



Volunteer Role: Toad Patrol Volunteer

Support Person	Rebecca Neal rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org
Role Purpose	The purpose of this role is to help toads migrating in the spring reach their breeding pond safely. This will involve patrolling a road where they frequently cross, picking up animals, and releasing them safely on the other side of the road nearer their destination.
Specific Tasks	<p>Patrols are carried out from the end of February to the beginning of April when weather conditions are favourable. Animals tend to move when it is wet, dark, and above 5°C</p> <p>On a toad patrol, volunteers walk up and down a 400m stretch of road in pairs, for up to 2 hours in the evening. We wear head-torches, and shine them into the road and on the verge to look for frogs, toads and newts. Any that we find, we pick up using gloves, and put in a bucket (this often means walking into the road to collect them). Once we have a few, we release them on the other side of the road at a safe spot, as close to their breeding location as possible. We record and move any dead animals we find.</p>
Skills and Qualities Needed	<p>Volunteers will come from a wide range of backgrounds and will have many different qualities and skills. Essential skills and qualities for this role are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Able to understand and follow the risk assessment guidelines given by the Wildlife Trust BCN staff member• Fit enough to walk (slowly) for at least an hour and be able to bend down to pick up animals• Comfortable walking at night in the rain by the side of a road• Comfortable, with training, picking up amphibians (although you can be paired with someone who can do this bit if necessary)• Able to tell, with training, the difference between frogs and toads (so we can keep track of numbers)• Aware of traffic, and be able to respond quickly if necessary
Commitment	<p>The migration season is from the end of February to the beginning of April. We cover the times when the traffic is likely to be most busy which is for up to 2 hours, somewhere between 6 and 9pm depending on whether the clocks have changed. You would need to be free evenings at short notice.</p> <p>Usually over a season, we would go out somewhere between 10 and 15 times. Due to the weather-dependency of this activity, whether we patrol might be decided at short notice, sometimes only the day before. The volunteer will be added to an email list</p>

	and contacted each time a patrol is on. If they are able to make it then they would come along, but there is no obligation.
Support and Training	The volunteer will be given guidance on how to handle and identify animals at the start of the patrol, and could be paired with a more experienced volunteer if needed.
Expectations of WTBCN Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abide by the Wildlife Trust BCN's Policies and Procedures • Contactable by email (to reduce admin time) • Able to get to the site • Provide own waterproofs and wellies (or sturdy footwear) • Use support systems • Co-operation with administrative tasks (e.g. filling out volunteer form)
Location of volunteering	The meeting point is at Filcris Recycled Plastics, Broadway, CB23 2TA (the road on the edge of Cambourne that leads to Bourn and runs alongside the airfield)

Task Description Updated: 13/01/20