

# **Land and Nature:**

## **A Seminar on the Current Crisis and the work of Eco Church on land as a response**



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# What are the causes of the conservation crisis.... Top 3



Top 3 from surveys:

- 1) Population growth
- 2) Economic growth models
- 3) Loss of knowledge and **disconnection from land**



# What do you see as the **top symptoms** of the crisis we face.....



Top 32 threats from surveys:

- 1) Climate change
- 2) Disconnect from nature
- 3) Biodiversity loss

What have all these got in common?

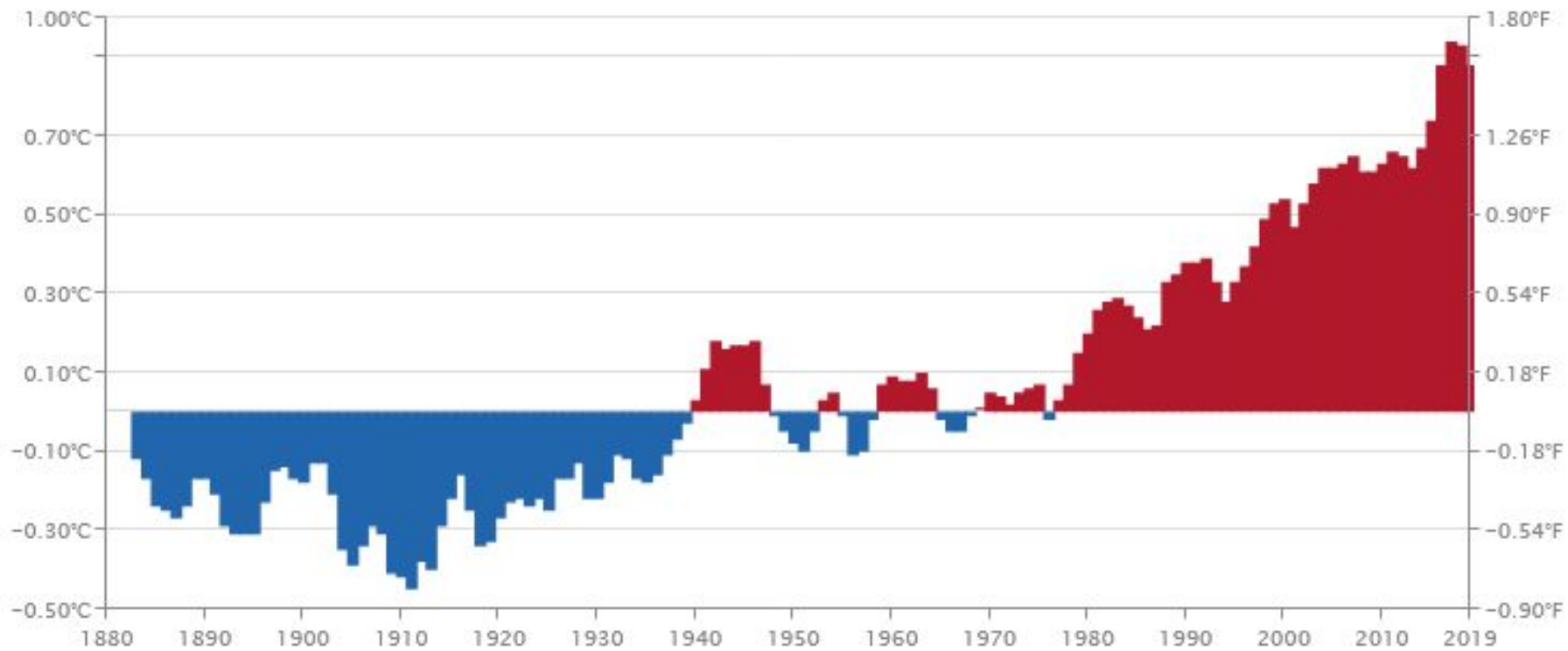
- 1) CLIMATE CHAOS
- 2) DISCONNECT FROM NATURE (both a symptom and cause)
- 3) BIODIVERSITY LOSS

All three have **connection to land** and our **broken relationships** with the soil, with God and with each other at their heart.

