

Christ Church Royston: Highways Impact

Introduction

We are applying for planning permission to demolish our existing York Way Church building, and to replace it with a larger building on the same site. As part of this project we are expanding the Church car park to a total of 28 spaces, and providing cycle parking.

Our weekly Church activities are outlined in the tables below. Most of these activities **already take place** at our existing Church building in York Way, Royston.

The only activities that do not currently take place at our existing Church building take place at the Coombes Community Centre on the Burns Road (about 300m from our Church site). These activities are our weekly morning service (average attendance c. 90 people), and (during school holidays only) our weekly free meal for school children who are eligible for free school meals (typical attendance c. 25-40 people).

Our Weekly Activities: Term Time

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		Food Bank (9.00-11.00)	Coffee Morning (10.00-12.00)	Toddler Group (9.30-11.00)	Food Bank (9.00-11.00)	<i>Service (10.30-11.45)</i>
	Bible Study Fellowship (1.30-3.00pm)			Friday Home Group (1.30-3.00)		
	Leaders Prayer Meeting (7.30-9.00pm)	Youth Club (6.00-8.30pm)				Service (5.00-6.00pm)

NB – ALL activities (except Sunday's morning service already take place at the existing Church site in York Way)

Our Weekly Activities: School Holidays

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		Food Bank (9.00-11.00)			Food Bank (9.00-11.00)	<i>Service (10.30-11.45)</i>
			<i>Lunch Club (12.00-2.00pm)</i>	Friday Home Group (1.30-3.00)		

	Leaders Prayer Meeting (7.30- 9.00pm)					Service (5.00- 6.00pm)
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NB – ALL activities (except Sunday's morning service and the Lunch Club already take place at the existing Church site in York Way)

Survey Method

We have carried out surveys of all our weekly events for one week of term time (w/c Monday 23 March), and one week of school holidays (w/c Monday 30 March).

We recorded the arrival time, departure time, transport type, and home postcode for each attender at each of these events.

Survey Results

The data shows that all events:

- Can comfortably be accommodated within our existing York Way Church car park (with the exception of our Sunday morning services)
- Involve attenders arriving and departing in a staggered fashion (not all arriving or departing at the same time – see Appendix 1)
- Do not occur at the same time as the road network is busy (i.e. outside of commuting times)

Therefore, we do not believe that our planned York Way Church building project will cause any significant impact on the local road network, or parking in the local area. Our aim is to provide better facilities for our activities and this will not necessarily increase the number of people attending these activities. For example, our highest attendance weekly activity (excluding the Sunday morning service) is our Wednesday Food Bank/Community Café session. Attendance is not generated by the size of the building, but by the number of people local agencies (e.g. schools, GPs, housing officers) refer to us. If demand rises enough so that our parking is overwhelmed, we would simply offer additional Food Bank sessions to spread out the footfall.

Most of our other weekly activities are either small scale, or, in the case of our youth work, many of the attenders are just dropped off and collected by parents or make their own way to us from the local housing estates.

Although we would like to offer more weekly events to the local community (e.g. a bereavement café), we do not believe that these are likely to involve high attendances, due to the relatively specific nature of the events.

Sunday Morning Services

As already mentioned, the only weekly event where we currently need more car parking spaces than our proposed York Way Church car park contains is our Sunday Morning Service. We currently average around 90 attenders – in a hall that is 150m² (at the Burns Road Coombes Community Centre). We can accommodate a maximum of 120 seats in this hall. However, it is unlikely that we would ever have 120 people as very few people are willing to sit in the front row. The hall in our

proposed Church building is 156m² (with a 48m² overflow for displays/special events e.g. Christmas carol service). Therefore, our maximum capacity would be approximately 150 seats. This is only about 20% more than we can accommodate at our current venue. Therefore, we would not expect a huge number of additional attenders in the proposed building.

Our services are currently held only about 300m from our Church building at the Coombes Community Centre on the Burns Road housing estate. This means that moving our services from the Coombes Community Centre to our proposed Church building is unlikely to lead to a significant increase in the volume of traffic generated by our services, and should result in less traffic on the Burns Road housing estate on Sunday mornings.

The survey data shows that our morning service generated 37 cars on Sunday 29 March (the term-time Sunday surveyed), and 26 cars on Sunday 5 April (the holiday time Sunday surveyed).

Our plans show that we will extend the current Church car park to 28 spaces. This does appear to leave a small shortfall in spaces. However, we do not accept that this will cause parking issues in the local area for the following reasons:

- We can arrange car sharing to reduce the number of cars driven to our services (our attendees are always very keen to help each other out, and we can therefore encourage car sharing)
- We can encourage people living more locally to the Church to walk/cycle to our services (our new Church building includes provision for cycle parking). The geographical analysis of drivers to our Sunday morning services shows that a number of cars have come from a very local area. If parking is more difficult, we believe that people will choose to walk instead of driving
- We think that we can encourage car sharing/walking/cycling as the vast majority of our Church attendees live within a relatively small area (c. 80% in Royston – see Appendix 3)
- The set-up team and Church leaders' cars can be "blocked in" as they will be arriving and leaving after most people have gone – this will increase the number of cars we can fit into the car park
- We can prioritise parking for those who have specific vulnerabilities
- Local roads have double yellow lines preventing parking. This will encourage attendees to walk/cycle instead of driving
- We are located on the edge of a large industrial estate, with lots of parking. Most of this parking is empty on Sunday mornings (see Appendix 4) and we have already agreed with one local business (Sunhill Day Nursery – see Appendix 5) that we can use their car park on Sunday mornings (when they are closed).
- We have also discussed the situation with another local business (Mantles) and they have said they will help us with car parking if the need arises
- Other businesses have asked us in the past if we would like to arrange reciprocal parking arrangements for Sunday mornings (e.g. Hotel Chocolat)
- The road network in Royston is very quiet on Sunday mornings

Conclusion:

The survey results clearly show that we have sufficient parking already for all our activities (most of which already take place at our York Way site) except the Sunday morning service. The new building will give us a better environment for these activities, but will not necessarily generate additional

attendance or car parking requirements. If it does, we will simply offer the activities on more days of the week, spreading the need for car parking.

The survey results do show a shortfall in parking for our Sunday morning service, but the shortfall is not significant (10-12 cars). We have listed ways we can reduce this shortfall, and also by using the car parks of local businesses (that are shut on Sundays) so we can provide ample parking. Although our new Church hall is significantly larger than the existing Church hall, it is not significantly larger (unless the overflow area is also used) than the Burns Road Coombes Community Centre hall that we are currently using for our Sunday morning services. Therefore, we do not believe that rebuilding our Church hall and relocating our Sunday morning service back to our own site will significantly affect the local transport situation.

Appendix 1 – Arrival/Departure Time Spread

Appendix 2 – Geographical Analysis of where Drivers live

Appendix 3 – Geographical Analysis of where all Church regular attendees live

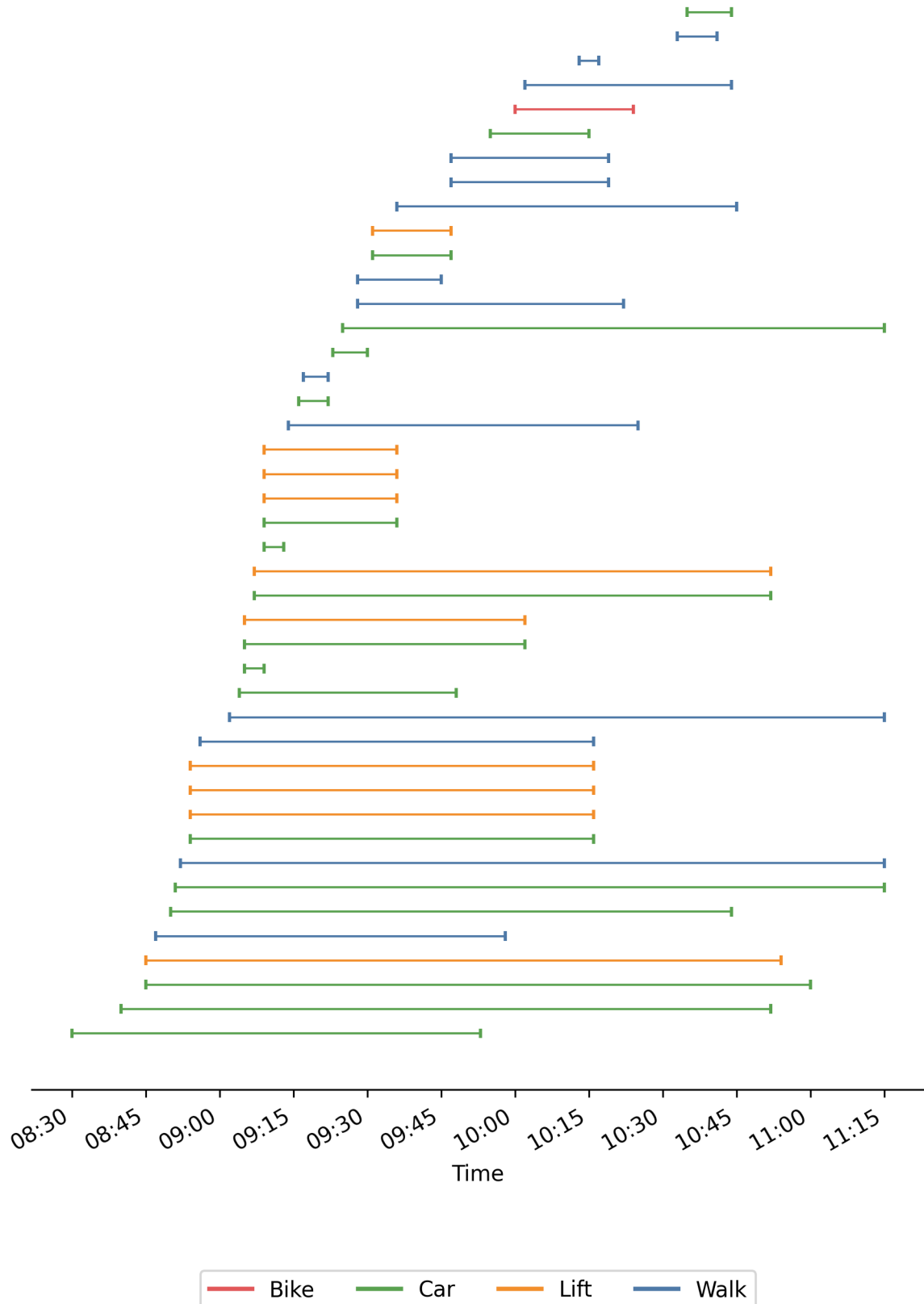
Appendix 4 – Photos of Newark Close (Sunday morning 19 April at 9.00 and 11.00)

