

3.2 Base-maps

The majority of plans, diagrams and visualisations within this book would have been derived originally from a base map. It is common practice for base mapping to be derived from one of two sources:

- aerial photography
- Ordnance Survey®.

3.2.1 Creating base-maps from aerial photography

Photographic detail can distract the user from the message to be conveyed, and generally requires toning down to emphasise the overlaid information.

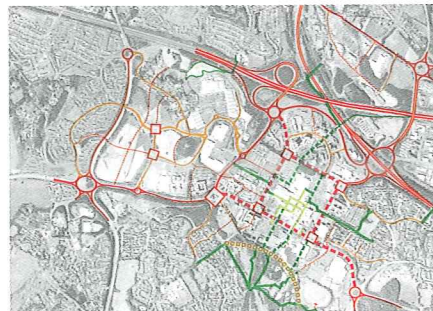
Reproduced courtesy of Cities Revealed



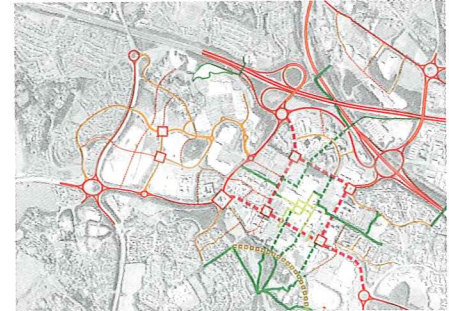
Step 1: Obtain/purchase photograph.



Step 2: Lighten the photograph or convert to greyscale.



Step 3: Add illustrative information in a computer program making certain all relevant and important information is included and that colours are in sufficient contrast to distinguish features such as roads and buildings.



Step 4: Make overall final adjustments on colour balance and contrasts.

Watchpoints

- Most aerial photography is copyright and permission must be sought before reproducing it.
- Ensure the correct wording and copyright acknowledgement is clearly visible.
- Land and property boundaries may not be clear on aerial photographs and should be cross-referenced with Ordnance Survey® maps.
- Work out extent and coverage of photography required before purchasing.
- Ensure computer file formats are compatible before purchasing.