

Gloucestershire Toads on Roads (GlosToR)  
end of migration report 2024

**GLOS**



**Toads on Roads**

<u>Contents</u>	
<b>Introduction</b>	2
<b>Weather</b>	2
<b>Crossings summary</b>	4
<b>Season Duration</b>	5
<b>Toad, Frog, and Newt Numbers</b>	5
<b>The “Big Night”</b>	6
<b>Patrollers</b>	6
<b>Results: Graphs and Year by Year Summary</b>	7
<b>GlosToR Results by Crossing 2024</b>	8

## **Introduction:**

As you know, 2024 marked a special anniversary for GlosTor. 2024 saw us achieve 10 years of patrol, which means 10 years of wonderful data. A massive congratulations and thank you to us all for volunteering our time and effort to save Gloucestershire's amphibians. A special thank you to all the Toad Patrol Managers, who do so much additional admin to make patrols run smoothly and collate the data. The data you collect contributes to building a big picture of habitat health, including how human activity is helping and hindering amphibians.

To date, 34 crossings have submitted results to GlosTor which is a record-breaking amount. All the results have been uploaded to the Froglife Online Portal either by the Patrol Manager or me. The portal is a new tool that has been created in the last two years and is proving to be a useful way to submit results to Froglife for their records of the whole of the UK. The results are also sent and recorded by Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records (GCER) who are part of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

## **Weather:**

A favourite subject for us toad patrollers is the weather. This year was no exception, the weather continued to be confusing as per previous recent years. Who remembers being boiling in February? Well, this at least helped the amphibians to get on the move, but it wasn't long before we had a cold snap which could have had some nasty effects on any spawn and/or amphibians caught out in the water.

The Met Office wrote: Overall, temperatures for February were warmer than average, especially across England. The UK overall was provisionally

2.2°C warmer than average, making this the second warmest February in the series from 1884 behind 1998. It was the warmest February on record for England and Wales. February was a very wet month across the southern half of the UK which received more than twice the average rainfall widely, for some locations more than three times. Southern England recorded 239% of average and here it was the wettest February on record.

In March, the provisional mean temperature for the UK was 6.7°C, 1.0°C above average. Southern England was much milder than areas further north, with a provisional mean temperature of 8.2°C (anomaly of 1.4°C) for southern England and 5.0°C (anomaly of 0.6°C) for Scotland. England provisionally recorded the seventh-warmest March on record in a series from 1884. The UK overall recorded provisionally 127% of the long term average rainfall for March, with much of this concentrated in the south. England and Wales both recorded more than 150% of their long term average monthly rainfall, while Scotland recorded just 90% of the average March rainfall.

## **Crossings summary:**

As mentioned above, for 2024 we have had results returned for 34 crossings. This is 11 more than 2023. The 34 total includes 8 new crossings. 7 of which weren't registered by the beginning of the migration season. Therefore 27 of the 34 are historical crossings and have comparable years.

Overall, it looks like the migration season was short this year, due to most amphibians taking advantage of the warm, wet weather of February.

12 crossings recorded an increase in Toads saved compared to last season. These are: Andoversford - Sandywell Park (825), Badgeworth SSSI - Cold Pool Lane (835), Cannop Ponds (878), Coaley Mill (946), Dovedale - Blockley (924), Mallards Pike (1017), Matson Lane (747), Fancy Road, Parkend (877), Saul - Church Lane (473), Swish Lane, Drybrook (1015), Uley - Cotswold Way (1004), and Woorgreens (943).

13 crossings recorded a decrease in the number of Toads saved compared to 2023. These are: Arlingham - Passage Road (824), Daglingworth - Overly Road (1033), Stinchcombe - Church Road (657), Flaxley (948), Corse - Staunton B4211 (699), Soudley Ponds (1041), Dowdeswell - A40 (876), Saul - Church Lane (473), Shipton Sollars (707), Tewkesbury Nature Reserve (875), Coopers Edge, Lobleys Drive, Pitchcombe - A46 (145), and Whiteshill & Ruscombe (700)

These 9 crossings either didn't submit last year or are newly registered so I am unable to make a comparison: Woodchester (1098), Oakle Street - Churcham (1056), Plump Hill - A4136 (1042), Parkend - Yorkley Road - Parkend School (1092), Hawkesbury Upton - Inglestone Common (655), Moseley Green (1090), Theescombe, Nailsworth - Dark Lane (656).