Appendix 5 – Photos of Nursery car park (Sunday morning 19 April at 9.00 and 11.00)

Appendix 1 – Arrival/Departure Time Spread

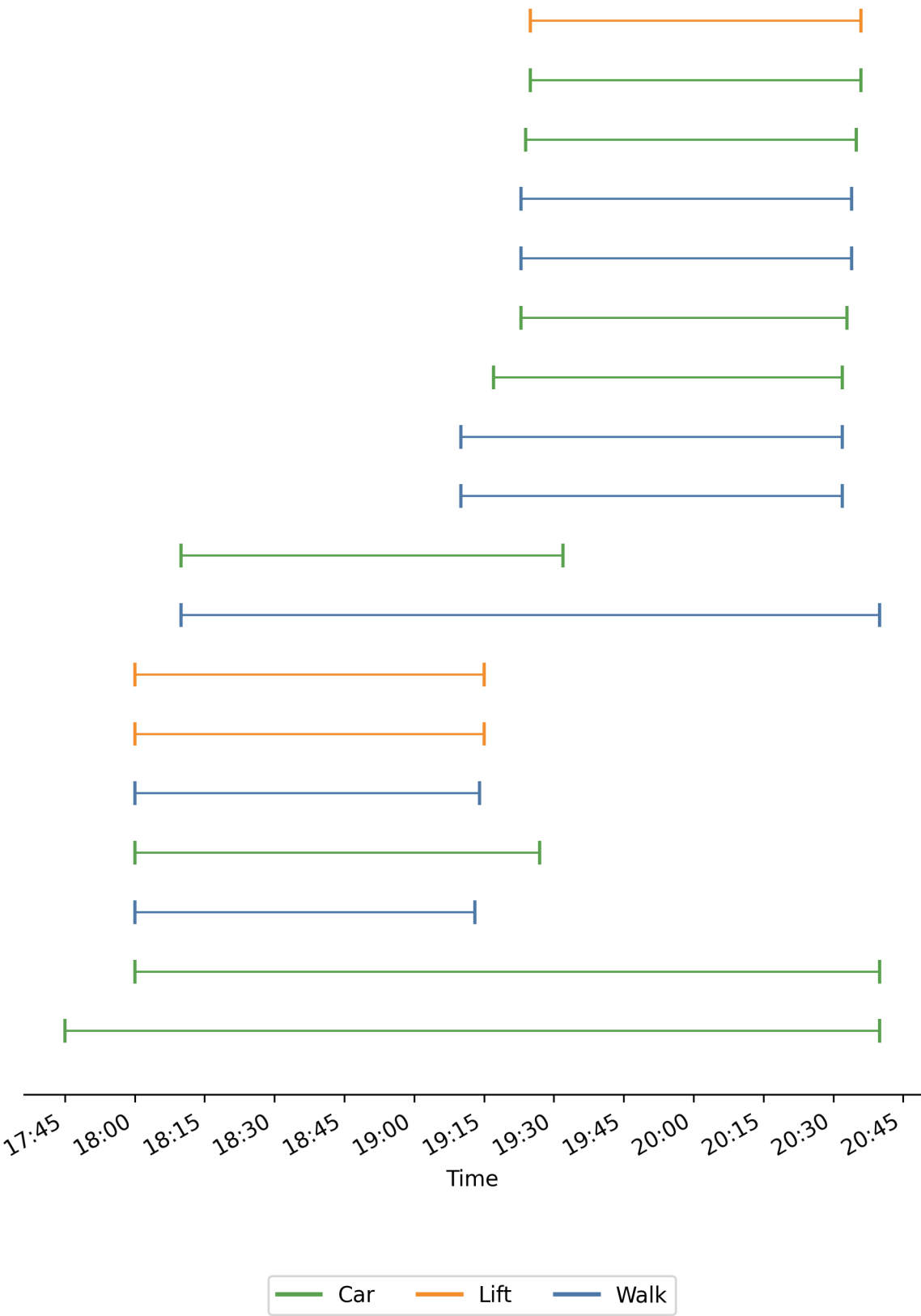
- Wednesday Food Bank/Community Café – 25 March 2026

