

Graphic Skills Portal

Technique Handouts

1

ANALYSING



Creating a historic map using Illustrator

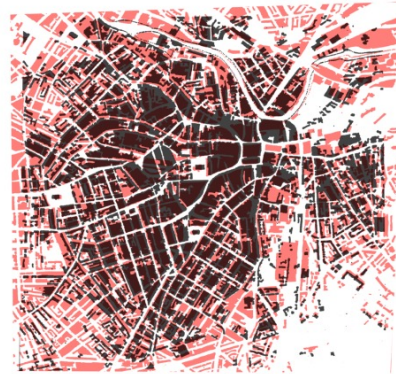
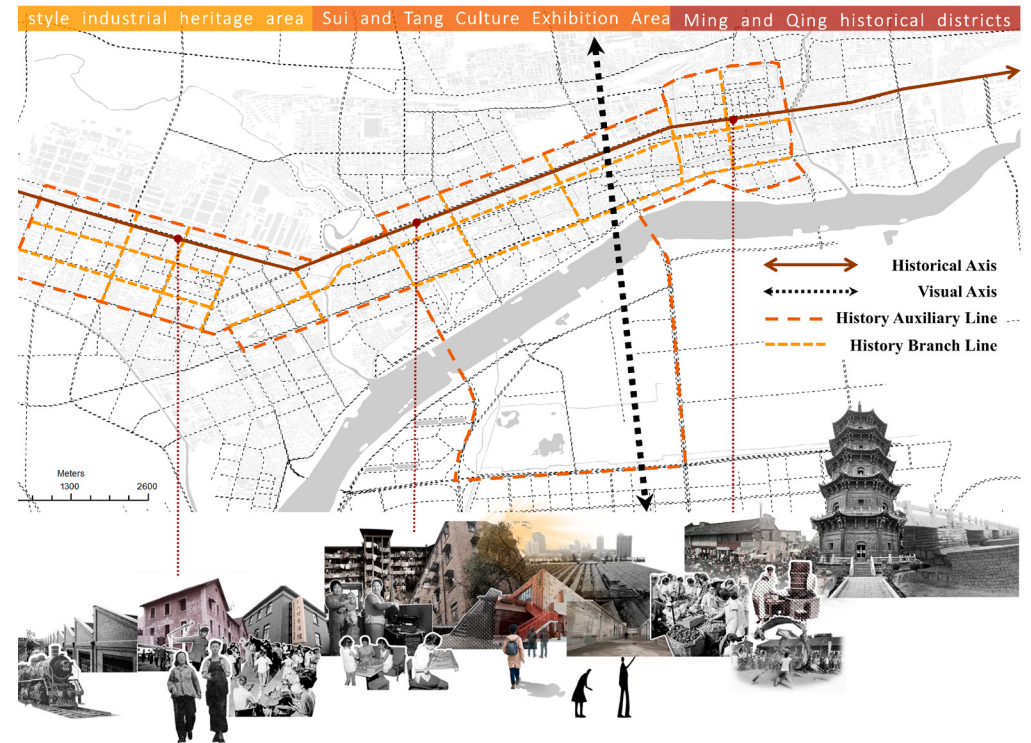
**URBAN
GRAPHICS
SKILLS**

What is a historic map?

Historical evolution analysis is often conducted by urban designers to understand the history of the site under study, and how the place has evolved over time.

Many factors affect how the space evolved including social, political and economic circumstances. Understanding these various events and how they affected the space physically is very important. This is usually conducted by thoroughly exploring the historical context, media reports, previous planning policies...etc.

A key starting point is creating a **historical evolution map/s**.