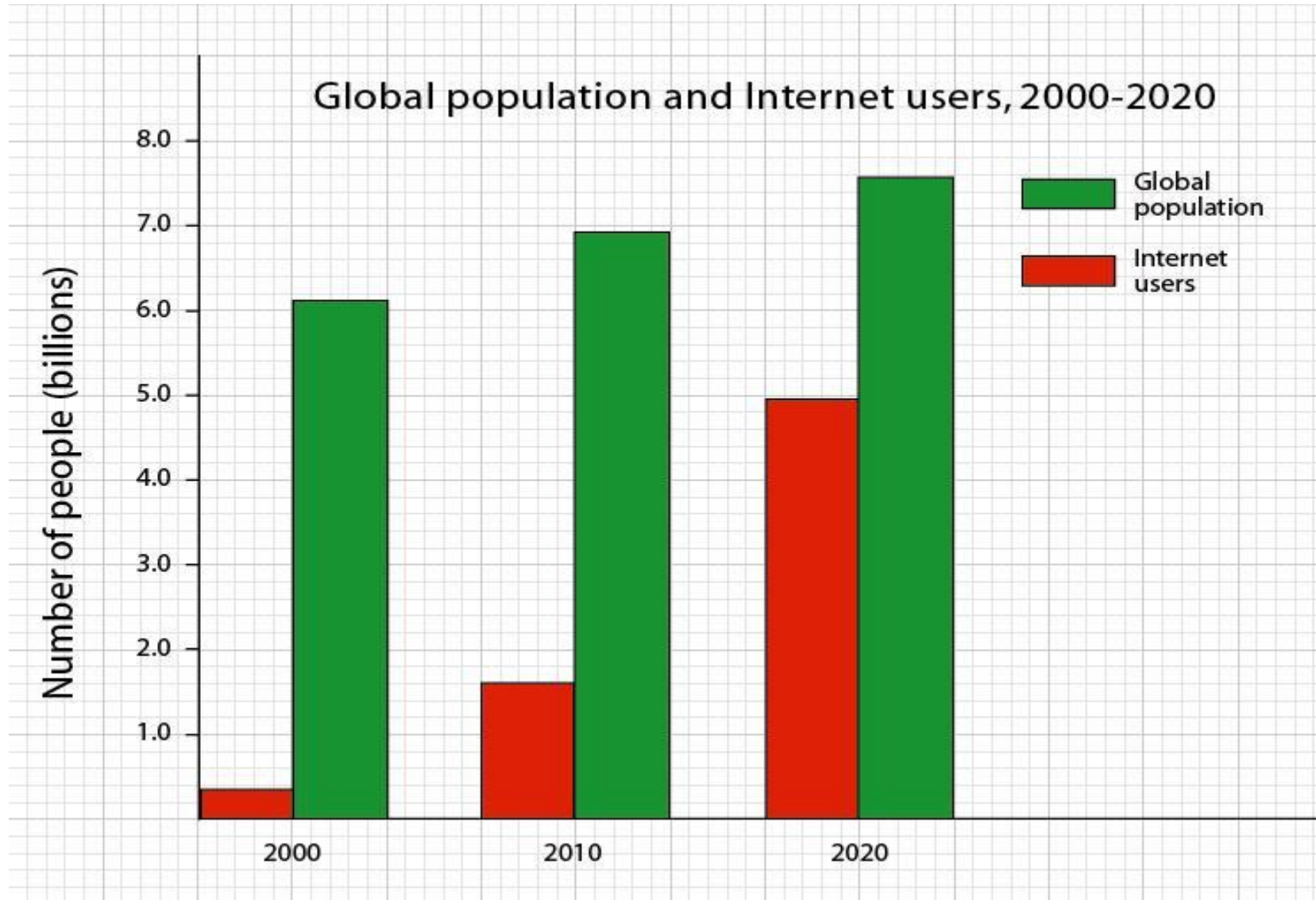


# CLIMATE CHAOS

**Global Land and Ocean Temperature Anomalies**  
36-Month Period Ending in August



# DISCONNECT FROM NATURE







Richard Louv (2005) *Last Child in the Woods*

“Nature Deficit Disorder describes the human costs of alienation from nature. Among them: diminished use of the senses, attention difficulties and higher rates of emotional and physical illnesses.”



# BIODIVERSITY LOSS

1) Declines in UK species are accelerating rather than slowing. Here are the current UK figures for 2021, using 1970 as a base line:

**41% of all insects**

**50% of birds**

**57% butterflies**

**97% of wildflowers**

2) Globally an estimated loss of 150 species of plant, insect, bird and mammal in 2020 every 24 hours. Not just land based but also marine....

