

Thinking with Maps

Hereford Mappa Mundi, c. 1025-1050



Session Outline

- Part 1: Cities and Mapping
 - How Maps Work (CW: mentions current situation in Ukraine)
 - Exercise: The Propositions Maps Make
 - Mapping Society

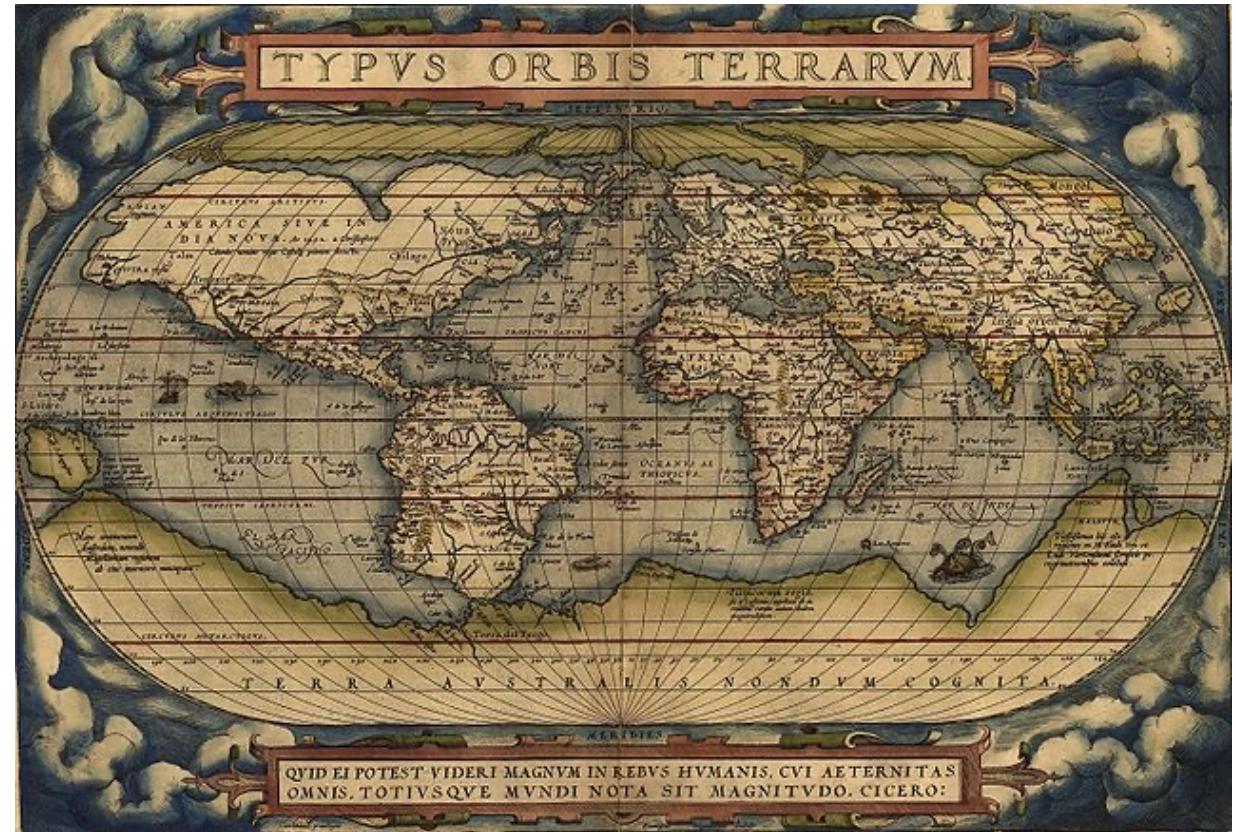
Break

- Part 2: Exercise
 - Mapping London

How Maps Work

- What *is* a map?
- What are they for?

Abraham Ortelius, *Theatrum
Orbis Terrarum*, 1570
The first modern atlas





Rene Magritte, The Treachery of Images (1929)

“The Map is not the Territory”

“...In that Empire, the Art of Cartography attained such Perfection that the map of a single Province occupied the entirety of a City, and the map of the Empire, the entirety of a Province. In time, those Unconscionable Maps no longer satisfied, and the Cartographers Guilds struck a Map of the Empire whose size was that of the Empire, and which coincided point for point with it. The following Generations, who were not so fond of the Study of Cartography as their Forebears had been, saw that that vast Map was Useless, and not without some Pitilessness was it, that they delivered it up to the Inclemencies of Sun and Winters. In the Deserts of the West, still today, there are Tattered Ruins of that Map, inhabited by Animals and Beggars; in all the Land there is no other Relic of the Disciplines of Geography.”

Jorge Luis Borges, ‘On Exactitude in Science’, in *Collected Fictions*, translated by Andrew Hurley.

“The Map is not the Territory”

Alfred Korzybski (1879-1950)

A map is a model of the territory that it represents, but it is not the territory itself

Our perception of the world is a 'map' of reality – it is not reality itself

Altering the map does not alter the territory

The map exists as an object within the territory...

