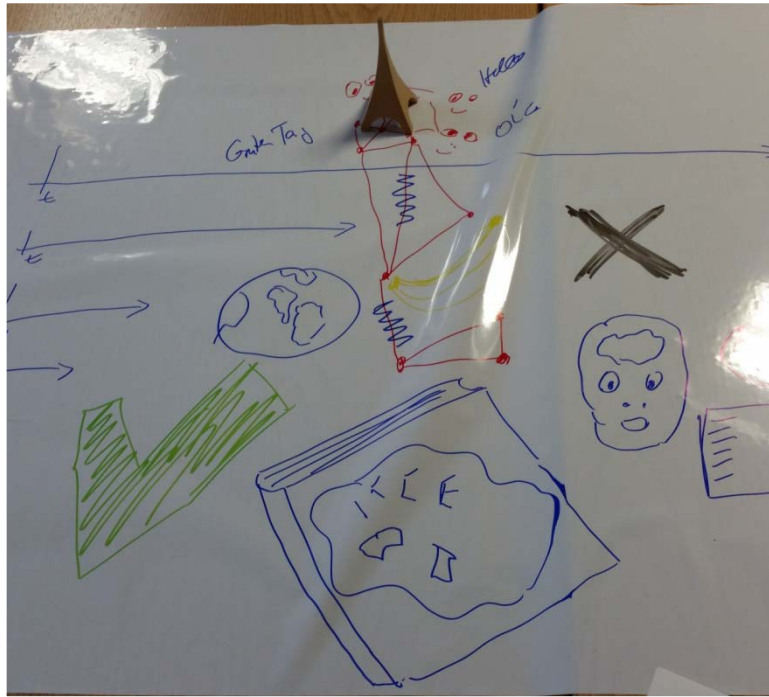


Research Road Atlas

1

MOBILE



UTOPIAS

2

It could mean transport, but 'mobile' refers to all kinds and scales of movement ...

It could refer to the mass movement of people that we are currently witnessing across Europe

Does mobile mean transport?

It could refer to the communicative movement of information or ideas

It could refer to flows of electricity, water, food and other resources that are part of everyday life

Utopia, by Thomas More

Thomas More was the first to give a name and form to an idea that has captured human imagination throughout history: that by imagining a better world is possible, we are empowered to create it. His playful vision, published in 1516, presents an ideal society living on a fictitious island, described in a traveller's tale.

(Somerset House, 2016)

More himself is one of the character's in the book - making it a realist work. In Part 1 More is introduced to a traveller who has just returned from Utopia. They talk about and analyse the social problems facing contemporary Europe (i.e. Europe in 1516). These include the barbarity of capital punishment, the massive gaps between rich and poor, and the monarchy. In Book 2 the traveller describes Utopia, what it looks like, how it is organised, and what it is like to live there.

Rather than being a blueprint for the future, More's Utopia is about dreaming in the now. 2016 is the 500 year anniversary of the book, our project *Mobile Utopias 1851-2051* explores how 'Utopia' is relevant and inspiring in our time.

Who's utopia is this? The Utopia depicted by More isn't all that great for the slaves!

Discussing Utopia

Everyday life changes all the time (e.g. compare 1950 to today). Is 'utopia' an end point, or simply an horizon to work towards?

When translated Utopia might mean 'good place' or 'no place'. So what is its opposite? Dystopia?, or actual places?

Mobile Utopias 1851-2051

Mobile Utopia 1851-2051 is a research co-creation project at the **Institute for Social Futures**, Lancaster University, that seeks to develop a deeper understanding of mobile utopias (and dystopias), and to creatively analyse and explore these. There are a range of activities.

Mobilizing the Urban Model: A Workshop on Spatial Analysis and Mobile Utopias of Consumption,
18th April 2016, 09:30-15:00, Lancaster University, Bowland North, SR 07

Mobile Utopias Research Co-Creation Workshop
19th April 2016, 11:00 – 16:00, Design Studio, Lancaster University

Lancaster Life 1851-2051
Campus in The City, St Nicholas Arcade, Lancaster, 18th May 2016 10-12.

Mobile Utopia at the J Edmond Safra Fountain Court at Somerset House, London, 24-26 June