3) Global extinction is now running at 1,000 times the expected rate. Highest level in 65 million years. We may be losing 10% of biodiversity every decade (UNEP)





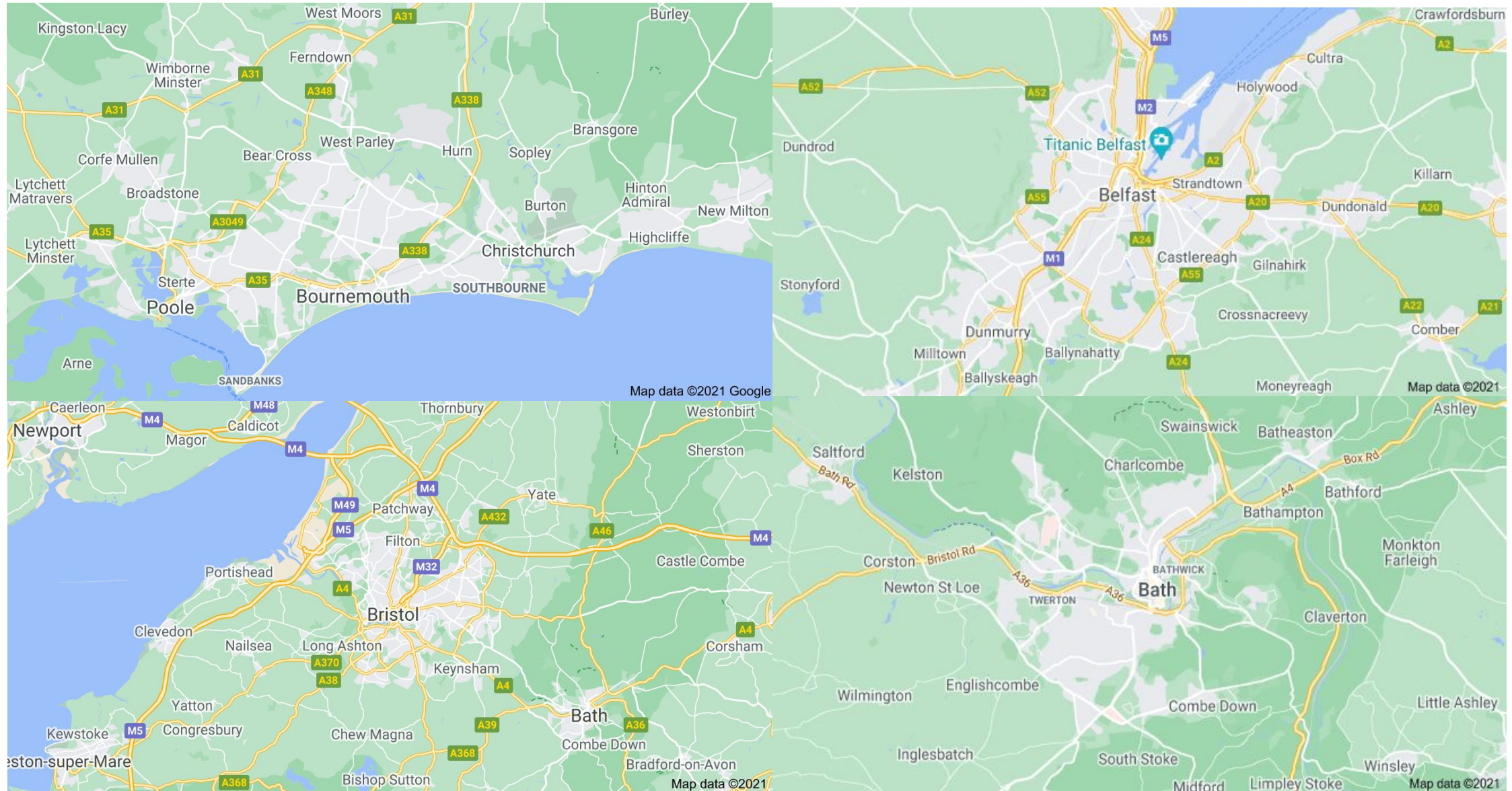
# Hope is **not** lost

- Habakkuk 1:5

**“Look at the nations and watch-and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told”**

**If 15% of church land and land owned by Christians is used for nature conservation..what would that look like?**

# What does 75,000 acres look like?



## **How do we respond?**

Question 1: What are churches being called to do collectively? How can owning land as a church make a real and lasting difference?

Question 2: What does hope and reconnection look like in 2021? How do I/we collectively scale-up without losing the core focus of church?

