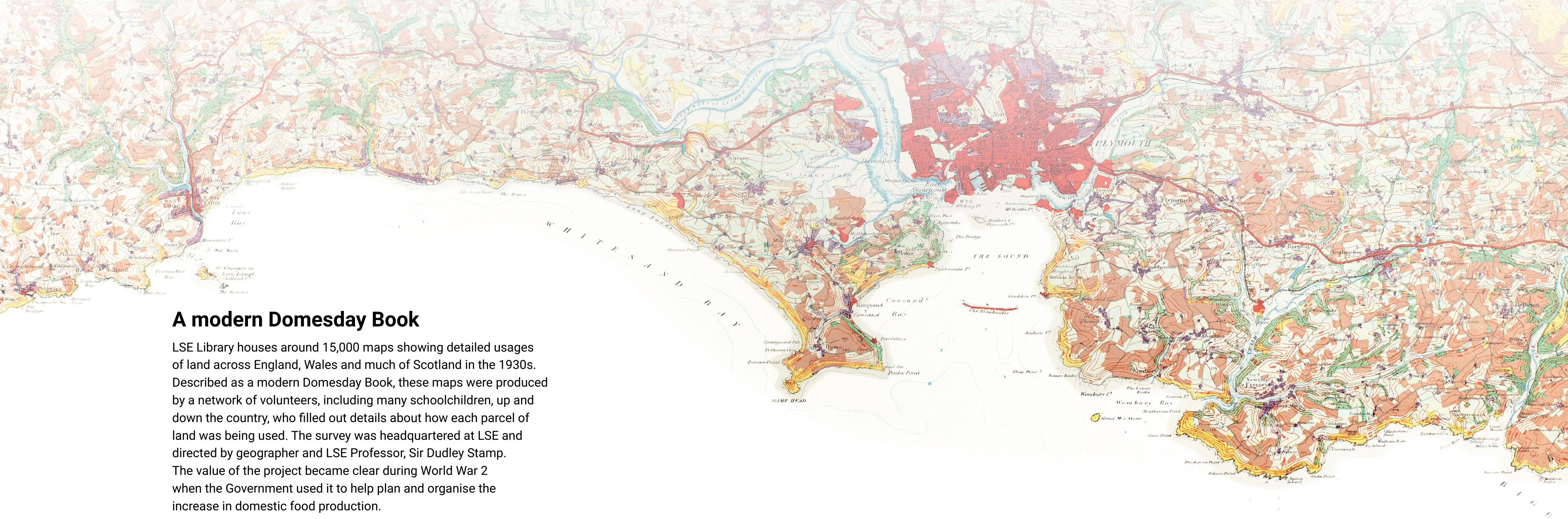
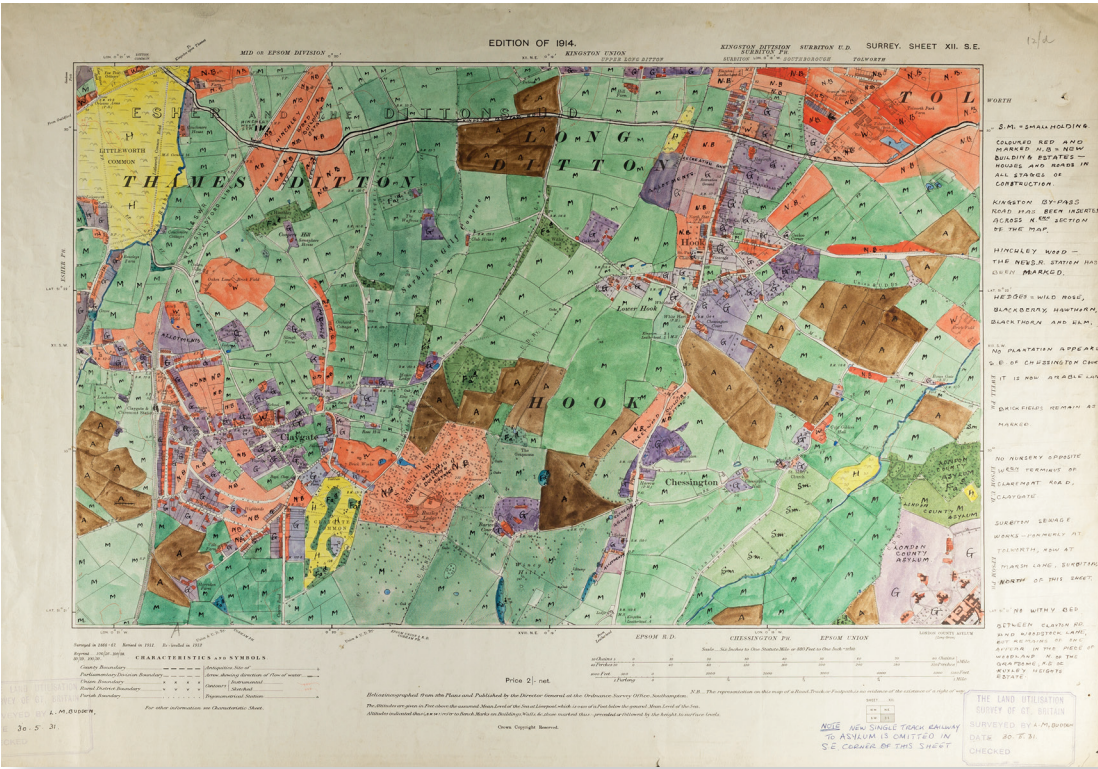


