

New to Geograph

an informal survey of new contributors noted in the *Welcome to Geograph!* thread
period: 26 May 2014 – 04 May 2015; coincidentally 100 contributors; 30 responses

Q1

Firstly, how did you discover or find out about the Geograph website?

Summary

29 responses

Searching or researching places or subjects: 8

BBC, Wikipedia, fivethirtyeight and print articles: 8

Don't remember, known about it for some time: 8

Recommendation and word of mouth: 5

Ingeborg Lechner & Robert Vucsina, 80715, members since 2012

- by sheer chance. We were looking for a specific geographical feature for our holidays on Islay in 2012 (a natural arch south of Port Askaig) when we googled across your website.

Richard Sutcliffe, 120387

I heard about Geograph through a news item - on the BBC website I think.

Pierre Riteau, 117192

I don't remember exactly how I discovered the site. It was most likely via Wikipedia, while reading articles about features of my neighbourhood. Many of them include pictures that come from Geograph.

Anthony Casey, 117967

I think it was initially through the article the site was featured on FiveThreeEight. I loved the idea of collecting and cataloguing every square and checked the site out straight after.

John Comer, 120036

I learned about Geograph from an item on the BBC web site a few weeks ago.

Steve Somerville, 118804

I found Geograph when I was looking for other information on the web. I started exploring Geograph and found the idea fascinating.

Jack Fitzsimons, 120025

I can't remember when I first found out about Geograph, presumably something came up on a web search with photos from Geograph. The idea seemed a good one and I've been meaning to put some photos up for a while.

I'm not a great photographer and, despite travelling everywhere with a GPS, often don't know where I am (OS square-wise) as I usually have it set for lat/long for one of my other hobbies.

Jeff Gogarty, 48698

I first joined Geograph some years ago and cannot remember where I was first made aware of it. Recently I saw an article on the BBC News website so decided to resume.

Jeremy Withrington, 117966

How could avoid learning of it when one's brother-in-law spends much of his leisure time ministering to it.

Greum (Arg Zloll), 119475

I found out about Geograph through searches for images of sites of interest in my local area. These were done via Google & Bing (both web & image searches). This got me interested in taking my own photographs (basically a reason to get out walking again!) which led me to join Geograph & find out more about what it's all about.

Monica Stagg, 118481

I found out about the site via someone who uses the site to post his ordnance survey benchmark finds and he suggested it was a good site to use.

Judith, 91218

I'm not sure how I found Geograph in the first place but I have been using it for a few years to help me plan walks in remote areas. My first photograph on Geograph was in a local urban area but mainly I use the site to look for clues to the type of terrain or whether a bridge is still present in a wild area.

Tony Simms, 120207

It was featured on the BBC News website and that piqued my interest.

David Chatterton, 78130

I've actually been a member since 2012, though only recently started to upload my own photographs. Honestly don't remember how I found Geograph in the first place!

S J Dowden (Simon Dowden), 119999

I found Geograph from the BBC news website which gave a somewhat unflattering review but did arouse my interest.

Stuart Berg, 120659

search for harrisons rocks

Ann (Roberts), 55850

It is so long ago now that I cannot remember, but I would imagine that I Googled 'photo sharing websites'. I used to be on there under another user namer when I lived in Llandrindod Wells, but gradually stopped uploading, then of course I forgot my password and user name. So I started again.

Matt Harrop, 18894

My mother and older brother told me about it in around 2007. One found it an ideal home for her many shots of countryside and stately homes etc, the other an intriguing project that encouraged him to get out and about with a camera, being creative and getting exercise!

Jill McLeod, 119973

I came across Geograph in a BBC website article (I think it was anyway).

Les Winder, 117358

My elder son John Winder introduced me to the site, he has been a member for some time now and has getting on for 1000 photos on there now.

Ron Williams, 118299

I have known about it for sometime

Iain Tullis, 13623

Not sure. Joined long ago (2007)

Peter Young, 117641

I was researching information about the follies at Croome Court in Worcestershire and came across Geograph on a google search.

Dave Thompson, 119975

I think I recall reading about it somewhere..may have been the Independent paper or somewhere on line - can't honestly remember...

Simon Bonney, 115179

I saw it mentioned in an article by Jon Beer a few years ago who writes for Trout & Salmon magazine, who explained it was a useful way of looking at a river before visiting.

John (Collister), 116996

Searching for photographs of sections of coast to determine how difficult to pass at low water.

