

Useful **free** web sites for Ramblers

Please note that the inclusion of a web site in this list does not imply any endorsement, other than that I have found the web site useful or of interest. Peter Jenkins – a keen Rambler – 9th September 2011.

<http://www.ramblers.co.uk/walksfinder/search.php?advanced=1&>

This area of the Ramblers website allows you to search for Rambler walks anywhere in the country. Apart from searching for walks by a specific date, you can also search for walks in a particular area; for example: by entering 'Llanberis' to find upcoming walks in the Snowdon area.

<http://www.bikehike.co.uk/>

This website allows you to create or view routes on 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey maps (or Google maps) for all UK and to print them.

Features include:

- Add course points to aid navigation
- Distance and elevation data continuously calculated for your route
- Interactive elevation profile - hover or click on the elevation graph to see corresponding route point
- Course editing facilities - including Google-style route dragging
- UK postcode and place name search
- Printable routes on both Google and OS maps
- Upload and download of routes to and from GPS units (GPX, TCX, KML and TRL formats)
- Upload & download directly to a Garmin GPS unit using the Garmin Communicator Plug-in
- Simultaneous route creation on Google and Ordnance Survey maps (for UK)

<http://www.bing.com/maps/>

This website allows you to view and print 1:25,000 Survey maps for all UK and to print them. Plus Multi-maps for the world.

To switch to OS maps, select the 'London Street map' pull-down menu, in top left corner of the map and choose 'Ordnance Survey maps'.

1:50,000 OS maps are displayed at first, but you can zoom into 1:25,000 OS mapping.

Features include:

- Viewing and printing either 1:50,000 or 1:25,000 areas of Ordnance Survey maps.
- UK postcode and place name search

<http://wtp2.appspot.com/wheresthepath.htm>

This website allows you to simultaneously view a 1:50,000 OS map and the corresponding satellite view

Features include:

- Hover the cursor over any point on the map and view its five-figure grid reference, decimal latitude/longitude
- Hover the cursor over a footpath and see the corresponding satellite view of the same spot
- UK postcode and place name search
- Some route plotting options (but don't appear to be as useful as those on the Bikehike web site)

<http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

This website has, in many ways, been overtaken by the websites above which display a full-colour OS map. However, it does have some specialist uses:

- Select various layers of mapping (for example to view 'Sites of Scientific Interest' (SSI's))
- Map scale selection (for example: to show the size and shape of your back garden!)
- Some route plotting options (but not as useful as those on the Bikehike web site)

Printing maps from the web sites above

The 'Print' features may not meet your needs. My preferred method is:

- Put the cursor in the window to be printed
- Press the 'Alt' and 'Prt Scr' keys simultaneously to copy the contents of the screen as an image
- Paste the image into a document format of your choice (PowerPoint, Word, or whatever)
- Use the image editor to crop unwanted areas of the image and drag to the preferred size.

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/uk_forecast_weather.html

This website is the home of the Met Office, where you can select regions and locations or post codes.

<http://www.metcheck.com/v40/uk/home/>

This looks further ahead than Met office web site.

<http://www.mwis.org.uk/>

This website is the home of the Mountain Weather Information Service (MWIS), which currently produce forecasts for eight different mountain areas of the UK as an aid to mountain safety. These forecasts are now viewed by 2 million visitors to their website a year, and can be read on the appropriate webpage, downloaded as a printable PDF, or accessed via internet enabled mobile phone. MWIS produce all 8 of their forecasts 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. Areas covered:

- Northwest Highlands
- West Highlands
- Cairngorms National Park and Monadhliath
- Southeastern Highlands
- Southern Uplands
- Lake District (Cumbria, and also the western Pennines North from Ingleborough)
- Snowdonia National Park
- The Peak district and Yorkshire Dales National Parks (and the area immediately between them)

http://www.will4adventure.com/overcome_your_fear_of_heights.shtml

This web site gives details of a one-day course to overcome a fear of heights. Also an option for a second day to reinforce the techniques learned on day-1

Please note that the inclusion of this course in this list of web sites does not imply any endorsement – it is only listed because this topic was featured in a 'Trail' magazine article and may be of general interest.

http://www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/data_service/models_compass/gma_calc.html

This website calculates the angle between grid north (British National Grid) and magnetic north at a given location. Much easier than trying to calculate the variation per year from a 1982 map if you are able to navigate to this degree of accuracy!

<http://www.walkingbritain.co.uk/>

This web site contains over 12,000 pages of walking information, including many walk descriptions. "Walking Britain" is dedicated to the footpaths that cross the landscape. The National Parks feature strongly in the lists of walks including the Lake District, the Peak District and Snowdonia and the Yorkshire Dales.

<http://www.livefortheoutdoors.com/>

This web site is the home of 'Trail' and 'Country Walking' magazines and includes gear reviews, a hill guide, etc.