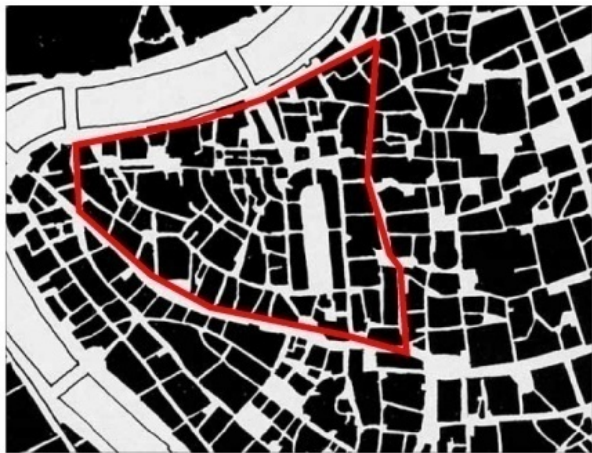


Sheffield historic evolution - Grain map analysis

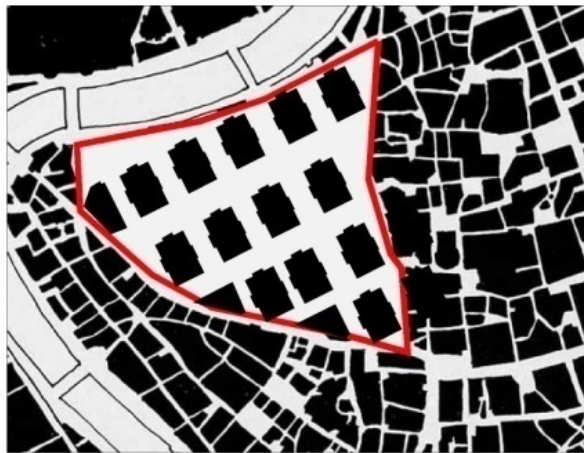
Sequence of maps

Graphics consist of a **sequence of maps** from earlier periods, usually to scale in addition to infographics to communicate textual information. This historical contextual analysis aims to observe the changing urban character of the landscape, the relation of built form to open spaces and how urban patterns changed.

The analysis can focus on the city scale to understand broader issues, or on larger scales to understand the neighbourhood or the site context. It can focus on policy issues, transport, movements, accessibility, building patterns, character, density, open spaces, etc.