Richard Thomas, 119462

I think I was searching for Geography links in general and just mistyped the word Geography!

Rex Needle, 118714

Many thanks for the invitation and I am most pleased to respond. Firstly, I was invited to contribute by an existing member, Bob Harvey, who struck a chord by suggesting that my photographs should be preserved for posterity and as this web site seemed a suitable place, I was pleased with the opportunity. Perhaps at 84 I am your oldest contributor.

Morgan Young, 118397

I discovered the Geograph website whilst searching for photos of old Northern Irish railways on Google; The link to the site came up beneath the photo I was looking at.

Q2

Secondly, do you think you will stay with Geograph? Are you hooked?

Summary

28 responses

20 will stay, of which 3 "hooked"

8 less likely to contribute

– but of the 100 surveyed 40-50% appear to be continuing to contribute

Ingeborg Lechner & Robert Vucsina, 80715, members since 2012

- we'll definitely stay with Geograph and we'll continue contributing. But hooked? That term might carry it a bit too far.

Richard Sutcliffe, 120387

I've always been interested in maps and am a keen photographer, so yes, it's safe to say I'm now hooked!

Pierre Riteau, 117192

I like the idea very much but unfortunately I don't have much time to contribute. And I am in my late twenties so a long way from retirement ;-)

Anthony Casey, 117967

I can't say that I'm hooked. I just don't have the time these days to be hooked to anything! If I'd discovered the site pre-kids it might have been a different story. But I do enjoy adding some of my more interesting photos to the collection occasionally when I get a spare few moments. I'll keep coming back sporadically.

Steve Somerville, 118804

Yes I'll stay with Geograph. I like to get out and take photographs and if I'm staying local try to think of a place/structure that would be ideal for submission.

Jack Fitzsimons, 120025

I'm likely to remain, but only be an occasional contributor. I suspect I'll put up a photo if (a) I think it is worthy of being looked at by others and (b) I have the NGR of where it was taken.

Jeff Gogarty, 48698

I have a huge backlog of photos to put on so I will be here for some time.

Jeremy Withrington, 117966

I will stay with it in spite of not being hooked.

Greum (Arg Zloll), 119475

I certainly plan to stay on Geograph.

Monica Stagg, 118481

I would not say I am hooked but as I find my finds I will continue to use the site.

Judith, 91218

Yes, I will stay with Geograph. I'm a great fan of the site and I will definitely use it as an information resource. If I can post something useful or interesting I will.

Tony Simms, 120207

Yes. I expect that I will submit on an ongoing basis for the foreseeable future. It's a bit of a novelty for me right now and my submissions may slow down in future, but I will likely keep on posting. I've signed up for £5 per month to support the server, anyway!

David Chatterton, 78130

I'll definitely stay! I like the idea of photographing the whole of the British Isles, and really enjoy browsing through other people's pictures.

S J Dowden (Simon Dowden), 119999

I don't think I'll ever be very active on Geograph but I'm hoping to visit Ireland later in the year so hopefully can get some first visitor points then.

Stuart Berg, 120659

enjoy it as a pastime as i am a member of many site and i need to spread my time

Ann (Roberts), 55850

Yes, I will stay on Geograph, although my uploading will be spasmodic.

Matt Harrop, 18894

I think so. I took a couple of rather daft shots in 2007 and then forgot about it (apart from occasional familial updates about shortlisting of photos and the occasional winner). I got a camera at New Year 2105 as I was beginning to find time to get out with it (kids starting school etc) and I decided to have a go at adding to the collective Geograph project. I felt a bit intimidated by the 'seriousness' and 'rules' at first - I was embarrassed when an early submission was labelled 'supplemental'; it felt like I'd failed! - but in the end I've just slapped all the photos I've wanted to on there.

Jill McLeod, 119973

As I'm on a low salary, I don't get about much so sadly won't be adding to the collection in vast amounts.

Les Winder, 117358

Yes, I'm hooked, I will keep on Geograph as long as I can. I will be 68 next month but I do a lot of walking, I am interested in industrial archaeology and local history (along with an interest in using good quality vintage film cameras such as 1950's Voigtlanders, Zorki's etc. in addition to my modern digital SLR camera).

Ron Williams, 118299

Not exactly hooked but I do look it up from time to time

Iain Tullis, 13623

yes, yes but I have no urgency.

