



Eco Church and Net Zero

Winchester Diocese

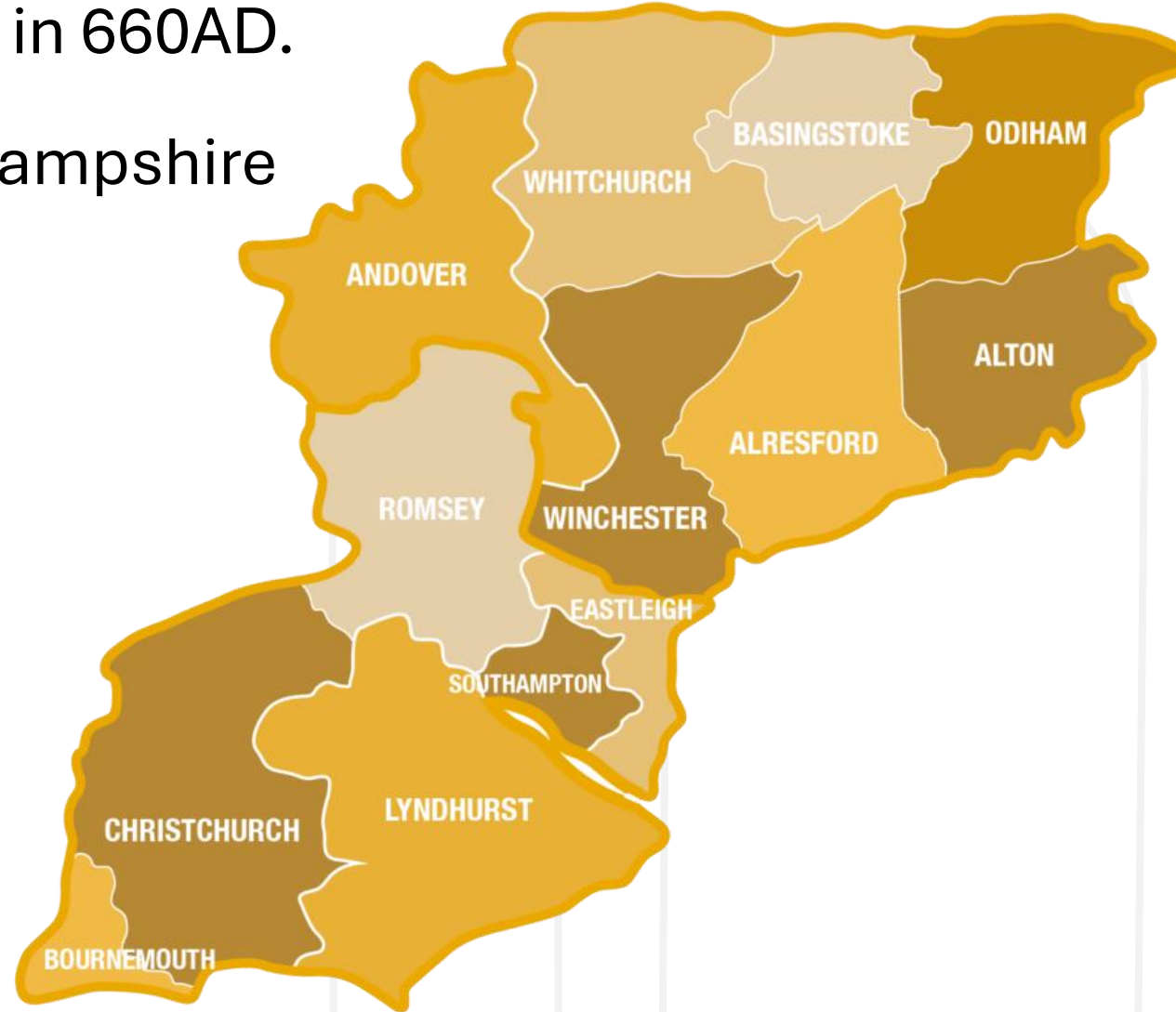
Winchester Diocese was founded in 660AD.

We now consist of two-thirds of Hampshire and most of Bournemouth.

