



# LocoBlog & LocoMash

## About LocoBlog

LocoBlog is a mobile phone application and web site which supports location-based mobile photo blogging.

In order to use LocoBlog, you'll need a Bluetooth GPS receiver and a compatible handset. To begin blogging, you install the application from the website [www.locoblog.com](http://www.locoblog.com), and register yourself as a user.

## Mobile Location Based Services

### Location Based Mobile Blogging ([www.locoblog.com](http://www.locoblog.com))

The portability and connectivity inherent in mobile phone technology opens up the possibility for users to blog on the move. Using a GPS receiver, or positional data derived through other means, such as GSM Cell/Area ID, the user can relay information about their whereabouts alongside regular blog information (images, text etc.). This enables them (as well as others if permitted) to track when and where they submitted their blog entries and gives entries greater context. This kind of data is useful in providing spatial and temporal information relating to the habits of the user and the blog provides a narrative to this information. If a GPS signal is present, the location can be accurate to within a few metres. However, if this fails, the GSM Cell/Area ID can still give some indication of location through publicly accessible GSM Cell/Area ID databases.

LocoBlog is an application developed in Python for Nokia Series 60 mobile phones. It uses the modules (Python extensions written in C++ to access Symbian OS APIs) that Nokia include with the Python interpreter to access high-level handset functionality, such as discovering and connecting to Bluetooth devices, communication with a GPS receiver using sockets, access to the phone's camera, HTTP connections via GPRS and both high and low level GUI components.

The application periodically accesses a GPS receiver's data stream to access the latest coordinates (longitude, latitude and altitude) and other information such as number of satellites in view, positional fix etc. It then sends this data along with other information such as GSM Cell ID, current time, blog text and images to a remote PHP script which interprets the data and stores it in a MySQL database. The data can then be processed in a multitude of ways. As an example, the information can then be processed by the freely accessible Google Maps API to map the physical locations that the blogger has visited to the information within the blog.

We have now created a new and improved J2ME version along with a more user friendly LocoBlog Site.



Screenshots from LocoBlog v2



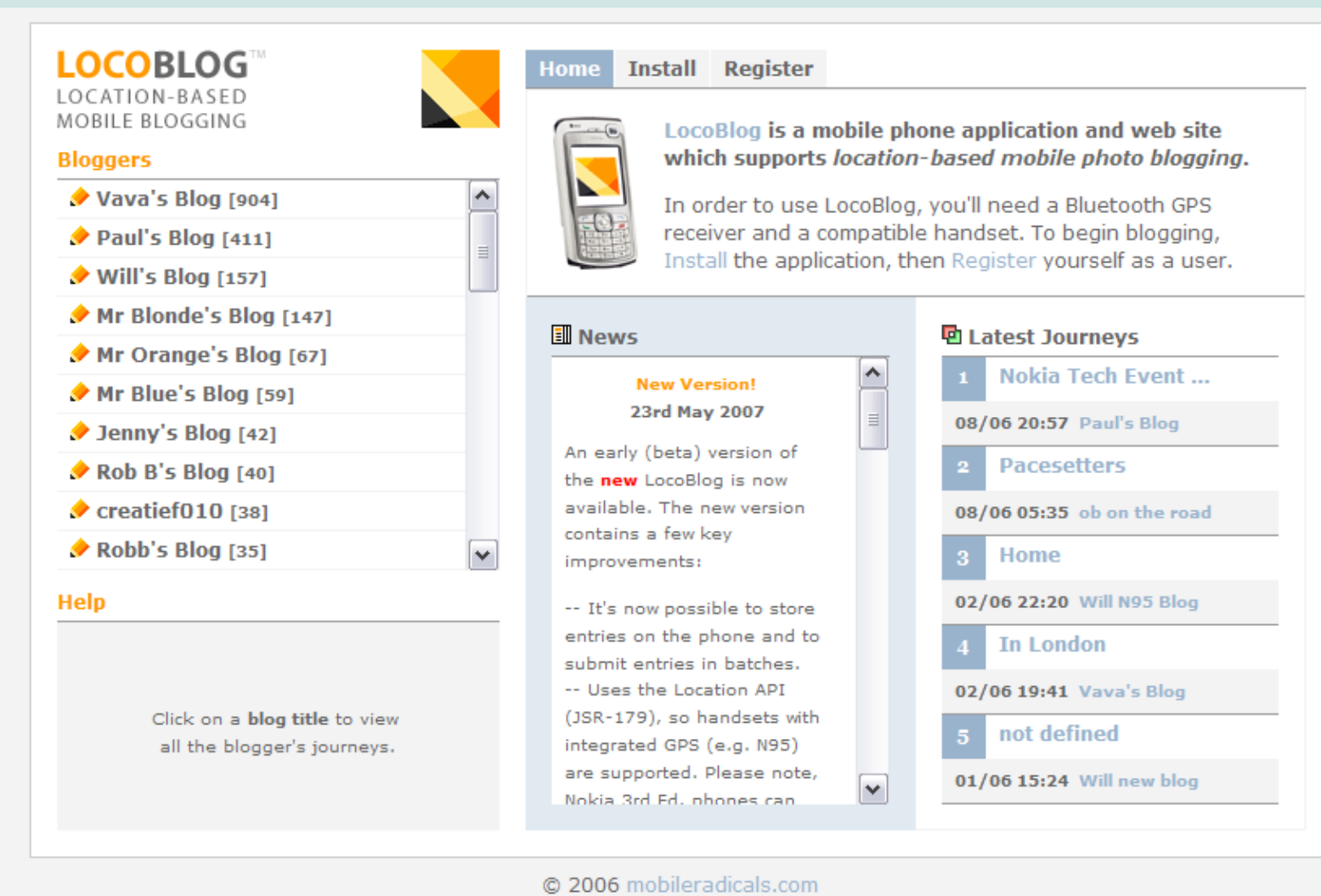
LocoBlog application running on a Nokia 6630 with GPS Bluetooth receiver