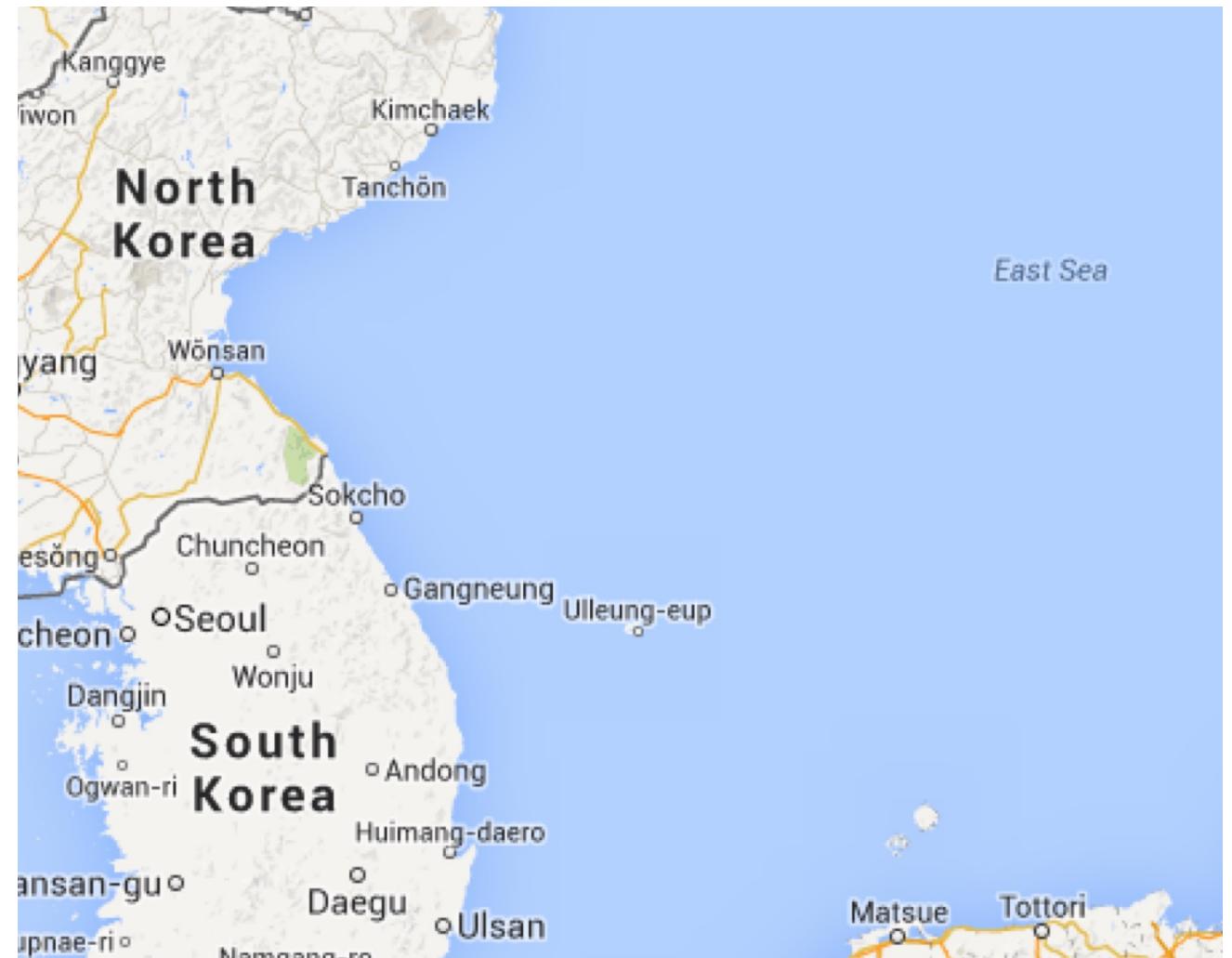


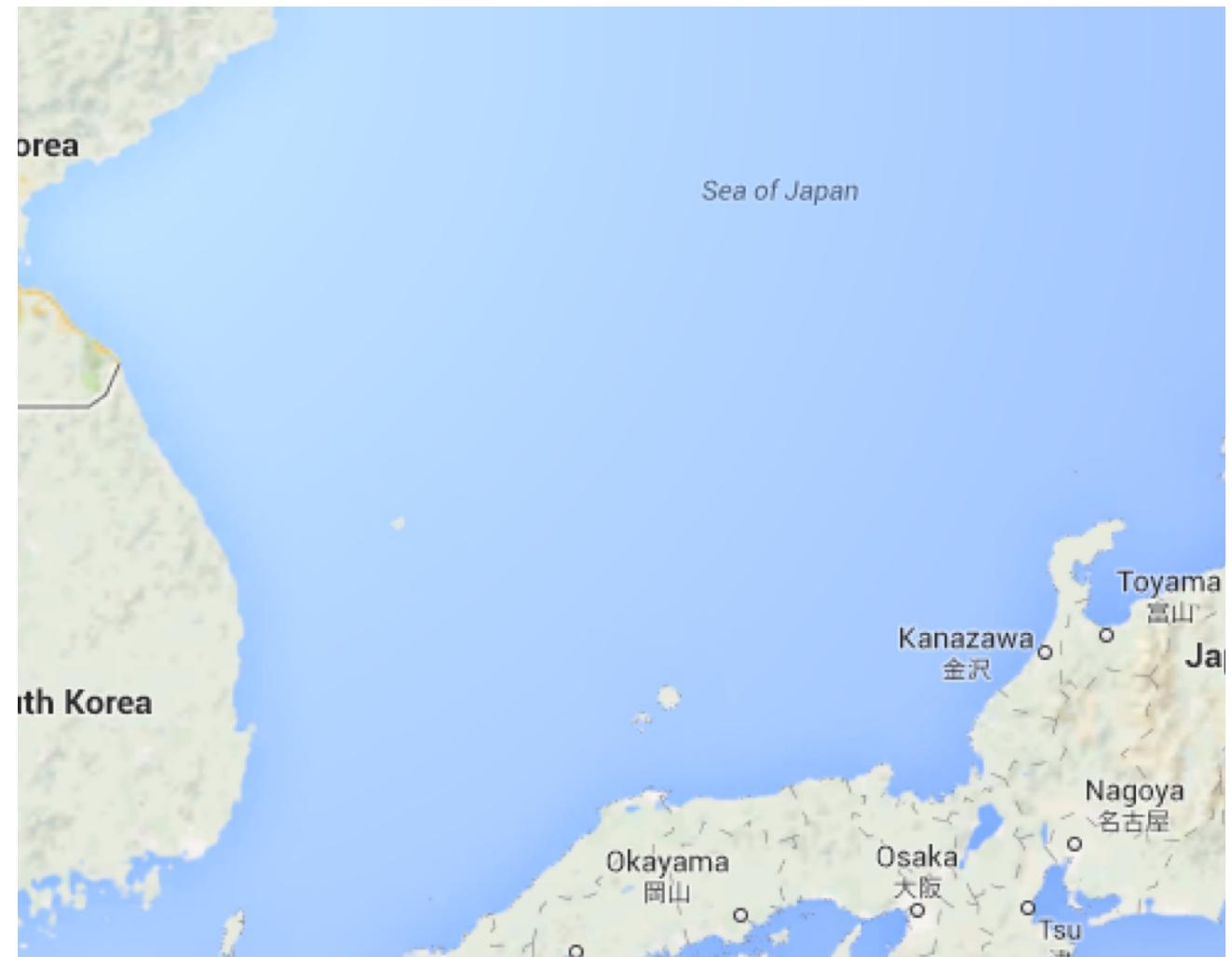
Model village, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucs. Picture: metro.co.uk



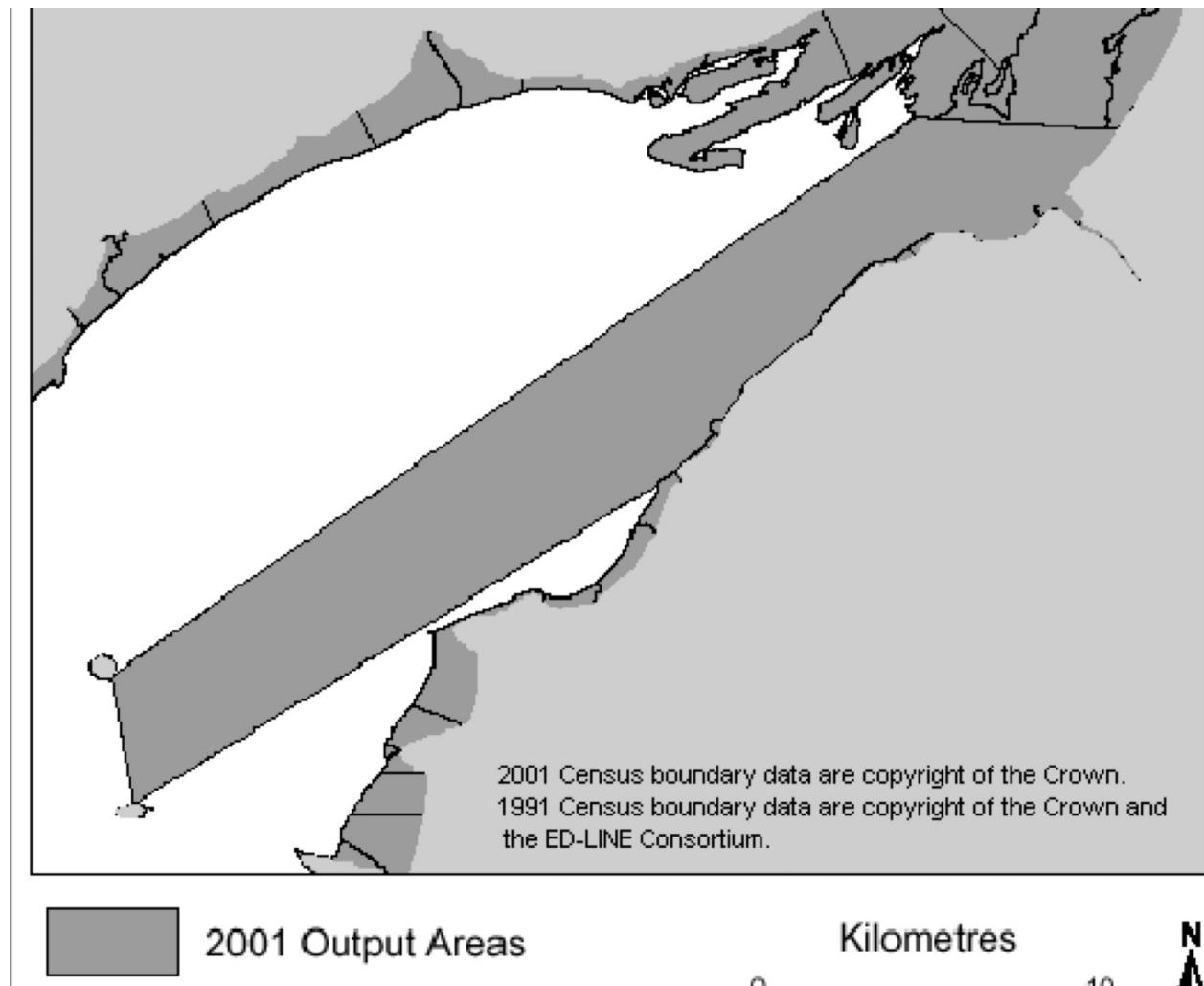
Are Maps Representational?

- Of Physical Reality?
- Or of Political Reality?