1851

2051

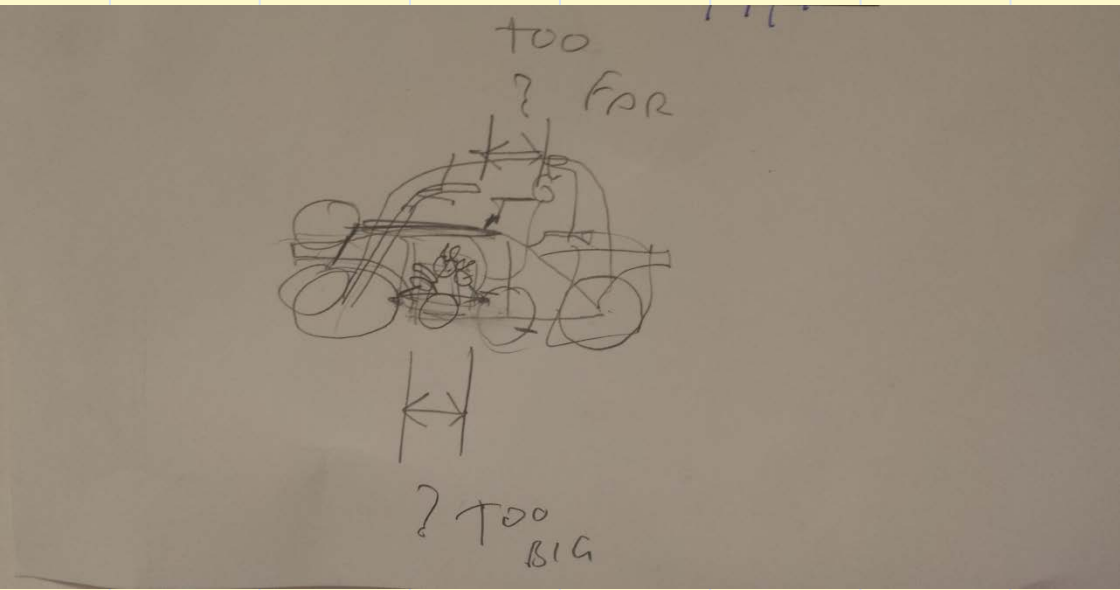
Excerpts and Ideas:
The journey so far

RUSTY GARAGE
KEY SYMBOLISES
FREEDOM LOST



...as we age even the most competent of drivers begin to lose confidence... my mobile utopia for 2051 will be a personal programmable vehicle that will give me the ability to decide not only where I want to go, but when I want to go.





A toothbrush is empowering. Everybody asks me what they should do to prolong the life of their bike... this is the best way of putting oil on on a bike... recycled, repurposed, everyone's got one already...

Bicycles and their social worlds at the Carnforth Cycle Museum



In the village, there was a grocery store. Well people used to go to the shop, order their groceries and I would deliver them all around the village each day... Raleigh and Pashley would make them. In its day the delivery bicycle was equal to a small van.



There was a local farmer in Caton who would deliver milk after the morning and evening milking. The milk wasn't pasteurised then, so it didn't keep. People didn't have refrigerators. So these bicycles were essential. Some of the farmers would have their own names on the bottles. The empties would be washed and returned.

This is a delivery bike that was probably used by local tradesmen like joiners and plumbers where they would just stick everything into the box and go to work. It has solid tyres so you were guaranteed to never have a puncture. A bicycle was a working man's vehicle, maybe they couldn't afford a van so they would use something like that.





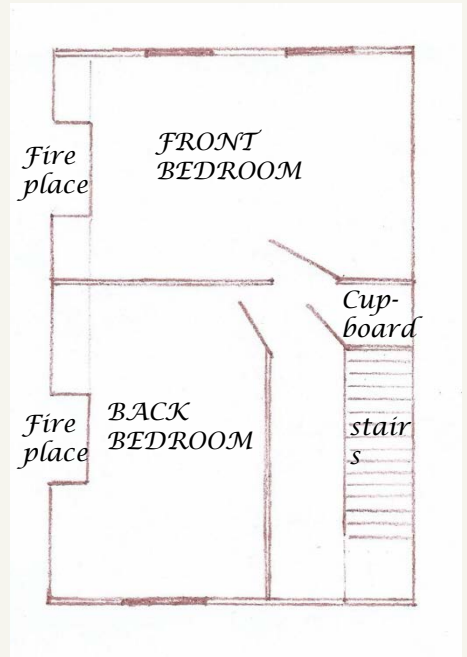
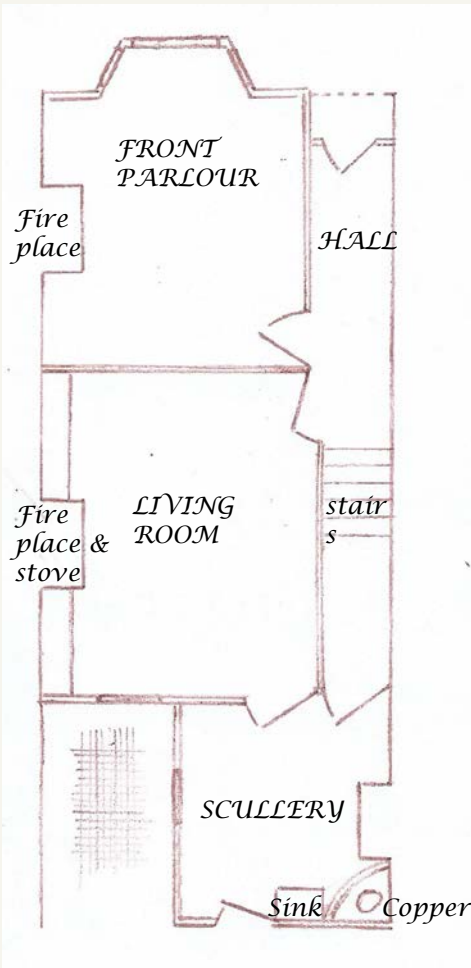
Above: Blackouts in the future? Cars will be completely useless