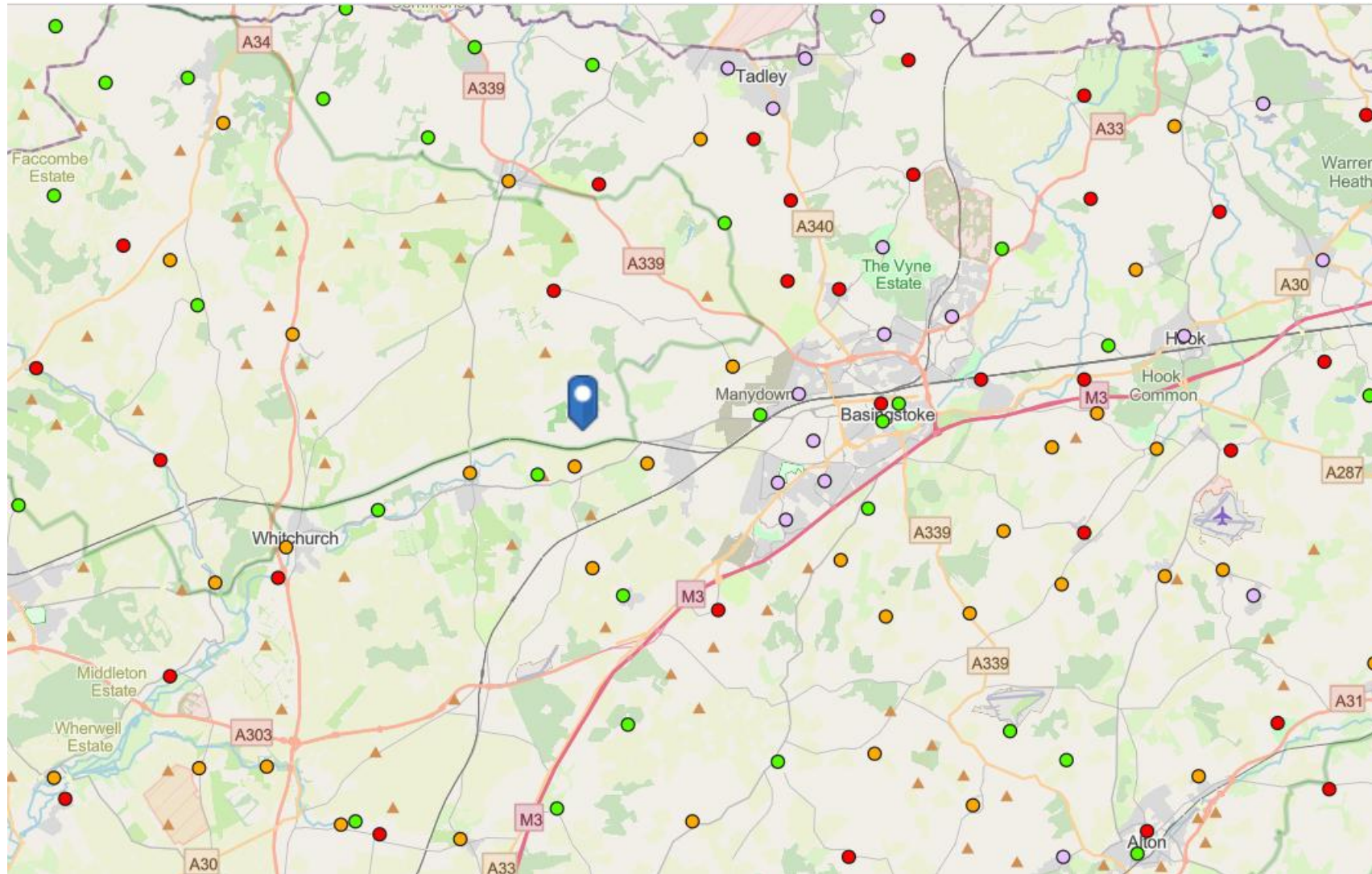
Some statistics:

- We have 255 parishes.
- Meet in 375 church buildings.
- 202 clergy.

The diocese is split into 13 deanery areas.



