Sources of Funding for Natural Science Collections

This list is a resource for people looking for funding for natural science collections and is not exhaustive. The funding bodies listed have not necessarily funded natural science collections or even museums before. If you have any comments/edits/experiences/improvements to add to this document then please let NatSCA know. Apologies for any repetitions.

The PRISM Fund (the Fund for the Preservation of Industrial and Scientific Material)
A major funder of scientific acquisitions and conservation projects. Have funded new taxidermy in the past.
http://www.mla.gov.uk/what/support/grants/PRISM

The PRISM fund does not extend to Scotland. There try the National Fund for Acquisitions administered by the National Museum of Scotland although this does not cover conservation work.
http://www.nms.ac.uk/national_connections/national_fund_for_acquisitions.aspx

The Curry Fund
exists to support a variety of causes:
- geological publications, including film, video and television productions
- geological conservation, including the purchase, clearance and recording of sites
- other initiatives approved by the Council, including awards to individuals
and very limited assistance with travel costs for overseas visitors engaged in geological research
http://www.geologists.org.uk/awards.html

NatSCA
- annual award of up to £2,000 for natural science projects
- http://www.natsca.org

Museums Galleries Scotland

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
- have been known to fund a diverse range of projects including collections research and the Museums Association’s ‘Effective Collections’ programme.
http://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/
The Pilgrim Trust
- have funded natural science collections in the past
  http://www.thepilgrimtrust.org.uk/

Wellcome Trust
  http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/

Museums Association
  http://www.museumsassociation.org/

The Leverhulme Trust
  http://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/grants_awards/
  http://www.wolfson.org.uk/

Welsh Assembly Government: Museum Grants
  http://education.wales.gov.uk/topics/cultureandsport/museumsarchiveslibraries/cymal/grants200910/2778989/;jsessionid=pQbpKXhb5SmNY5hlfFmWTT58l090dypvynrlnwSDQGHyn4LyVG3p!-692465818?cr=2&lang=en&ts=3

The Heritage Lottery Fund
  http://www.hlf.org.uk/

Alice McCosh Trust
  http://www.thealicemccoshtrust.org.uk

Museums, Libraries and Archives Wales (CyMAL)
  http://www.cymal.wales.gov.uk

City Bridge Trust
  - London only
    http://www.citybridgetrust.org.uk

Clore Duffield Foundation
  http://www.cloreduffield.org.uk

DEFRA: Darwin Initiative
  - Assists economically poor but biodiversity rich countries
    http://www.darwin.defra.gov.uk

Derry – Council Grants
  - Derry only
    http://www.derrycity.gov.uk

Devon, East – Natural Environment Awareness
  - Devon only
    http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/countryside
British Ecological Society  
http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org

Ernest Cook Trust  
http://www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk

Essex Environment Trust  
- Essex only  
http://www.essexenvironmenttrust.org.uk

February Foundation  
http://www.thefebruaryfoundation.org

Field Studies Council  
http://www.field-studies-council.org/

Garfield Weston Foundation  
- For UK registered charities only  
http://www.garfieldweston.org

Laing’s Charitable Trust  
http://www.laing.com/LCT.htm

Laura Ashley Foundation  
http://www.lauraashleyfoundation.org.uk

EC Life Plus  
http://www.betatechnology.co.uk

Countryside Council for Wales  
http://www.ccw.gov.uk

Mercers’ Charitable Foundation  
http://www.mercers.co.uk

Northern Ireland Museums Council  
- includes a specific fund for purchasing specimens  
http://www.nimc.co.uk

Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund  
http://www.culture.gov.uk

Scottish Government: National Fund for Acquisitions  
http://www.nms.ac.uk/national_connections/national_fund_for_acquisitions.aspx

Russell Trust
- you need to be a registered charity to apply but they consider all sorts of projects
  russelltrust@trq.co.uk

Sir John Cass's Foundation
  - inner London only
  http://www.sirjohncass.org

Sita Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund
  - Tayside only
  http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk http://www.pkgrantsdirect.com

Scottish Natural Heritage
  http://www.snh.org.uk

Waterloo Foundation
  http://www.waterloofoundation.org.uk

Yorkshire Forward
  - Yorkshire only
  http://www.yorkshire-forward.com

Aggregates Levy Fund
  http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1315

BBSRC (in partnerships with universities) -
  http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/index.html

Grantfinder
  - useful search engine
  - you need to pay for subscription
  http://www.grantfinder.co.uk/

Heritage Link
  - run the Heritage Funding Directory
  - e.g. a search under ‘Museums’ comes up with (ctrl+click to follow link):

The Art Fund Arts & Business Association of Charitable Foundations
  Association for Heritage Interpretation Association of Independent
  Museums (AIM) - Pilgrim Trust Conservation Grants Association of
  Independent Museums (AIM) - Sustainability Grant Scheme Big Lottery
  Fund - Awards for All William Adlington Cadbury Charitable Trust
  Campaign for Learning through Museums & Galleries (CLMG) Winston
  Churchill Memorial Trust City Bridge Trust Clockmakers' Museum &
  Educational Trust Clore Duffield Foundation - Clore Leadership Programme
  Clore Duffield Foundation - Main Grants Programme The Clothworkers' 
  Foundation - Grants Programmes and Bursaries Collections Trust The
  Costume Society The Craven Trust Cultural Heritage National Training
  Organisation (CHNTO) The Drapers' Company - The Drapers' Charitable
Fund

The Drapers' Company - Henry Dixon's Foundation for Apprenticing
Dulverton Trust John Ellerman Charitable Foundation Essex Heritage Trust
Europa Nostra - European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa
Nostra Awards Esmee Fairbairn Foundation - Strand Programmes Headley
Trust - Museums Archaeological Acquisition Fund Heritage Lottery Fund
Heritage Lottery Fund - Heritage Grants Heritage Lottery Fund - Young
Roots Heritage Tourism Executive for the Northwest - Heritage Tourism
Improvement Scheme Idlewild Trust Leche Trust The A G Leventis
Foundation Manifold Charitable Trust Museums Association Museums
Association - The Beecroft Bequest Museums Association - Daphne Bullard
Trust Museums Association - Kathy Callow Trust Museums, Libraries and
Archives Council Museums, Libraries and Archives Council - Portable
Antiquities Scheme (PAS) Museums, Libraries and Archives Council -
PRISM Fund Museums, Libraries and Archives Council - V & A Purchase
Grant Fund National Heritage Memorial Fund The Normanby Charitable
Trust Pilgrim Trust Royal Historical Society Sainsbury Family Charitable
Trusts Society of Antiquaries Summerfield Charitable Trust The Veneziana
Fund Voluntary Arts Network (VAN) Waterways Trust - Small Grants
Scheme Wellcome Trust - Research Resources in Medical History Scheme
Wolfson Foundation Worshipful Company of Paviors - Livery Trust for
Charities Worshipful Company of Plumbers - Plumbers' Museum and
Workshop Trust WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Limited)


Arts and Humanities Research Council
http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/Pages/default.aspx

Leverhulme Trust
http://www.leverhulme.org.uk/

British Entomological and Natural History Society
http://www.benhs.org.uk/portal/

J Paul Getty Trust
http://www.jpgettytrust.org.uk/

American Museum of Natural History
http://research.amnh.org/vz/ornithology/grants-and-funding

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
http://www.gulbenkian.org.uk/

Thomas Wiedemann memorial fund
http://www.thomaswiedemann.org.uk/