THE LAND UTILISATION SURVEY OF BRITAIN

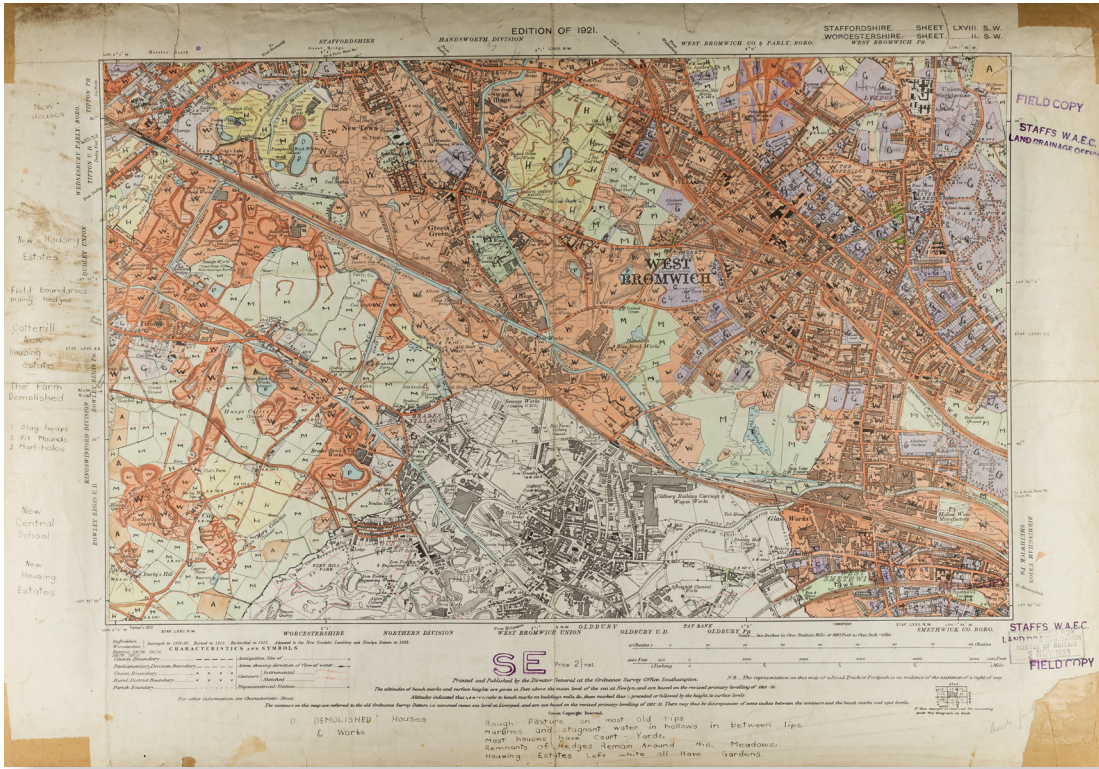


A modern Domesday Book

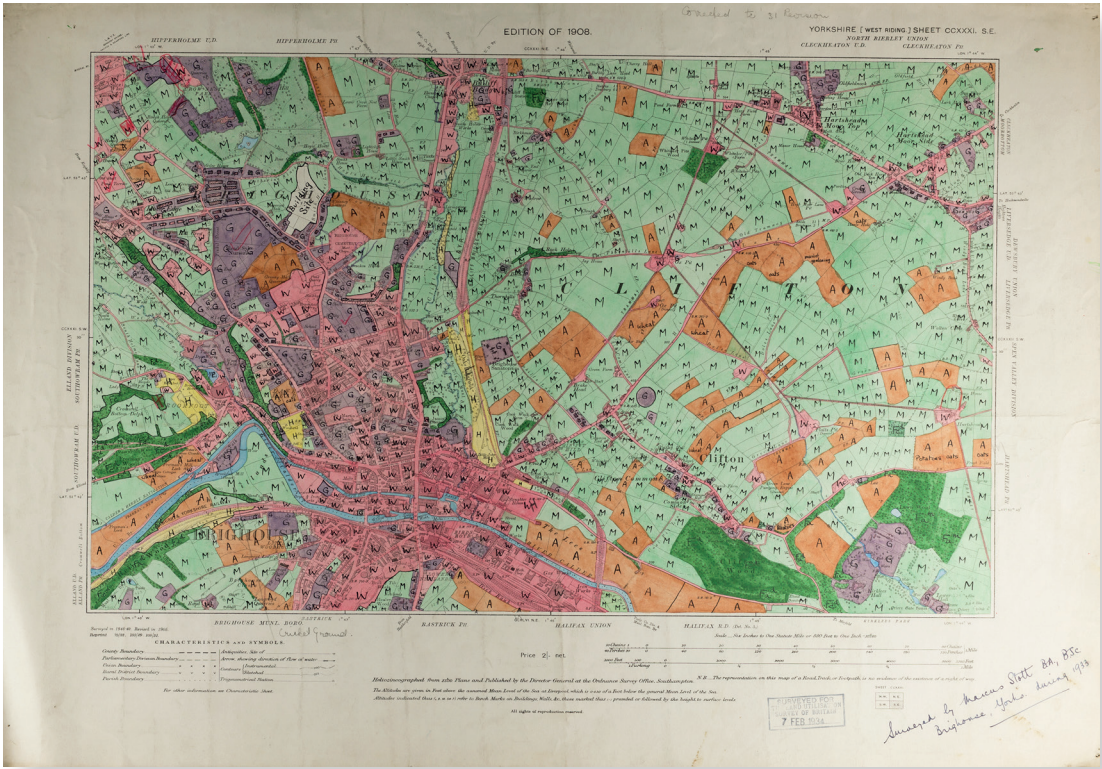
LSE Library houses around 15,000 maps showing detailed usages of land across England, Wales and much of Scotland in the 1930s. Described as a modern Domesday Book, these maps were produced by a network of volunteers, including many schoolchildren, up and down the country, who filled out details about how each parcel of land was being used. The survey was headquartered at LSE and directed by geographer and LSE Professor, Sir Dudley Stamp. The value of the project became clear during World War 2 when the Government used it to help plan and organise the increase in domestic food production.