Wednesday Food Bank



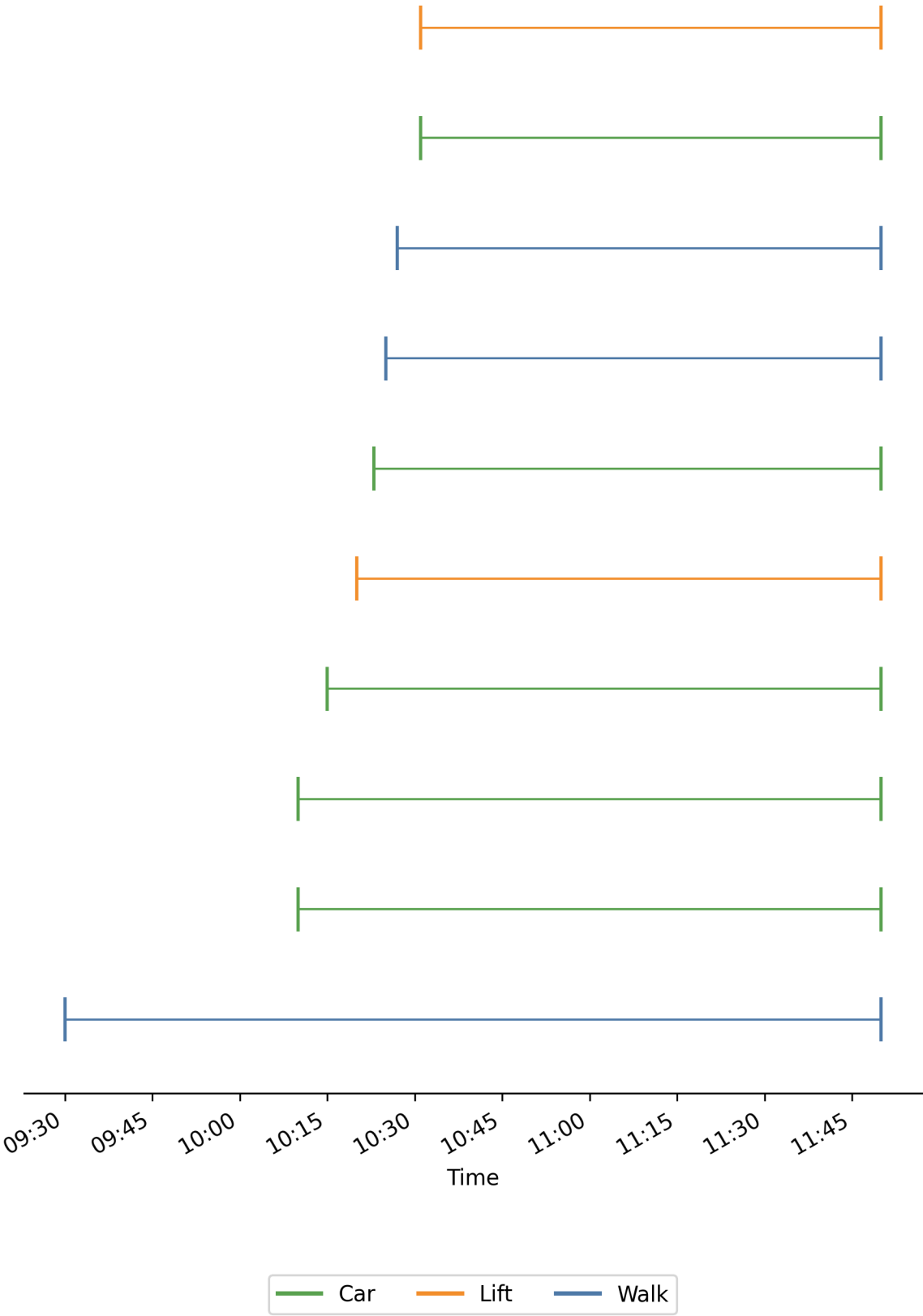
- Youth Club – 25 March 2026

Youth Club

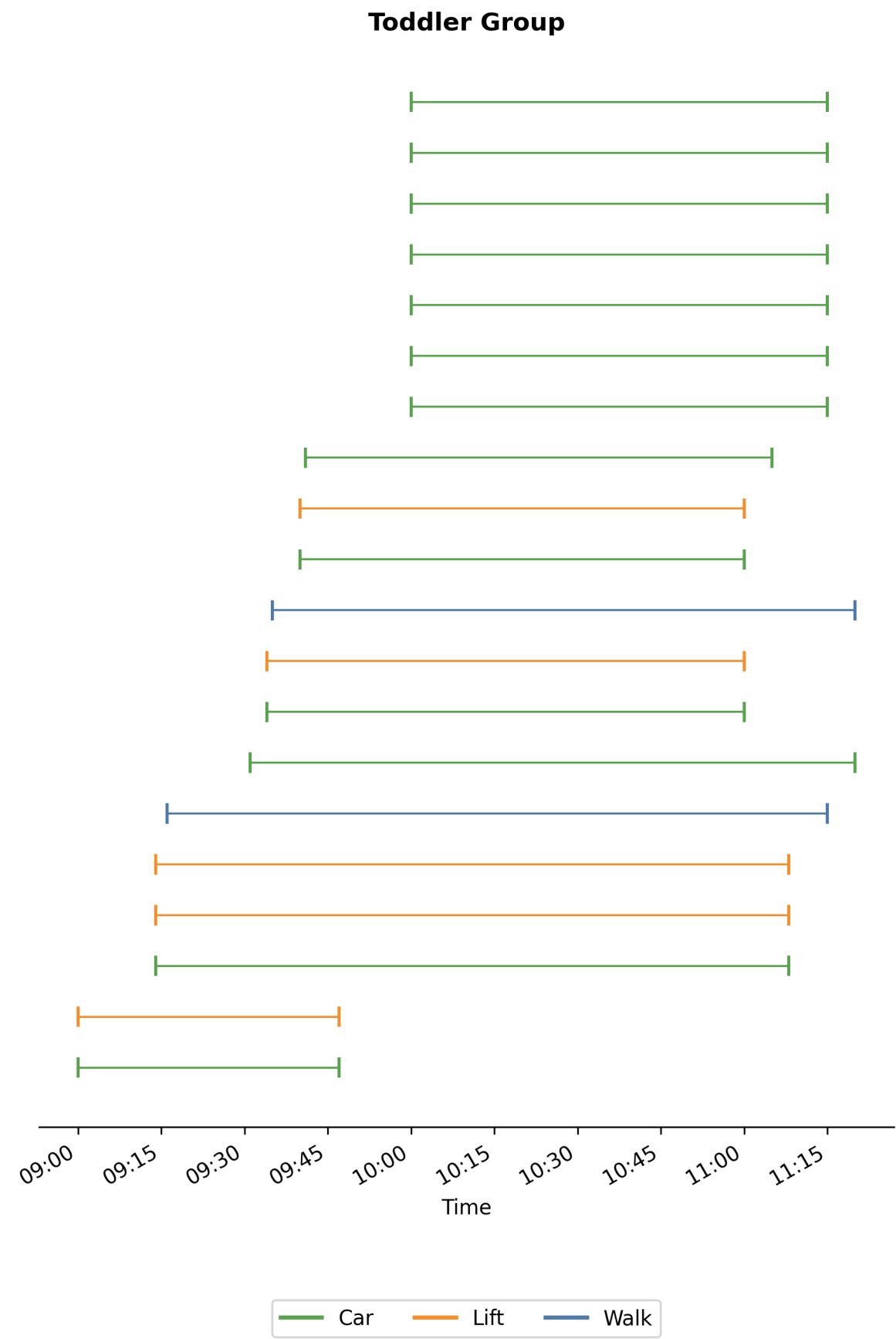


- Coffee Morning – 26 March 2026

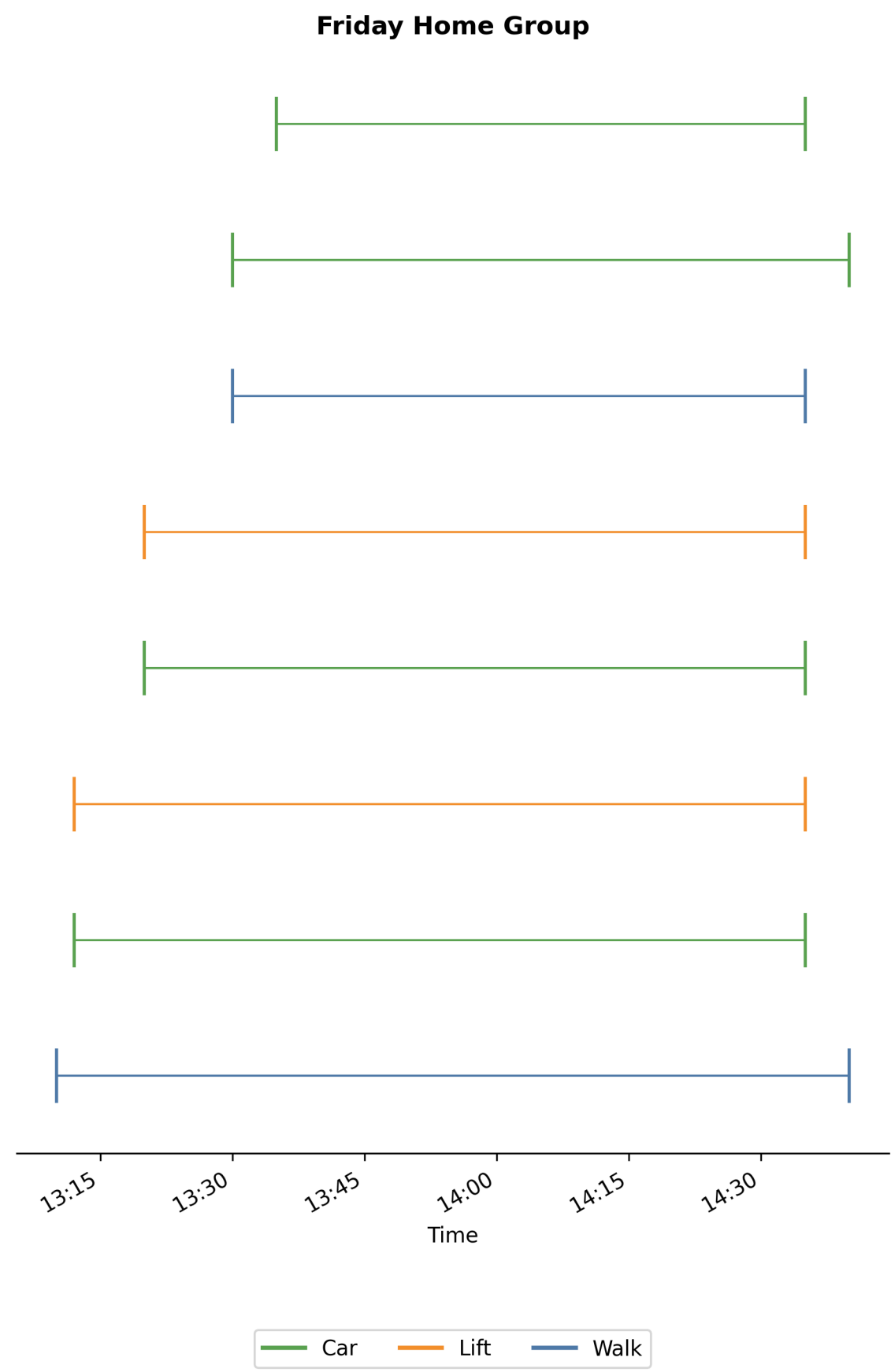
Coffee Morning



- Toddlers Group – 27 March 2026

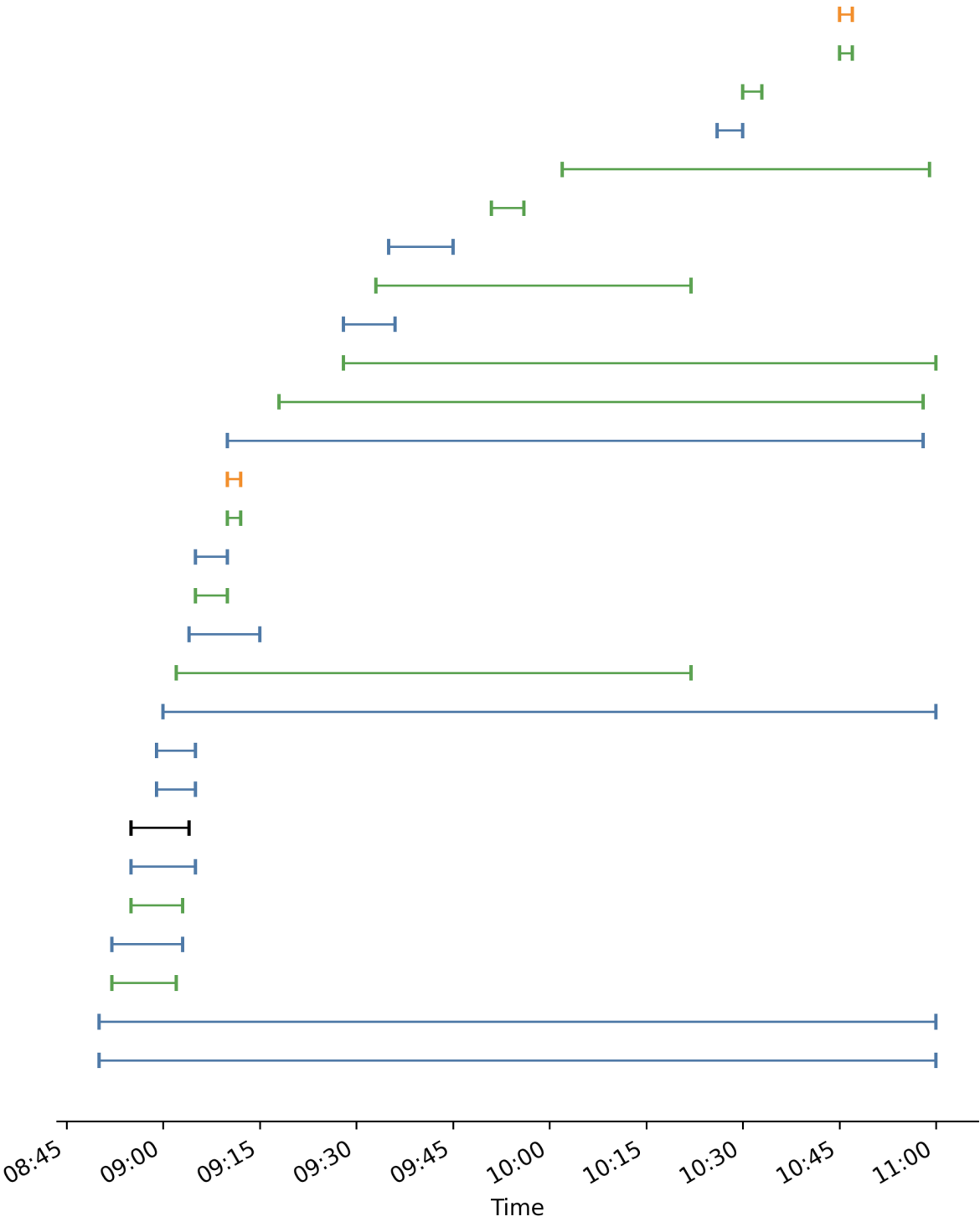


- Friday Home Group – 27 March 2026