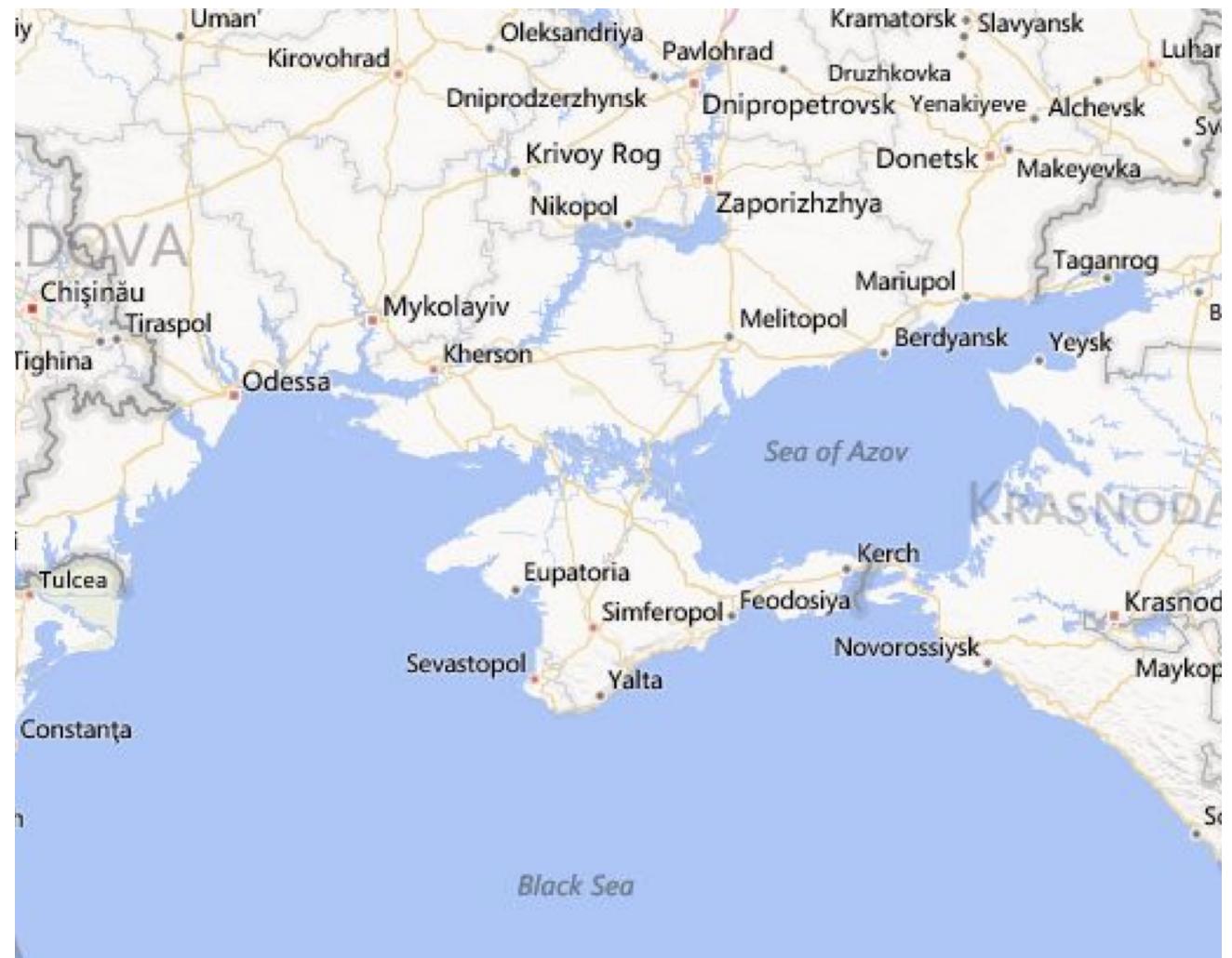




<http://borders.edina.ac.uk/html/faqs.htm>



Bing Maps

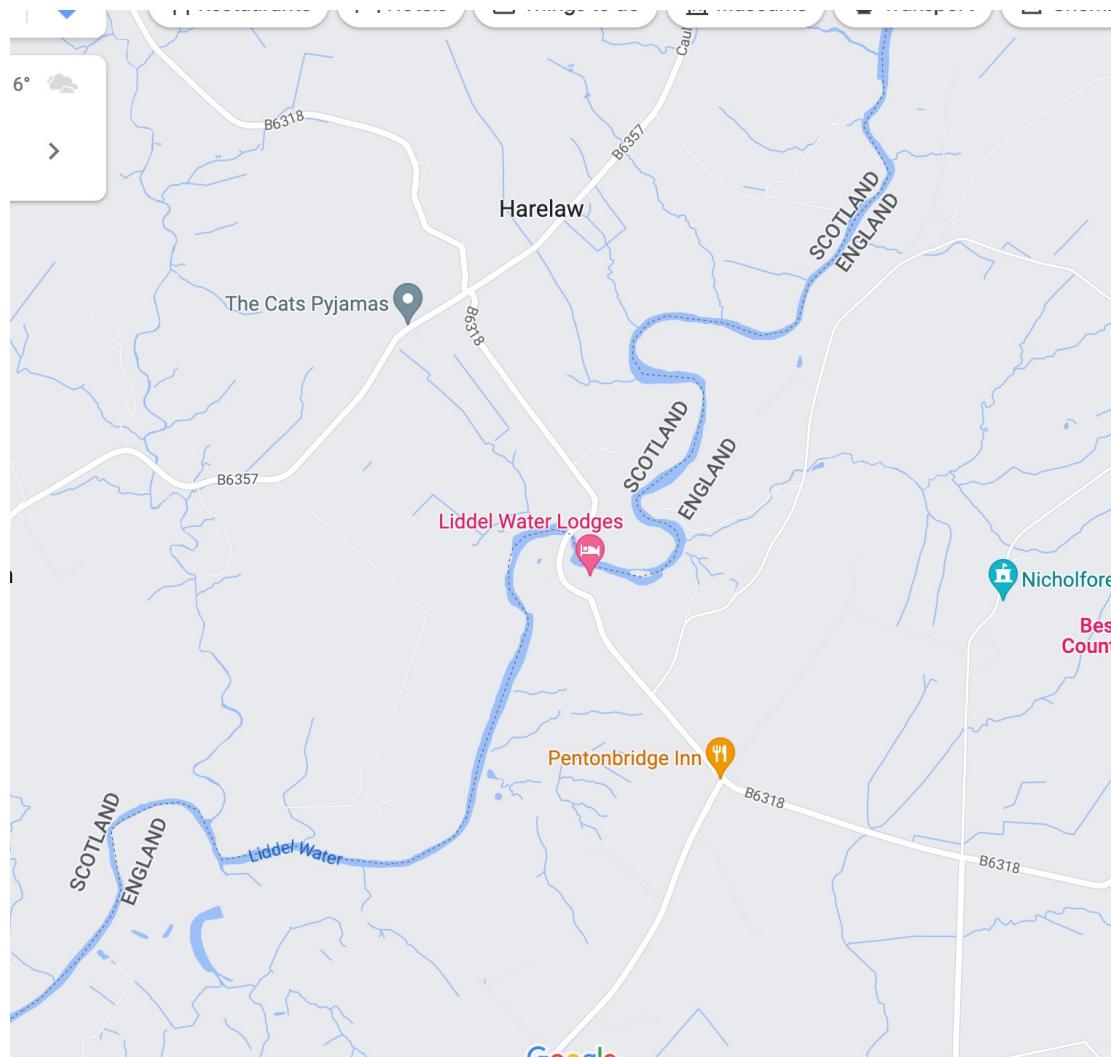




- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-26410431 \(2014\)](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-26410431)

Google Maps Satellite





The Scotland/England Border (Google Maps/Streetview)

Why the Irish border question is so tricky to resolve

Dr Simon Usherwood

One of the most intractable issues in Brexit talks is the nature of the border between the UK and the Republic of Ireland. Both countries are committed to keeping an open border, both for the purposes of the Common Travel Area between the two and for the Good Friday Agreement. However, the UK is also committed to the territorial integrity of the country, and Ireland is committed to full membership of the EU's single market and customs union, both of which the UK rejects. No option exists that simultaneously meets all these commitments.

Option 1: no border



EU Single Market/CU	✓
CTA/GFA	✓
UK territorial integrity	✓
UK out of Single Mkt	✗

Option 2: NI-IRL border



EU Single Market/CU	✓
CTA/GFA	✗
UK territorial integrity	✓
UK out of Single Mkt	✓

Option 3: Irish Sea border



EU Single Market/CU	✓
CTA/GFA	✗
UK territorial integrity	✗
UK out of Single Mkt	✗/✓