### **Season Duration:**

This year the first patrol happened on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at Nailsworth - Dark Lane (656), 9 crossings started their patrol on February 6<sup>th</sup> 2024 making this the most popular start date. All crossings had finished patrolling by mid-April. In total patrollers spent 723 nights out on crossings across Gloucestershire, which is 333 more nights than 2023. Stinchcombe - Church Road (657) takes the crown for the greatest number of nights patrolled, reaching a total of 65 nights.

### **Toad, Frog, and Newt Numbers:**

Please bear in mind the numbers below include newly found, registered crossings and we have had 10 more records than last year submitted. You can see individual data for each crossing below.

The number of toads saved (alive) this year was up by 2615 compared to last year, with an increase of 973 dead toads recorded. Overall number of toads, dead and alive, was up by 3588 compared to last year.

The number of frogs saved on crossings was 184 more than last year and the trend of only some crossings experiencing high numbers of Frogs while most crossings report low numbers or 0 has stayed true again this season.

For the newts, the number of great crested newts saved was down by 16 compared with last year and up by 8 for dead. For other newt species, the numbers found alive were down by 2 and up by 26 for dead.

Remember we've had a record year for patrols submitting their results, which most likely accounts for the increase in toad numbers. There may also be discrepancies due to incorrect identifications of species.

### **The “Big Night”:**

33% of crossings reported 15th of February as the date when they saw the most toads on the move. The 15th of February was 9 days before the Full Moon and 6 days after the New Moon. Valentine's Day was a close contender with 8 crossings versus 11 reporting most seen amphibians.

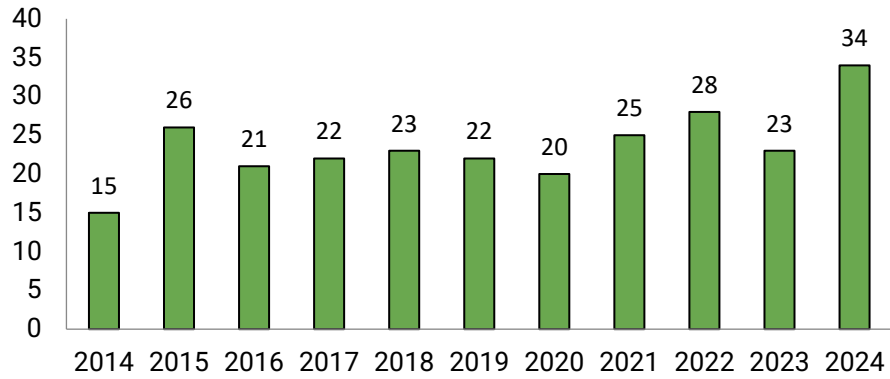
### **Patrollers:**

Active patroller numbers are up by 94 compared to last year but this still doesn't beat 2022's active patrollers number. The numbers confirm that more nights were patrolled than in any previous year. We currently have a total of 293 people registered to patrol with 219 of those registered confirmed as patrolling. I hope we can continue to increase this number in 2025.

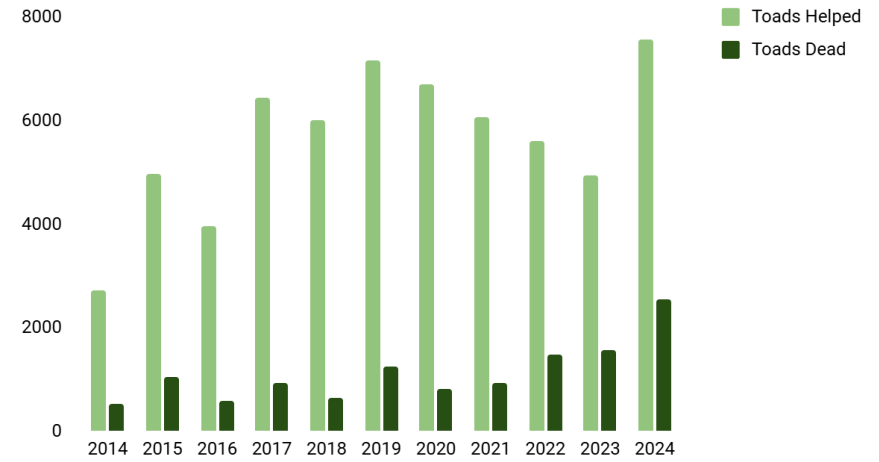
A heartfelt THANK YOU! goes out to all of you who braved the elements and helped our much-loved amphibians. I am personally looking forward to my 3<sup>rd</sup> year as the Volunteer Admin. I can't wait to see what we discover this coming season. Remember to share your stories and photos with me for the newsletters. Get the buckets, torches, and high vis ready it's nearly time for the 2025 patrols to start.