- Saturday Food Bank – 28 March 2026

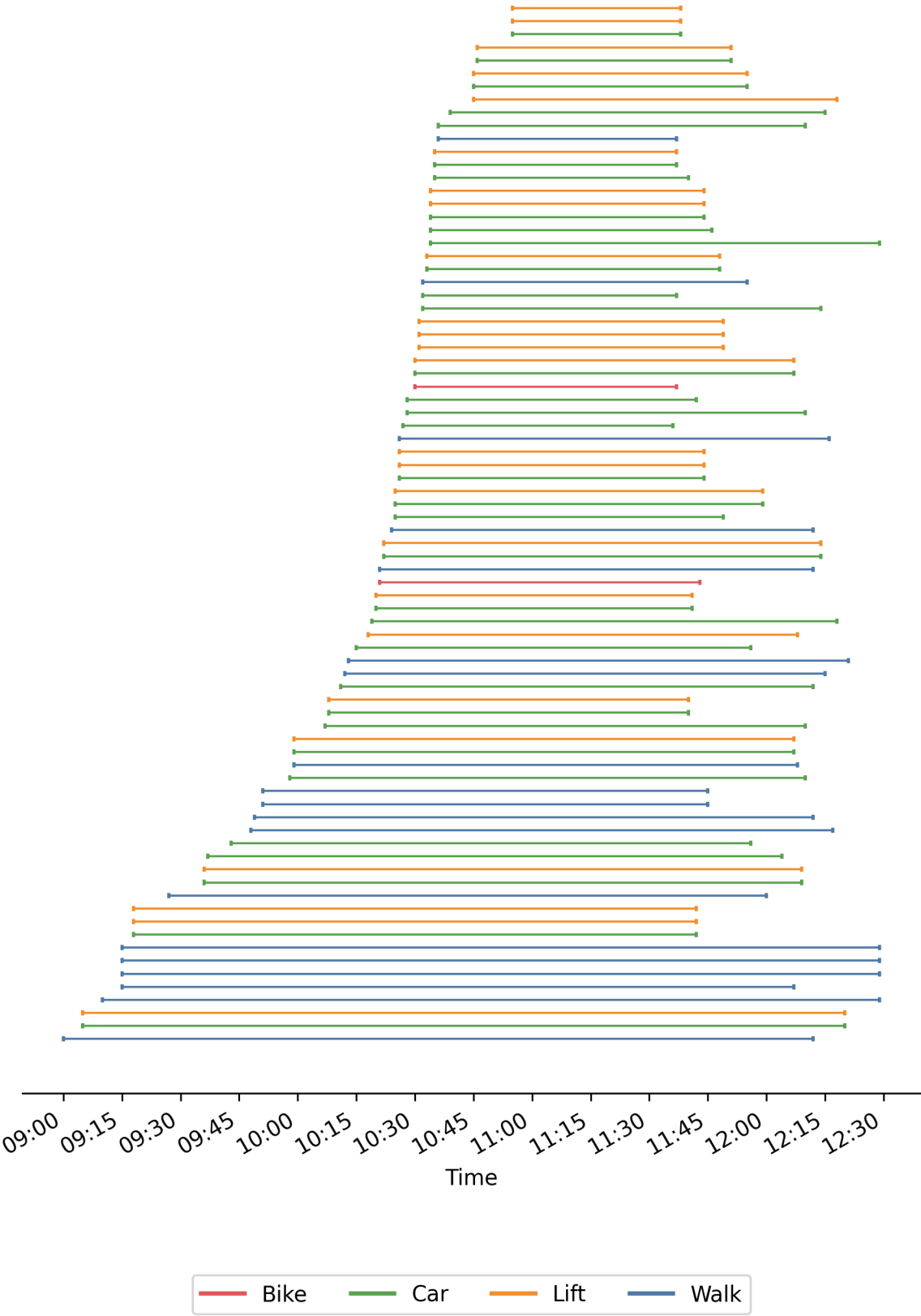
Saturday Food Bank



Car Lift Motorbike Walk

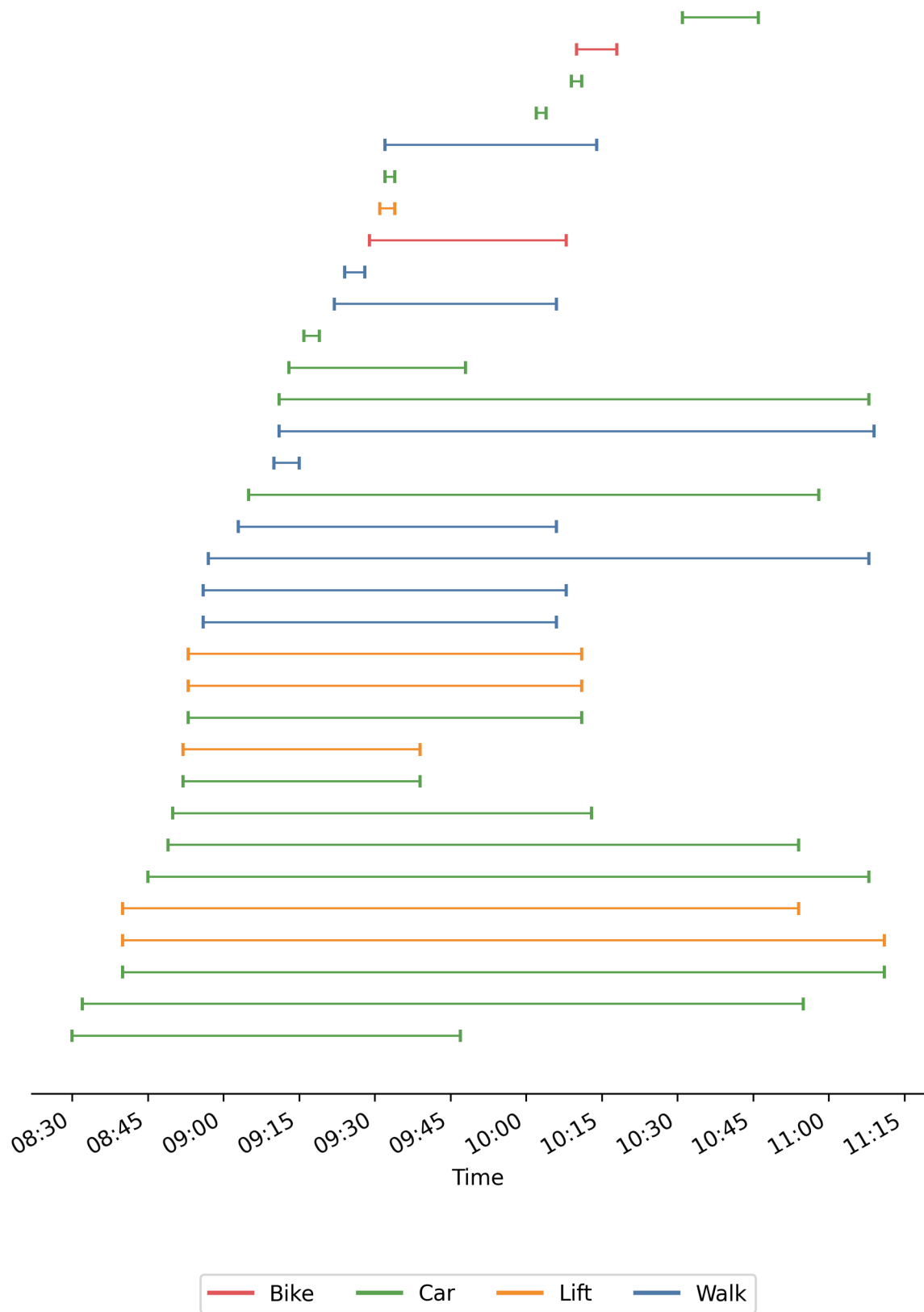
- Sunday Morning Service – 29 March 2026 (at Burns Road Coombes Community Centre)

Sunday Morning Service



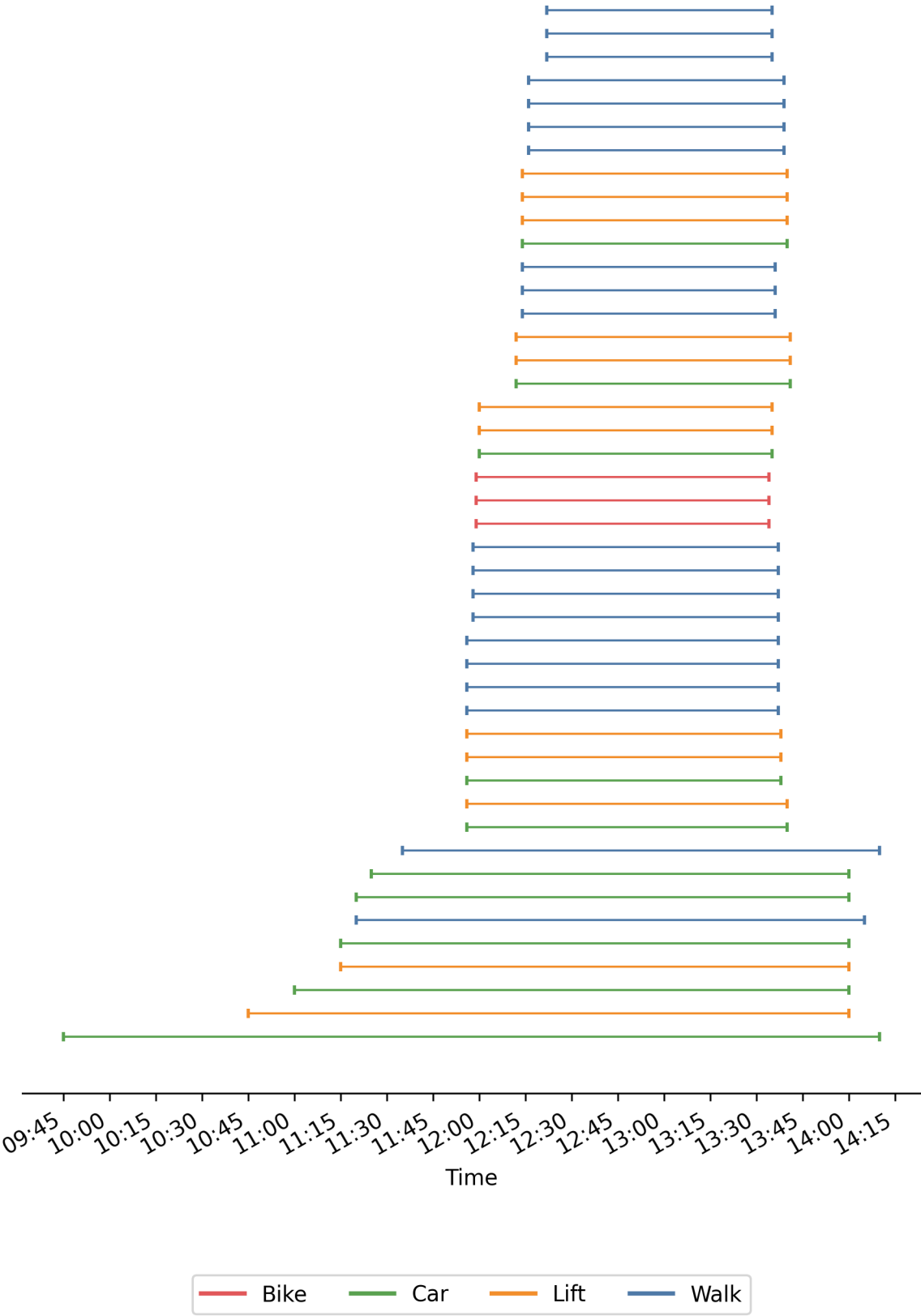
- Wednesday Food Bank/Community Café – 1 April 2026

