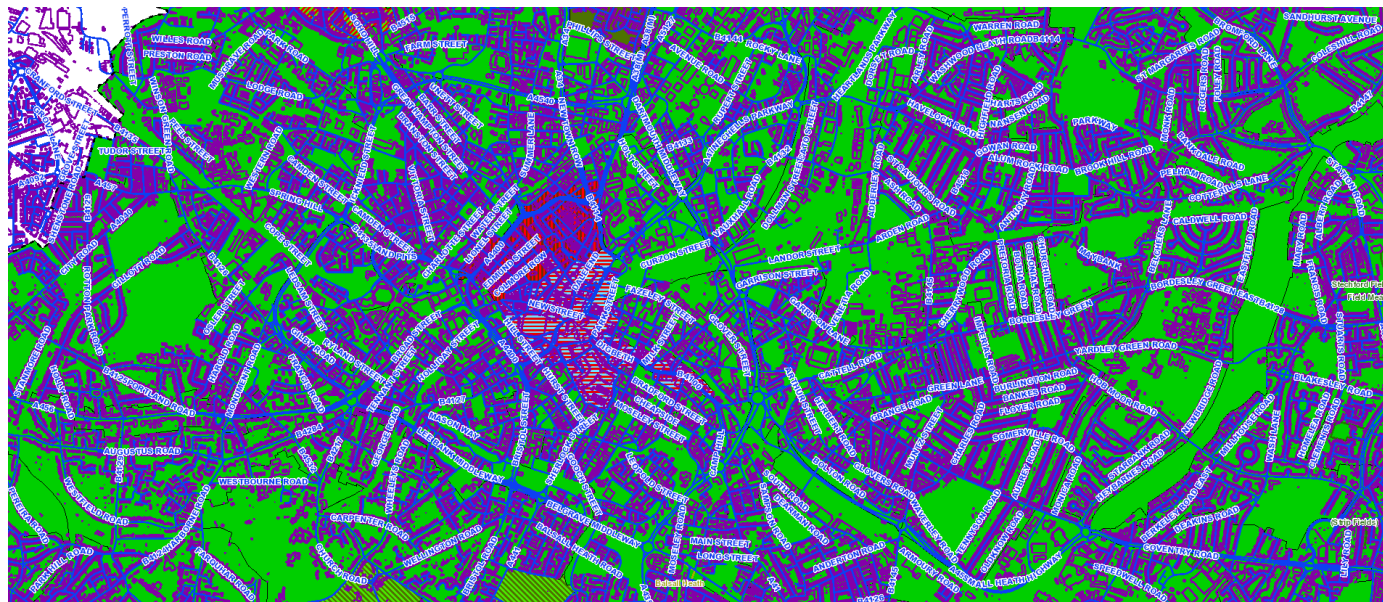


Mapping Birmingham's Historic Landscape

by Ray Tier

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Birmingham 1800

Mapping Birmingham's Historic Landscape

Purpose and Objectives

- Maps, describes and dates the past and present uses of every piece of land in Birmingham
- Overlays generations of historical maps on the modern urban landscape, providing an instant visual record of evolving land use over the centuries
- Uses GIS technology, modern digital mapping overlaid by historical maps (back to at least 1540) and aerial photography.
- Collaboration between Historic England and Birmingham City Council, carried out 2011 -2014 (part of a nationwide project).
- Started with Yardley/ Bordesley area in Dec 2012, followed by the HS2 corridor, then proceeded clockwise. Moseley done in March 2013.

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Variety of Uses

- **Historians** - illustrates the evolving pattern of the landscape over time
 - shows changes in the use of individual blocks of land and larger scale changes in the character of the area.
- **Planners and Architects**- informs urban development and regeneration planning by documenting the past history of an area (e.g. land use, buildings and road patterns)
 - allows planners to protect the best of our heritage and retain local character and distinctiveness when contemplating new buildings and developments.
- **Education** - raises awareness of the history of the local environment and its buildings
 - provides teachers with a visual means of engaging schoolchildren with the local history of their area.