Option 4: Channel border



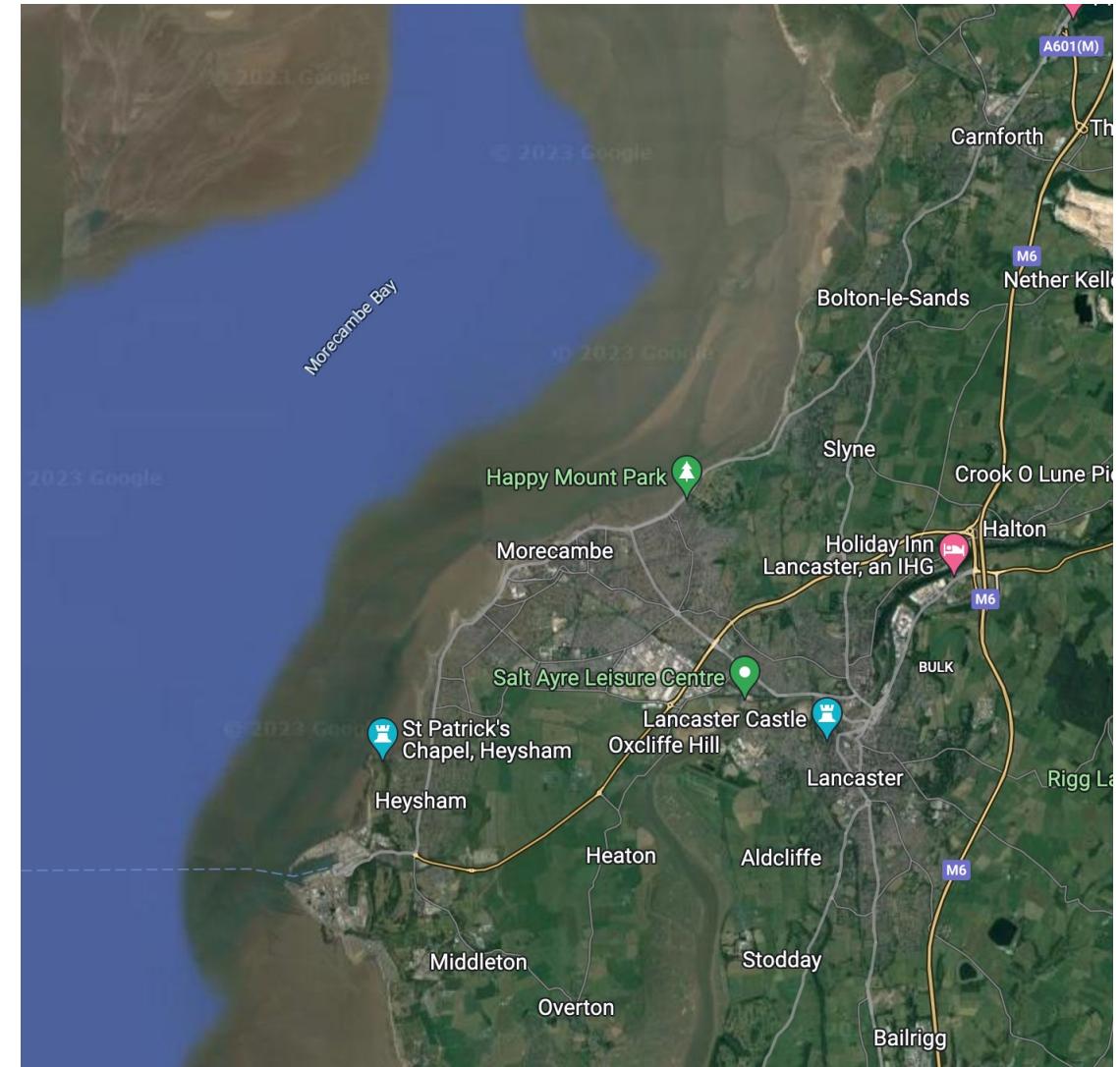
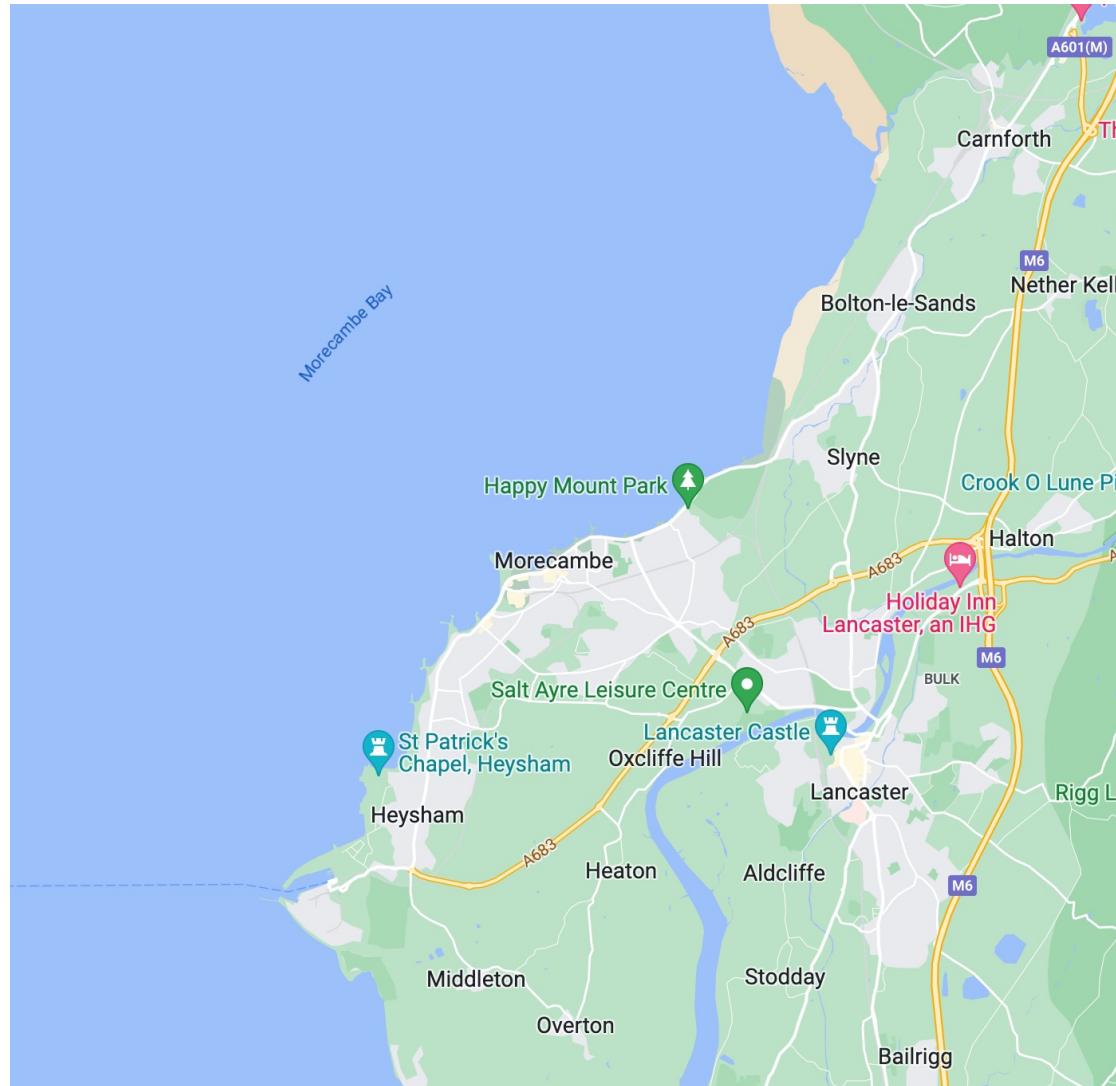
EU Single Market/CU	✗
CTA/GFA	✓
UK territorial integrity	✓
UK out of Single Mkt	✓

Map: Wikipedia, open domain

There must not be a hard border between A and B
There must not be a hard border between B and C
There must not be a hard border between C and D