Wednesday Food Bank — Holiday



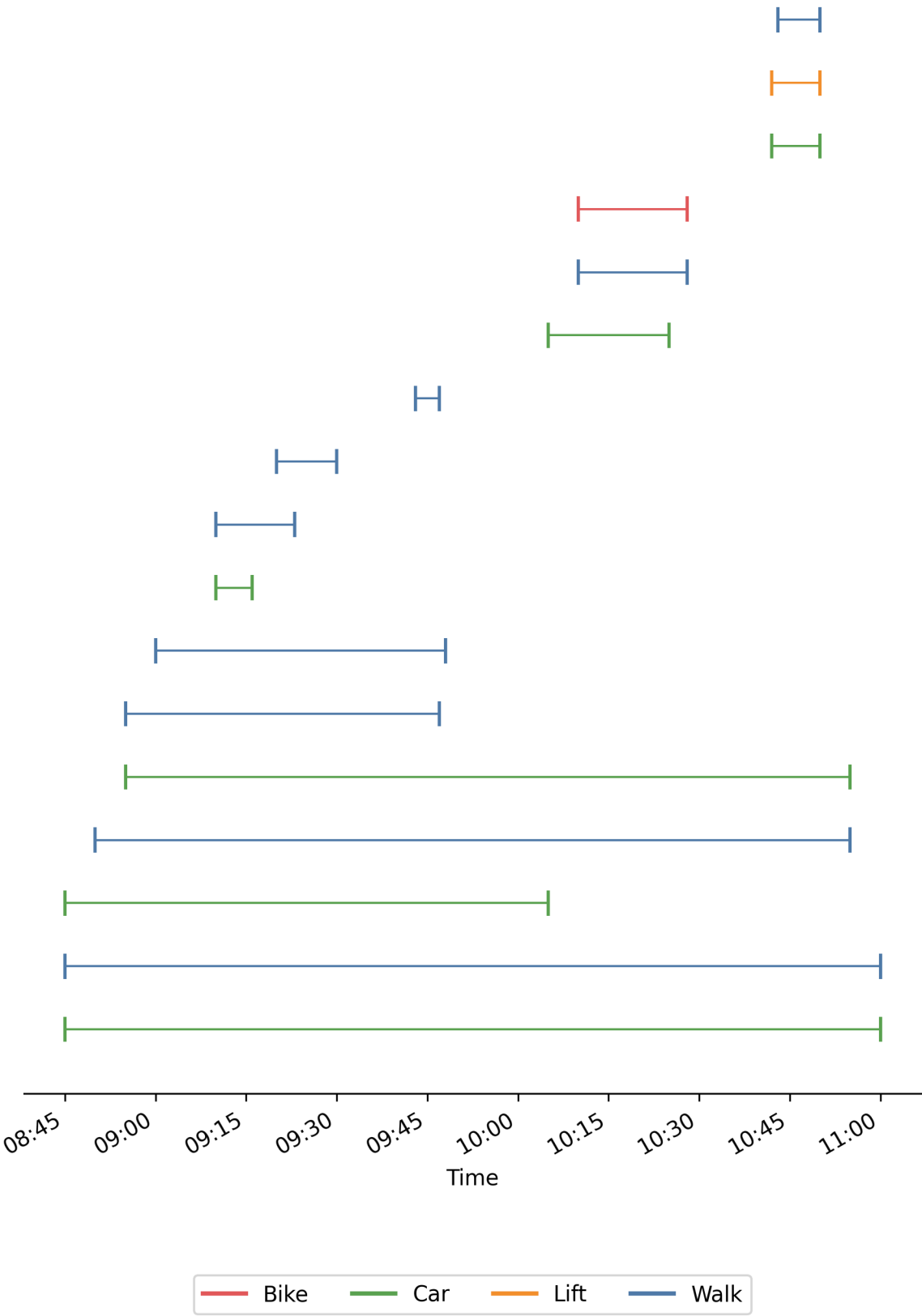
- Make Lunch Club – 2 April 2026 (at Burns Road Coombes Community Centre)