Thames Ditton, Surrey



West Bromwich, West Midlands



Clifton, Yorkshire and the Humber

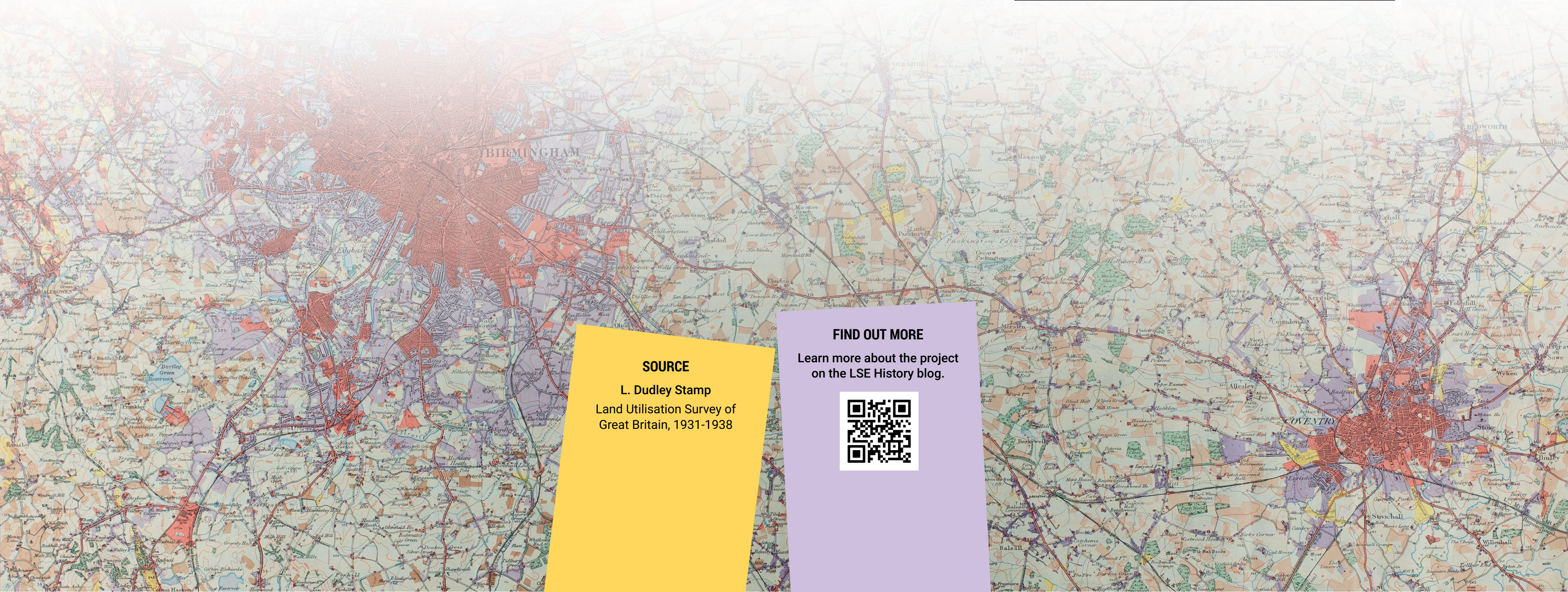


Location of maps

Stamp felt it was important to collect land use information at a national level to help with future land planning exercises and to serve as a historical record of land use at a particular time, so changes over a long period could be traced and analysed. The 1930s was a time of great change for land use in Britain. The lack of information about where the changes were happening made it impossible for anyone to accurately assess what their impact might be.

Volunteers used Ordnance Survey six-inch to the mile field sheets to create the maps, including the three examples above.
The survey focused on land cover rather than functional land use, with six main categories:

Categories	Colour
Meadow and permanent grass	Light green
Arable land including rotation	Brown
Heathland and moorland or rough hill pasture	Yellow
Forests and woodland	Dark green
Gardens	Purple
Land agriculturally unproductive / urban areas	Red



SOURCE
L. Dudley Stamp
Land Utilisation Survey of
Great Britain, 1931-1938

FIND OUT MORE
Learn more about the project
on the LSE History blog.