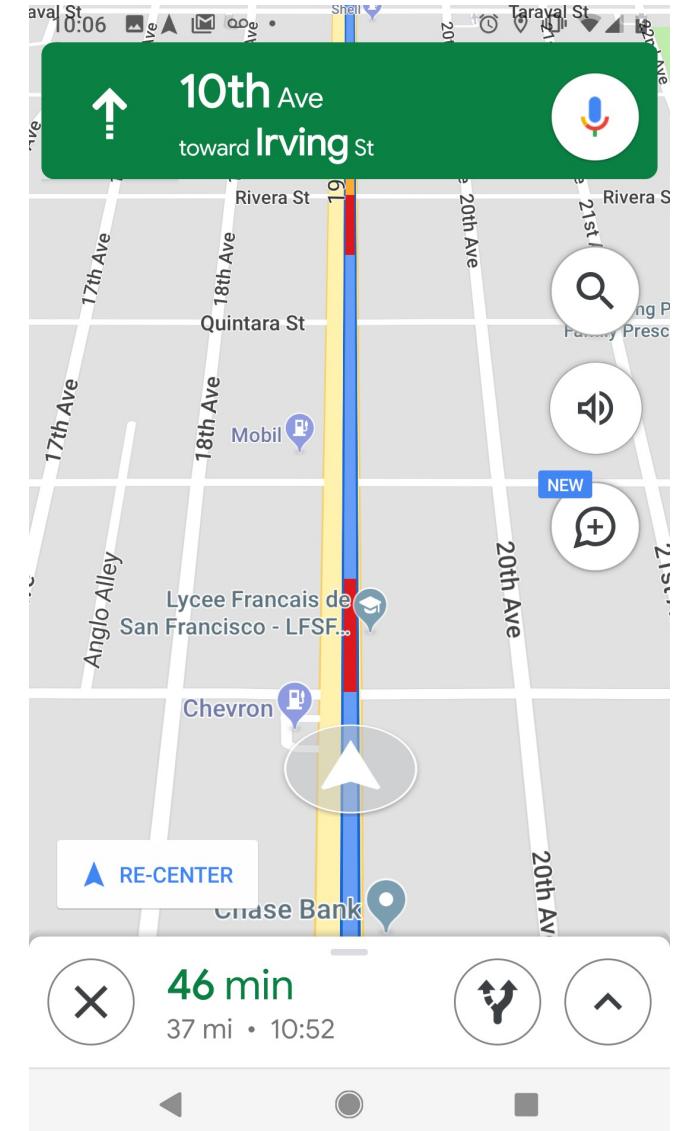
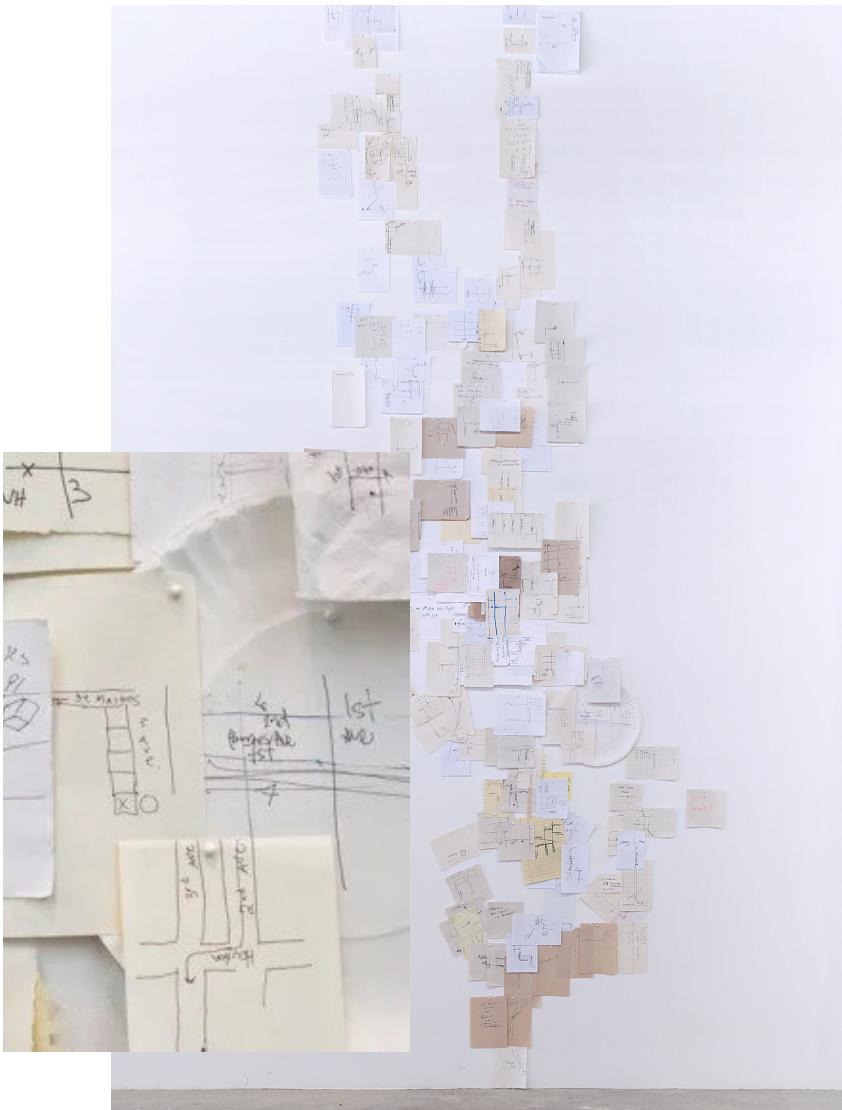
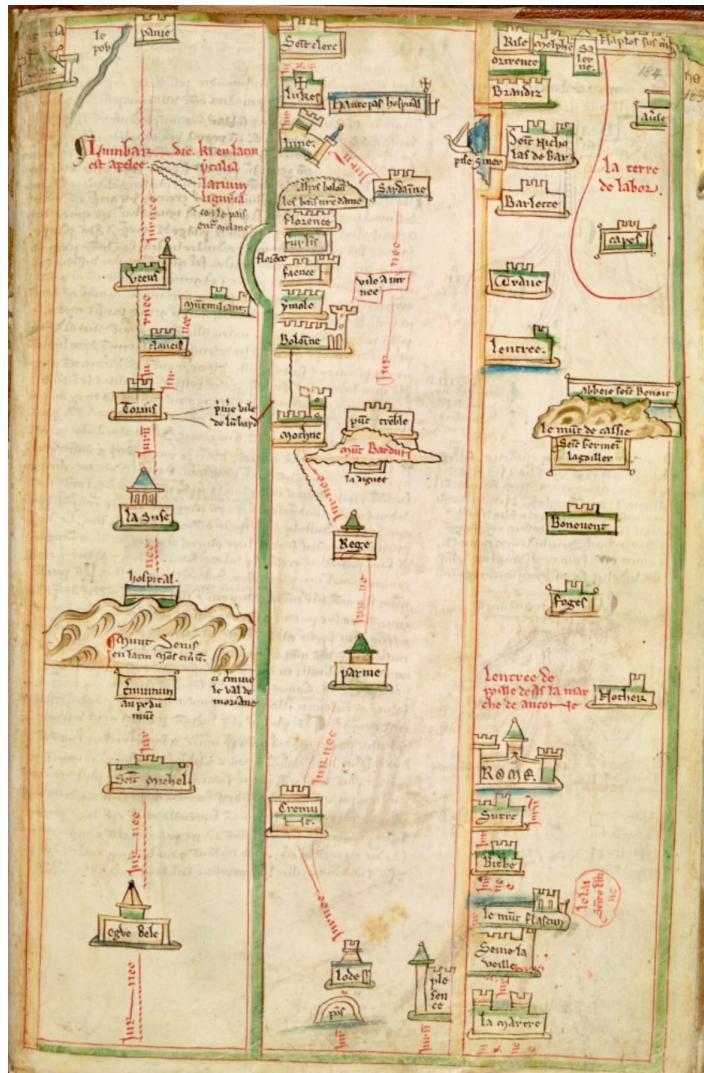
Brexit and the UK/Ireland Border. Left, Simon Usherwood; Right Quora.com



Morecambe Bay (Google Maps/Satellite)



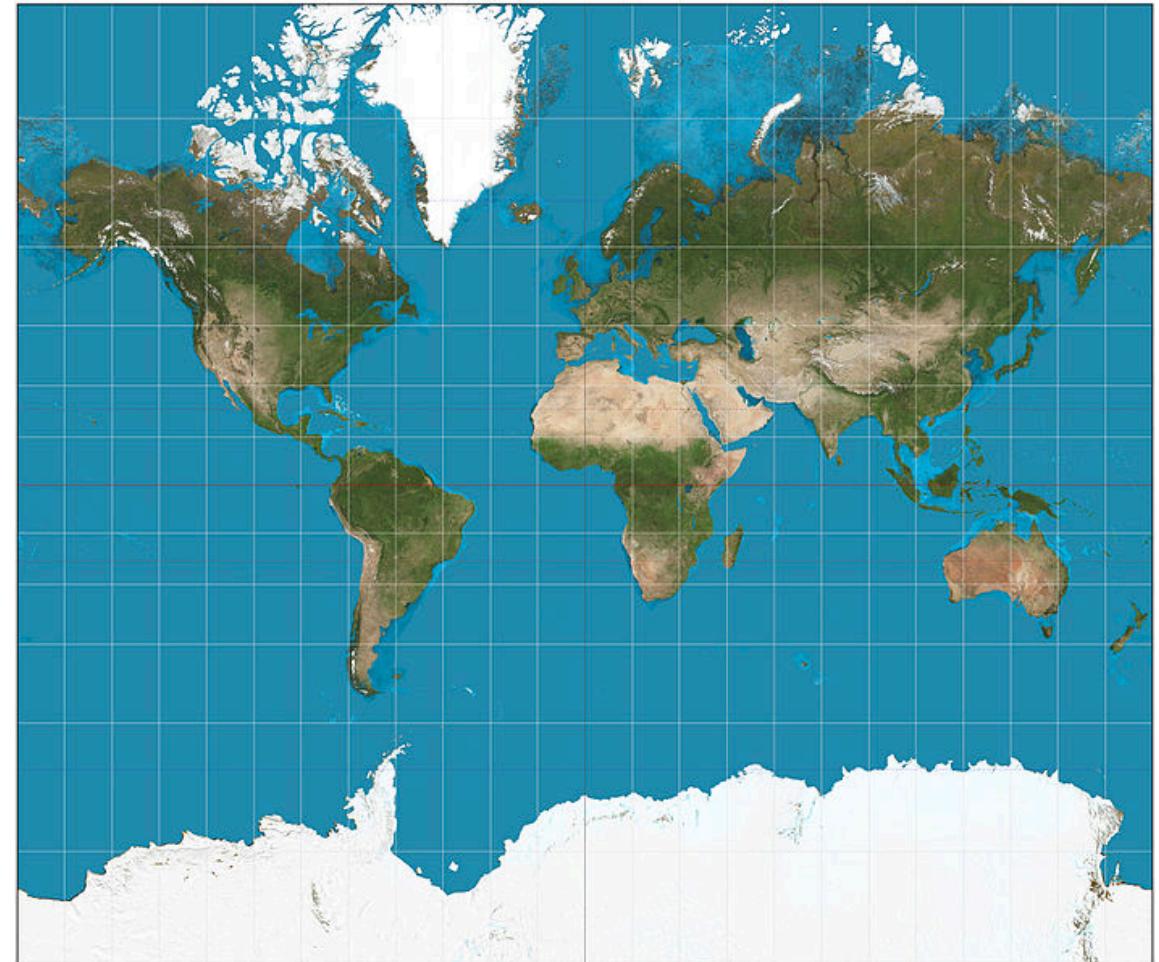
Morecambe Bay, High Tide and Low Tide (Left: Stephen Gidley; Right, Richard Heyes)



Left, Medieval Strip Map; Centre, Nobutaka Aozaki, *From Here to There* (Manhattan) 2012-; Right, Google Maps (navigation view)

The Mercator Projection

- Mercator, 1569
- 'Conformal' – preserves angles
- Very useful for navigation



The Mercator Projection

- Very distorted towards the poles
- Makes countries in North appear much larger than they are



Maps are Propositional

'In effect, maps are systems of propositions, where a proposition is nothing more than a statement that affirms (or denies) the existence of something. As such, maps are arguments about existence.'

Denis Wood, John Fels and John Krygier, *Rethinking the Power of Maps* (New York: Guildford, 2010), p. 34.

Exercise: The Propositions Maps Make

- In groups:
- What propositions is this map making?
- What's its purpose?
- What features of the map design led you to this conclusion?
 - Think about: scale, colour, typography. What does the map leave out? What does it put in?
- What are its strengths? What are its weaknesses?