Make Lunch — Holiday



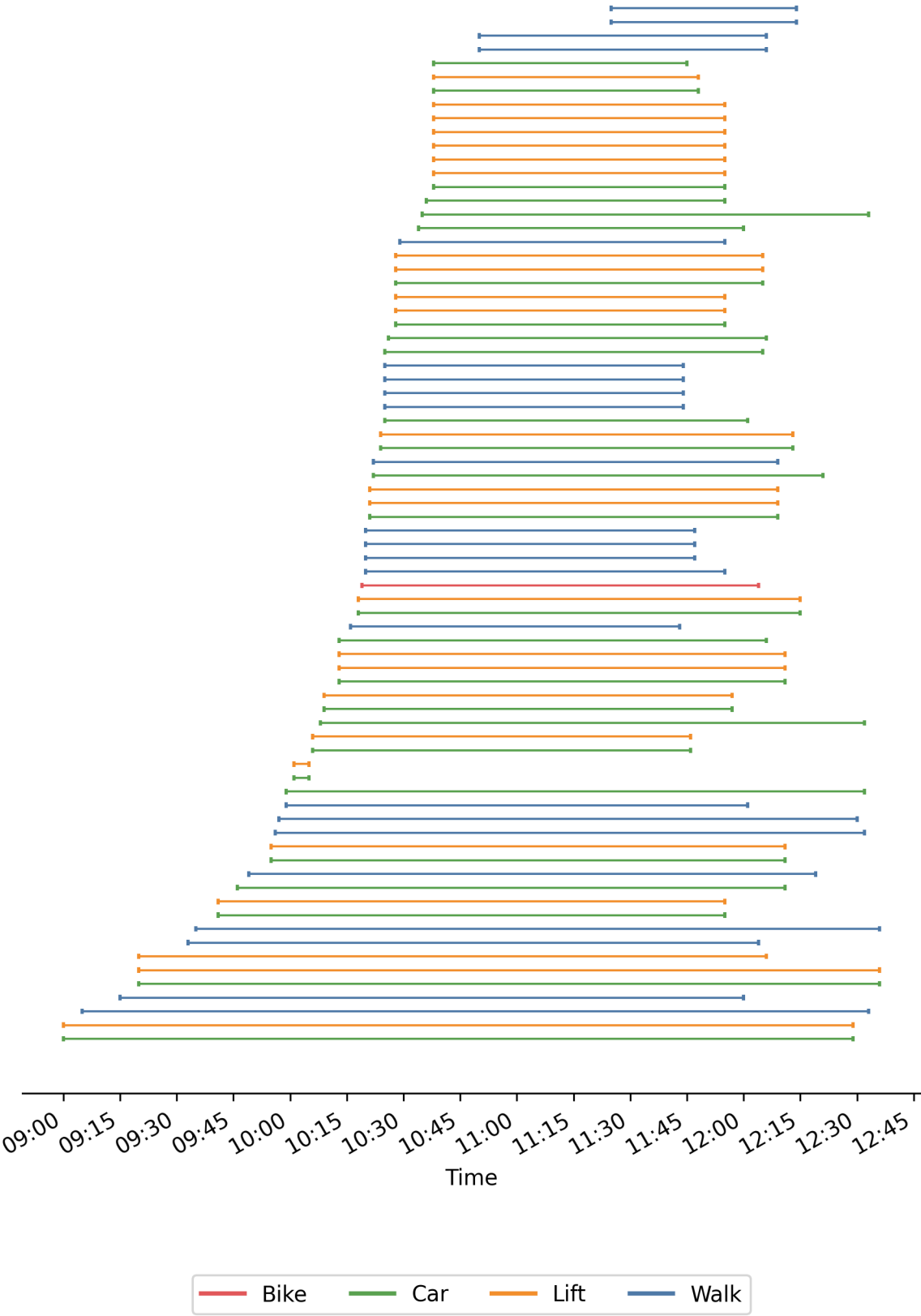
- Saturday Food Bank – 4 April 2026

Satuday Food Bank — Holiday



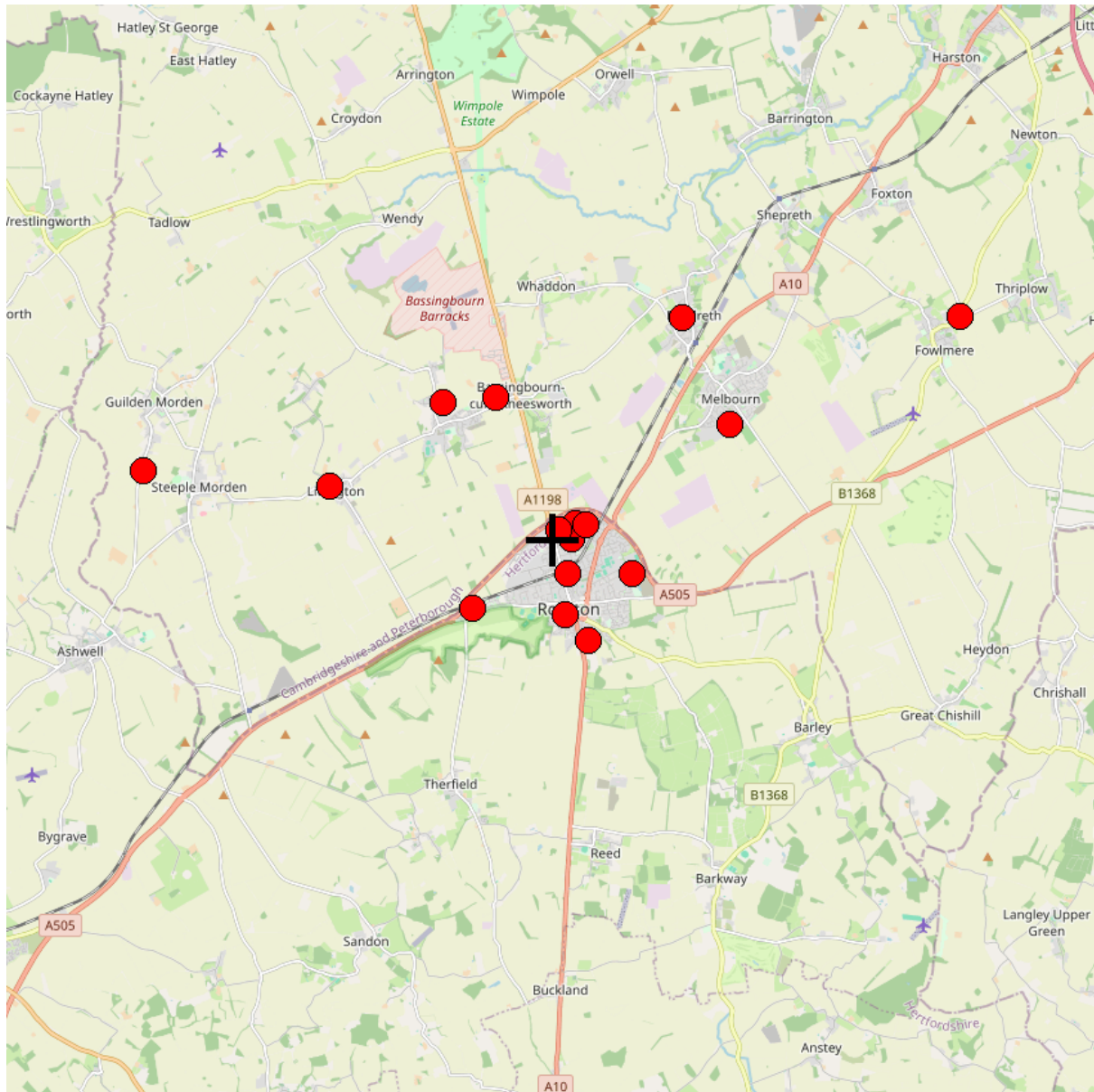
- Sunday Morning Service – 5 April 2026 (at Burns Road Coombes Community Centre)

Sunday Morning Service — Holiday

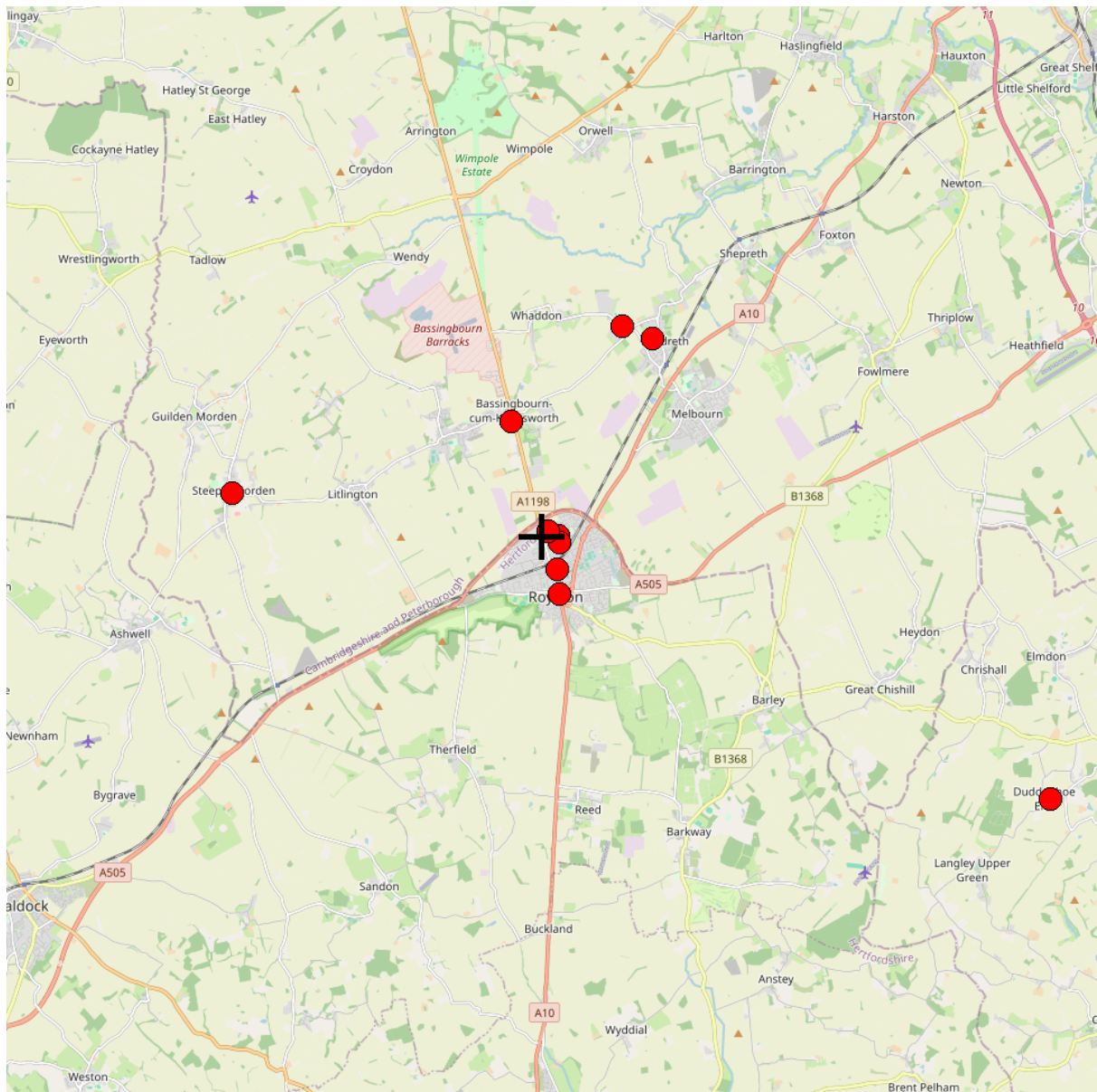


Appendix 2 - Geographical Analysis of Driver journey origin points (for events with over 10 attendees that drove)

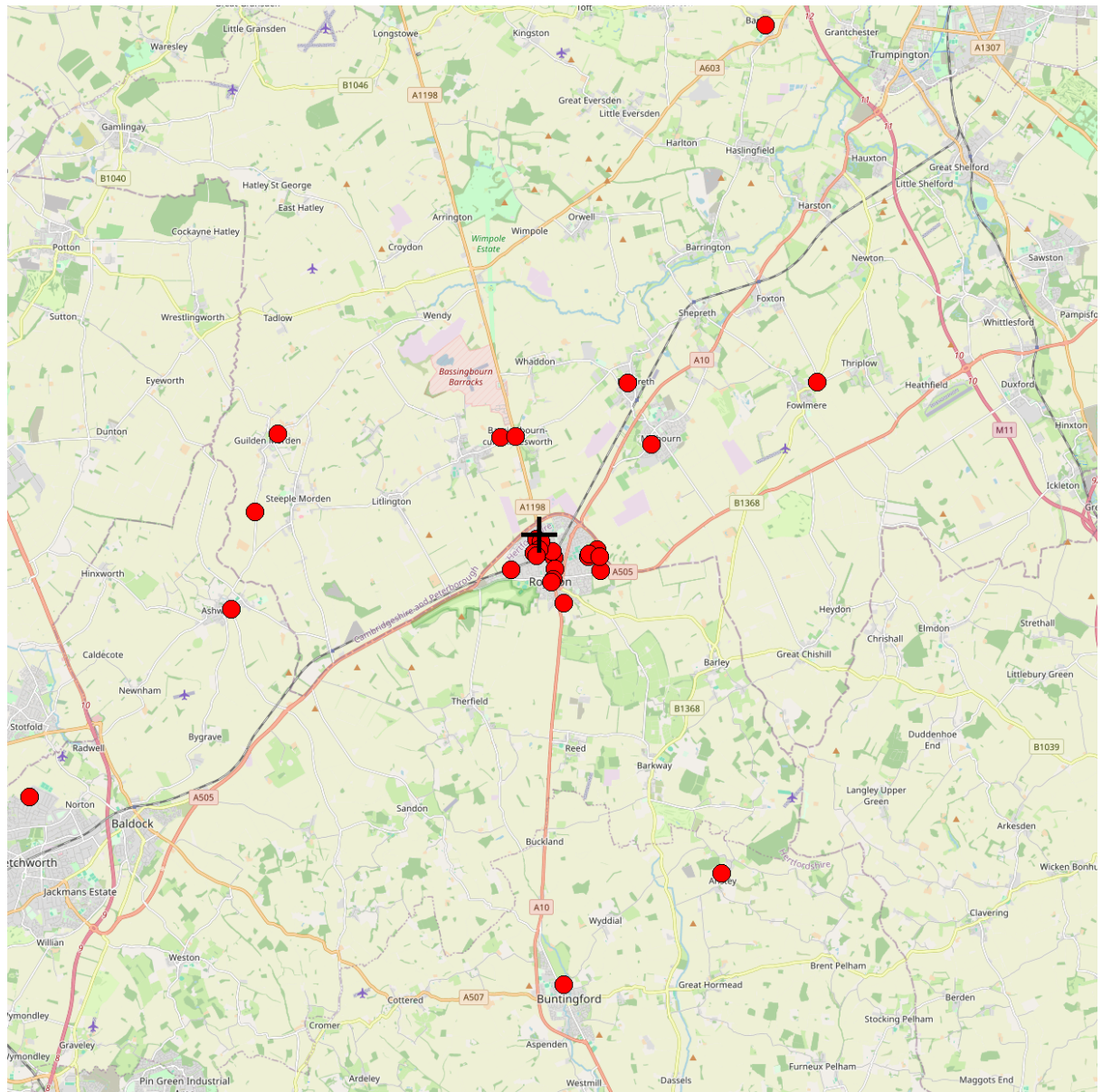
- Wednesday Food Bank/Community Café – 25 March 2026