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Methodology

- Landscape divided into blocks of land sharing the same usage - known as '**polygons**', each colour-coded according to a standard classification.
- '**Character areas**' developed by grouping together 'polygons' of mixed types but "possessing a distinct overall character different from adjoining areas". Mixed usage shown by combining colour-coding using hatching, stripes, dots etc.
- The Birmingham HLC covers an area of 26,798 hectares (66,219 acres). Its database consists of 6,974 'polygons' (HLC records) and 111 'character areas'. It uses 38 broad land use types and 432 sub-types, plus another 18 types & 124 sub-types for character areas.
- The characterisation process is "non-judgemental but one outcome might be the identification of areas meriting conservation status or buildings or structures meriting local or statutory listing."

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Web pages and datasets available

Main webpage - <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/hlc>

Historic maps of the Birmingham area -

https://localview.birmingham.gov.uk/Planning/Sites/HLC_Maps/

Modern and historic maps, aerial photos and map overlays, displayed alongside HLC and HER (Historic Environment Record) data.

The evolution of Birmingham's landscape using HLC record data -

https://localview.birmingham.gov.uk/Planning/Sites/HLC_Records/

Colourful land use maps for ten pre-selected dates, created from the broad land use types of all the HLC records. Every map layer can be turned on or off in the legend.

The evolution of Birmingham's landscape using character area data -

https://localview.birmingham.gov.uk/Planning/Sites/HLC_Areas/

Same as the above but for nine dates only using character area information.

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Attachments available to download (from main webpage)

[Full HLC Record Dataset - HBM1-3500 \(Size: 14.5 Mb Type: PDF \)](#) Contains all the data captured for the HLC records between HBM1 and HBM3500 (and HWA330). To view an individual record, please search inside the file by its number (HLCUID).

[Full HLC Record Dataset - HBM3501-6822 and HWA \(Size: 14.5 Mb Type: PDF \)](#) Contains all the data captured for the HLC records between HBM3501 and HBM6822 (and all the HWA ones). To view an individual record, please search inside the file by its number (HLCUID)

[Full HLC Area Dataset BCA1 - 111 \(Size: 844 Kb Type: PDF \)](#) Contains all the data captured for the character areas. To view an individual area, please search inside the file by its number (HLCUID).

[Mapping Birmingham's Historic Landscape Brochure - Extended Version \(Size: 12.2 Mb Type: PDF \)](#) Contains the full text of the printed brochure, plus three additional case studies.

[HLC Project Overview - Presentation \(Size: 932 Kb Type: PDF \)](#)

[HLC Data Visualisation - Presentation \(Size: 13.7 Mb Type: PDF \)](#) A series of 'thematic timeslice' Visualisations of HLC data, chosen to illustrate various aspects of the evolution of Birmingham's landscape

[HLC Final Project Report \(Size: 5.52 Mb Type: PDF \)](#)

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The Full HLC Area Dataset

There is a record for each 'Character Area' giving:

- current and previous types of land use
- historic houses, farms, factories, mills, schools with dates when they were built/ altered/ demolished
- transport infrastructure changes - turnpike roads, railways, canals with dates
- common land and dates of enclosures
- sources of information (maps, aerial photographs)