Peter Young, 117641

I wouldn't say I was hooked. Last year I was getting to know the local region, and went out with a walking group discovering new places. I've not been doing that this year, so I tend to visit places I've been before - and as I have a new camera, I've been learning how to use that. So I have loads of pictures of familiar places, but never gotten around to uploading them anywhere.

Dave Thompson, 119975

Hooked, but like all things will come and go with it...

Simon Bonney, 115179

I will stay, have found it useful. I did much viewing before I did a contribution. As someone who likes fishing in wild places and climbing unfashionable remote mountains I have found it a very useful way of recce routes etc. I am not IT proficient, so should have loaded more, uploading a photo is a big thing for me!

John (Collister), 116996

Yes, excellent research resource and will photograph any unphotographed squares I chance on.

Richard Thomas, 119462

I have only used the site once so I would not say I am hooked, but I may use it again in the future.

Rex Needle, 118714

I am local historian for Bourne, Lincolnshire, and run the Bourne web site for which I have been taking photographs for the past twenty years and saw the chance of saving these images which I am doing with an index form linked to my web site together with an appropriate explanation. See www.bourne-lincs.org.uk/geograph2.htm

Morgan Young, 118397

I do intend on keeping my Geograph account...

Q3

Thirdly, if you're staying with Geograph, do you see it as a hobby – somewhere to post your own photos – or are you taken with the “photograph every grid square” idea and building a collection of documentary photos?

Summary

29 responses

11 see it as a hobby

1 sees it as a home for their own photos

6 endorse 'photograph every grid square'

13 support contributing to a documentary collection

Ingeborg Lechner & Robert Vucsina, 80715, members since 2012

- the structure of this question contains four aspects:

= yes, we see it as a hobby;

= no, we do not need a wall to splash about our photographs;

= yes, we are taken by the grid square idea, and since we are travelling to the UK (and especially Scotland) every year, we prepare (we actually do map reconnaissance) for grids where there have not yet been any pictures taken (see our 2014 contributions for the Isle of Lewis - e.g. www.geograph.org.uk/photo/4171489)

= and no, it's not the idea of building a collection, but more like supplying views of the country to whoever wants to use the photographs - just as we use your photo-database, as by our next answer.

Richard Sutcliffe, 120387

At the moment I'm mainly looking through my old images and adding them to the site. I have lots of pre-digital images which I will need to scan, going back to the early 1970s, so I will have a lot more pictures to add in over the next few months/years! I've already made a point of taking some images specifically to upload as well.

I am a natural historian, and as a result I sometimes visit less-visited areas in Scotland, and so have the potential to add some useful content to the site. Having said that, I was amazed to find that I got two 'third' images for squares in Hampshire, which I visited on holiday in 2009. I would have expected many more images in that part of the country. It just shows that there's still plenty to photograph!

Pierre Riteau, 117192

if I was more involved in Geograph my main motivation would be to accompany photos with an informative description, which turns them into a documentary about local geography and history. I love discovering more about places through these descriptions.

Anthony Casey, 117967

Not as serious as a hobby, and it's not somewhere to collect my photos, there are plenty of other places to cater for that. The project is worthy though, and it encourages taking photos of our less glamorous locations. I have a firm belief that there is beauty in 'boring' things, and Geograph encourages, and documents that.

John Comer, 120036

I like the "photograph every grid square" idea. From now on I may plan walks to places where nobody has yet submitted photos, but I live in a densely populated area (Kent Surrey Sussex border) so there aren't so many vacant spots. I'll also hunt through my archives.

Steve Somerville, 118804

I like the idea of Geograph being a source of information and a record created by images and text. I do not see it as storage of images with no dialogue. If someone wants that then they can join Flickr or some other image repository!

Jack Fitzsimons, 120025

I liked the idea of a photo in every grid square when I came across the site and never considered it a place to store my own photos - mainly because I don't tend to take many good scenic shots.

Jeff Gogarty, 48698

I am very interested in how places change over time, often imperceptibly, and thought that Geograph could provide a good resource to show this. Another reason I submit photos to Geograph is to document footpaths and soon cycle routes. My interests are varied including history, architecture and geology and there is not one site then encompasses them all and I hope Geograph will have members who share each of my interests.

Jeremy Withrington, 117966

I see it as a place where features of our landscape can be recorded for posterity. The pictures I select as my personal contribution to Geograph are ones that I consider "interesting" or "pretty". I leave the recording of the featureless or humdrum sights like urban sprawl, to others.