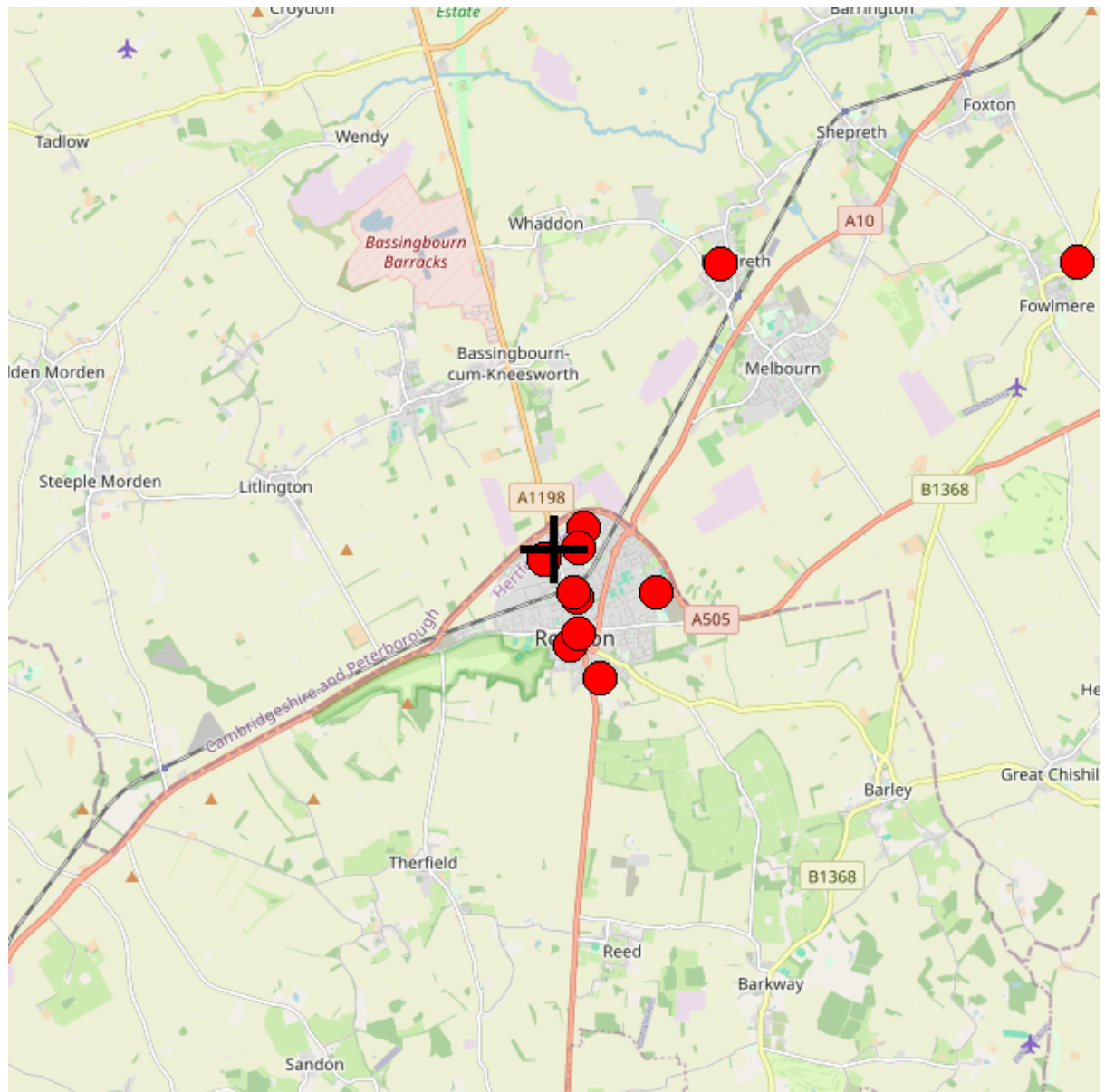
- Saturday Food Bank – 28 March 2026



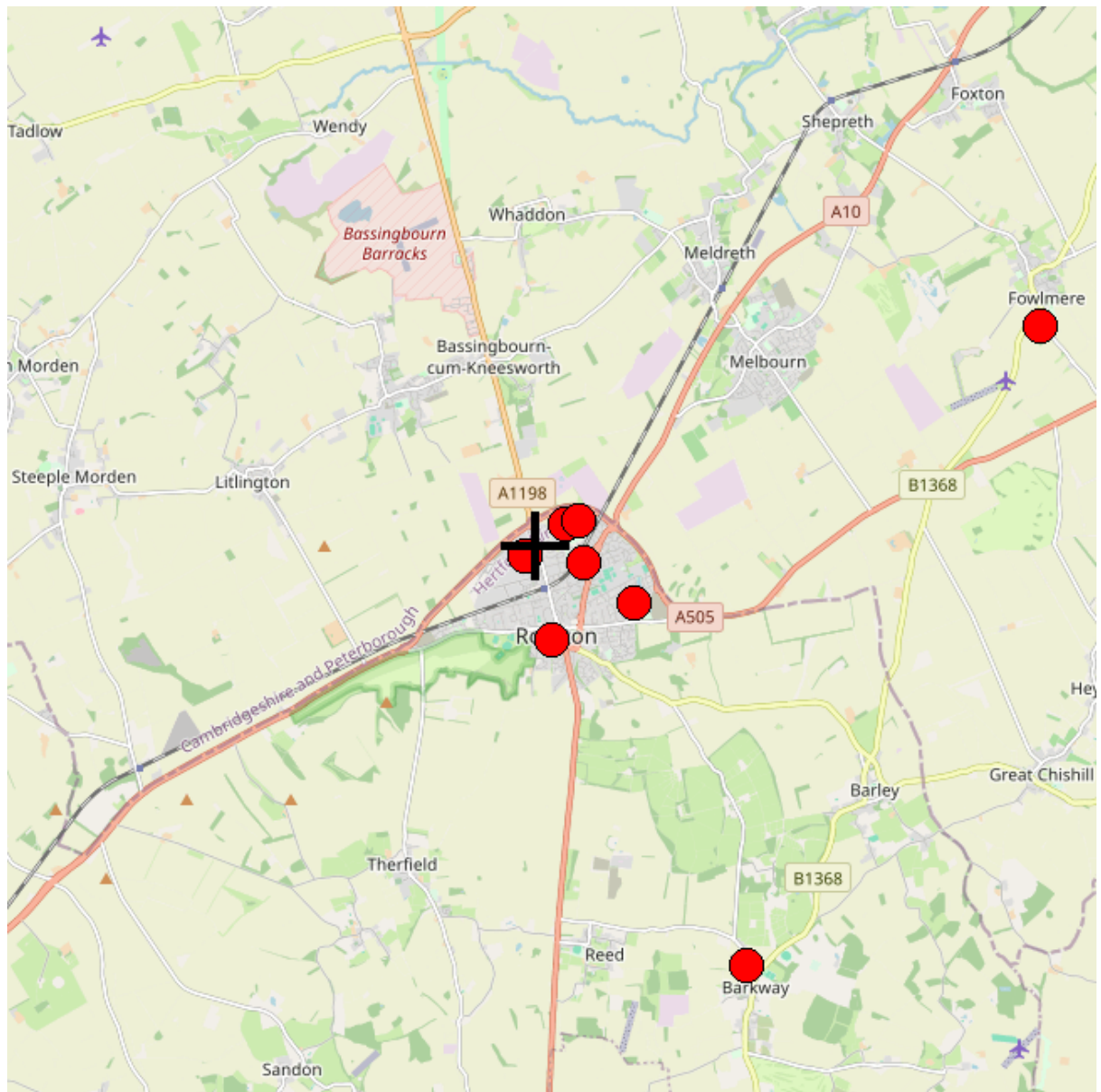
- Sunday Morning Service – 29 March 2026 (at Burns Road Coombes Community Centre)