Break

Mapping Society, Mapping History

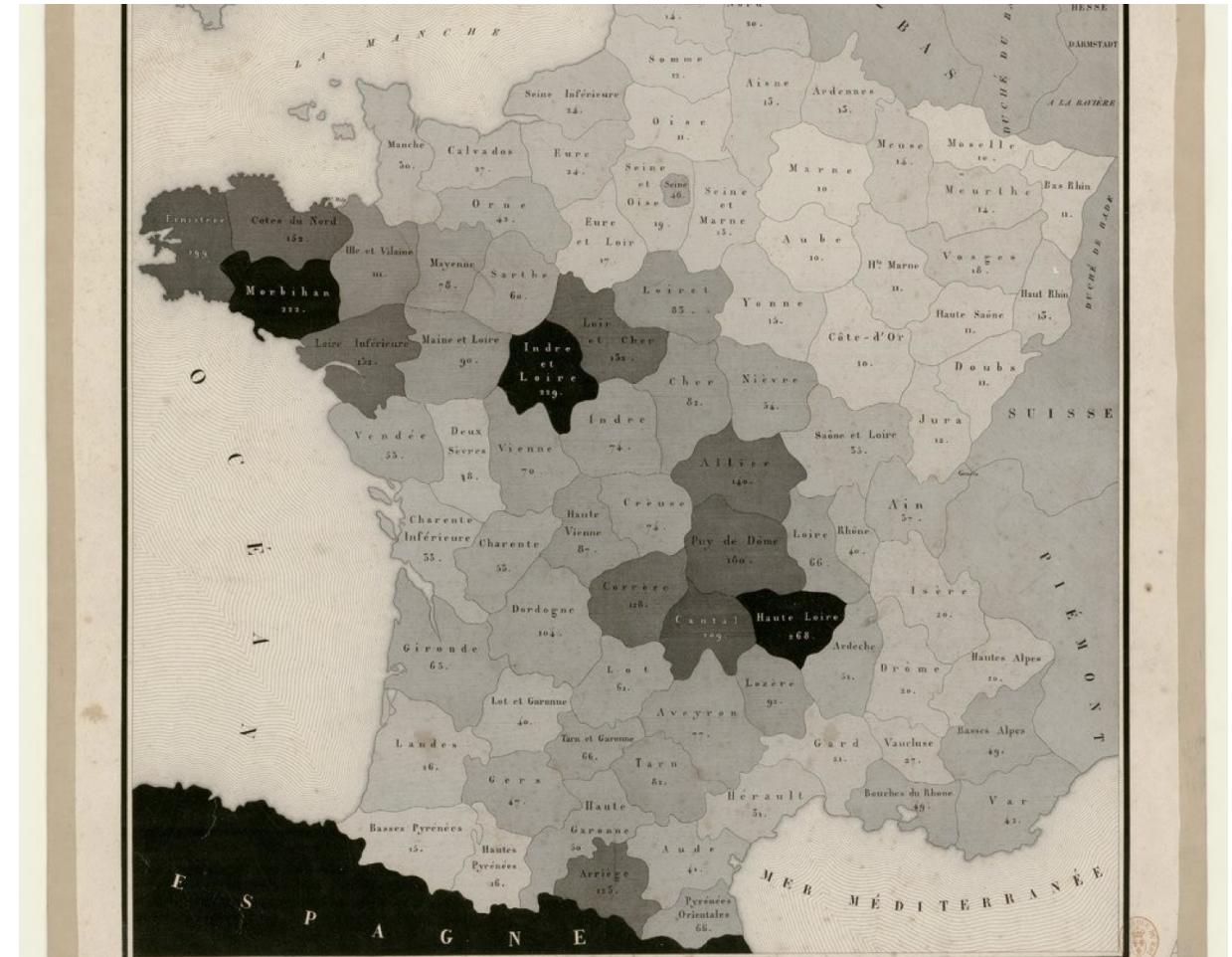
Maps and Data

Laura Vaughan, *Mapping Society: The Spatial Dimensions of Social Cartography* (London: UCL Press, 2018).

<https://www.uclpress.co.uk/products/108697>

Charles Dupin: Education in France (1826)

- Shows levels of illiteracy by region in France
- First choropleth map
- First statistical map



John Snow: Mapping Cholera in London (1855)

- Cholera outbreak of September 1854 in which more than 600 people died
- Analysis of mortality clusters led Snow to suspect that the Broad Street pump was the source of the outbreak





Charles Booth's Map of Poverty in London (1886-1903), <https://booth.lse.ac.uk/map/>.

[Color Key Box]	Lowest class. Vicious, semi-criminal.
[Color Key Box]	Very poor, casual. Chronic want.
[Color Key Box]	Poor. 18s. to 21s. a week for a moderate family.
[Color Key Box]	Mixed. Some comfortable others poor.
[Color Key Box]	Fairly comfortable. Good ordinary earnings.
[Color Key Box]	Middle class. Well-to-do.
[Color Key Box]	Upper-middle and upper classes. Wealthy.

Mapping History and Place



Survey of London

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East London Mosque

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Mosque, 1982-5
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East London Mosque
 1905 - 2011
 58 Whitechapel Road

Contributed by Survey of London on Feb. 17, 2020

Establishment of the mosque

In 1905 a number of prominent Indian Muslims in London ‘conducted the ‘Id (Eid) prayers in Hyde Park, near Marble Arch, in spite of sleet and snowfall’.¹ The lack of a place for indoor Muslim worship in the Imperial capital led Syed Amman Ali, a India, the first Indian Delegy Councillor and an Islamic scholar to

Themes
 Immigration Worship

Tags
 Jewish mosque 1900s
 Presbyterian worship
 evangelism Spitalfields
 immigration east
 london 1890s mission
 women

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84b Whitechapel High Street

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Tenement house in Angel Alley, built in 1869, later a George Yard Mission shelter and since 1968/9 the Freedom Press and Bookshop
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Climbing the stairs

Contributed by michaelshade on May 23, 2017

My relative, Lewis Levin, was living here at the time of his death in 1927.

Lewis (Leibisch) Levin was a brother of my great-grandmother Mikhlya. He was born in 1861 in Streshin, a little village on the river Dniepr, in what is now the south-east of Belarus. In the early 1900s he came to London accompanied by his three children from his first wife, who had died a few years previously, and his second wife with her own daughter. They found somewhere to live in the heart of the East End, where tens of thousands of East European Jews had settled over the previous 20 years or so.

Themes
 Education Commerce Housing Politics

Tags
 Vernon Richards gallery
 co-operation 2nd hand
 radicalism dance
 bookshop entertainment
 84b Whitechapel High Street
 John Cordwell
 Euclid Speidell
 Freedom Press anarchism

A Memory Map of the Jewish East End

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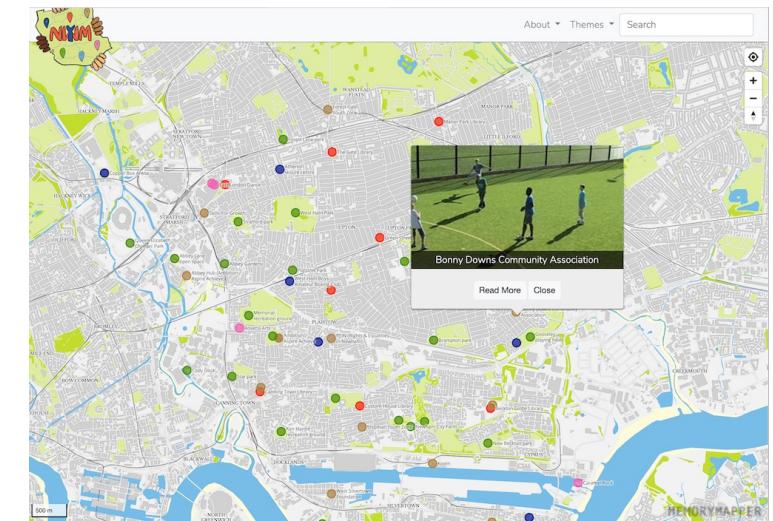
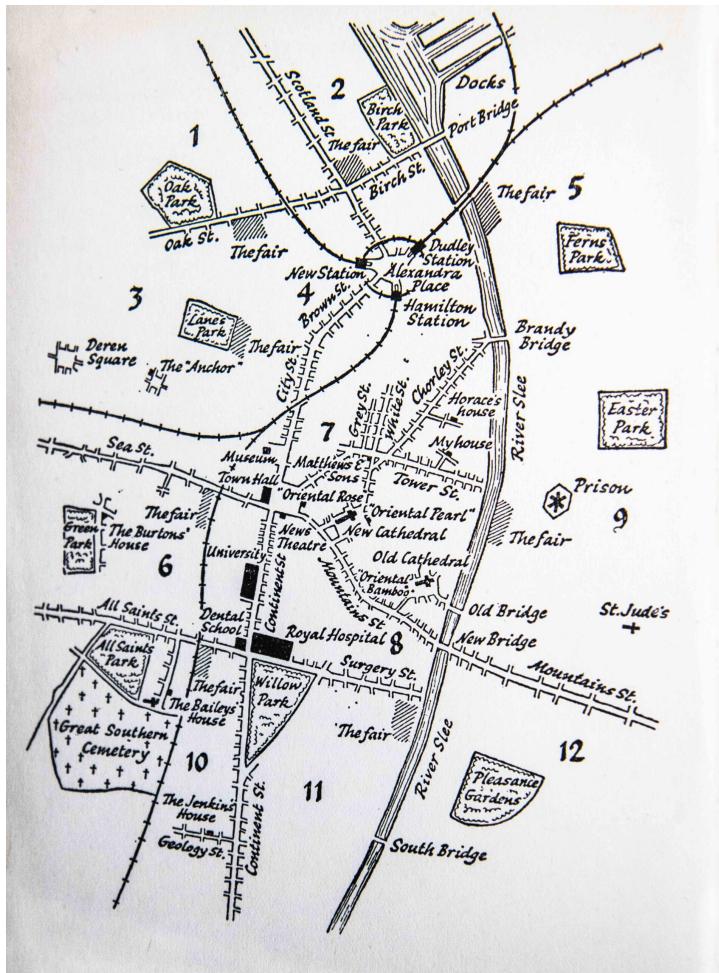
Goulston Street Baths

