

How to create your own mapping tool with different boundaries

First of all is the tricky part if you don't have GIS software. You need to create a map in EMF format of the boundaries you want to use. The best package to use is ArcGIS.

Open any ward map file from the GLA Intelligence Unit, import the EMF file to Excel, re-size, and right click on the image, and ungroup the shapes until each area has its own freeform shape.

Delete previous maps.

Run the macro called GetShapeNames to list the freeform shapes, and remove any unnecessary shape names (button/autoshape), making sure the first freeform shape name is in cell Z2. *Tip: To find a macro press Alt+F8.*

Copy and paste your new area codes and names into column A and B.

Remove previous named cells in column C using the Name Manager. These will all be freeform shapes – do not delete the other named cells. *Tip: In Excel 2007 the Name Manager is found under the formulas menu.*

Run replace macro called ReplaceUnderscore. This will provide the names for the named cells. Make sure the formulas in column C go all the way down to the foot of your new area codes and names. (*Tip: Temporarily unhide column C*).

Rename the cells in column C by running the macro called Doit.

Regroup map (note: map only works when re-grouped in Excel 2007 or later).

Click Refresh Map.

Save File.

If you have any problems contact [Gareth Piggott](#).