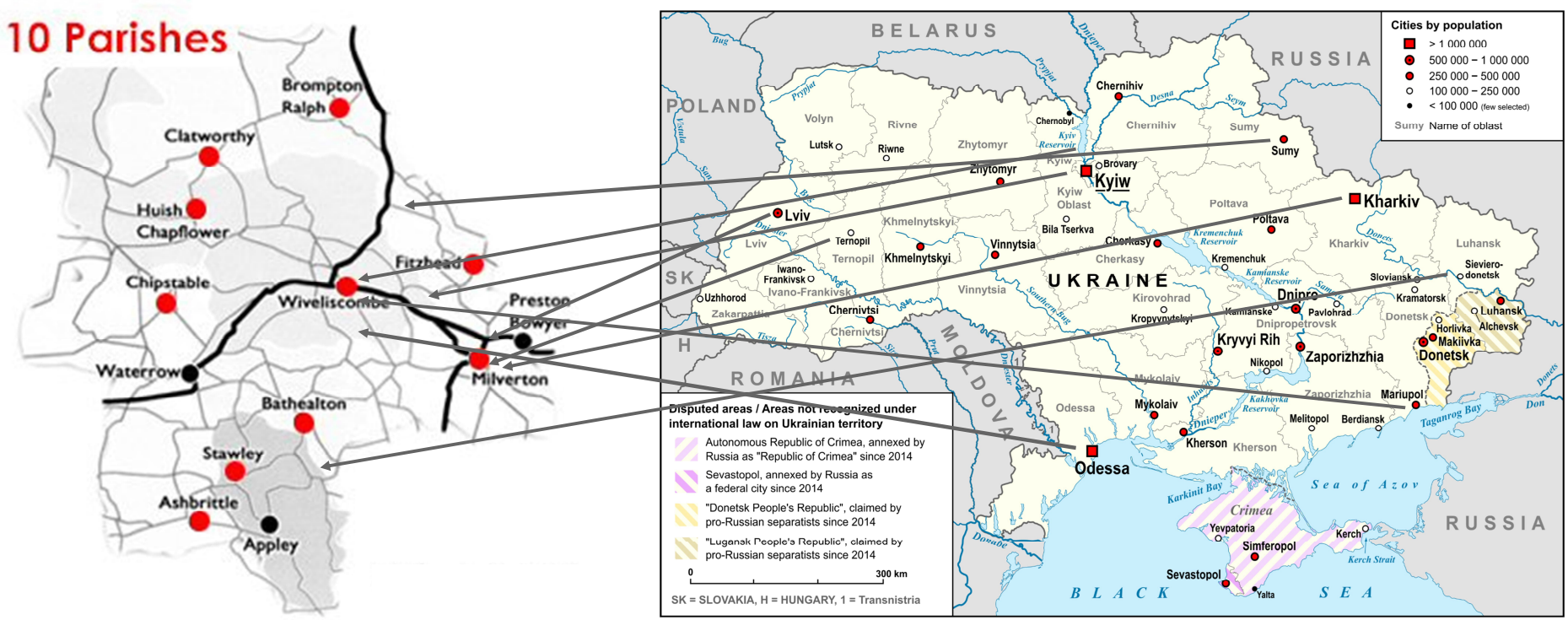
Where in the world is Wiveliscombe?



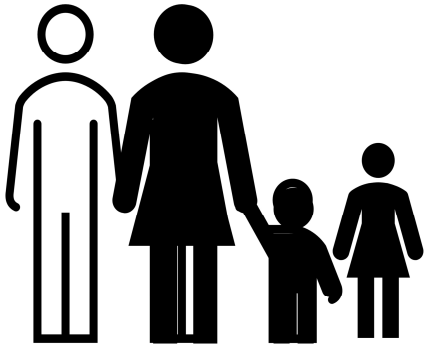
Mostly rural villages

Mostly from towns and cities

Need for community support around Wiveliscombe for guests and hosts

“We were strangers and you welcomed us”

Typical Guests:
Mother with two children, Father remains in Ukraine
37 adults (11 men), 31 children



22 Host homes:
Some families with children, others ‘empty nesters’

3 guest families now moved into privately rented accommodation

Issues:

- Support for school-age children, in the home and at school
- Anxiety about husbands and other relatives still in Ukraine
- Stresses: past, present and future
- Support also for hosts is crucial …

Friendship, English and Events

Our aims: Support guests, hosts and community volunteers with enthusiasm, coordination and fundraising

English lessons

Summer BBQ Party

Independence Day Party

Wivey Carnival

church service

Royal Tea Party

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Homes for Ukraine

WWR founded

TWR affiliate

SSU £ support

Англійська легко? 😨 😂 (is English easy?)

Learning English is a key to integration

- at home, in school, in community, for work

Friendship and community are vital

- it's not only language lessons; also a 'safe space' to raise other issues

Thank you to St. Andrews Church for hosting the community cafe

English lessons

- Started 6-June, soon 3 days/week
- Two levels (adults/children or beginners/intermediates)
- Over 110 lessons, of which over 80 by Ukrainian teacher
- Guide to Basic English

“Either we’ll find a way or we’ll make one”

View our challenges in the UK as small, compared with those in Ukraine

- Accommodation after the first 6 months with hosts?
- Finances: jobs locally, or in Taunton or Wellington?
- How can lone mothers in full-time work support their children?
- Moving could disrupt both schooling and support from friends
- More support for children in schools
- Transport is a key issue

Collaboration between voluntary and state initiatives is crucial

not least because

breakdown of accommodation/schooling/health/etc is
very expensive for state provision

We are inspired by our guests: their warmth, gratitude and resilience

Formation of Wivey Welcomes Refugees

How did this happen so quickly in March/April 2022?

Built on the examples of other local community services:

- Wivey Area Partnership
- Wivey Link (rural transport at minimum cost)
- Wivey Cares (delivering home care)
- Wivey Food Project (> 400 free meals cooked per week)
- Wivey Grows (gardening for all)
- Foodbank (free food)

and numerous civic groups for the village hall, culture, festivals, etc.

Affiliated with existing registered charity 'Taunton Welcomes Refugees'

"We must help!" became "How can we help?"