# Results: Graphs and Year by Year Summary

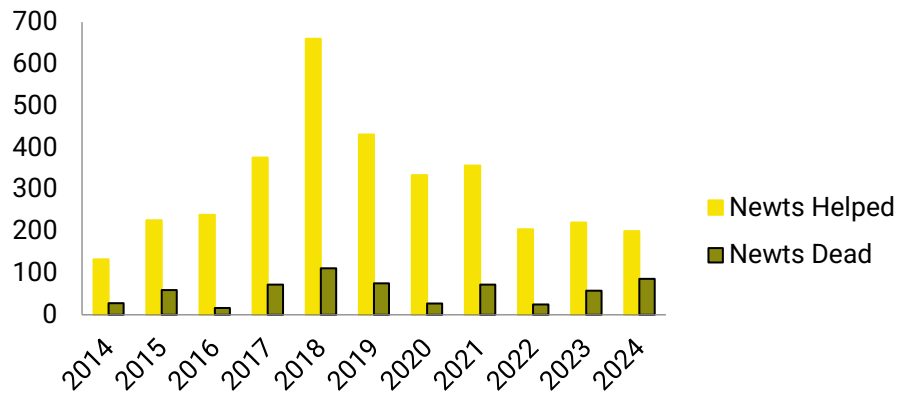
**Total number of patrols that submitted data 2014 - 2024**



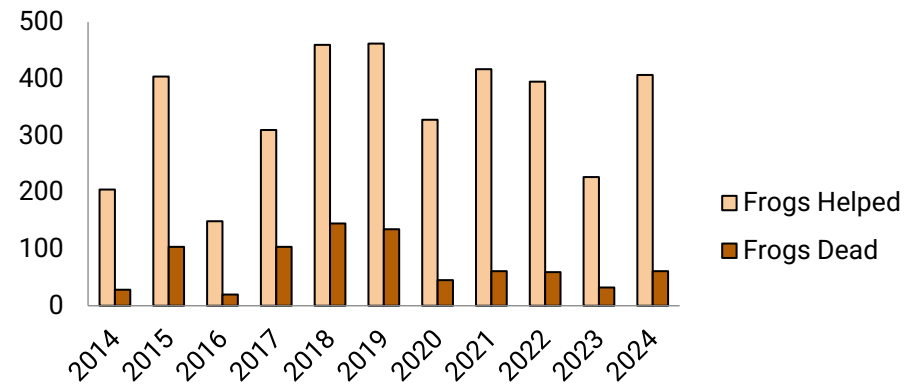
**Toads Helped/Dead: 2014 - 2024 Comparison**