Greum (Arg Zloll), 119475

At present, my major aim is to add further photographs from the squares I've covered already and additional, adjacent squares, predominantly of interesting and/or evocative scenes not currently captured on site. As such, it's mainly a hobby associated with local history, though, should I travel elsewhere in the UK (and, of course, the RoI), I shall certainly be looking to increase my tally of squares covered!

Monica Stagg, 118481

It is part of my hobby and a very useful tool, I do like the idea of filling of every grid square and this is a clever way to promote the site.

Judith, 91218

I was delighted, last year, to realise that I would be walking in an area that had no geographs and I managed to earn three first geograph points. I admit that the slight competitive nature of the site drove me to properly document the GR and compass bearing when I took the photos so that I could be certain that I'd publish accurate information and get my first geograph points. I still have a few other photos which I have not got round to publishing (possibly in empty squares, but I would have to check my notes) - so my initial flurry of activity has died down but I still have "publish photos on Geograph" on my mental to-do list. I don't regard the site as a place to routinely post my own photos; I would only publish a first geograph or something of particular interest.

Tony Simms, 120207

A bit of both. I've always had an interest in photography both as a documentary tool and an artform. Right now I'm "bagging squares", but that will change over time to maybe contributing more esoteric subjects.

David Chatterton, 78130

For me, this is mostly a hobby; I don't think of myself as a photographer, though I usually carry one when I'm out and about, and I've only added about 200 photographs, mostly local as I don't travel as much as I used to. I try to upload pictures of interest to me and that may interest others.

S J Dowden (Simon Dowden), 119999

I see Geograph perhaps as an extension of my hobby but a hobby in its own right.

Stuart Berg, 120659
see above [ie, Q3]

Ann (Roberts), 55850
Yes, it is hobby, although that idea of filling every grid square would be nice I cannot see me doing it.

Matt Harrop, 18894
Primarily a hobby and a home for my shots, however I respect and admire the original idea. I can't help thinking that the original 'grid square' goal, having been largely achieved, has become less relevant but, as a foundation for what is now a growing resource to document changing landscapes and people, it is priceless. I love POTY and YOMP but I don't understand or care about the other competitive elements. I don't have time to upload hundreds of snaps and I think there is an issue of quantity over quality at times. I only submit photos I like.

Jill McLeod, 119973
I was interested in the "photograph every grid" idea and had a few recent photographs available of a small corner of Poole that the public cannot get to that I could add, so I did.

Les Winder, 117358
I see it as both a hobby and a way of documenting the present for future generations. It also makes me research the subject matter and I find that very interesting too. I have learned quite a bit about our local history from this.

Ron Williams, 118299
If I am looking for a photo of a particular area and I cannot find one I will take a photo the next time I am in the area and post it.

Iain Tullis, 13623
I'm posting things that I know of but might not be obvious to others. I'm aware that I should photograph things that are in a state (or about to) change

Peter Young, 117641
I did see it more as a hobby. I'm not an 'every-grid-square' person. But I do have an interest in documentary photos given the pace of change in this part of the world – capturing the developments.

Dave Thompson, 119975
It will be an additional hobby. I am a keen geocacher (in the top 150 finders in the UK) so I am always out and about - I also use the Bird Track app to log bird sightings for the BTO so now I can take photos when I am out too... I see the latter two hobbies as popular science. I like the concept of recording places and their development but also looking at the countryside...that'll be most of my photos.

Simon Bonney, 115179
A bit of everything, points for photos is fun, but not the driver for me, (I can see where grid square "bagging" is going on). I would tend to load photos for a purpose i.e showing others who might want to recce a loch etc, but also I suspect that there are many who just like me, love maps and wonder what something might look like, it satisfies one's wanderlust a bit! It would be nice to photo every waterbody in the UK!

John (Collister), 116996

I see it as a library of useful photos for when I am planning expeditions and will add only photos of unphotographed squares.

Richard Thomas, 119462

I like the idea of Geograph, I think it is an important archive and a good place for amateur photographers like me to post photos.

Rex Needle, 118714

All of my photographs are therefore confined to the Bourne area and I already have 600+ contributed since I joined in November but hope to reach 1,000 eventually. Rather than every grid square however, I am aiming at every important building/feature in the Bourne area which includes those villages within a ten mile radius.

