

# People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES): Wildlife and Habitat Surveys



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species

PTES runs several ongoing, citizen science projects that rely on volunteers to record species and habitats in urban and rural landscapes. The surveys aim to identify how populations are changing and to assess the extent and condition of habitats.

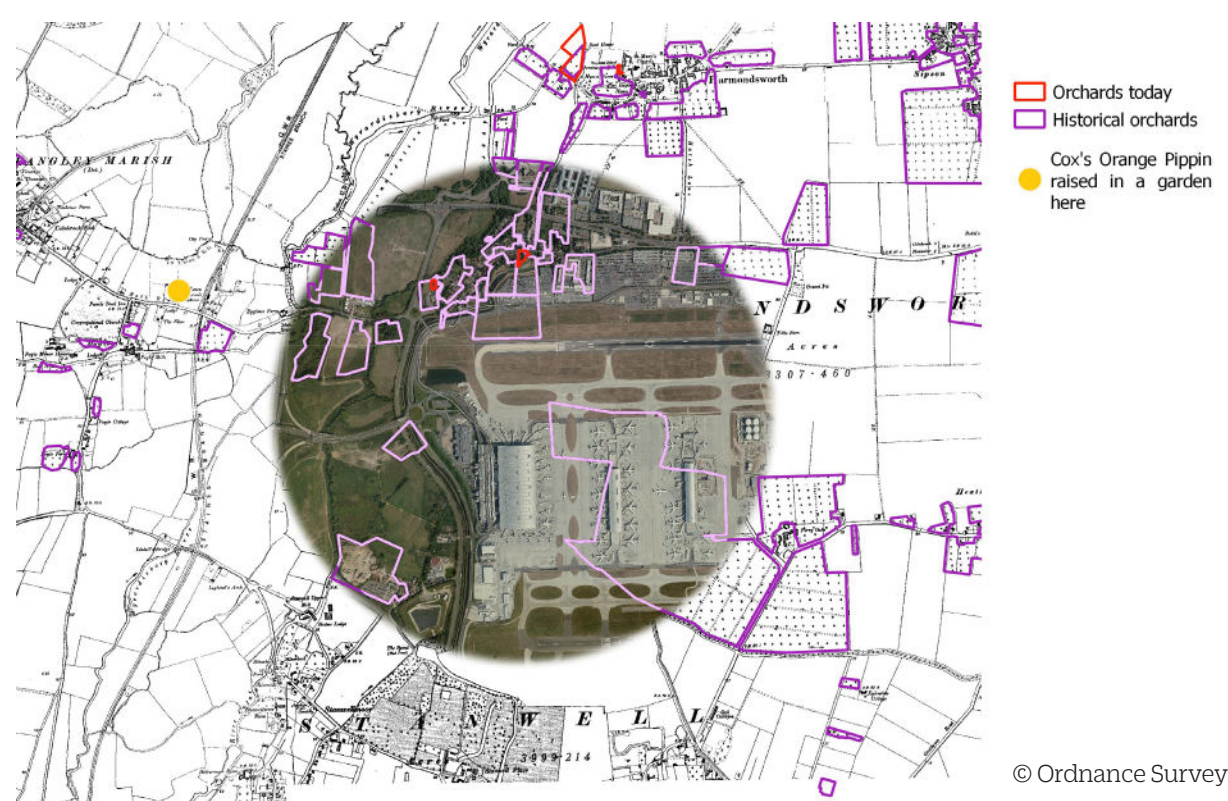
## Orchards



Traditional orchards are listed as a Habitat of Principal Importance and there is a national need to encourage people to look after them and to plant more. To this end, PTES created the national traditional orchard Priority Habitat Inventory map on behalf of Natural England, and continuously improves and adds to it, largely by adding information we receive from public sources, such as orchard manager questionnaires and volunteer surveyors.

The inventory is accessible to anyone on the NE-Defra MAGIC website and can be freely downloaded as a GIS layer. It is used for conservation, in particular, as part of the planning process to calculate the impact on biodiversity, but also by communities and businesses with an interest in orchards and fruit. The data are critical for wildlife monitoring, government environmental stewardship schemes, and reporting on the condition and extent of biodiverse habitat.

**Historic and extant traditional orchards in Harmondsworth in the London Borough of Hillingdon. Across Greater London as a whole, traditional orchards cover an area of 127 ha or about 187 football pitches.**



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PTES collects information on how the orchard is used and by whom, the numbers of younger and older trees present on the site, particularly where veteran features are present, their species, management practices, the surrounding habitats, and wildlife sightings.

PTES has mapped over 35 000 orchards in England, 5000 in Wales and 2000 in Scotland. Our community orchards map has over 1100 orchards registered in every corner of the British Isles.