**Newts Helped/Dead: 2014 - 2024 Comparison**



**Frogs Helped/Dead: 2014 - 2024 Comparison**



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
No. of crossings providing results	15	26 (↑73%)	21 (↓19%)	22 (↑5%)	23 (↑5%)	22 (↓4%)	20 (↓9%)	25(↑25%)	28(↑12%)	23 (↓8%)	34 (↑48%)
First patrol by a crossing	2-Feb-14	5-Feb-15	26-Jan-16	29-Jan-17	23-Jan-18	25-Jan-19	8-Jan-20	20-Jan-21	1-Jan-22	15-Dec-22	18-Jan-24
Last patrol by a crossing	6-Apr-14	25-Apr-15	16-Apr-16	6-Apr-17	15-Apr-18	2-May-19	17-Apr-20	18-Apr-21	19-Apr-22	5-May-23	12-Apr-24
Total number of nights patrolled for all crossings	287	579 (↑103%)	423 (↓27%)	458 (↑8%)	428 (↓7%)	555 (↑30%)	529 (↓5%)	656(↑24%)	676(↑3%)	390 (↓42%)	723 (↑85%)
Date most crossings saw greatest number of toads	No data	No data	24-Mar-16	11-Mar-17	11-Mar-18	2-Mar-19	15-Feb-20	10-Mar-21	28-Feb-22	12-Mar-23	15-Feb-24
			10 sites	10 sites	6 sites	7 sites	4 sites	12 sites	14 sites	11 sites	11 sites
			Full moon	Full moon	Full moon	Full moon	Full moon	Full moon	Full Moon	Full Moon	Full Moon
			23-Mar-16	12-Mar-17	2-Mar-18	21-Mar-19	9-Feb-20	27-Feb-21	16-Feb-22	7-Mar-23	24-Feb-24
<b>Toads</b>											
Helped	2732	4957 (↑81%)	3970 (↓20%)	6446 (↑62%)	6003 (↓7%)	7175 (↑20%)	6706 (↓7%)	6065(↓9.6%)	5612(↓7.5%)	4944 (↓12%)	7559 (↑53%)
Dead	545	1046 (↑92%)	602 (↓42%)	947 (↑57%)	652 (↓31%)	1254 (↑92%)	828 (↓34%)	949(↑14.6%)	1497(↑57.7%)	1567 (↑4.6%)	2540 (↑62%)
% Mortality	17%	21% (↑4%-age points)	13% (↓4 %-age points)	15% (↑2%-age points)	10% (↓3 %-age points)	15% (↑5 %-age points)	11% (↓4 %-age points)	13.5%(↑2.5 %-age points)	21%(↑7.5 %-age points)	24% (↓3%-age points)	34% (↓10%-age points)
Recalculation % Mortality	17%	17%	13%	13%	1%	15%	11%	14%	21%	24%	25%
<b>Frogs</b>											
Helped	205	404 (↑97%)	149 (↓63%)	310 (↑108%)	460 (↑48%)	462 (↑0.4%)	328 (↓29%)	417(↑27%)	395(↓5.3%)	227 (↓42.6%)	411 (↑81%)
Dead	28	104 (↑271%)	20 (↓81%)	104 (↑420%)	145 (↑39%)	135 (↓7%)	45 (↓67%)	61(↑35.6%)	59(↓3.3%)	32 (↓45.8%)	63 (↑99%)
% Mortality	12%	20% (↑8 %-age points)	12% (↓8 %-age points)	25% (↑13 %-age points)	24% (↓1 %-age points)	23% (↓1 %-age points)	12% (↓11 %-age points)	13%(↑1%-age points)	13%(↑0.3%-age points)	12% (↓1%-age points)	13% (↓1%-age points)
<b>Newts – not including Great Crested Newts</b>											



Helped	133	226 (↑70%)	233(↑3%)	360(↑55%)	632(↑76%)	425 (↓33%)	329 (↓22%)	339(↑3%)	195(↓42.5%)	177 (↓9.2%)	178 (↑1%)
Dead	28	59 (↑111%)	16 (↓73%)	69 (↑331%)	103 (↑49%)	73 (↓29%)	26 (↓64%)	64(↑146.2%)	24(↓62.5%)	57 (↑42%)	77 (↑35%)
% Mortality	17%	21% (↑4 %-age points)	6% (↓15 %-age points)	16% (↑10 %-age points)	14% (↓2 %-age points)	14% (no change)	7.3% (↓7.7 %-age points)	15.8%(↑8.5 %-age points)	10.1% (↓5.7 %-age points)	32% (↓21.9%-age points)	43.3% (↓11.3%-age points)
<b>Great Crested Newts</b>											
Helped	No data	No data	6	16 (↑167%)	28 (↑75%)	6 (↓79%)	5 (↓17%)	18(↑260%)	10(↓44.4%)	41 (↑310%)	25 (↓39%)
Dead	No data	No data	0	3	8 (↑167%)	2 (↓75%)	1 (↓50%)	8(↑700%)	1 (↓87%)	1 (=0%)	10 (↑900%)
% Mortality	No data	No data	0	16%	22% (↑6 %-age points)	25% (↑3 %-age points)	17% (↓8 %-age points)	30.7%(↑13.7 %-age points)	9.1% (↑21.6%-age points)	2.4% (↑6.7%-age points)	40% (↓37.6%-age points)
<b>Patrollers</b>											
Number of patrollers signed up to GlosToR	178	103 (↓42%)	87 (↓16%)	82 (↓6%)	100 (↑22%)	101 (↑1%)	106 (↑5%)	196(↑85%)	199 (↑1.5%)	201 (↑1%)	293 (↑46%)
Number of actual patrollers	56	61 (↑9%)	52 (↓15%)	151 (↑190%)	180 (↑19%)	126 (↓30%)	146 (↑16%)	200 (↑37%)	317 (↑37%)	125 (↓61%)	219 (↑43%)

## [Individual Crossing Results 2024](#)