1. The protocol is pretty standard. Here, for a study in the visual cortex, the retinal field of a rat or a mouse is mapped.

1. Then, a part of the retina is lesioned. This cuts off inputs to a part of the visual cortex, as shown in the first figure. This forms the Lesion Projection Zone (LPZ). By repeated imaging of the region over months, the reorganisation of the network is tracked.
2. Other lesion studies use similar methods: digit removal, whisker trimming, and so on—anything that cuts off projecting activity on to a set of neurons.

1. So, if this a simple schematic, of the regions around the LPZ, this is what we know from these studies.