Listen: Beattie Orwell

Read More Close

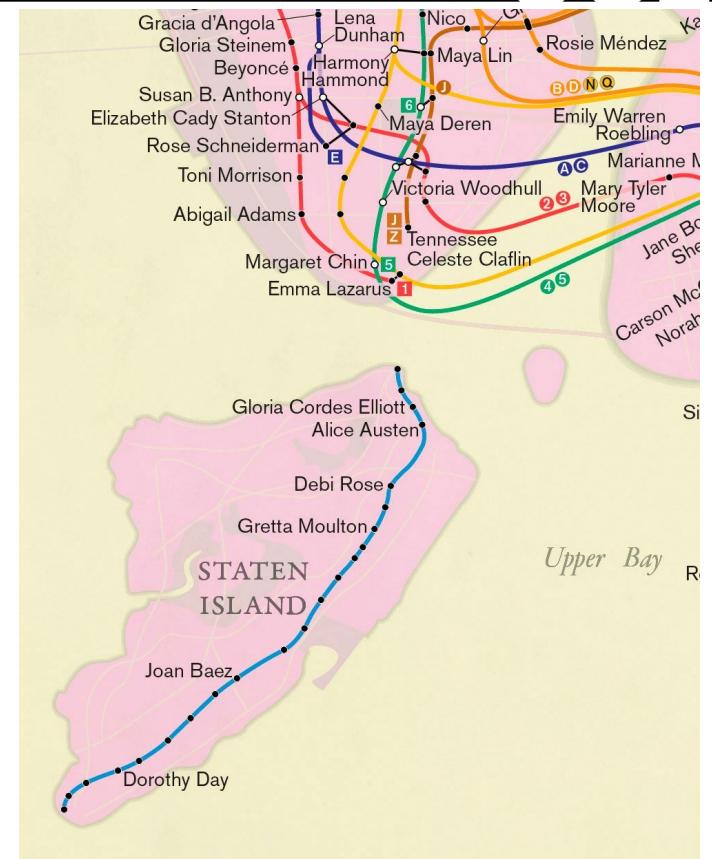
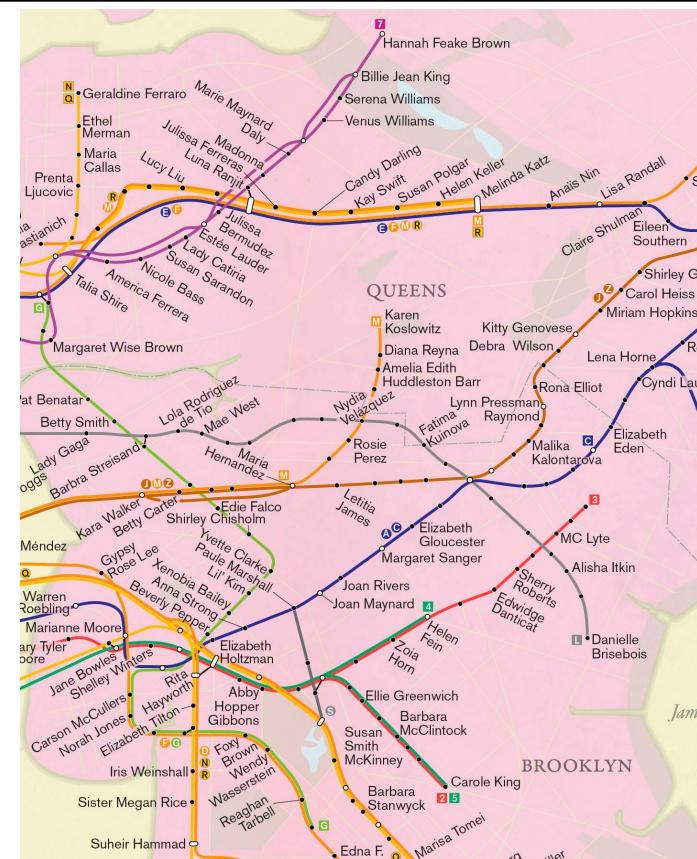
The map displays street names such as Duval Street, White's Row, Flower & Dean St, Finch Street, Osborn Pl, Osborn St, High Street, Chapel Lane, and Alder Street. Various red and blue markers indicate specific locations of interest, including several schools (Sch) and synagogues (Syn). A large orange shape covers a significant portion of the western side of the map.

Jewish East End Memory Map – <https://jewishestendmemorymap.org>



“I can’t imagine how I might have conceived of myself and my possibilities if, in my formative years, I had moved through a city where most things were named after women and many or most of the monuments were of powerful, successful, honoured women. Of course, these sites commemorate only those who were allowed to hold power and live in public; most American cities are, by their nomenclature, mostly white as well as mostly male. Still, you can imagine.”

Rebecca Solnit, 'City of Women', from Solnit and Jelly-Schapiro, *Nonstop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas*, 2016

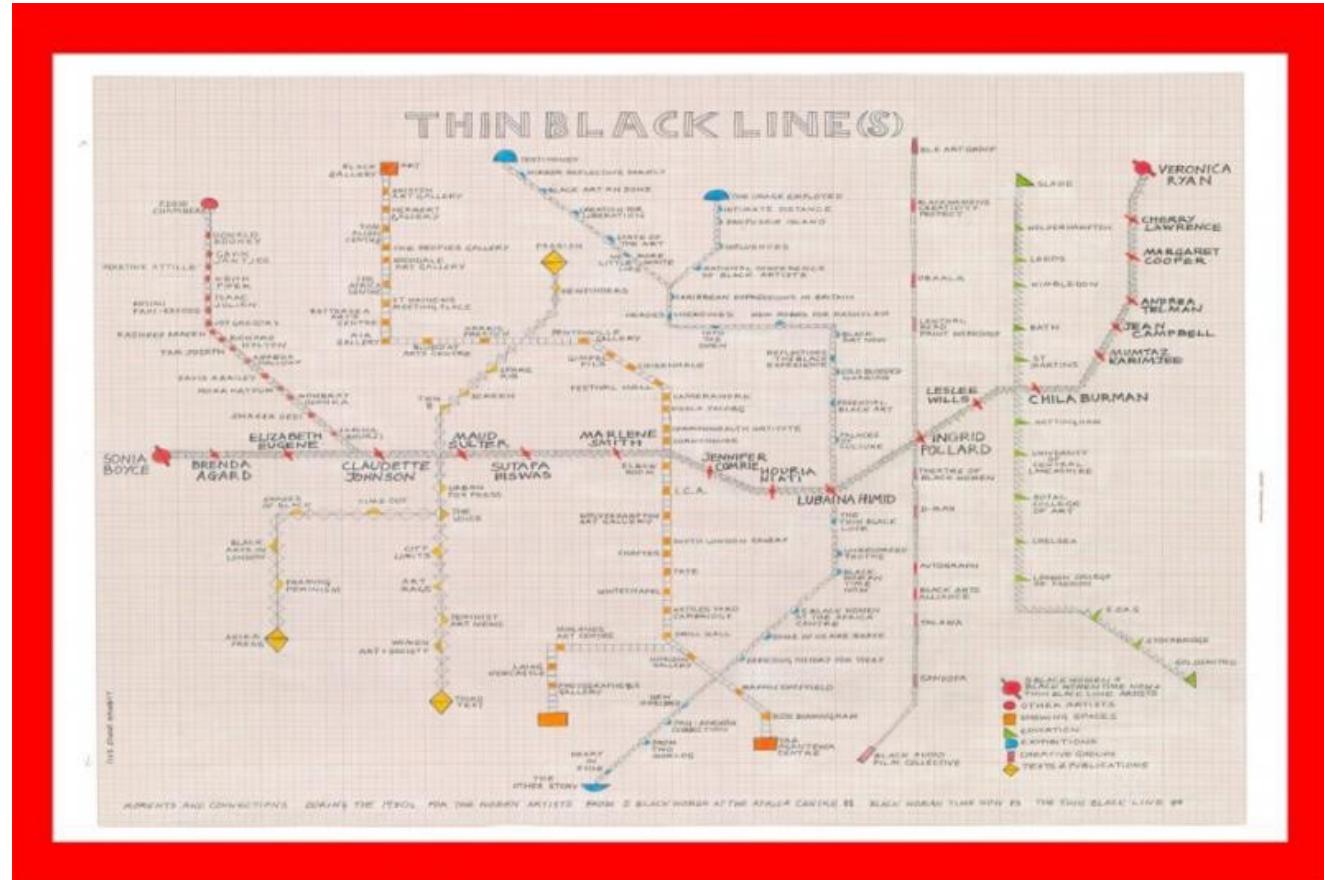


Rebecca Solnit and Joshua Jelly-Schapiro, 'City of Women', Cartography by Molly Roy, 2016