Before 1960



from 1965 to 1994

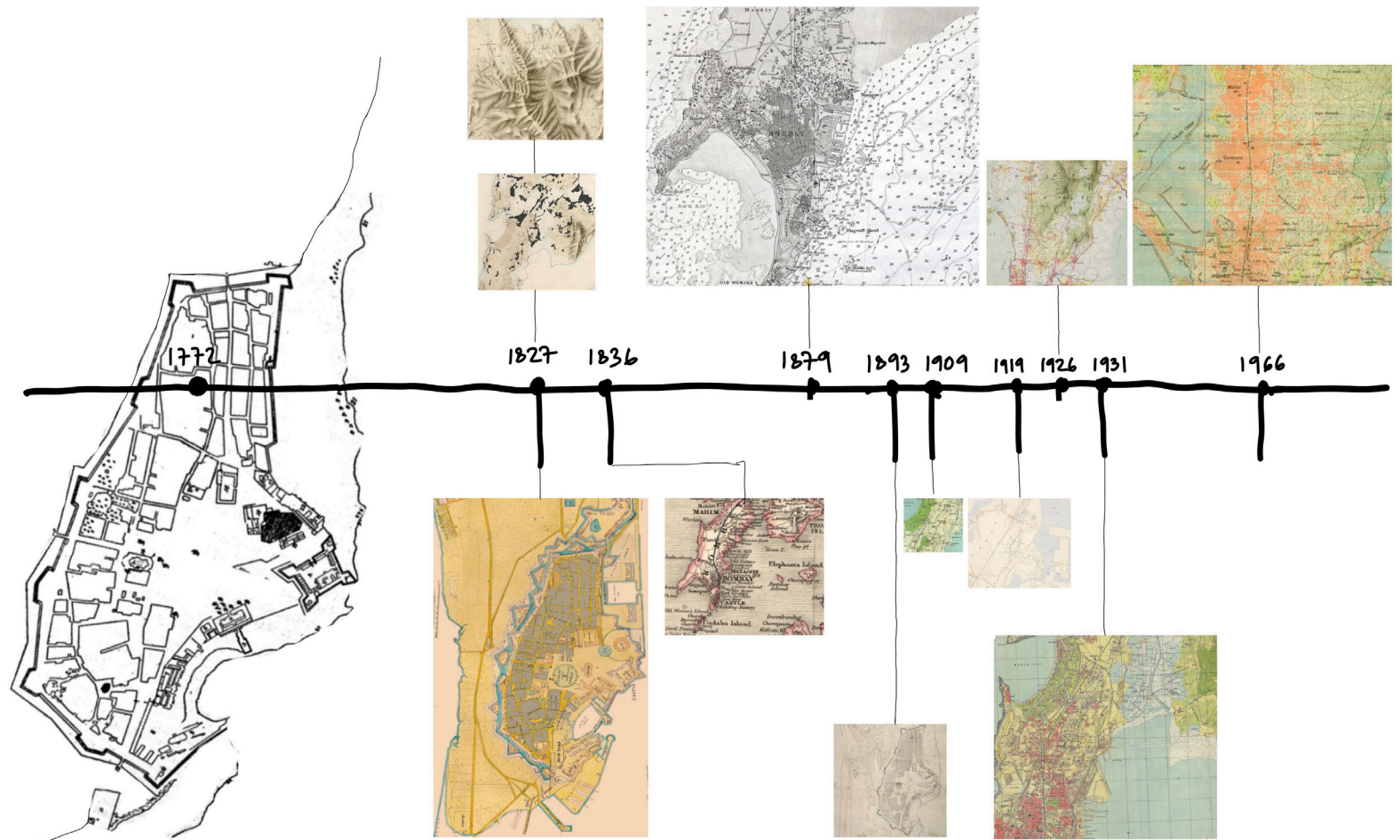


Since 1994

Infographic

The historical sequence may also be represented using **Infographics**, which are the graphical representation of data/knowledge to represent information quickly and clearly. They are about the classification/ division and simplification of information, showing relationships between different pieces of information.

The example shows a timeline-style infographic to showcase some key historical events in the area. Adding images/maps to the timeline would make the illustration more appealing and informative



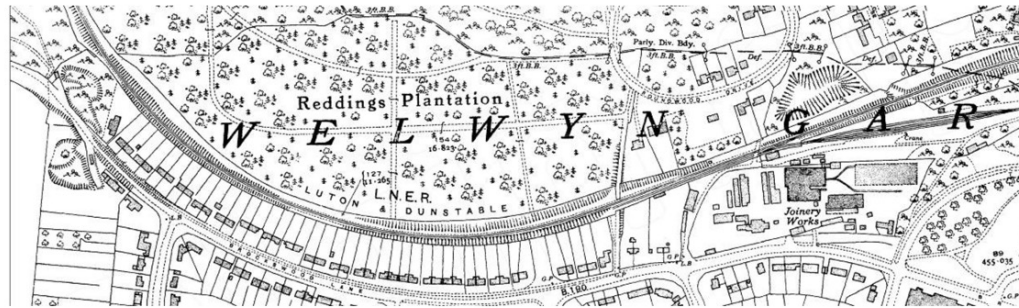
Abhijit Ekbote, Bombai Evolution Map



Where to start?

You need to register in Digimap in order to get access to the Historic maps. – Look for the area/neighbourhood you want to analyse and see how the site evolved over time. Notice that map availability differs from site to site and from scale to scale

Due to annual licence renewals, from 1st August 2023 all existing registered Digimap users will need to re-accept user licences for each Digimap Collection prior to accessing Digimap. Also please note that our new combined view and download client application will replace the existing separate ROAM and Download clients from the 1st September.



Historic

About Getting Started FAQ

Historic Digimap provides historical Ordnance Survey maps of Great Britain. The historical mapping is licensed from [Landmark Information Group](#). Historic Digimap offers the following map images, the originals of which were published between 1846 and 1996:

- All available County Series maps at 1:2,500 and 1:10,560 scales
- All available British National Grid maps (1943 to 1996) at 1:1,250, 1:2,500 and 1:10,560/10,000

View maps and download data
View, annotate and print maps, plus download data for GIS/CAD.