## Mobile Mass Observation

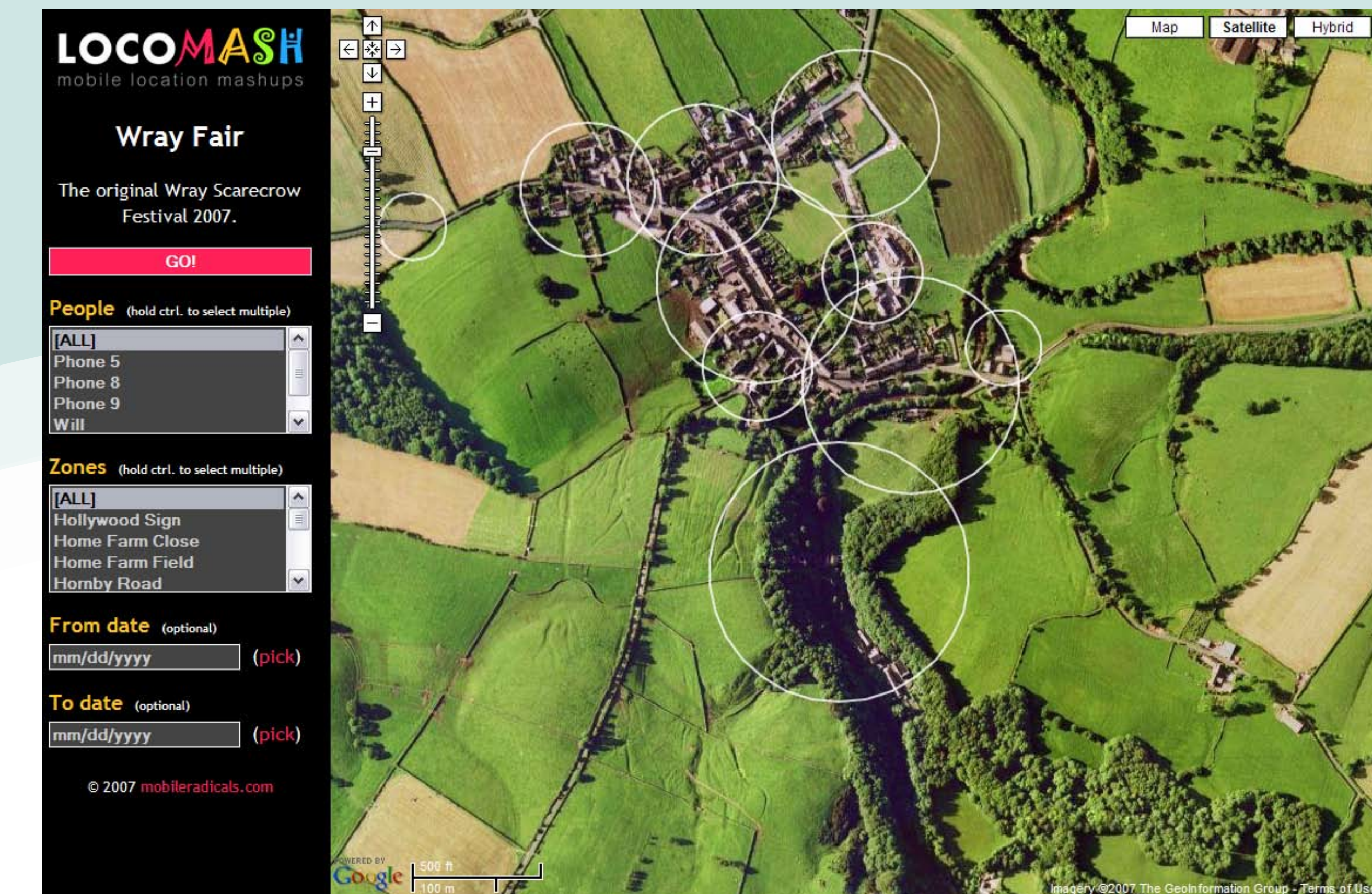
Locomash is a mobile mass observation system to allow groups of individuals equipped with mobile camera phones and GPS to create real time spatial and temporal photographic mash-ups around particular events or places.

Mass-Observation was/is a social research organisation in the 1950's whose remit was to record everyday life in the UK principally through direct observation.

In this area of research we aim to create novel tools and systems based around mobile phones to enable everyday life and events to be recorded in a richer way than ever before directly by the people involved.



Test run from Lancaster to Athens showing uploaded picture which can be referenced to the satellite image



LocoMash of the Wray Festival



InfoLab21



The Mobile Radicals are a freeform collection of dedicated mobile researchers based principally within the Infolab21 at Lancaster University. They are experts in the creation of novel mobile entertainment/commerce systems, mobile games research, web 2.0 and where 2.0 applications, and the theories associated with applied trivality. [www.mobileradicals.com](http://www.mobileradicals.com) provides for the wider dissemination of their activities.