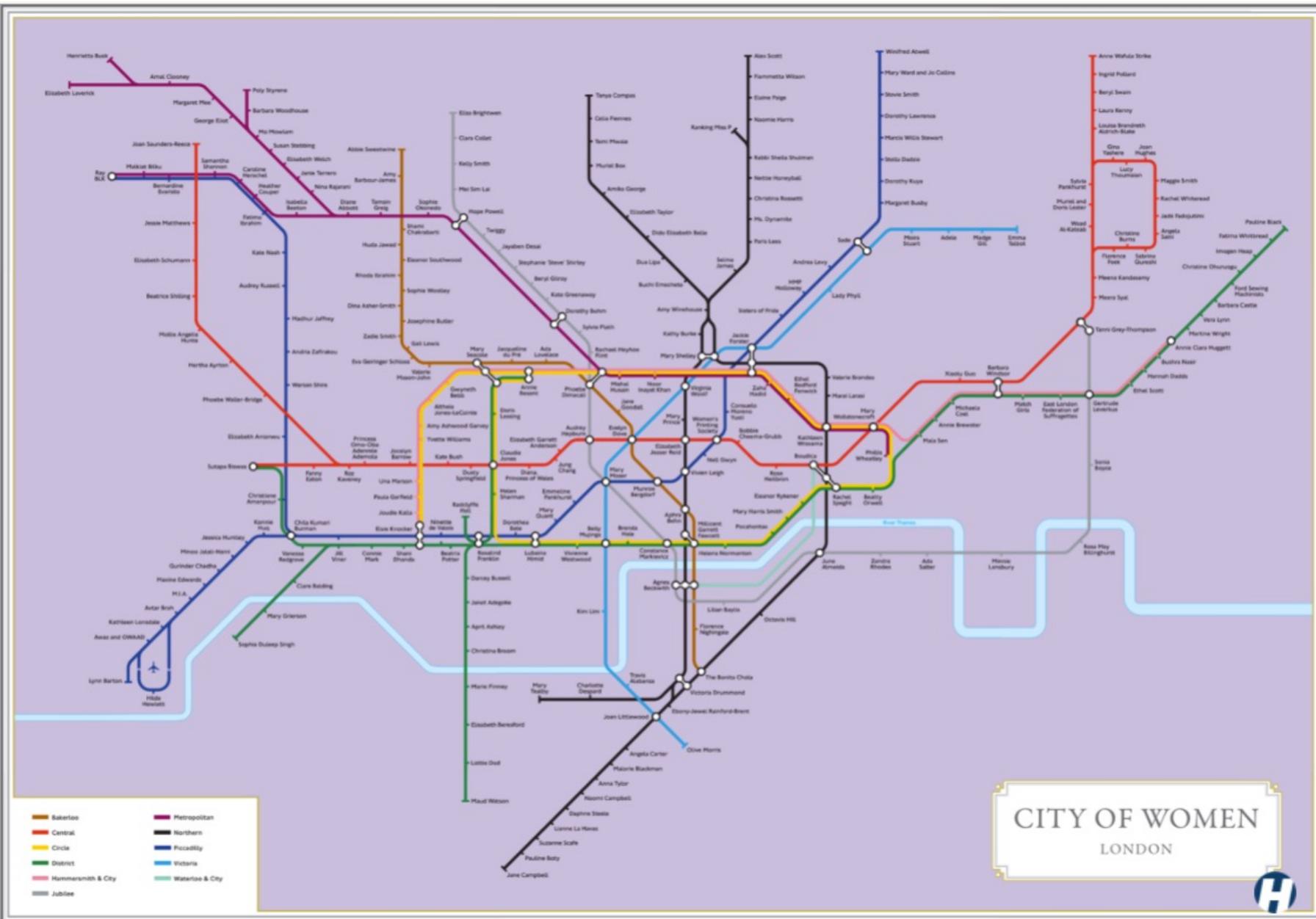




Simon Patterson, *The Great Bear*, 1992
Based on Harry Beck's 1931 Tube map



Lubaina Himid, *Moments and Connections*, 2011
The making of the Thin Black Line(s) exhibition



Reni Eddo-Lodge,
Emma Watson,
Rebecca Solnit,
City of Women
London,
2022

Cartography by Molly Roy and Lia Tjandra

UCL Project Team:

Leah Lovett, Duncan Hay, Montaz Marché

cityofwomenlondon.org



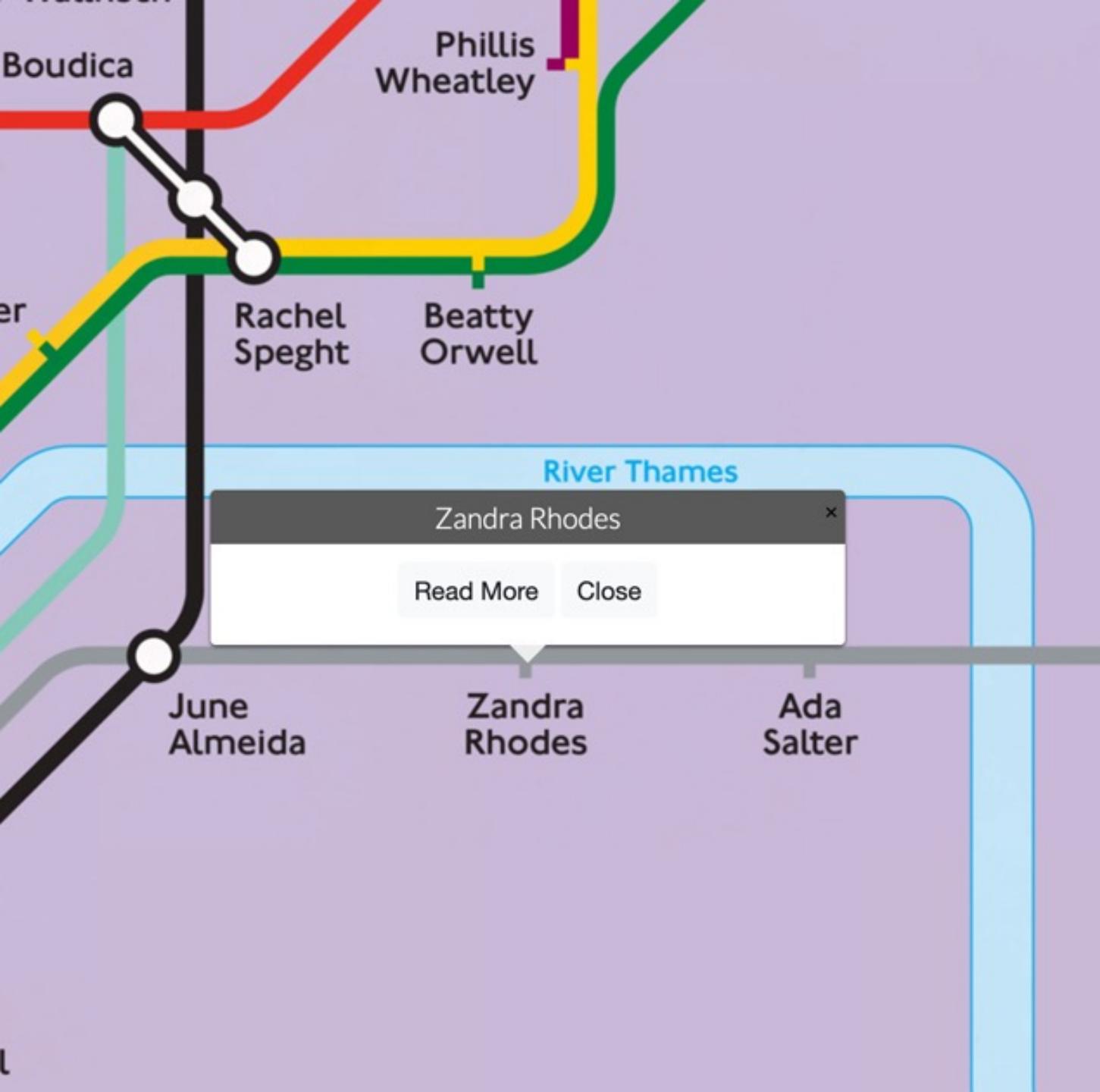


Image © Chris Bissell, courtesy Zandra Rhodes.

ZANDRA RHODES (BERMONDSEY)
Born 19th September, 1940; Chatham, Kent, England



Zandra is the eldest daughter of Beatrice Ellen Rhodes (née Twigg), a Senior Lecturer in Fashion Design at Medway College of Art (which later became the University of Kent). She studied at the Royal College of Art in London, and her designs have been featured in numerous fashion shows and publications worldwide.

Exercise 2: Mapping London

- Draw a map of Central London from memory (no Google maps!) – 10 mins
- Feedback – 15 mins