Historic Digimap

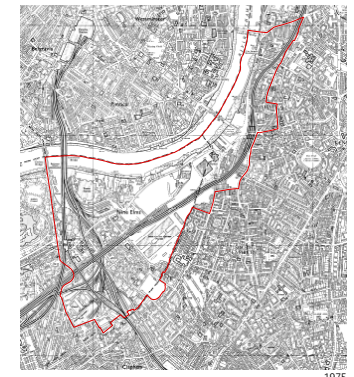
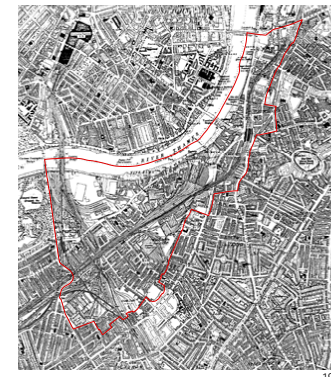
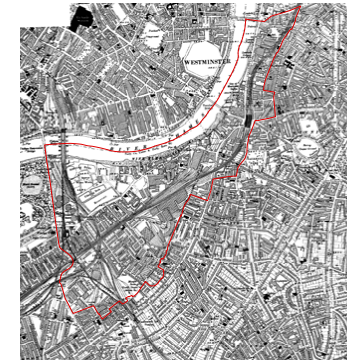
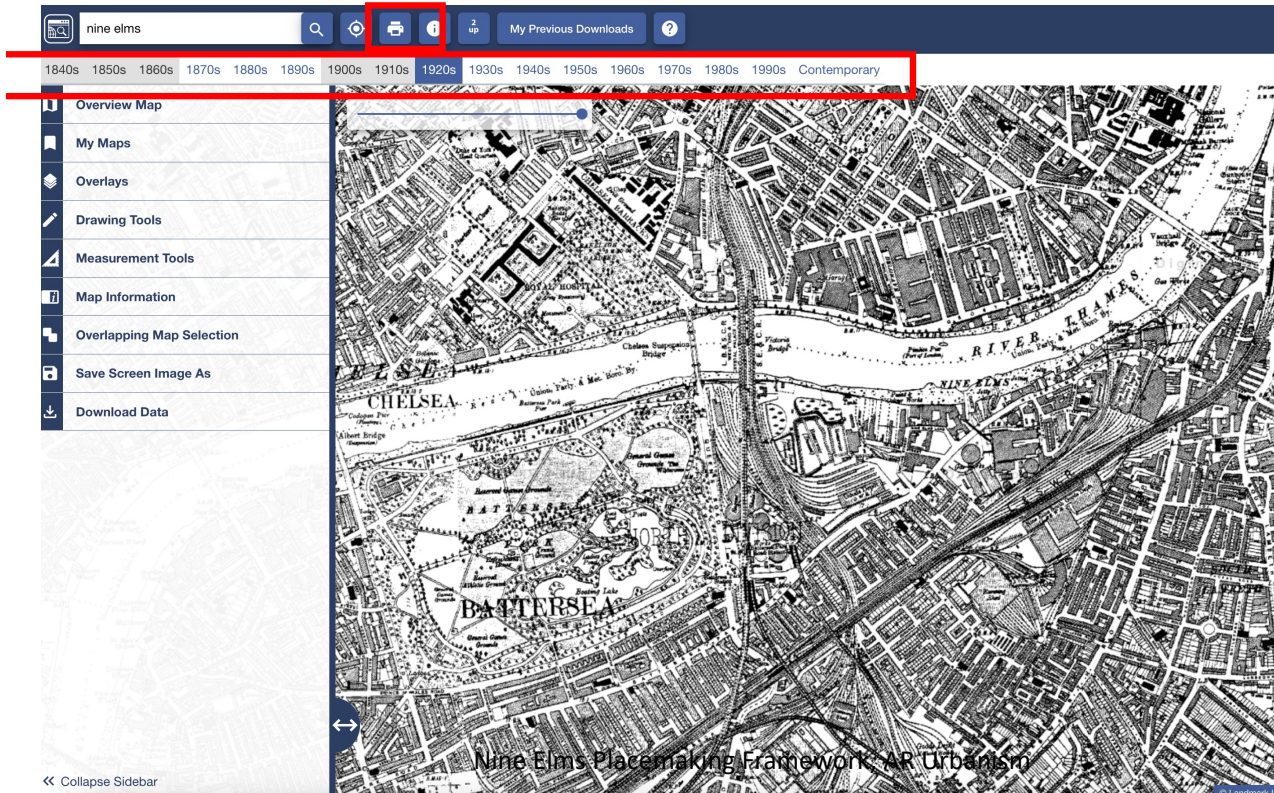
Web Services

Web Services



Where to start?

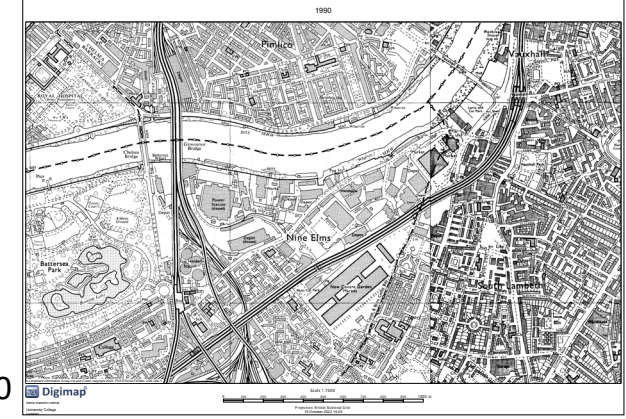
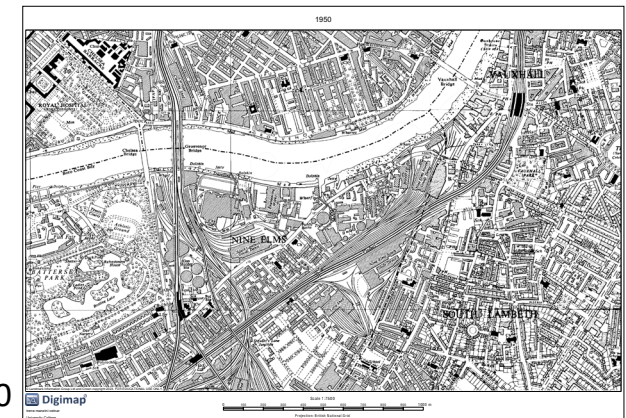
Choose different historic maps of the same area and *'print'* them (save them into your laptop)





Where to start?

