

# What does toad patrolling involve?

## HOW DO I PATROL A TOAD CROSSING?

If the road is not too dangerous a Patrol may be possible. Your safety is the primary concern so if the road is busy or has poor visibility DO NOT attempt to rescue any toads. If you do plan to patrol then always wear reflective clothing, carry a torch and make sure someone knows where you are. Patrolling itself is quite simple - it's just a case of collecting the toads from one side of the road and transporting them to the other side in a bucket. Toads tend to start moving around dusk and will continue into the night, depending on how cold it gets; you only really need to patrol during the first part of the evening when there is a high likelihood of them encountering traffic.

## WHEN SHOULD I PATROL?

Toads can emerge from hibernation any time from January onwards, depending on local weather conditions; they tend to emerge a little later than frogs. Amphibian movements are very dependent on weather so it's crucial to check local forecasts; key signs to look out for are: first mild temperatures ( $>5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), together with rain. When these conditions have been identified it's a good idea to start monitoring the site - if you can, check the site every evening or at least during/after appropriate patches of weather. It may be easiest to have one person coordinating who can draw up a rota so not all volunteers are out all the time; if a Patroller discovers a particularly busy crossing one night they can then call on reinforcements.

## WHY SHOULD I RECORD DATA?

We ask Toad Patrollers to record the numbers of toads and other amphibians they help across the road, and how many they see killed. This data feeds into national monitoring projects and helps us determine how the UK's toad population is faring as a whole. The data can give a good idea of how successfully Patrols are helping local populations. This data does not always provide an accurate view - there can be various other influences on toad numbers such as the weather causing them to move later at night when they're not seen, or more volunteers available so more are recorded - but it's certainly a good starting point. In 2010 over 70,000 toads were helped across the UK's roads. A recording form is at the end of the pack and data can be submitted online ([www.froglife.org/toadsonroads](http://www.froglife.org/toadsonroads)). **Please return your data at the end of the season!**