To tell us about an orchard you own or know about, fill in our Orchard Survey Questionnaire ([ptes.org/orchard-questionnaire](https://ptes.org/orchard-questionnaire)) or email [orchards@ptes.org](mailto:orchards@ptes.org) to receive an orchard survey pack and do orchard surveys in your local area.



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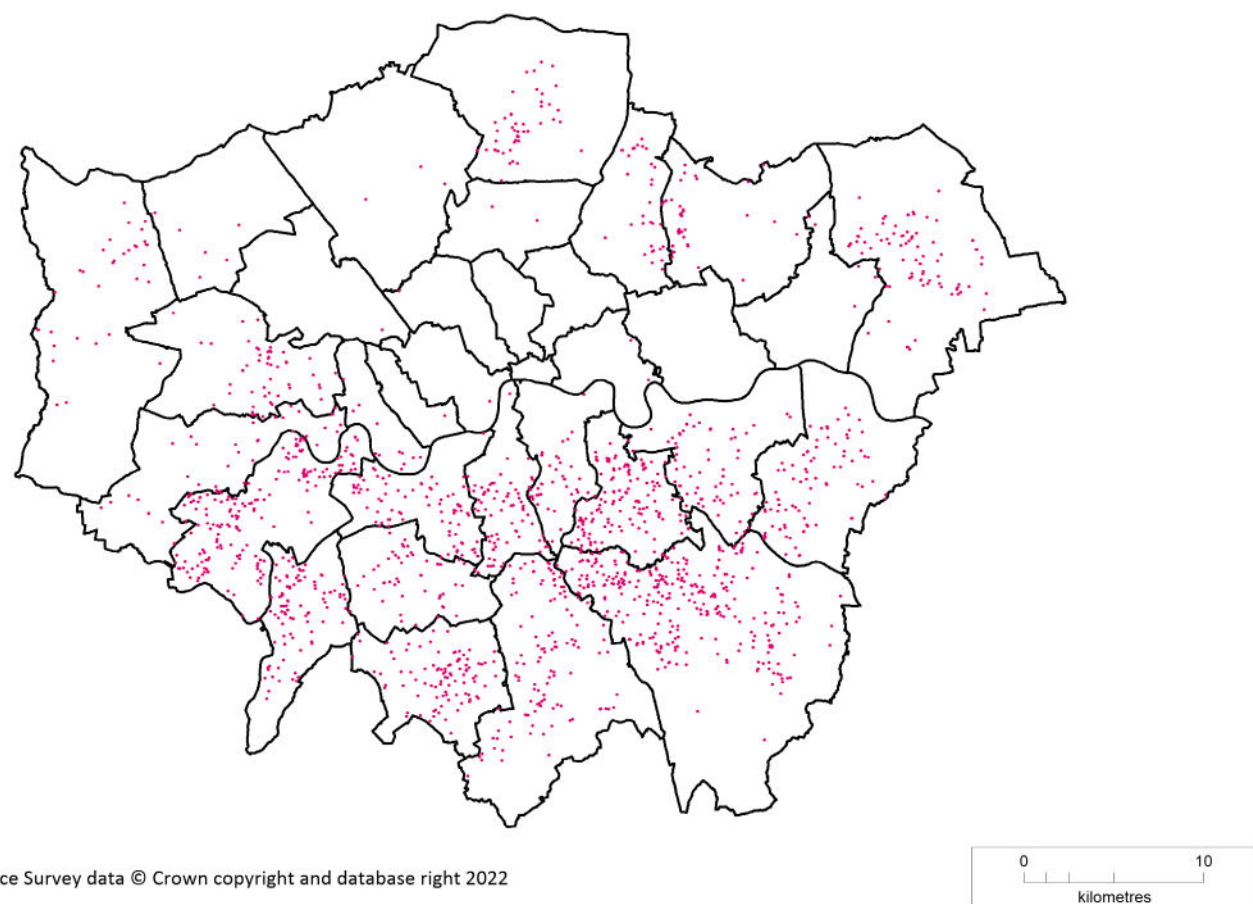
**PTES grant recipients planting a new community orchard in Devon.**

## Stag beetle surveys



The **Great Stag Hunt** runs every year, collecting incidental records of stag beetle adults and larvae in the UK ([stagbeetles.ptes.org](https://stagbeetles.ptes.org)). So far this year (2022), over 11,100 sightings have been recorded, helping PTES to build a national picture of stag beetle distribution and abundance.

**Stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*) records in Greater London collected in the Great Stag Hunt in 2022**



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PTES also collaborates in an annual, Europe-wide survey to identify long-term trends in stag beetle populations more widely. The survey takes place in June and July, and is carried out on a minimum of six warm, dry nights in the two month period. Participants either count stag beetles along a 500m walk or from a fixed point in a garden.

To register an interest in the survey, visit the European Stag Beetle Monitoring website, [www.stagbeetlemonitoring.org](https://www.stagbeetlemonitoring.org). Alternatively, contact us ([laura.bower@ptes.org](mailto:laura.bower@ptes.org)) for recording forms that can be printed or emailed as a pdf.

## Mammal monitoring

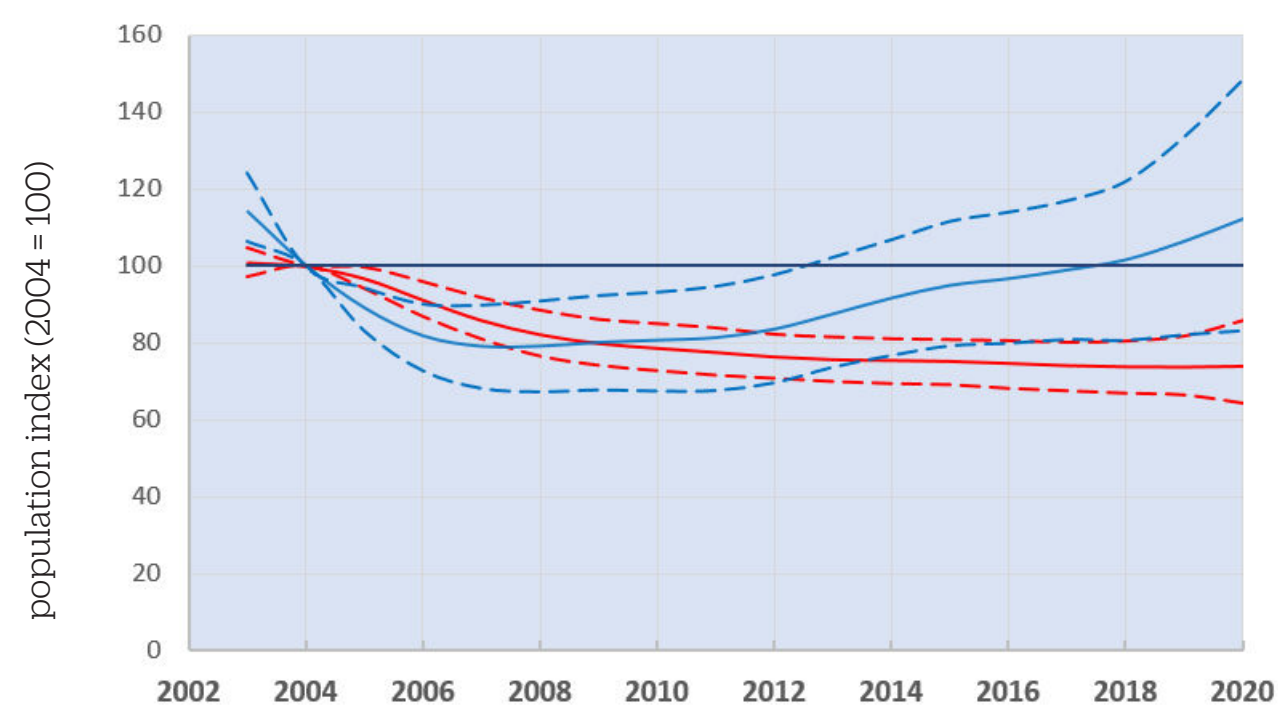


The importance of green infrastructure and biodiversity in our towns and cities is increasingly recognised. **Living with Mammals** collects records of mammals in the green spaces around us—from gardens and allotments to parks and common ground—building long-term trends of how abundance and distribution are changing.

The online survey ([ptes.org/get-involved/surveys/garden/living-with-mammals/](https://ptes.org/get-involved/surveys/garden/living-with-mammals/)) runs throughout the year, with a focus in spring and autumn, recording weekly maximum counts and field signs of mammals.

Over the last 20 years, the proportion of sites in the survey reporting hedgehogs has fallen by a quarter but counts at sites where they are found have increased in the last decade.

**Hedgehog records from urban green spaces showing changes in presence/absence and maximum counts**



Solid lines show smoothed trends for the proportion of sites each year recording hedgehogs from sightings or signs (red), and average weekly maximum counts (the largest group of hedgehogs seen together each week) (blue). Values are expressed as an index relative to that in 2004, which is taken as a baseline and given an arbitrary value of 100. Broken lines show 95% confidence limits.

[www.ptes.org](https://www.ptes.org)

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