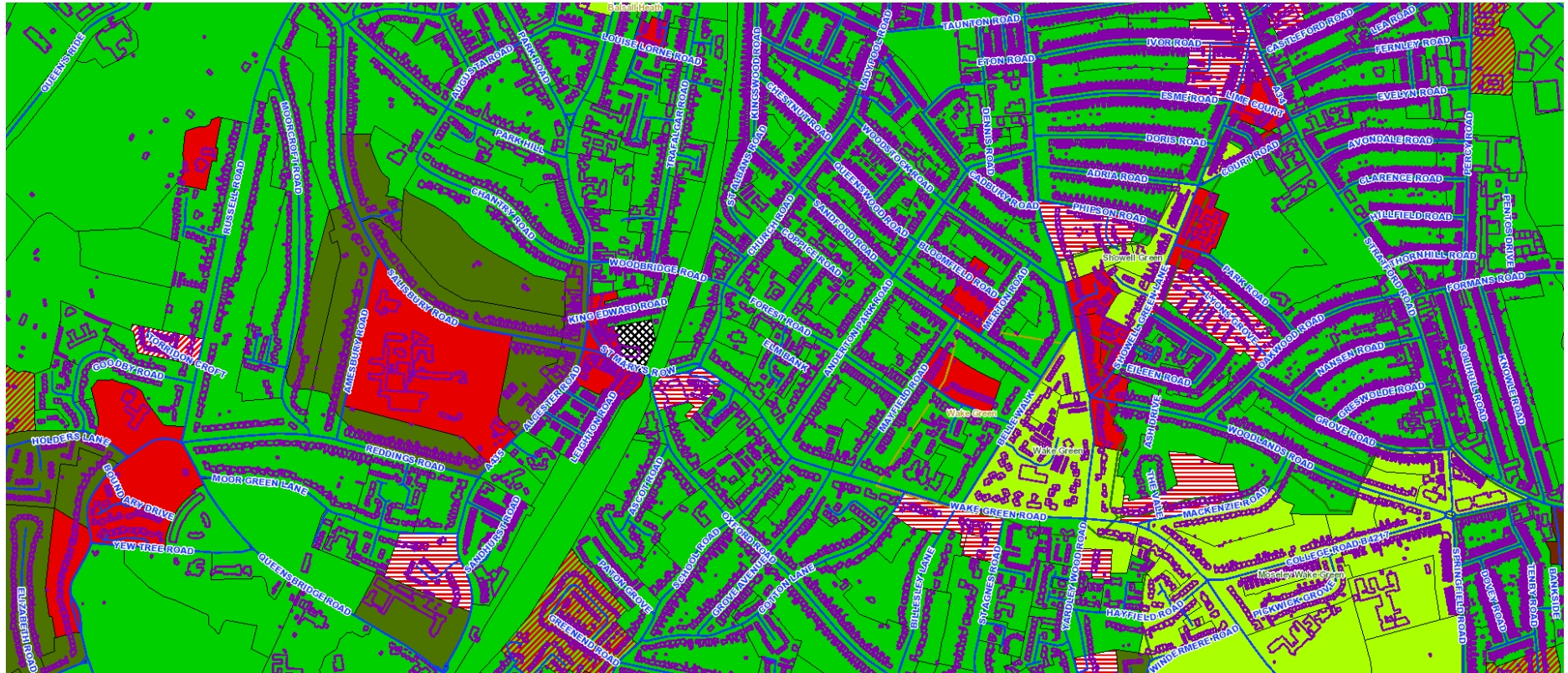
Moseley is covered by five character areas:

- BCA61 - Central Moseley (and Sparkhill)
- BCA66 - Eastern Moseley and Wake Green
- BCA67 - Sarehole, Moseley Bog (and Billesley)
- BCA74 - Moseley Park and Moor Green (and Edgbaston)
- BCA70 - King's Heath and South Moseley

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The Evolution of Birmingham Landscape using Character Areas