Basingstoke



Eco Church

- Helps build a wholistic action plan, focusing on 5 areas:
 - Worship and Teaching
 - Buildings
 - Land
 - Lifestyle
 - Community and Global Engagement
- Sign up through A Rocha: [Eco Church - An A Rocha UK Project](https://www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)
- Increasingly important for grants.



Eco Church Across The Diocese

- 178 registered church buildings.
- 87 Awards:
 - 50 Bronze
 - 35 Silver
 - 3 Gold
- Bronze diocese award – aiming for silver.



New Survey

- A new survey in Oct 2024 made changes in three significant ways:
 - Multiple pathways for different churches.
 - Greater focus on Net Zero.
 - Emphasis on commitment.



Lifestyle

The lifestyle section of Eco Church is split into four themes that are a good guide to thinking about our individual impact on creation care:

- 1. Influence:** Sharing information and engagement in campaigning
- 2. Carbon Footprint:** Personal footprint and energy use
- 3. Personal Choices:** Food, transport, finance, consumption and waste
- 4. Nature:** Experience of nature, care and protection of nature



St Mark's, Highcliffe

Engaged with their local community through initiatives like:

- A community Green Fayre.
- Wilding their churchyard with their toddler group.
- Climate & Environment information evenings.



Community Engagement

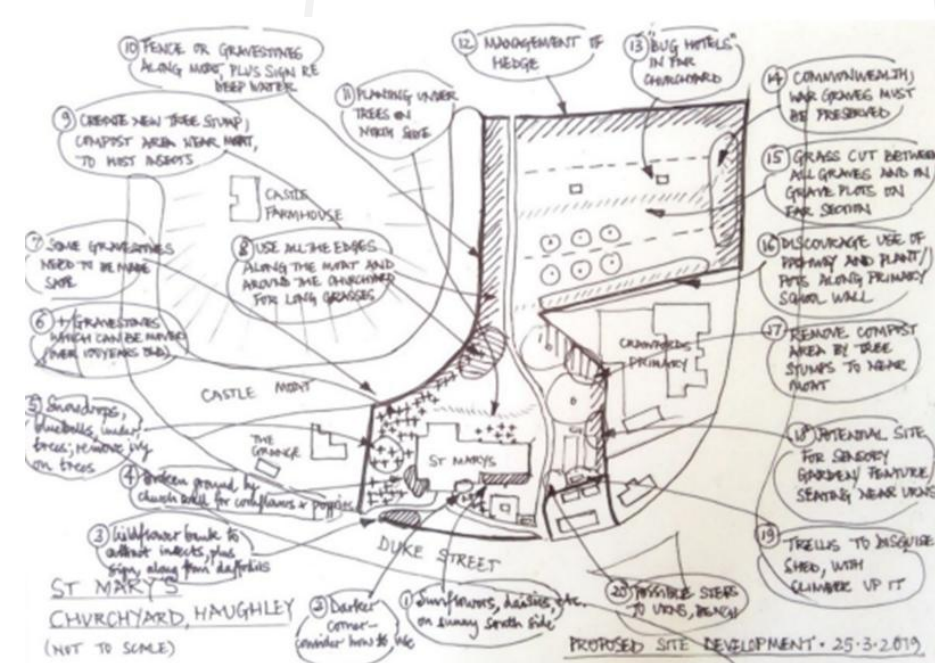
The community engagement section of Eco Church is split into four themes:

1. Awareness Raising: Getting People On Board
2. Taking Action
3. Communication: Inspiring Others

This area asks parishes to engage with their local community to care and advocate for nature.

This can often involve work with local schools, community groups and councils.

A challenge is managing competing priorities.



St Mary-the-Virgin, Silchester

Invited their local C of E school to be part of wilding their church yard.

33 year 5 pupils came to:

- Build Bug Hotels
- Join in Church Count On Nature
- Plant in the churchyard
- Learn about the plants and wildlife

They're continuing to work together as part of Greening Silchester.

