

Directory of Directories



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Introduction

The list below collects community directories that cover the whole of England. After an opening section listing global directories that aim to catalogue everything, the remainder is categorised by Life Domain¹. Local mapmakers can use it as a first step in finding local assets or to check that there are no major areas of community life which they have neglected. It also aims to challenge the complacency that can arise when a single directory is used rather than cross checking against multiple sources. It aims to support local mapmakers, not by providing an exhaustive list (an impossible task), but by reducing duplication of work by offering a place where directories located by others can be quickly utilised. Please send me some missing links!

National organisations are not included here unless they provide a directory of local groups. Some organisations do not place information about local groups in the public domain but restrict it to registered members, so they are not included in this list of free-to-use directories. The relative scale of some of these organisations can be seen in the [‘influence list’](#). Some sectors of the community are organised at a local level, so national directories have not been collated².

This guide is being written in the United Kingdom, but international references may appear in the text from time to time. A fuller explanation of the approach taken to creating this group of papers

can be found at [How-to-write-in-public.pdf \(peterbates.org.uk\)](#). It is part of a suite of linked documents made up of the following:

1. [Detecting dark matter](#) demonstrates that a brief internet search will not locate many community resources and therefore mapmakers need to employ other search techniques.
2. [Introduction to community maps and directories](#) sets out some concepts and explains what people might be doing when they use these terms.
3. [How to meet your statutory obligations in community mapping](#) brings together the various legal requirements and policy guidance laid upon public services in the United Kingdom.
4. [How to choose between a community or service directory](#) unpacks the arguments for each option and attempts to show that a community directory is a vital element of local life.
5. [How to measure the reach of community directories](#) suggests some key performance indicators for checking whether a directory reflects the community it serves and provides some data about what is currently available.
6. [How to decide what to put in your map of community assets](#) addresses the specifics of how to obtain the data that will form the content of your Directory or map, what counts as data and what should be published.
7. [How to get your group listed](#) helps community groups decide whether to appear in a particular directory or map. This guide may also be useful to people who commission mapmakers.
8. [How to name your dragon](#) catalogues the threats to effective mapmaking in uncharted territory
9. [Goldmining – how to find hidden community treasure](#) offers some strategies which might be adopted by mapmakers in searching for community assets.
10. The [Directory of Directories](#) provides a starting point for people wishing to build a local community directory and the [List of Neighbourhood Facebook Groups in Nottingham, UK](#) offers an example of some of the social media sources in one city. The [List of English SEND Local Offer websites](#) provides the evidence source for much of the content of these papers.

I am grateful to the many people³ who have responded to inquiries and contributed ideas to this group of papers. Please send your suggestions for improvement to peter.bates96@gmail.com.

Global

The following directories cover all Life Domains, although some focus on access for disabled people. A study of churches in one city found that Cylex was easily the most comprehensive listing, but also returned many false positives.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ABLEize• AccessAble• All events• Cylex• Euan's Guide | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eventbrite• FindOpen• Land Registry – free• Meetup | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open Street Map (also presents as Streets)• TripAdvisor• Yell |
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Education

Most adult learning is organised by local authorities, so directories tend to be local rather than national, which means they will not be listed here. This Life Domain also draws into its remit many community groups and organisations that include a real opportunity to learn, showing that the Life Domains concept is probabilistic rather than categorical and so the headings are not mutually exclusive or collectively exhaustive.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Air cadets• Army Cadets• Book club• Boy's Brigade• Café Scientifique• Club Hub• Colleges | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESFA funded courses• Find a course• Further Education Colleges• Lectures• Local history• Museums | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Museum youth groups• Pub quiz• Scouts Association• Sea Cadets• U3A• Universities• WEA |
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Employment

Supporting disabled young people to find waged employment will require a thorough knowledge of the local employment scene. Individual trade directories, business networking breakfasts, startup pods, accelerator coaching and company advertising all offer data for the local community map. Some commercial organisations provide education, health and care services, but the whole employment sector is relevant to disabled young people who want a mainstream job alongside any needs they may have for specialist support.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 118 business directory• Chambers of Commerce• Companies House | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-operatives• Jobcentres• Jobcentre Plus | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neighbourly |
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Volunteering

Volunteering is not an inferior alternative to employment, but it is a valuable way to contribute to the life of the community.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• British Legion• Foodbanks – Trussell Trust• Fundraising regulator• Green gym | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lions Club• NAVCA• Places of Welcome• Register of charities• Rotary | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-help groups• Timebanks• Warm welcome spaces |
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Sports

One or two of the following directories favour segregated sports options for disabled athletes, but the majority expect mainstream providers to make reasonable adjustments so that their activities are open to all. Mapmakers may wish to consider checking league tables⁴ as well in relation to competitive sports, since these will give the name of teams that have been active recently.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Places Power • All sports • Aikido • Archery • Athletics • Badminton • Basketball • Boccia • Bowls • Boxing • Caving • Canoeing • CASC • Cheerleading • Clay pigeon shooting • Climbing • Cricket • Cricket • Croquet • Crown Green bowls • Curling • Cycling • Cycling UK • Diving • Every body moves | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing • Fishing • Fishing • Fishing – accessible • Football - England • Football - walking • Football • Gliding • Golf • Golf • Gymnastics • Gyms • Hockey • Judo • Ju-Jitsu • Karate • Karate-Do Ryobu-Kai • Lacrosse • Martial arts • Netball • Nordic Walking - BNW • Nordic Walking - NWUK • Octopush • Orienteering • Parkour | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pickleball • Ramblers Association • Riding • Rounders • Rowing • Rugby • Rugby tots • Running • Running - Parkrun • Scuba diving • Shooting • Small-bore rifle • Snooker • Snooker • Sports facilities • Sports and social clubs • Swimming - competitive • Swimming – open water • Taekwondo • Tandem cycling • Tennis • Trampoline • Water ski, wakeboard • Walking sports |
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Arts