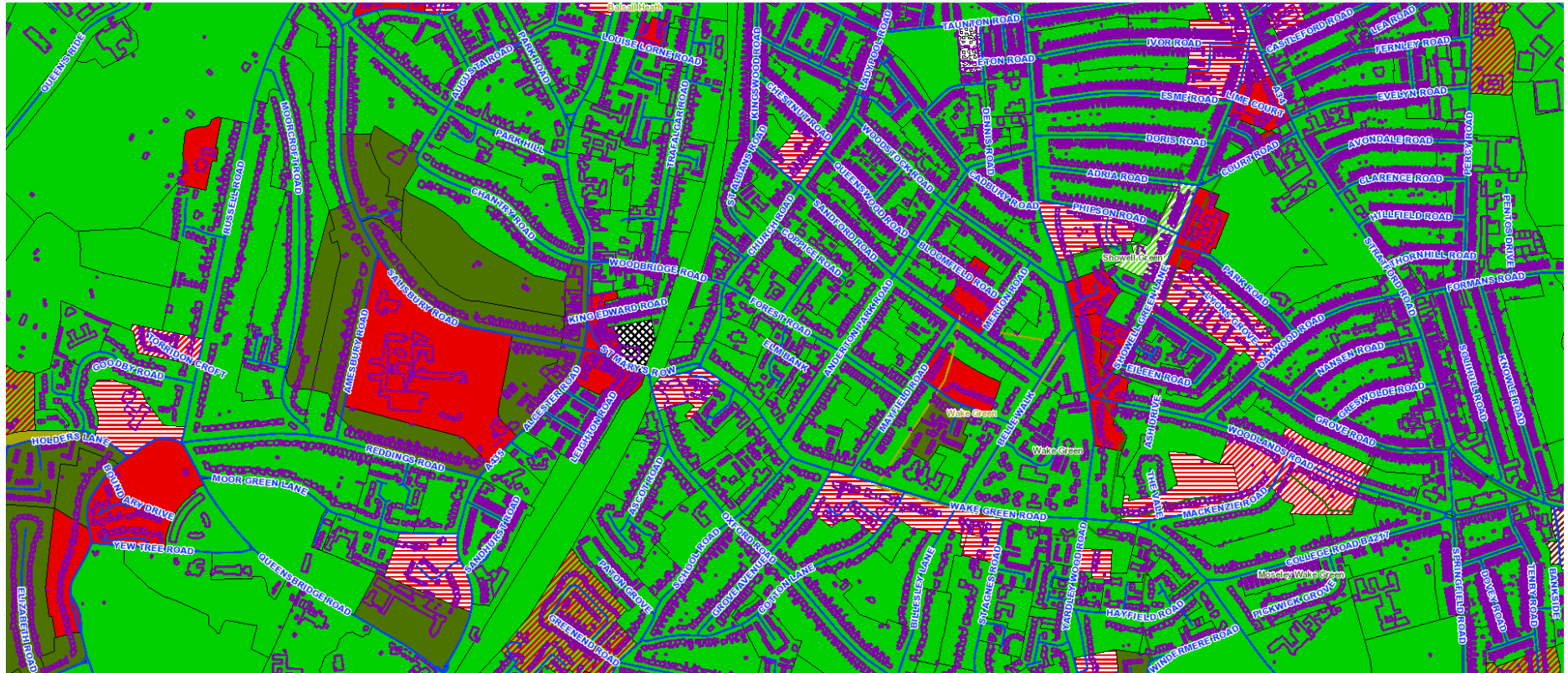
Moseley central area 1750



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The Evolution of Birmingham Landscape using Character Areas

Moseley central area 1840



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The Evolution of Birmingham Landscape using Character Areas