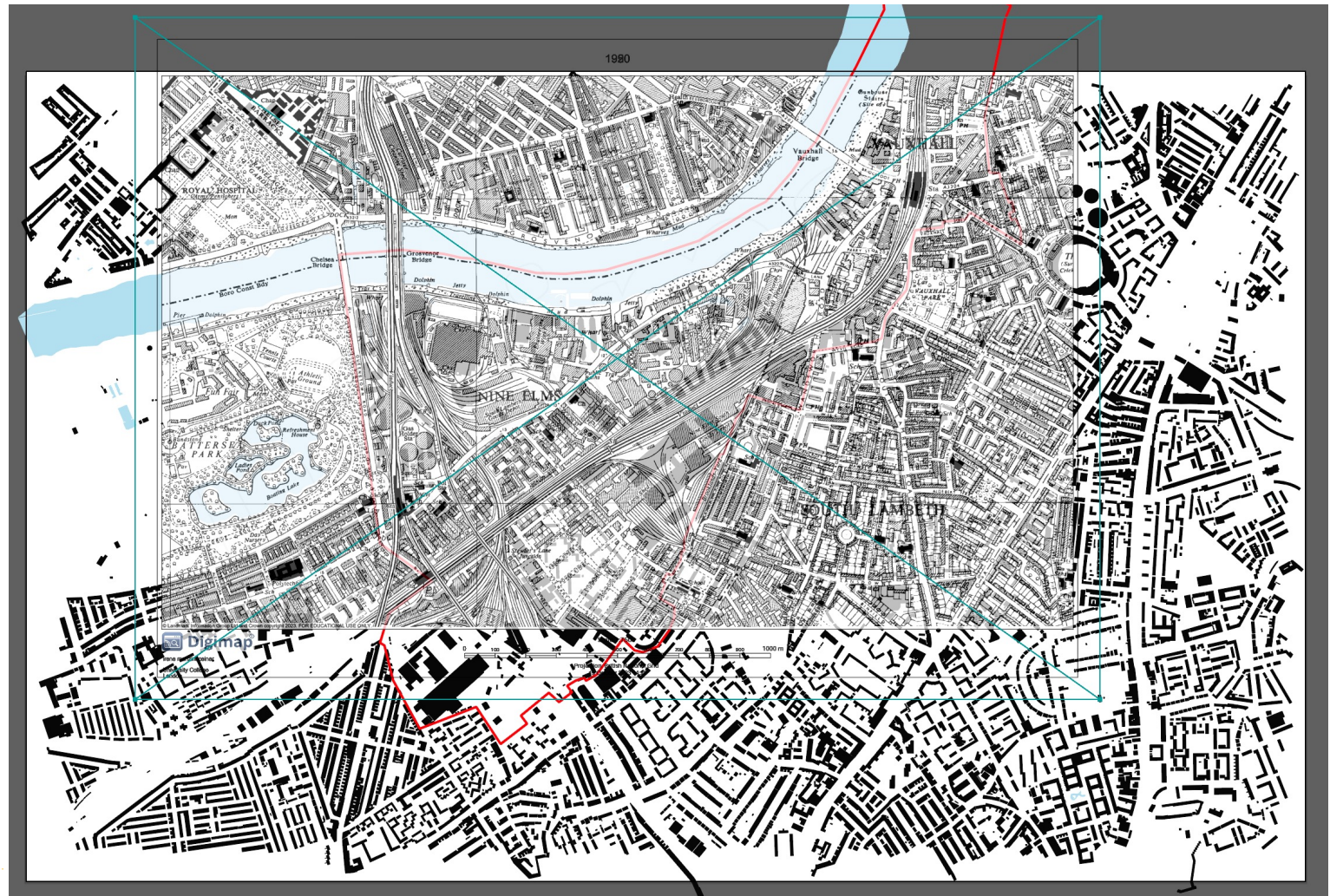
Now, let's take the figure-ground of the current situation on the one hand, and scale all the historic maps accordingly. Then, overlap each historic map to one figure-ground in **Illustrator**.