**Now let's look at the work of Eco Church and how the revised land section will help to bring about change.....**



UK  
**A ROCHA**



**SILVER  
AWARD  
2016**

**ECO**  **CHURCH**

**[ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)**

This plaque is made from recycled  
church pews by the Grassmarket



# Eco Church: a framework for action



Demonstrating that the gospel is good news  
God's earth

# Eco Church Categories

Worship & Teaching

Buildings

Land

Community & Global  
Engagement

Lifestyle

Additional Comments



## Interactive Map

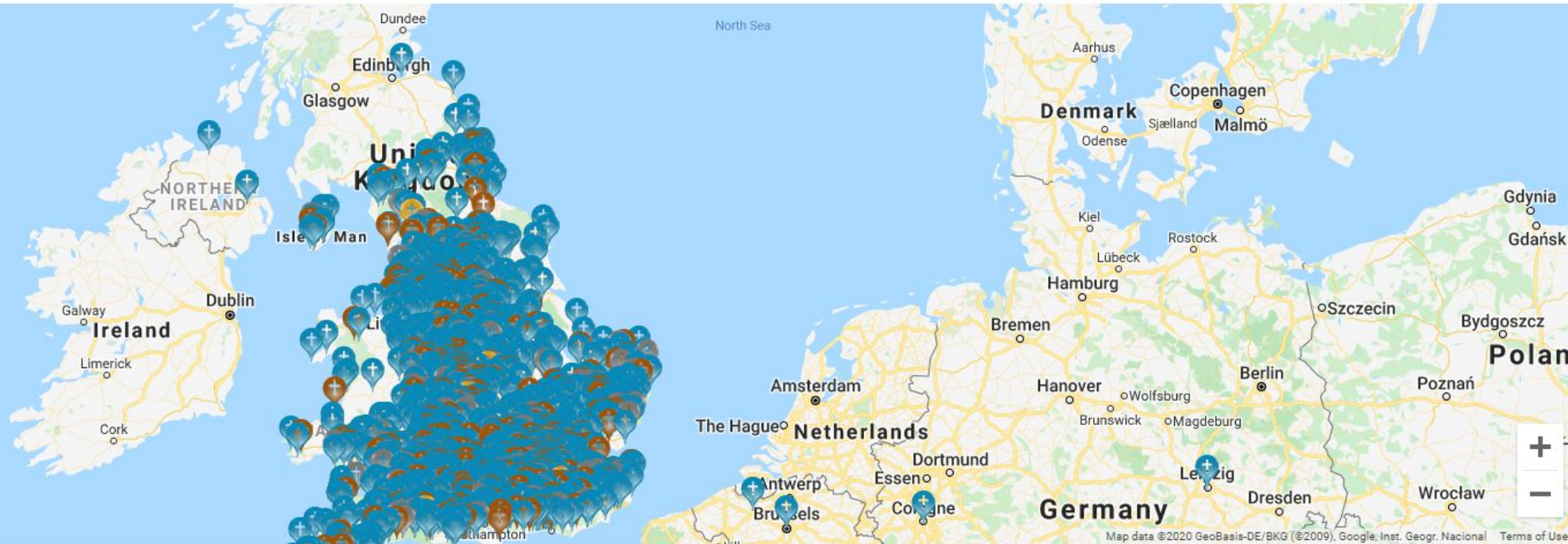
### Filters

By denomination

By award status

### Search for a location

Search for a town, address or church...



### Legend

- Registered church (no award)
- Bronze Award
- Silver Award
- Gold Award

# Eco Church Land section

Our churches can have

1. Influence over land (e.g churchyard, community nature reserve)
2. Land managed for the **encouragement of native wildlife**
3. Native wildlife encouraged through **bird / bat / hedgehog boxes, bug hotel**
4. **Stocked wildlife feeding stations** all year round
5. Church land containing a **pond or wetland area**
6. **Plants that benefit birds, bees and butterflies**







St. James, Piccadilly









All Souls, St. Margarets







# Eco Church Land section

Our church

7. Maintains an area of **land for native wildflowers**
8. Has researched and established a **mowing regime appropriate to the conservation of the grassland and wildlife** present
9. **Avoids the use of harmful chemicals** (pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers)
10. Participates in responsible **native tree planting** schemes
11. Undertakes **wildlife (birds, animals and plants) surveys** on our land
12. Participates in a scheme, other than Eco Church, designed to **promote conservation on church land** (e.g. 'Living Churchyards')





A partnership project open to all churches, run by:



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Environment Programme

YR EGLWYS  
YNG NGHYMURU



THE CHURCH  
IN WALES

#ChurchesCountOnNature





# Mickleton Methodist Church



# Eco Church Land section

13. **Grow fruit and vegetables** on our land (including in planters, window boxes etc. as well as in a community garden/allotment)

14. **Composting** facilities can be available on our church land

15. Our churches can actively encourage members to use **church land for recreation/contemplation** (e.g. picnics, prayer etc.)

16. Our churches can actively encourage members of the local community to use the church land for recreation/contemplation

17. Our church can establish a **management plan** for the land for which we are responsible







PJs, Rugby