Pole dancing is perhaps a dubious artform and so is included here to illustrate the power of the mapmaker to filter options out. Mapmakers need to consider whether to apply the aphorism, ‘I don’t want it in my life, so you can’t have it in yours’, or apply some other principle. Some will choose to extend the government’s [list](#) of proscribed terrorist organisations by denying groups they dislike the oxygen of publicity.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Cinema – relaxed • Choir – big sing • Choir – natural voice • Crochet • Dance • Dance - Ceroc • Dance - folk • Dance & healthcare | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance - pole • Dance – South Asian • Disability Arts • Drama • Flower arranging • Folk music • Folk music • Galleries • Jazz music | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knitting • Line dancing • Music making • Orchestra • Photography • Quilters • Salsa dancing • Sewing |
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Identity – faith groups

A study⁵ of Christian churches in one city found that the list below covered only 60% of the active churches meeting within the city boundary, and a number of active churches were persistently elusive, pressing mapmakers to continue their search well beyond the limits of these directories.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assembly of God• Baptist• Buddhist• Catholic• Christadelphian• Christian Science• Church of England• Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints - (Mormon)• Congregational Federation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elim• Evangelical Alliance• Find a Church• Hindu• Humanists• Islam (Muslim)• Jehovah's Witnesses• Join my church• Judaism• Methodist• Pagan• Pentecostal | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quakers• Salvation Army• Seventh-day Adventist• Sikh• Spiritualist• Unitarians• United Reformed Church• Vineyard• Welcome Churches• Wesleyan Reformed |
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Identity – hobbies

The discussion above highlighted the idea that some directories may cover distasteful activities. In moving into the following section, a much more subtle issue emerges – the status placed on some activities over others. Bridge suggests intellectualism, while interest in model railways carries a different set of messages. Social prescribers, community navigators and indeed anyone using a directory to advise another person faces the challenge of remaining centred on the person rather than their own meanings.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anime groups• Backgammon• Birdwatchers• Bridge• Caged birds• CAMRA• Cat owners• Chess• Coin collecting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Detectorists• Dog owners• Gardening – community• Gardening - organic• Gardening - specialisms• Lego• Microlight aircraft• Model flying• Railways - heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Railways• Scrabble• Speaker's club• Stamp collecting• Tabletop gaming• Toastmasters• Wargaming• Yestribe |
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Identity – everything else

The Identity Life Domain is a bundle of things which repeatedly arise when people are asked who they are at heart – Muslim, Afghan, pescatarian, trans, environmentalist. It appears that most directories of political groups are hidden behind a paywall, so cannot be included here. This subheading includes directories of organisations that empower and energise people to celebrate their identity.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consortium• Food - vegan | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food - vegan• Food - vegan | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greenpeace• LGBT youth groups |
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- [Soroptimists](#)
- [Townswomen's Guild](#)
- [Women's Institute](#)

Neighbourhood

Many social connections arise within tiny localities as people meet their neighbours, walk the dog, stroll down to the pub, attend a local place of worship and sign up to the residents association. The bulk of these interactions form essential social glue but do not readily populate directories, so the brevity of this section should not be interpreted as a measure of its significance. There may be a list of neighbourhood Facebook groups in your area, like [this one](#) for Nottingham, or similar resources on other social media platforms.

- [Camerados](#) – public living rooms.
- [Neighbourhood Watch](#)
- [Social clubs](#)
- [Venues for hire](#)
- There may be a list of [neighbourhood Facebook groups](#) in your area, like [this one](#) for Nottingham.

Services

Specialist provision for families, children and young people living with disabilities is listed on SEND Local Offer websites, and a directory of these sites is available [here](#). A handful of other directories that offer support and services are shown below:

- [Alcoholics Anonymous](#)
- [Changing Places toilets](#)
- [Citizens Advice](#)
- [Clinical Commissioning Groups](#)
- [CQC](#)
- [Credit union](#)
- [Dentists – special care](#)
- [Healthwatch](#)
- [Helpline](#)
- [Hub of hope](#)
- [Internal Drainage Board](#)
- [Local authorities](#)
- [Men's sheds](#)
- [NHS](#)
- [OFSTED](#)
- [Parent Carer Forums](#)
- [Pharmacy](#)
- [Prisons](#)
- [Registration district](#)
- [SEND Local Offers](#)
- [Special schools](#)

¹ A discussion about the Life Domains is at [Tell me more about the nine Life Domains – Peter Bates](#).

² In 2017 the UK government started a national registers project and 'retired' it in 2020. See [Government Transformation Strategy appendix: list of potential data registers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

³ For a list of those who have been approached and responded to a request for information, see an [Introduction to community maps and directories](#).

⁴ See, for example, this [list](#) which identifies 84 English snooker leagues.

⁵ See [Detecting dark matter – Peter Bates](#).