Morgan Young, 118397

I haven't travelled enough to contribute to the "One photo for every grid square" idea, but I did post a few of my own photos. My aim was to upload one photo per day, but I unfortunately became sidetracked and haven't been active on the site for a while, something I hope to rectify soon.

Q4

Fourthly, looking on the site as a collection or archive, what's your general impression?

Summary

27 responses

22 recognise Geograph as a growing archive, particularly as a documentary record of change.

Some mention duplication of images; some mention incompleteness of coverage.

Some see Geograph more as a library; others as supporting scientific recording.

Ingeborg Lechner & Robert Vucsina, 80715, members since 2012

- as we said, we prepare for our holidays. The photographs are a great starter for impressions, and thus, a valuable planning instrument.

Richard Sutcliffe, 120387

I see the website as a valuable archive, and a very useful tool, as well as just being an interesting site to visit. Two colleagues of mine have recently been producing Powerpoint presentations, and needed images of particular places. I recommended the website to them, and they both found suitable images, which were/are being duly credited as required!

I have also searched 'moth' and looked at all the images of moths that have been submitted as supplementary images. I forwarded links to the 110 images from Scotland to the relevant Vice County Moth Recorders (there is to be a new Atlas of Moths of the British Isles produced in 2018). Some of these turned out to be of particular interest. For example, <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/4057965> turned out to be only the third record of Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth for the Isle of Skye, which has only just colonised the island.

I can also see it as being very useful when I intend to visit sites for doing biological recording. I can get a general feeling for the area before visiting, which can be more useful than just using Google Maps or equivalent.

Pierre Riteau, 117192

It's an excellent resource that should be advertised more!

Anthony Casey, 117967

As I've said, I love the idea allowing *everywhere* to have their moment in the spotlight. The site does have issues though, which I'll go in to in the next question.

Steve Somerville, 118804

I would like to see Geograph develop into a proper archive with each photo being accompanied by some written information about the image subject. This could be historical or current. This would make it invaluable to any researcher, now or in the future.

You will see, by way of example, an image I submitted regarding the Scot Hall/British Legion Hall in Stenhousemuir where there was research done on the building and added. (Obviously this would depend on the nature of the subject. Sometimes there will be little information around a landscape image, unless there is historical information, e.g, site of battle, previously demolished structure, etc)

Jack Fitzsimons, 120025

I look at the site as an archive. I'd visit it if, for instance, I was looking for photos of some building I knew to be in a particular square.

Jeff Gogarty, 48698

So how does it rate as a collection or archive? I find some places are very well covered but others are very sketchy. I hope to fill out some of these.

Jeremy Withrington, 117966

I feel that there is probably more duplication of subjects than you may be aware of. Different methods of finding pictures taken in a particular location seem to find different sets of pictures.

Greum (Arg Zloll), 119475

Personally, I regard Geograph as a wonderful source for photographs & information about these islands & their landscapes and have no doubt that, with said landscapes subject to change all the time, it will, in future, represent an important documentary source for local history & national interest.

Monica Stagg, 118481

It is useful.

Judith, 91218

I love geograph. I use it as a reference resource but I sometimes just dip in for a browse. I particularly appreciate when the contributor has added a brief comment or maybe linked to a different, related photo of the same square as this adds some context rather than just being a list of photos.

Tony Simms, 120207

There are some very interesting photos and some obviously important records being made. As an archive it can be a bit hit and miss as there is no overall curating taking place and important features seem occasionally to be missed while others are duplicated, triplicated or more.

David Chatterton, 78130

General impressions - a great idea and a wonderful collection of images, though I must admit many of the images seem to be made of uninteresting road ends, etc. simply to have added a photograph in a particular square!

Stuart Berg, 120659

useful as a map reference and with pics is a good source and unique

Ann (Roberts), 55850

I think it is a great archive and interesting to see how places change.

Matt Harrop, 18894

See above...quantity over quality. If you look at my submissions you can see that a lot of them cover demolition, construction and development and relatively few feature monuments and grand historical buildings; in this respect I think I am adding to a marvellous record of changing Britain. There is an interesting picture on here of a road near to where I live that, while essentially dull and showing few changes other than street lights and planted trees in the intervening three decades, includes enough period detail (cars and signs) to become genuinely interesting.

Jill McLeod, 119973

I like the idea of an archive, a pictorial history of the UK.

Les Winder, 117358

I think the site is excellent, really interesting and informative. I think that this will be an excellent resource for future generations...