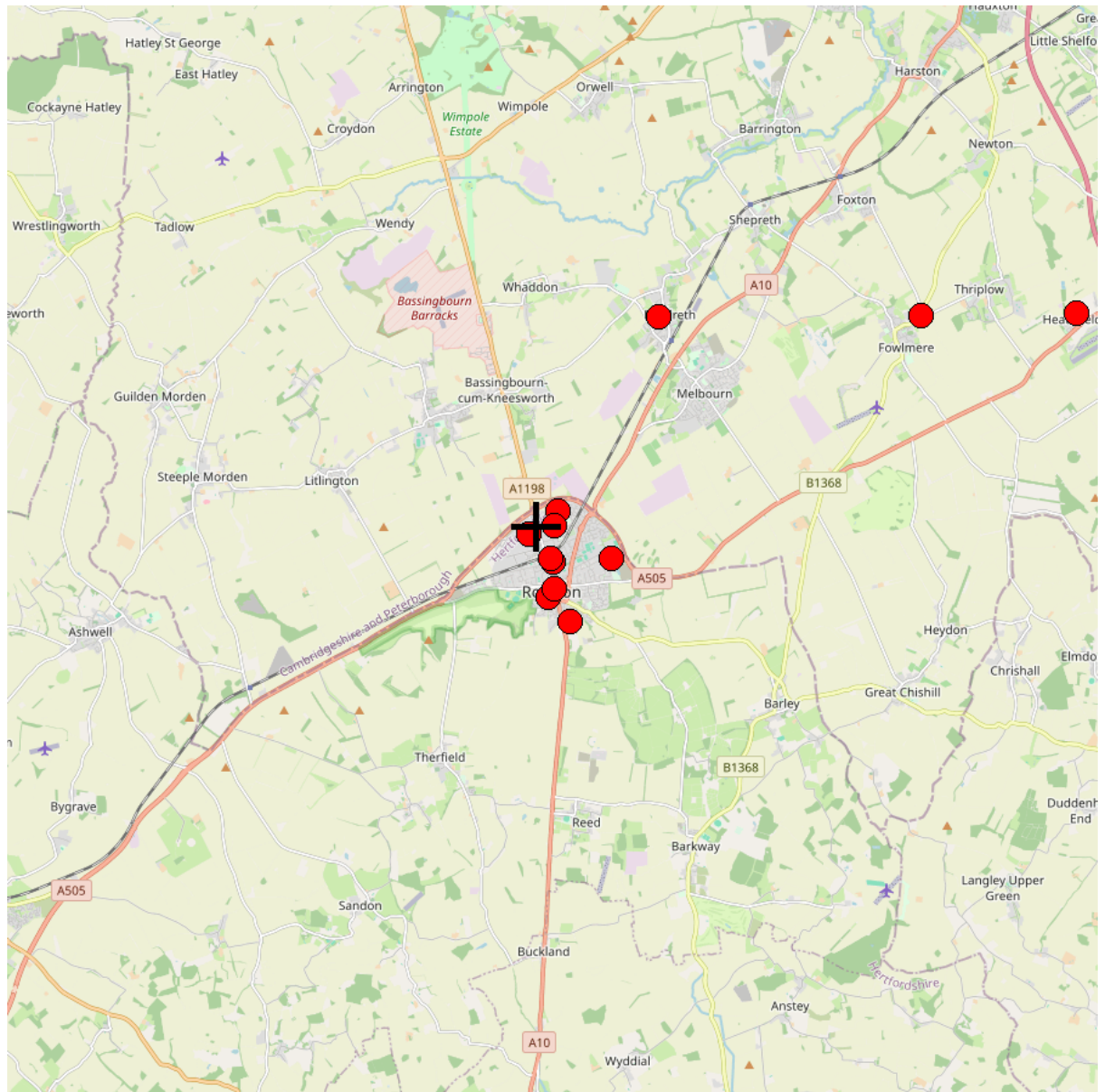
- Wednesday Food Bank/Community Café – 1 April 2026



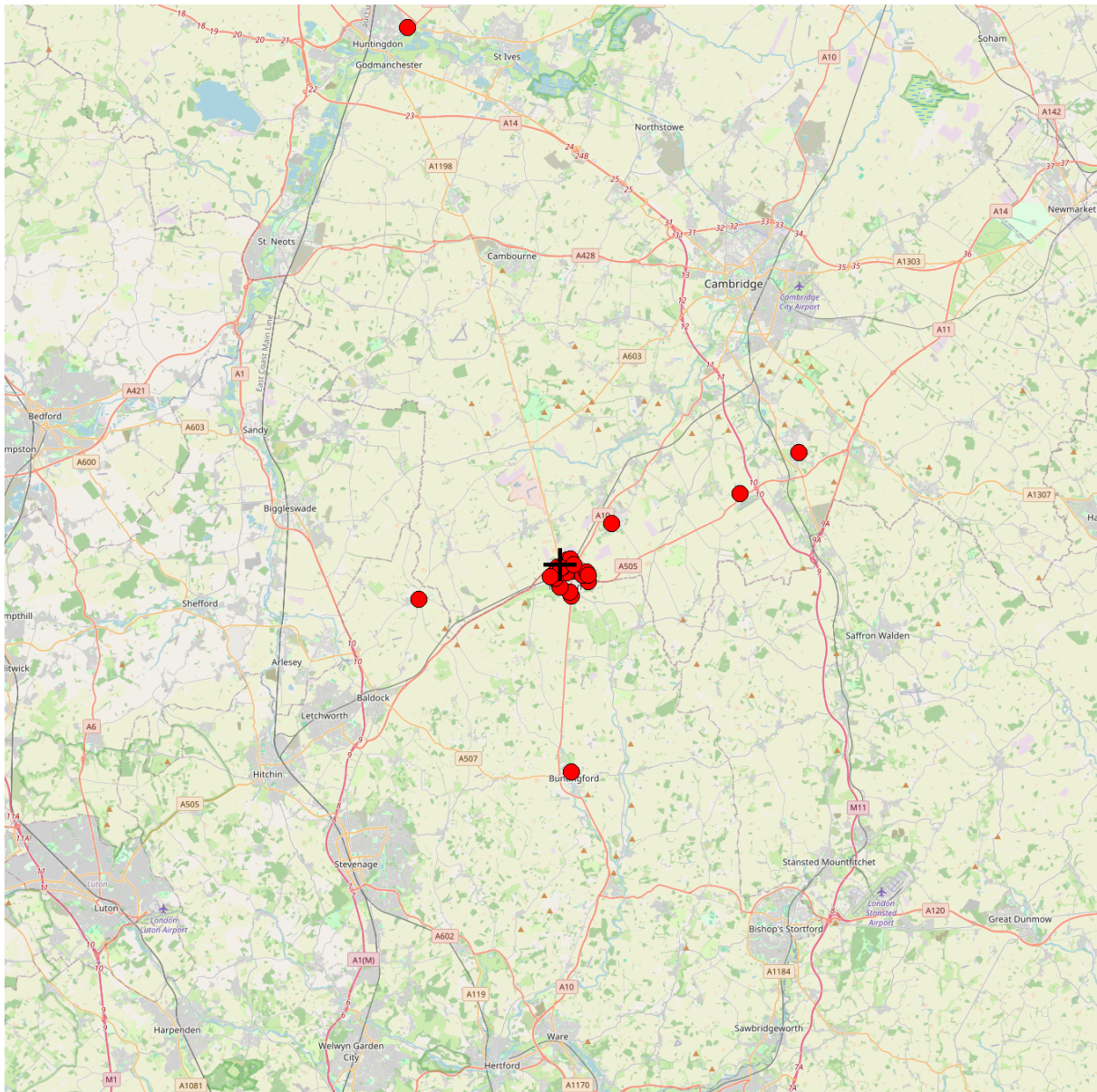
- Make Lunch Club – 2 April 2026 (at Burns Road Coombes Community Centre)



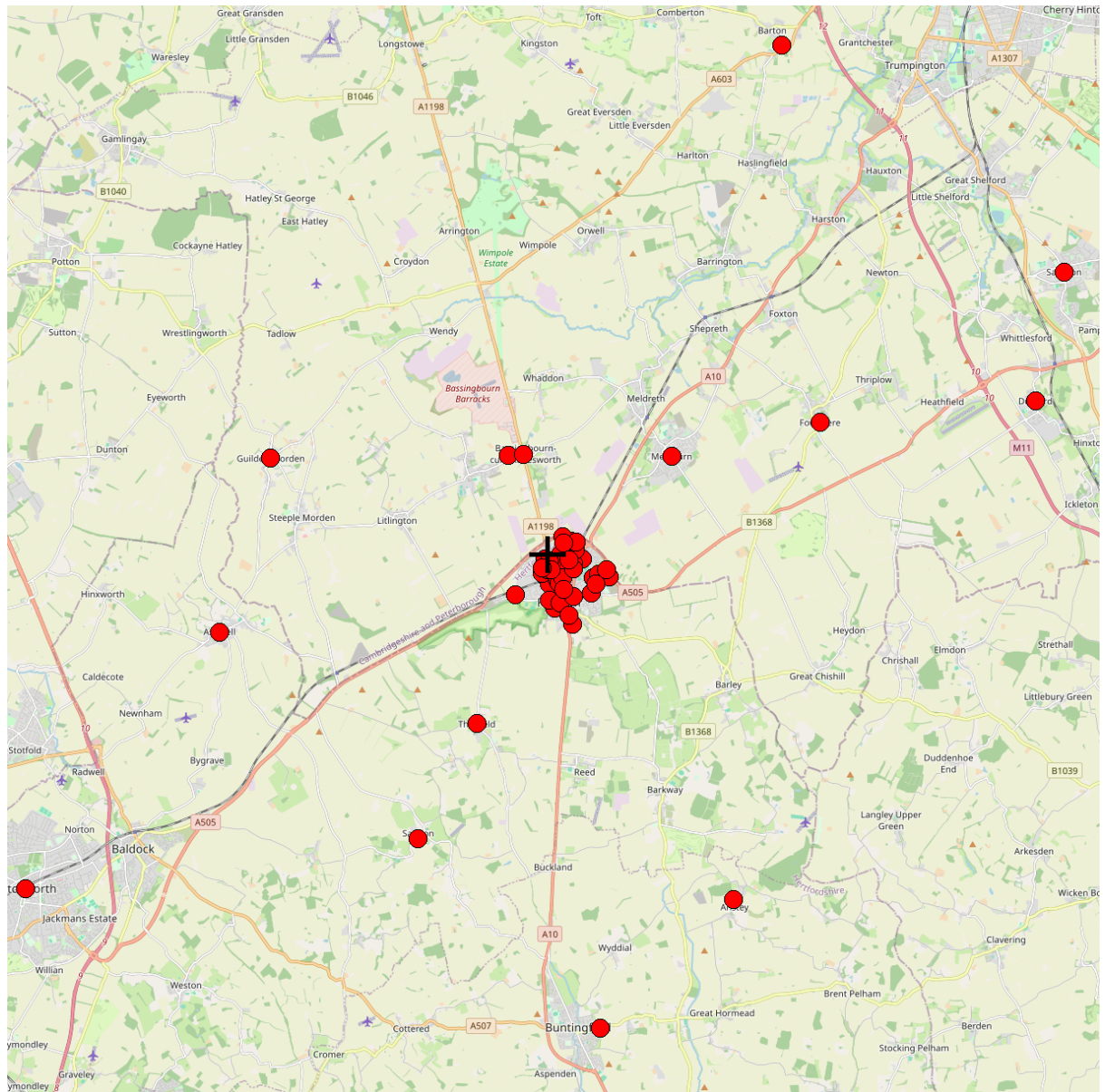
- Saturday Food Bank – 4 April 2026



- Sunday Morning Service – 5 April 2026 (at Burns Road Coombes Community Centre)



Appendix 3 – Geographical Analysis of where all Church regular attenders live



Appendix 4 – Photos of Newark Close (Sunday morning 19 April at 9.00 and 11.00)



Appendix 5 – Photos of Nursery car park (Sunday morning 19 April at 9.00 and 11.00)

