average amount granted per project has been about £15,000 in the past. Our UK Mammal Grants budget this year is limited to £25,000, so we are likely to only fund one or two projects.
- The Trust will consider funding a project in its entirety or jointly with other bodies or organisations. We are prepared to award funding subject to other funding bids being successful.

What is excluded or highly unlikely to be funded

- local projects that are requesting funds for surveys, habitat management or local reintroductions that will not have any wider national benefits. If however a study of the above nature is trialling new methodologies or techniques that will have potentially wider applications then it will be eligible.
- student fees for any level of course or living costs
- projects that are part of an undergraduate or Masters course of study
- core salary or administrative costs of an organisation
- work on an alien species to a country unless it is likely to result in benefit to a native species

3. Application process and timetable

We will be using a two-stage application process for our UK Mammal Grants this year:

Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (EOI). A short standardised form designed to reduce the workload for applicants. Forms from eligible organisations will be reviewed by PTES staff. Selected applicants will then be invited to submit a full project proposal.

Stage 2 – Full project proposal. Applicants will need to complete the full online application form which requires more detailed information about the project. These proposals will be assessed by PTES trustees at a meeting in October.

At both stages of the process, project applicants (both successful and unsuccessful) will receive notification of the results by email to the project leader.

Due to the anticipated high number of applications, we will not be able to provide individual feedback at Stage 1.

The provisional timetable for applications is

Deadline for Stage 1 EOIs	30th July 2026
Announcement of Stage 1 results	End of August 2026
Deadline for Stage 2 full project applications	10th September 2026
Announcement of Stage 2 results	Early November 2026

4. Submission of EOIs

EOIs should be submitted by **23.59 (UK time) on 30th July 2026**

1. Make sure you have carefully read these guidelines
2. Complete and submit the online EOI application form at <https://ptes.org/grants/apply-grant/uk-mammals-grant-criteria/> by 30th July
3. Your application will be assessed, and you will be notified at the end of August whether your application has been progressed to the second round.

All related questions may be e-mailed to **grants@ptes.org**.

5. Use of Artificial Intelligence

By applicants

As a funder we want to understand how your project will address a critical threat affecting your chosen species. This specific information is unlikely to be successfully produced by AI and therefore the project should be designed by you and your team without using AI.

We also want your passion to shine through in your application. Using AI can make your application more generic and similar in both language and the points being made to others being submitted to us. This can make it more difficult to understand what is different or special about an applicant, or the work they are describing.

AI tools can also generate inaccurate or misleading content and these are often obvious when reviewing applications.

For the above reasons, we strongly discourage using AI to design a project and complete our application form.

However, we recognise that AI tools can support some elements of the grant application process, such as if English is not your first language, however, we would still recommend asking a colleague or friend who speaks English to check that nothing has been lost in translation after you have used the translation tool. AI tools can also be used to summarise text that has already been written to fit a set word count.

If you do use AI, it is your responsibility to ensure that all information provided is accurate and honest and that the actions proposed are realistic.

By PTES

We do not use AI to assess grant applications or for decision making.

As both a funder and conservation organisation, we are still learning more about and exploring the potential implications of AI tools. We anticipate our position may evolve along with the technology.

Information for applicants who are invited to proceed to Stage 2

6. Referee criteria

If you progress to Stage 2, you will need to provide two letters of support from referees, professional or academic.

- One should know you personally and can comment on your ability to carry out the project.
- The other referee must be an expert in the species you are hoping to work on (preferably sitting on the IUCN Species Specialist Committee). They do not need to know you personally but must be able to comment on your methodology and the needs of the species in terms of long-term conservation.
- Both referees must be external and **not work within your organisation**.
- Each referee will need to email a letter of support by the application deadline to grants@ptes.org. The project title should be included in the subject heading. Emails should be submitted from an **institutional email account**. References sent via web-based services such as Yahoo, Gmail or Hotmail cannot be accepted.

7. Terms and conditions of accepting the grant

All successful applicants will be required to comply with the following Terms and Conditions.

1. An interim report is expected at the end of each year. See separate Interim report template for information on what to include in interim reports.
2. A full report with an executive summary (one side A4) must be submitted as soon as possible after completion of the work. With the consent of the project co-ordinator, and unless the report is confidential, the Trust reserves the right to put either the full report and/ or the summary (both provided by the project co-ordinator) on the Trust website for general information. See separate Final Report template for information on what to include in final reports.
3. The project coordinator, or an appropriate colleague, will make all reasonable effort to respond to PTES in the event of media interest or in generating media interest in the work funded by the Trust.
4. The project coordinator, or an appropriate colleague, will notify PTES of any media engagement during the project (filming, social media etc) and will seek sign off from PTES for any press releases about the project before they are sent out.
5. The Trust's logo must be on any press releases sent out relating to the work funded by PTES, and a draft sent to the PTES for comment/to add a quote, before release.
6. The financial support given by People's Trust for Endangered Species must be acknowledged in all reports, posters and papers written as a result of the work.
7. If, for any reason, the project is cancelled, all unspent monies must be returned to PTES.
8. People's Trust for Endangered Species reserves the right to repurpose any equipment bought as part of the project if not longer used by the project
9. If for any reason the programme is delayed, confirmation of the revised schedule should be sought from PTES.
10. A summary of the work may be written for distribution to all supporters of the charity with a view to fundraising and the Trust will seek the co-operation of the applicant in its preparation. Similarly, on completion of the work, a short report may be prepared for the Trust's supporters.
11. If possible, applicants are asked to provide images to be used by PTES to highlight the work being funded, to help fundraise and to illustrate the project on the Trust's website.