Match the figure-ground and historic maps

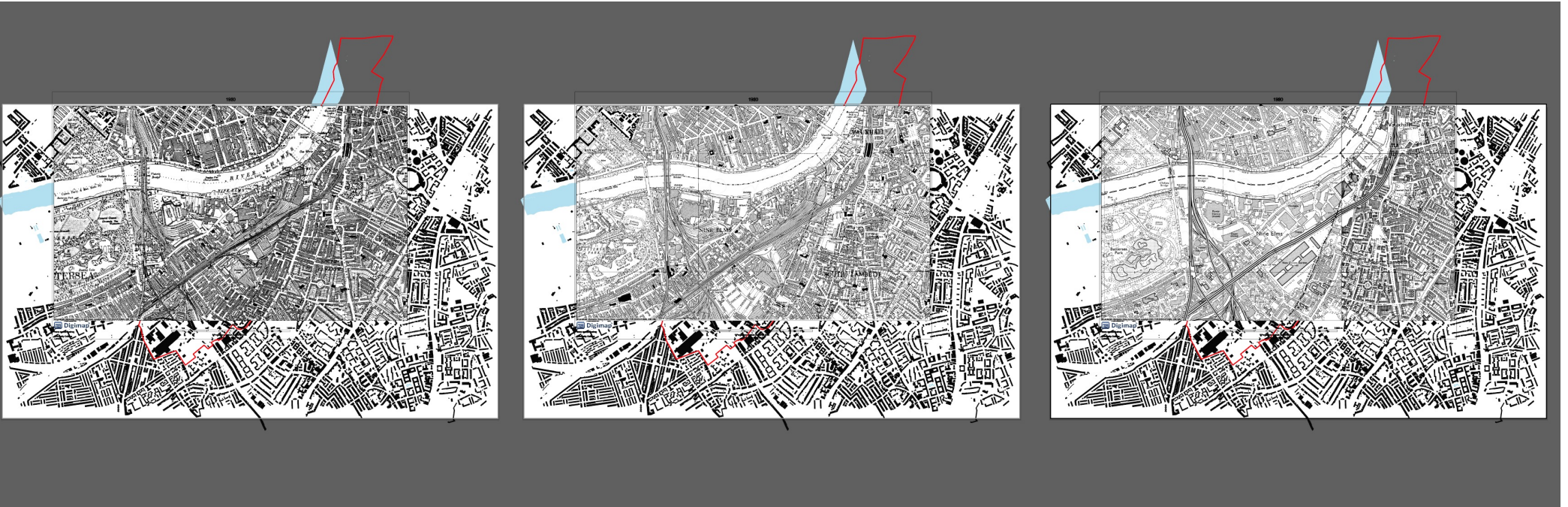
To match the scale of those maps, lock the figure-ground and put the historic ones on another layer with opacity. Take a reference building and **scale those maps to match the figure-ground.**





Match the figure-ground and historic maps

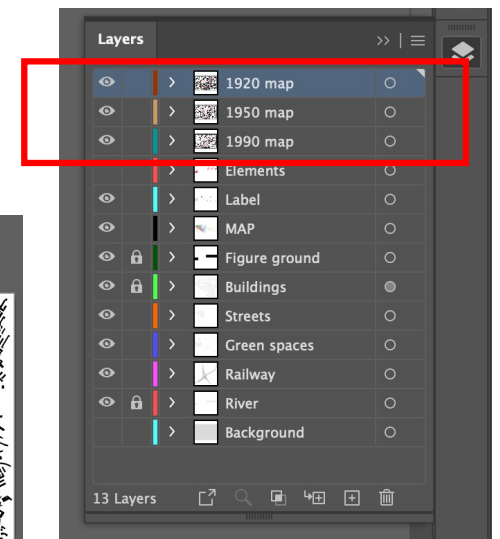
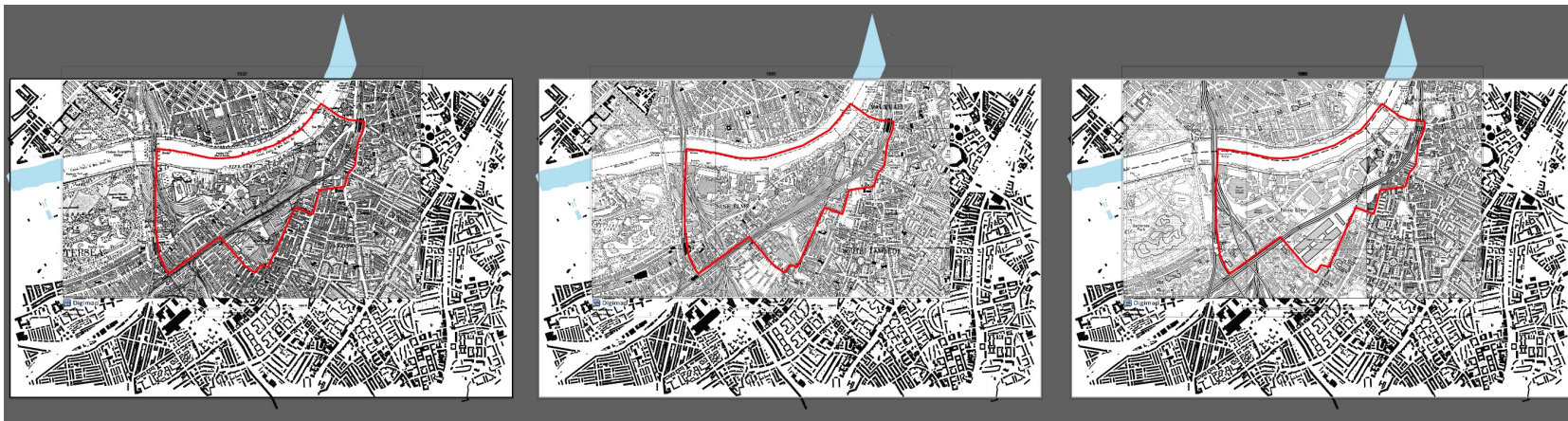
At this point, we have three figure-ground maps overlapped with a historic map (1920, 1950, 1990) each.





