

Toads on Roads: Summary 2020



2020 Data Collection:

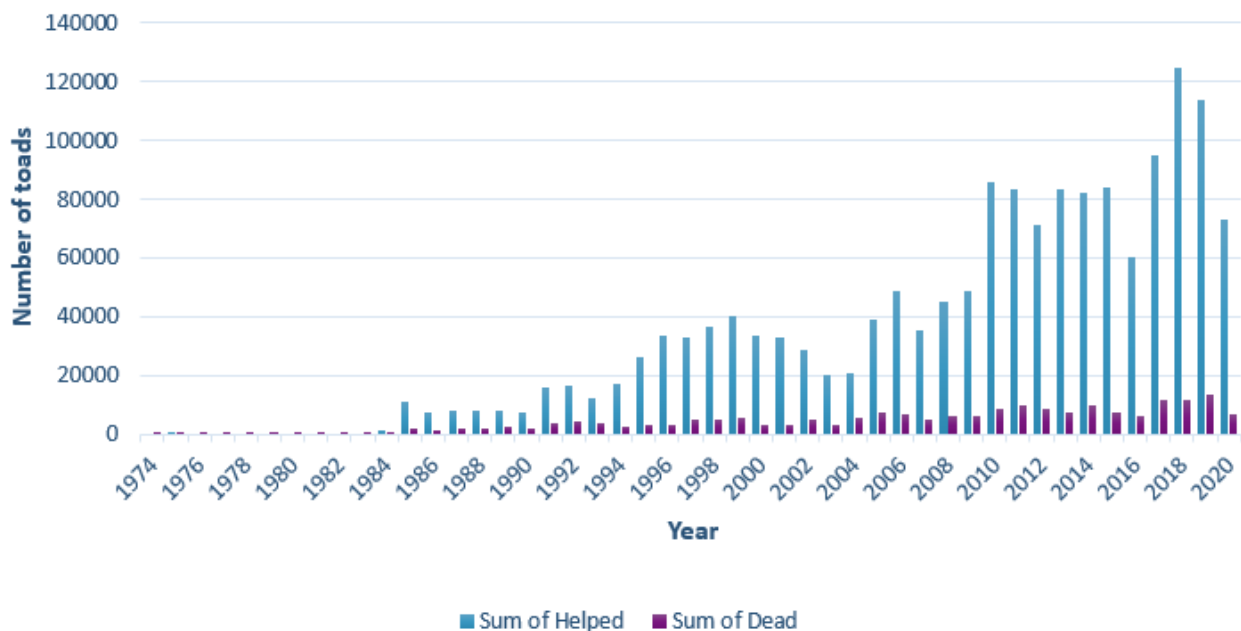
Data collection is now complete for another year with results from 140 patrols processed. However, as we have done in previous years, we will continue to request data for 2020 for the next few months. Totals for this year are shown in the table below:

