

LITTLEBOROUGH SILVER SURFERS - session 4

All the information and links below are at
www.wardle.demon.co.uk/silversurfers.html

Google Maps - maps.google.co.uk
(or click "maps" from the top of any Google page)

There are many websites that display maps (including street maps) and give directions (both driving and walking). Google Maps probably has the most features, but other popular websites are Bing Maps (www.bing.com/maps - this used to be called Multimaps) and the AA (theaa.com).

Generally you get quickest results by typing in a postcode, but you can put place names (and sometimes street names) in as well.

On the map, click "satellite" to see a satellite photo of the area instead of a map, and untick "labels" if you want to see the photo without the street names.

To get directions, find the place you're going on the map as above, then click "get directions" (on the left of the page) and put in the postcode of where you're travelling from. (If you don't know the postcode, or you just want general directions, put the town name. If you want to give someone directions to come to you, click the two-headed arrow to reverse everything.)

On the left of the map, the arrows at the top move the map in each direction (or you can just drag it with the mouse). The plus and minus buttons zoom in and out. Note that not all maps will let you zoom in all the way - it depends how detailed Google's photos are.

To start a new search, you don't have to go back to the start - just type your new postcode (or place name) into the search box at the top of the page.

Note: Google Maps shows fairly recent satellite photos, but if you want to see what a place looks like NOW, try a webcam. There are some at earthcam.com, or you can just google!

Google Maps also has a Street View option available in most locations, although you need an up-to-date computer for this to work. This shows photos of what the street actually looks like when you're walking along it. To use this option, find the place you're interested in on the map as above, then click on the little yellow man in the top left of the map (above the + sign) and drag him over the map. (If the yellow man is grey, Street View is not available in that location.) Streets for which "street view" is available then become outlined in blue, and you can place the "yellow man" anywhere to get photos. Click on the arrows on the road to move along it; to change the direction of view, click and drag the "N" around the circle. Click the cross in the top right corner to go back to the map. (Try OL15 0DQ for an example.)

Guessing URLs (i.e. website addresses)

Note: this topic will not be covered during any session - this is just background info

You don't actually need to know how to do this - you can always use Google - but it often saves time. Website addresses often (but not always) start with www. There are quite a few common endings, all of which mean different things. For example, many UK website addresses end with **.com** or **.co.uk** (often either will work) e.g. www.tesco.com or www.tesco.co.uk (Note that the full website address actually starts with http:// but you can ignore this.)

You can often **guess** website addresses: for example....

www.rochdaleobserver.co.uk

www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk

www.guardian.co.uk

www.manutd.com

There are different categories of website - it's not always "co" before "uk".... (and if the website is not based in the UK or USA, there are different country codes too)

Commercial (.co) e.g. www.bbc.co.uk, www.tesco.co.uk

Non-commercial organisations (usually charities) (.org) e.g. www.nspcc.org.uk,
www.rspca.org.uk, www.greenpeace.org

Academic organisations (universities and colleges) (.ac) e.g. www.manchester.ac.uk,
www.cam.ac.uk, www.open.ac.uk, www.hopwood.ac.uk

Government organisations (.gov) e.g. www.rochdale.gov.uk, www.number10.gov.uk,
www.whitehouse.gov

Military (.mil or .mod) e.g. www.navy.mil, www.royalnavy.mod.uk

General use (.com or .net) e.g. www.tesco.com, www.manutd.com

Note that these are not hard and fast rules - not all websites follow them, and there are several other lesser-used options too!

Examples of a few country codes:

(note: there are often slightly different addresses that take you to the same page in English, but if you come across a page in a foreign language, look at the top of the page, where you'll often (but not always!) find an option to go to an English version)

www.louvre.fr

www.corriere.it

www.welt.de

www.elpais.es

www.ayersrockresort.com.au

www.cricket.co.za

www.taipei-101.com.tw (be patient while it loads!)

www.mt-fuji.co.jp

www.china.com.cn

www.kremlin.ru

www.petronastwintowers.com.my (be patient while it loads!)