Ron Williams, 118299

I like the site and find it easy to find my way around it.

Iain Tullis, 13623

A bit of how things are and how they change. I think of a time lapse movie of a glacier.

Peter Young, 117641

Favourable.

Dave Thompson, 119975

I must say that I haven't really looked at the site much but what I have seen certainly is impressive. I'm pleased that I have found the site and have mentioned it to several friends already.

Simon Bonney, 115179

Generally good, some photos I think miss what I see as the point of Geograph e.g a nice sunset etc. whilst I appreciate it for what it is, it is not "useful" ... Generally a big thumbs up for the site from me.

John (Collister), 116996

Neither, I use it as a library for researching routes and in identifying potential camp sites (what are now called 'wild camping' sites.)

Richard Thomas, 119462

I think the site is quite well laid out, but could be made flashier and maybe easier to use. It seems like quite a longwinded effort just to post a few photos, compared to sites such as Instagram or Facebook (which I also often use for my landscape photos). I have also tried using Google Images which was based on a similar premise to Geograph, but seems to have stopped accepting new images.

Rex Needle, 118714

My view of the site is that it has become an impressive record of the country and although there are many poor quality photographs submitted, there are also many more stunning and informative shots of an extremely high standard that make this project so worthwhile.

Morgan Young, 118397

...I think it's a fantastic resource for finding photos and information.

Q5

Lastly, about the website itself, if there's one thing you would change or introduce, what would it be?

Summary

26 responses

6 would not change anything.

3 wish for an easy way to upload from a mobile device.

1 asks for aerial photos to be classified Geographs if photographer and subject can be shown to be in the same square.

1 asks for clearer instructions for linking descriptions and linking images [I have emailed advice].

1 asks that OpenStreetMap be the default mapping.

A web designer comments at length, summarising thus: "The principles of the project, and the ... content are absolutely amazing. That's usually the hard part of a website. But to keep moving forward I really think you will need to update ... the workflow of the site on a pretty fundamental level. The uploading process needs to be massively simplified, and the discoverability of content could really be enhanced to make the most of the rich depth of imagery."

1 wishes to be able to add information to another contributor's image.

Judging by several comments, many existing features need to be easier to find and easier to use.

Ingeborg Lechner & Robert Vucsina, 80715, members since 2012

- allow aerial photographs to be considered as "geographs" provided that the position of the aircraft and the main object in the picture are within the same grid square, just as for all other photographs (see our contribution www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3078321)

Richard Sutcliffe, 120387

It's still a bit early to say what I would add to, or change on the site. I'm still getting used to it. I have struggled a bit with working out how to link descriptions and also link images - neither of which I've attempted yet. Perhaps clearer (separate) instructions in the menu for these would be useful - I keep struggling to remember how I'm supposed to do both, and where the instructions actually are.

I'd also like to know how some people seem to add hundreds of images every week. It takes me a full evening to add just a handful of photographs. Is there a way to bulk upload method?

Pierre Riteau, 117192

I would love to see OpenStreetMap as the default map (I am an occasional contributor to this project).

Anthony Casey, 117967

I'm a web designer, I've been involved in producing sites since the late 90s. The one thing that really sticks out is the design of Geograph.

I've always found uploading images to be a bit perplexing. There are so many options and different ways of doing the same thing. There isn't much useful help along the way, especially if you get something wrong. There are seemingly dead ends in the process, next buttons that aren't obvious and much more.

I know what I'm doing on the web and I've struggled numerous times before I actually find the best way to upload an image. I'm not sure how somebody who isn't so confident would fair, and I think that this fundamental issue will be putting off many people who have tried the site.

Similarly the discovery of images is a bit hit and miss. Again there are lots of different ways to achieve the same things. Some much better than others.

I'm guessing that a lot of features are kept to keep existing users happy, with new features being added organically over the years, which has led to the very confusing way things are today.

I also think the dated look and feel of the site will deter a lot of other users.

I know that funding etc would be a massive issue in that regard, but an overhaul of the site and the underlying user experience could do wonders and really invigorate a great project.

I've tried to be as honest as possible. The principles of the project, and the amazing content are absolutely amazing. That's usually the hard part of a website. But to keep moving forward I really think you will need to update the way the workflow of the site on a pretty fundamental level. The uploading process needs to be massively simplified, and the discoverability of content could really be enhanced to make the most of the rich depth of imagery.