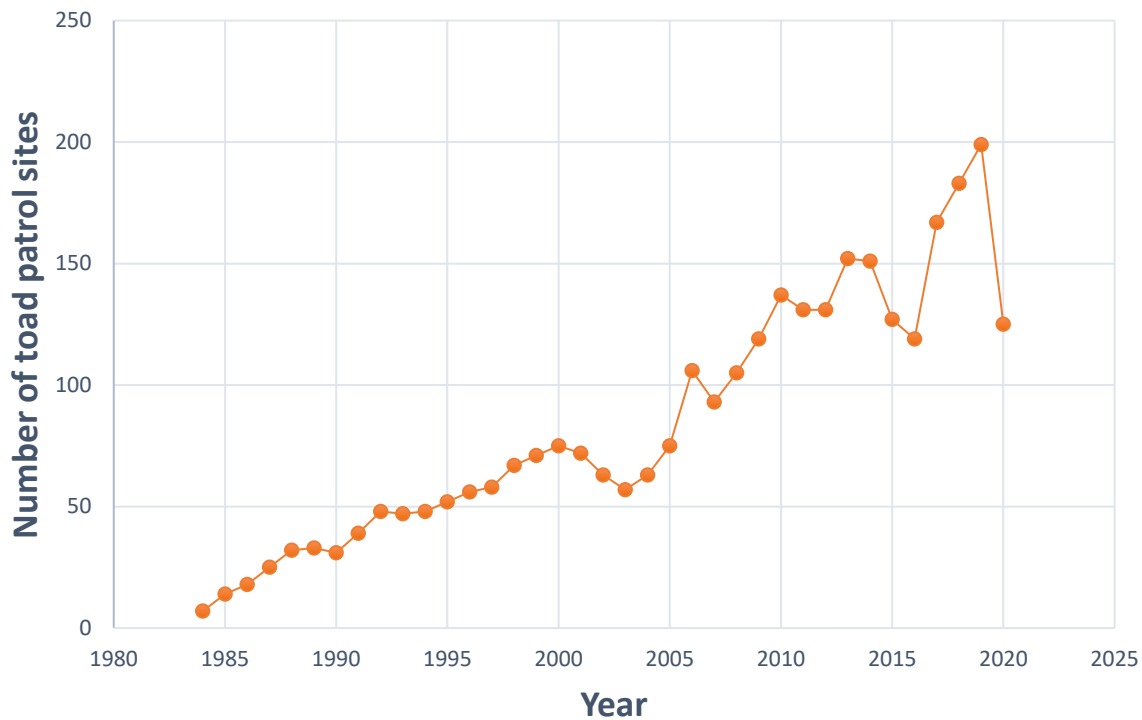
2020 (as of 9 th Nov)	Common Toads Moved	Common Toads Killed	Common Frogs Moved	Common Frogs Killed	Smooth/Palmate Newts Moved	Smooth/Palmate Newts Killed	GCN Moved	GCN Killed	No. of Days Patrolled
Total	77,997	7,251	3,848	574	3,000	581	245	42	2,816
Average per crossing	557	54.5	32	5	25	5	2	0.3	25.6

Headline Figures Jan-Nov 2020:

	2020 to Date	2019
New Crossings Registered	45	41
Total of Crossings (Not Archived)	741	695
Number of Sites Believed to be Active	416	381
No. of Volunteers (Inc. Managers)	2449	2087
Offers of Online Help	602	424

Fig. 1 Common toads (*Bufo bufo*) saved by UK toad patrols.





(With thanks to Emily Robinson at Froglife for the data analysis)

Season Overview:

As we all know, Covid-19 has played a huge part in how toad patrols have operated this year. Some managers and volunteers did complete their patrols, others partially and some not at all. This was because of the migration starting at different times in different parts of the country. Of course Froglife completely understands this and will always prioritise the health and safety of our volunteers over anything else. We won't know for certain what impact the lack of patrols have had on toad populations this year, but we are hopeful that due to the first lockdown with less traffic on the roads, more toads made it without our help. Toads reach sexual maturity at around 4 years old, so if we have a population boom in 2024 we will know why!

General Review:

As per our action plan, efforts are still being made to improve Toads on Roads more generally. We are starting to improve our database so that it runs more efficiently. We are also in talks with ARG UK about using an online programme for submitting data to make the



process easier for all. As soon as we have finalised on this, we will update you with the information. This does not mean that email/paper data submissions will no longer be accepted, we are just giving our patrol managers more options.

Mini Toad Summit:

Our 2nd Mini Toad Summit took place in Halifax in January this year with tickets selling out as quickly as they did for last years' summit in Bath. We were so pleased to see so many in attendance and for leaving us such positive feedback. As usual we will improve upon this years' summit thanks to your comments and suggestions. Unfortunately, due to the current situation, there are no plans for a mini toad summit in 2021. However, if plans change, toad patrol managers will be the first to know.

Notes for the Future:

We hope that our social media posts and our 'patrols that need help' web page helped patrols to recruit more volunteers for this year. Please remember to contact Ashlea Mawby (Toads on Roads Coordinator) if your patrol requires more volunteers or even new management. She will schedule in social media posts and add your crossing to the 'patrols that need help' web page when it goes live again in January if lockdown has eased at this time.

As always, please remember to keep Froglife updated on any changes to your patrols (active/inactive, changes of personal details, changes in management) as this will help us to keep the database as up to date as possible.

If you have any feedback or need to contact us, please see below:

ashlea.mawby@froglife.org (Toads on Roads Coordinator)

toads@froglife.org (general Toads on Roads email)

A huge, huge thank you to all patrols for their efforts this year in difficult circumstances. Hopefully next season we will be full steam ahead! If you need any support with Toads on Roads, please get in touch.

Stay safe and well.