Match the figure-ground and historic maps

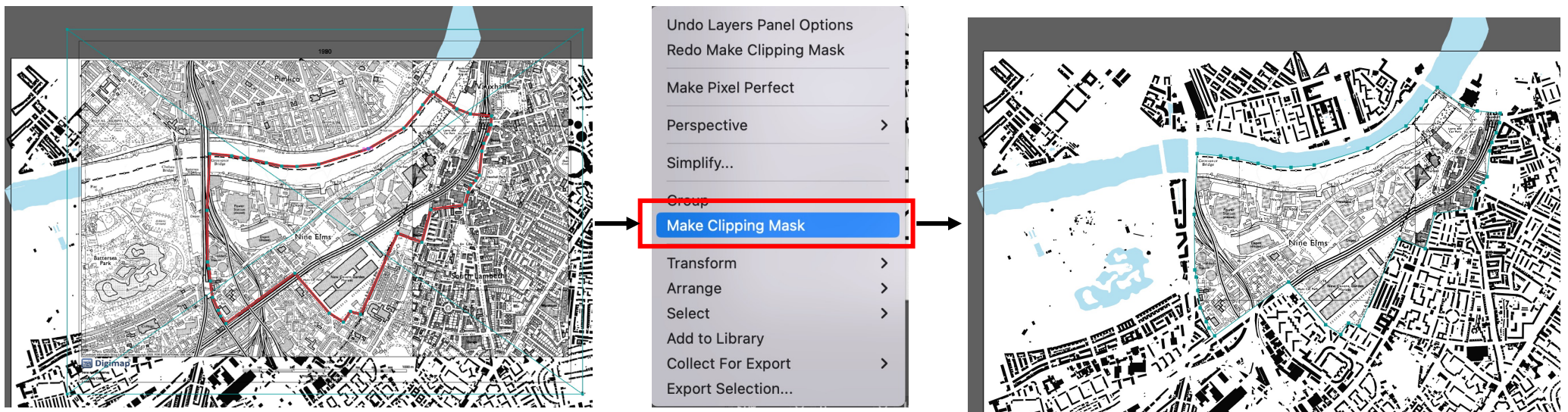
Organise the layers and create a site boundary for each map corresponding to the area you want to insert in the figure-ground.