Left: dystopia
Right: utopia

To Let, 7s per week

Utopia Estates Property Agency



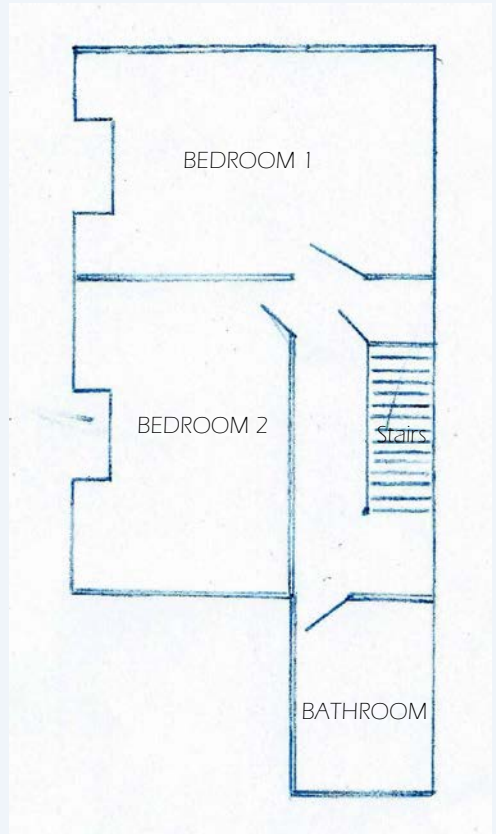
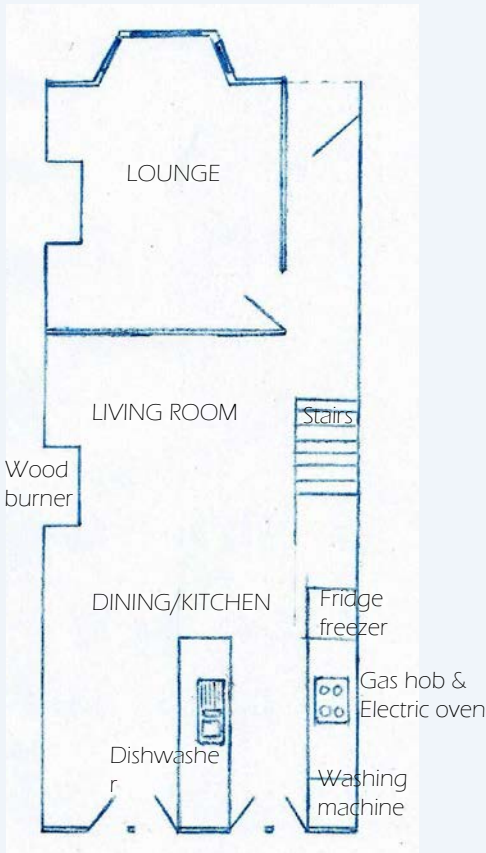
Newly built two-up, two-down provides a spacious home just a short walk to the mill, ideal for mill-workers and their families. The entrance hall leads to a formal parlour fitted with the latest oil lamps. The living room provides an open fireplace with a stove for preparing meals, and there is room enough to bathe before the fire. There is a small scullery which provides the housewife with a modern coal-fired wash copper and stone sink. The communal water pump is just 3 houses away. The house comes with its own dry privy in an outhouse to the rear. The Church., Sunday School and market square are very close by. Market day: Sat, Weds.



For Sale, £189,000

Utopia Estates
Sales and Lettings

Established 1851



This beautiful mid-terrace is perfect for commuters just a few minutes walk to the station. Fully modernised, the property has ample electric points throughout, gas central heating, and double glazing. A large open plan living room offers stylish family living, with a wood burner and french doors onto a lovely 'yarden', ideal for alfresco dining. There is a newly refurbished family bathroom with electric power shower. The kitchen is plumbed for automatic washing machine and dishwasher. The leisure centre and town centre are nearby. Sainsbury's supermarket is just a 10 minute drive away. The property is in the catchment of a good primary and secondary school. There is on-street parking.

Making Utopia in the Present at Cycles Recycled



It looks like a car key, but it's actually the key to my folding electric bike...

Making Utopia in the Present at Cycles Recycled



What I would really like is for cycling to become embedded in everybody's life from a very early age, not only being able to ride a bike, but improving people's knowledge using tools so they can repair their own bikes.



A compass – we don't use them in cities, at all. We think of them as useless, because we think cities are laid out ready for us, but ...

To be continued at:

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Mobile Utopias 1851-2051 is an interdisciplinary research project at Lancaster University's Institute for Social Futures and Centre for Mobilities Research. The project is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council Connected Communities Programme.