Land

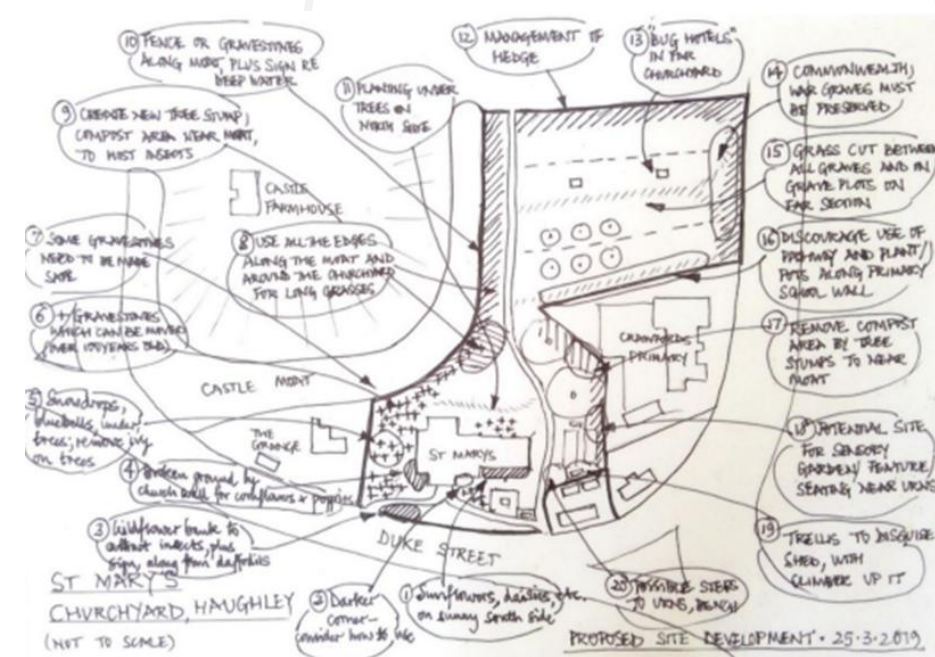
The land section of Eco Church is split into four themes:

1. Biodiversity
2. Monitoring and Citizen Science
3. People: Supporting access to nature.

Eco Church asks parishes to proactively survey and manage their land. The scheme encourages engagement with the 30by30 targets.

Many parishes are keen to work in partnership with local organisations to manage their land well for nature.

A challenge is managing competing priorities.



St Peter and St Paul - Kings Somborne
Churchyard Wildflower Meadow Project

Three square areas in the churchyard and one along the wall facing you have been chosen to carry out our wildflower meadow project trials. These areas have been sown with a selection of native wild flowers and grasses.

The areas will be left uncut in the spring and early summer which will allow the flowers to produce blossoms and seed pods. This should attract a variety of insects and birds and will enrich the wild life of the churchyard. The areas will be cut in late July or early August by which time many of the annual flowers will already have produced seeds.

Different mixture of seeds and different depths and methods of sowing have been used in the four areas. The results of the trials over the next year or so will allow us to plan the enlargement of the wild flower areas in the area of the churchyard at the back of the church.





Net Zero



What's Our Commitment?

The Church of England nationally & at diocesan level have a target to get to net zero by 2030 in our scope 1 & 2 emissions.

This means focusing on reducing or offsetting our emissions from:

- Electricity use
- Building emissions from gas & oil heating
- Reimbursable travel



**Net Zero
Carbon
2030**

What Does Net Zero Mean For Most Parishes?

Reducing emissions from:



Heating
(Gas & Oil, etc.)



Electricity



Travel

To zero, through modifications (e.g. removal of fossil fuel boilers, installation of LED lights) or accredited offsetting by 2030.

Funding Net Zero

- **Energy Audit Grant** – Subsidised to £145 +VAT.
- **Heating Audit Grant** – Up to £2,000 for heating feasibility reports.
- **Quick Wins Grant** – Small grants up to (£3k usually) for quick carbon reduction projects.
- **Give to Go Green** – Match funded grants for small to medium carbon reduction projects, up to £10,000.
- **Diocesan Loan Fund** – Up to £20,000.

How Can We Work Together

- Supporting access to green space.
- Providing a space to host community groups.
- Increasing biodiversity monitoring and interventions.
- Advocating for nature in our communities.