Create a mask for each map

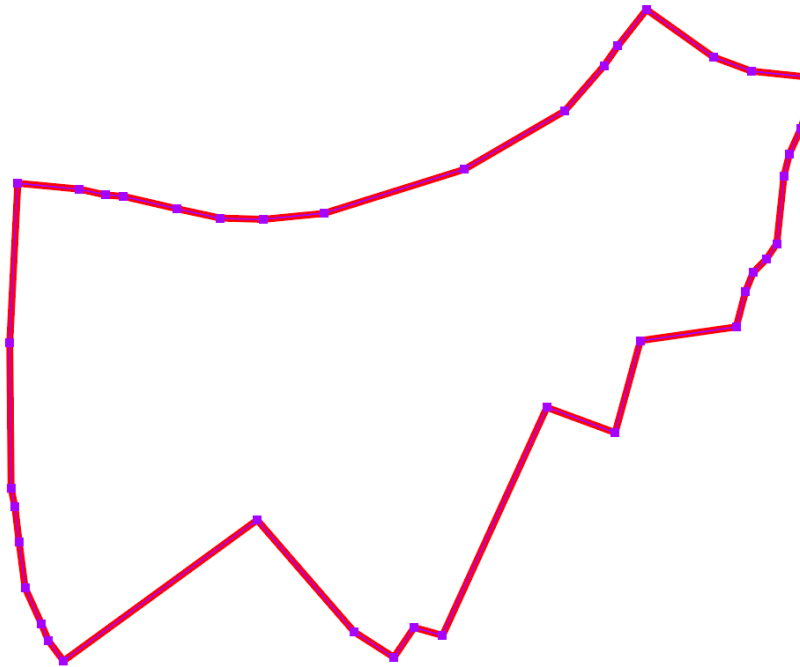
To use the '**mask tool**' you need to have in the same layer (i) what you want to mask, such as a base map, and (ii) a shape of what you want to be visible. Once you have those two elements, then you select both (by pressing 'shift' and selecting one and the other) – right-click and 'making clipping mask'.





Create a mask for each map

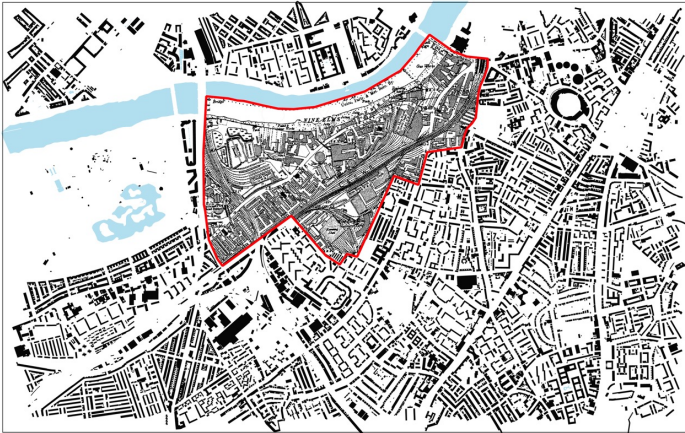
Once the clipping mask is created, the red boundary will disappear, so you need to create a new layer and re-trace the boundary using the **pen tool**.



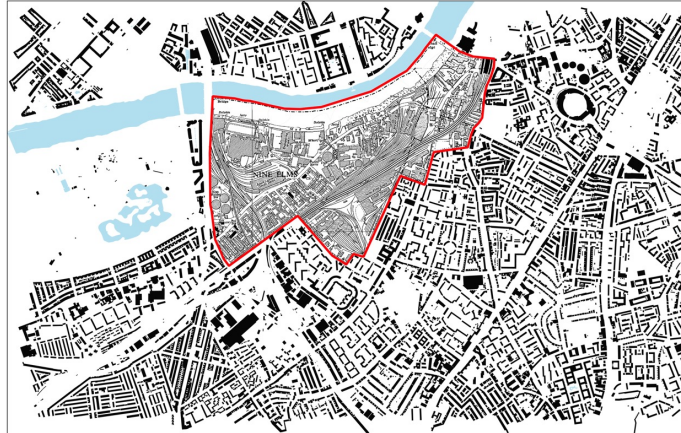


Create a mask for each map

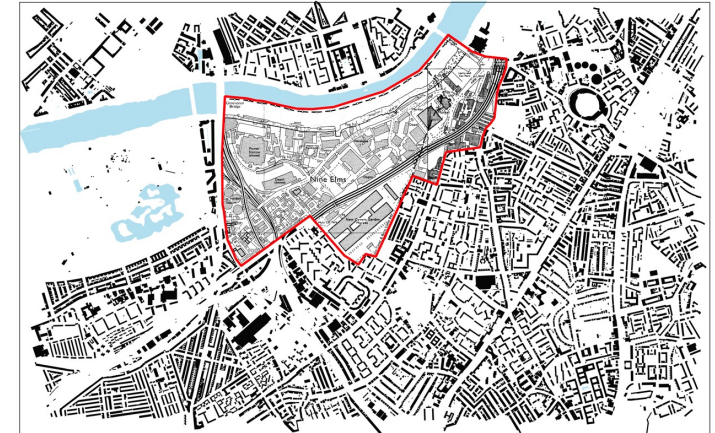
Repeat the same process for the three maps. In this way, you have an evolution of the area through historic maps.



NINE ELMS, BATTERSEA POWER STATION AREA, 1920s



NINE ELMS, BATTERSEA POWER STATION AREA, 1950s



NINE ELMS, BATTERSEA POWER STATION AREA, 1990s



THE BARTLETT