Steve Somerville, 118804

I would like to have the ability to add information regarding a subject to another person's photograph as an addition, rather than having to add another photograph of the same image. This way the information regarding the subject can build without flooding Geograph with many images of the same subject. (Cloch Lighthouse being an example with over 111 images, many of them repeats). Admittedly, one of the images is mine submitted as a means to getting to know how Geograph works.

Jeff Gogarty, 48698

There are so many options for searching that I get confused. I need to use it much more to give a proper opinion. I hope over time I get more involved.

Greum (Arg Zloll), 119475

I'm afraid I cannot venture any suggested improvements to the site. I've found it perfectly easy to use for what I've used it for so far. I also enjoy the games on offer.

Monica Stagg, 118481

When there is a problem, comments, amendment I do not find this easy to use particularly if you want to reply, it is not very clear.

Judith, 91218

I can't think of anything I would change or add. I like the breakdown by centisquare feature as that can help me find a photo of a particular feature on the OS map. I remember finding it quite cumbersome to get a list of all empty squares in the area I was walking in last May - but I can't remember what the issue was, sorry, so I can't suggest how that could be improved.

Tony Simms, 120207

I don't know how, but the site would benefit from having more of a community feel about it; more interaction between posters.

David Chatterton, 78130

Wouldn't change a thing!

S J Dowden (Simon Dowden), 119999

My understanding is that the only way I, or anyone else other than a moderator or director, can vote for a photograph other than in a gallery, is by 'thumbing'. I find this very difficult to do as you constantly have to change page format from thumbnail to full size to 'thumb' and then back to thumbnail to scroll through. If there was a way to scroll through full size photographs organised by date submitted, by square or even by photographer, for thumbing I would be much more enthusiastic.

Stuart Berg, 120659

personally as a website owner of an area on the map ie, a outdoor area i would want a website link on my profile page.

Matt Harrop, 18894

I'd like to be able to suggest my own Geographical Context headings when there are none that suit - these seem very rooted in the original idea and could change to include more 'street photography' type shots without losing the archival goal of the site.

Jill McLeod, 119973

I seem to remember it wasn't clear where to go or how to load a photo, but once having mastered it I was fine.

Les Winder, 117358

Can't really think of much to improve the site at the moment. Will get back to you if anything comes to mind.

Ron Williams, 118299

It ain't broke so don't fix it!

Iain Tullis, 13623

It has to change slowly. This is a long time slowly evolving thing. The way to ruin things is to rapidly change.

Peter Young, 117641

I've just logged in, but I can't see on the top page any link to find out which photographs I have already submitted. I guess there is a list somewhere, but it's not obvious, and it should be. I thought I had submitted some photos of Croome – but they don't come up in the Search results, so I want to check. But now I would have to spend time trying to find out how to do this.

Jeremiah (Jeremy Lee Jenkins), 120277

Although I think the idea of geograph is a good one I have several comments about how it could be improved.

Posting photos to geograph is practically impossible on any mobile device, if you had say, a iPhone app it would greatly encourage me to use it more often.

Also I think the 'photograph every grid square' is less relevant now because only very remote places have not been done. A system to reward people for rephotographing a place done before would be good, so you could have a better picture of change over years.

Other than that your website is alright (but feels clunky and slightly outdated) and as I said earlier a app to upload from my phone would be greatly beneficial to geograph, as many people take photos using this method, but usually upload to Facebook or whatever.

Dave Thompson, 119975

I would like to be able to map all the photos for a square at one time rather than only being able to map a page at a time.

Simon Bonney, 115179

Navigating back to the overlay map from looking at a photo (it could just be me....) Also in my case a link to Gaelic place names.

John (Collister), 116996

It would be helpful on the draggable map to highlight more clearly the unphotographed squares

Richard Thomas, 119462

I think the list of tags for location of photos (e.g. river, beach, mountain, industrial, agriculture etc) could be improved to make it easier to find the correct tags. Just thought of one more improvement: If it were possible to upload photos directly from an iPhone, that would be a great improvement! Thanks.

Rex Needle, 118714

One of the merits of the site is that navigation is simple and uncomplicated. Perhaps it could be improved by weeding out some of the less suitable photographs but then who is there to decide what is good and what is bad because all are reflections of the country today and therefore have a place in the archive?

Morgan Young, 118397

Nothing immediately comes to mind; The site works well and looks okay.

RS, 24 June 2015