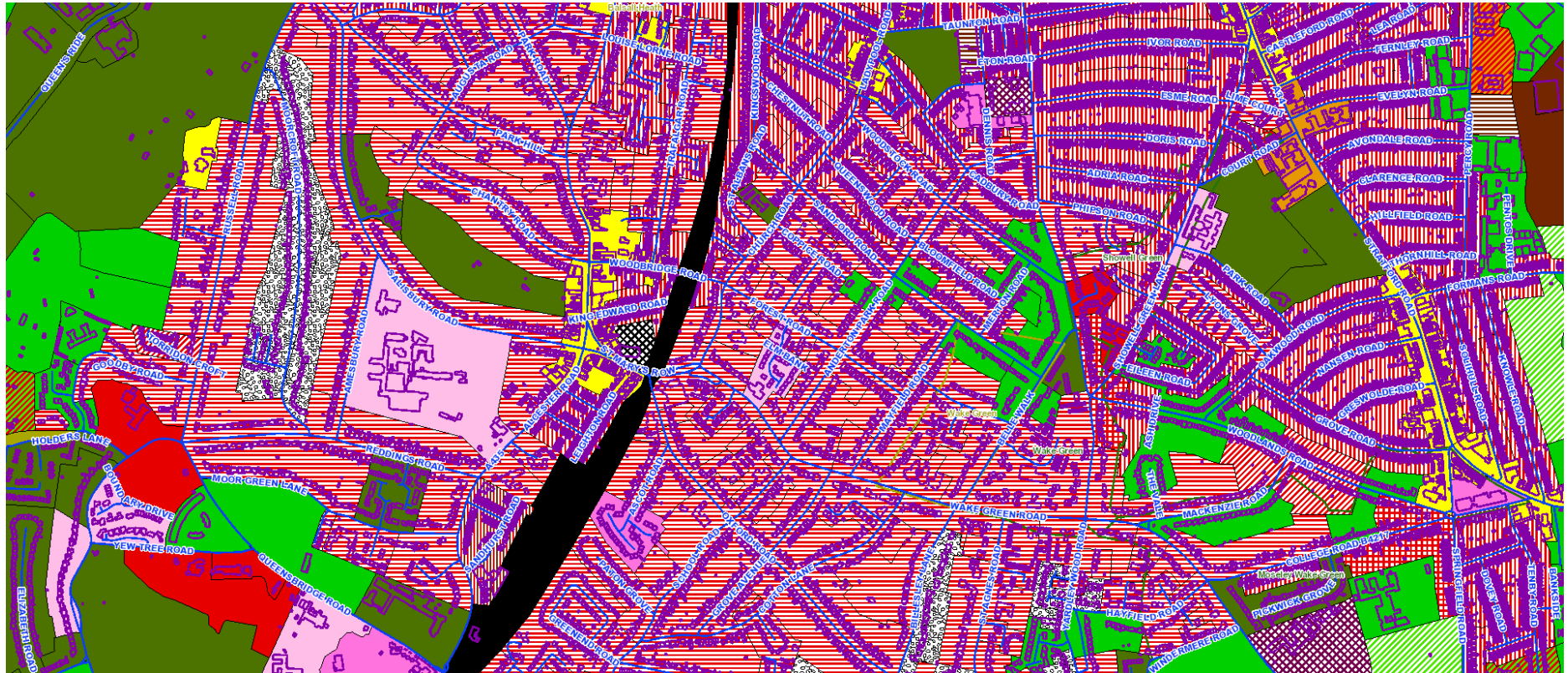
Moseley central area 1880



Mapping Birmingham's Historic Landscape

The Evolution of Birmingham Landscape using Character Areas

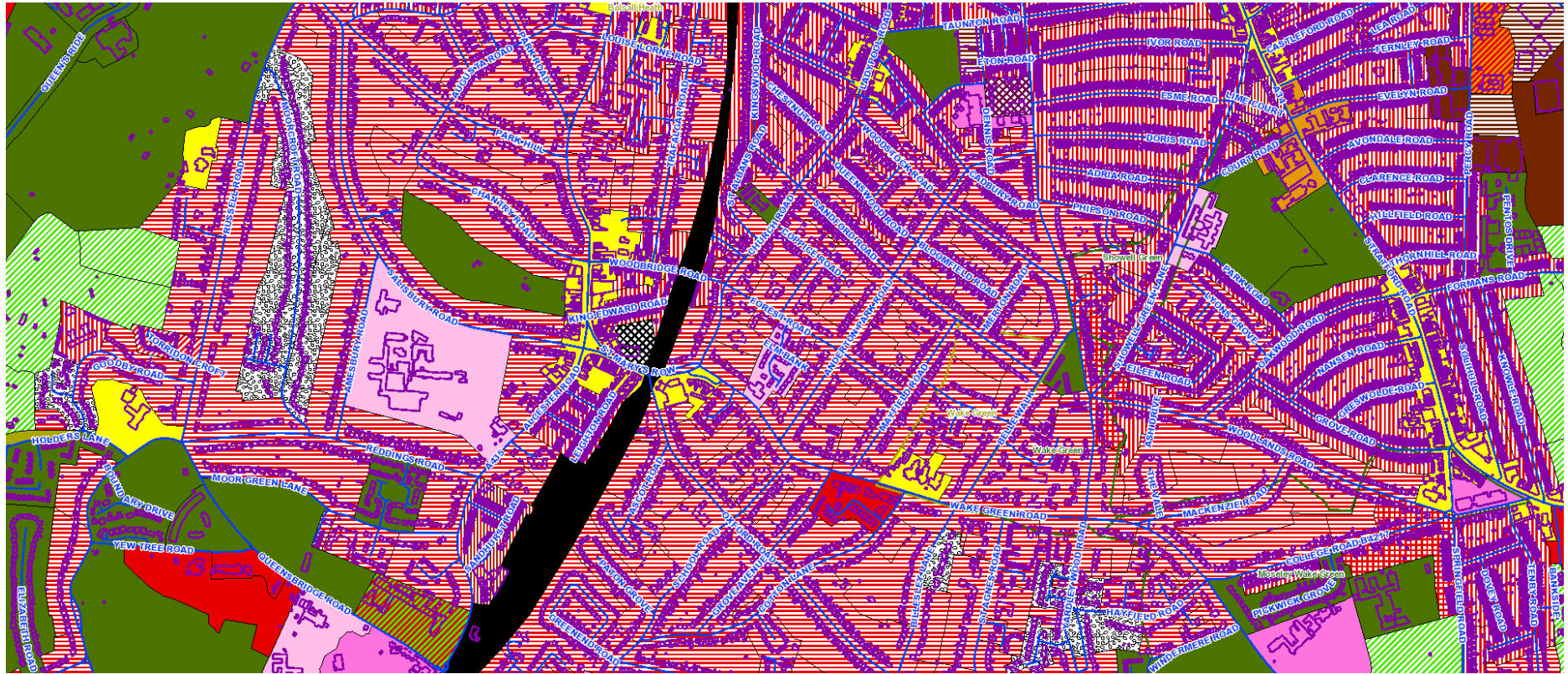
Moseley central area 1920



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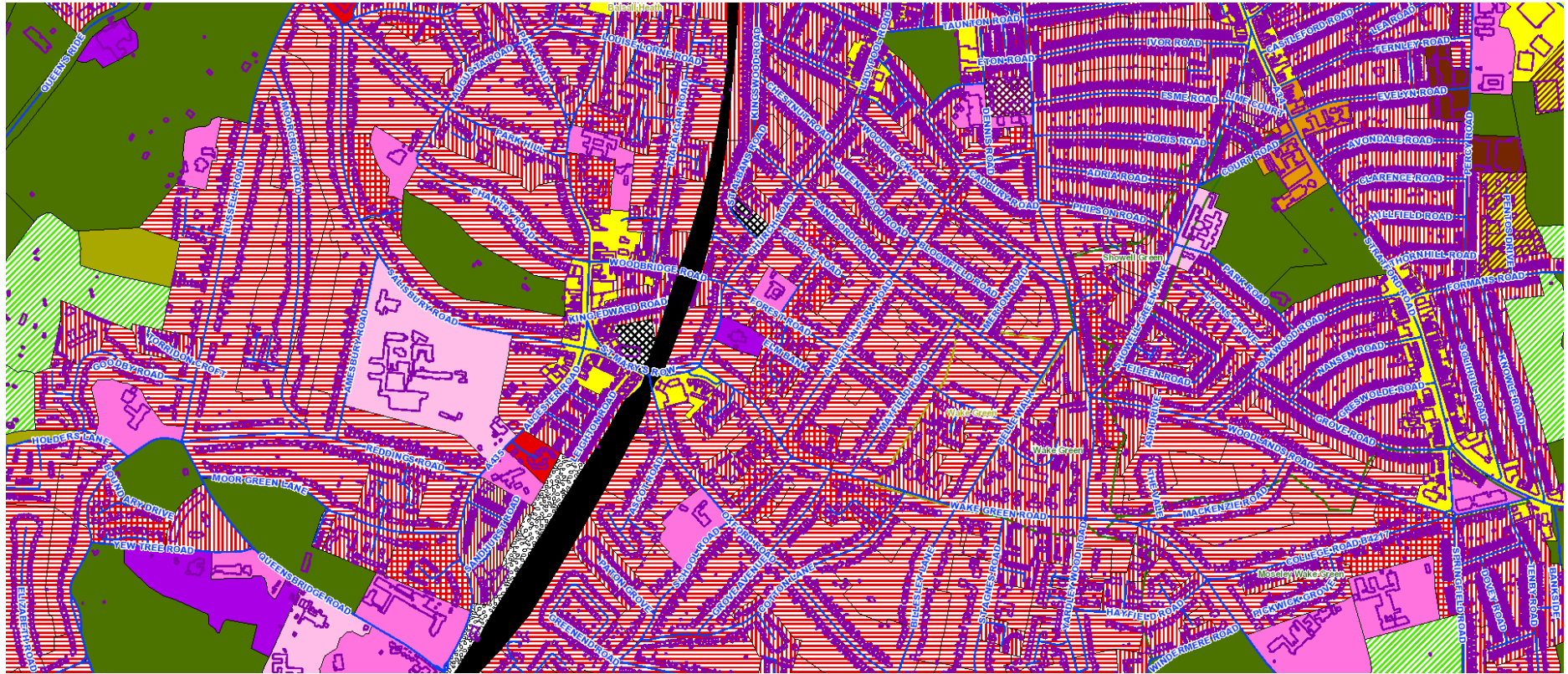
Moseley central area 1947



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The Evolution of Birmingham Landscape using Character Areas

Moseley central area 2014



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The Evolution of Birmingham Landscape using HLC Record Data

Moseley and District 1750

