



Using VectorMap District

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How to download VectorMap District data

VectorMap District data enables you to overlay your own information against a map backdrop. With the vector version, you can style the map to suit your requirements.

Please see the help page [How to use Data Download](#) for a guide on how to download VectorMap District data. Please note that to download VectorMap District vector data, the VectorMap District box should be checked within the Vector Data section of the Select Products option. To download VectorMap District raster data, the VectorMap District Raster box should be checked within the Backdrop Mapping section of the Select Products option.

How to load data into ArcGIS 10

To add the data into ArcGIS 10, open ArcMap and select the Add Data option . Navigate to the location of the data you wish to load into ArcMap, select it, and click Add. The data should appear in ArcMap, and the name of the feature should appear in the Table of Contents panel. It may be necessary to zoom in to view the data that you have added, and the easiest way of doing this is to right click on the feature in the Table of Contents panel, and select Zoom to Layer.

In order to change the drawing order of the features (for example, you will probably want a building feature to be above a land feature) you can drag and change their order in the Table of Contents panel, but make sure the List By Drawing Order option is selected in the Table of Contents toolbar. It is also possible to hide features, by un-checking the box next to their name in the Table of Contents panel.

How to set up representation

When the Shapefiles are added into ArcGIS 10 they won't have any pre-defined symbology, so you can either set up your own symbology for each to make the data look more like an actual map, or EDINA have produced a set of Layer Files to use with VectorMap District data which can be used to symbolise the features.

In order to set up your own symbology you can add the downloaded Shapefiles into ArcMap, right click on each, select Properties and then the Symbology tab. From here it is possible to change the colour, width, pattern etc of the feature. If you want different symbology for different categories within the same Shapefile (e.g. Motorway, A road and B road are all contained within the road Shapefile) you can select Categories from the left hand bar in the Symbology tab, select the value field you want the features to be split up by (in the case of roads, CLASSIFICA determines what type of road they are) and click Add All Values, and then OK. It is now possible to have different symbology for each category. It is also possible to add labels (to the NamedPlace Shapefile, for example) if you right click on the feature, select Properties and then the Labels tab.

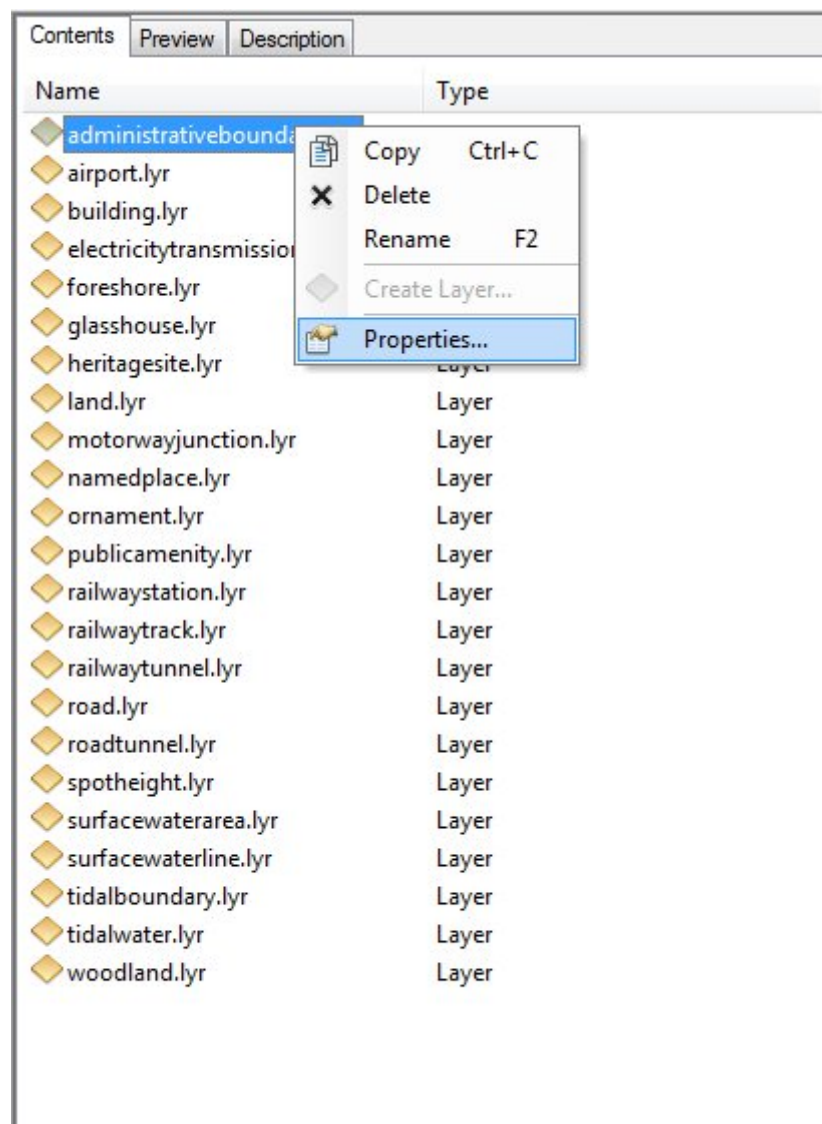
In order to use the Layer Files made by EDINA, save the following file to a suitable location on your computer.

[Zip file containing all necessary Layer Files for VectorMap District data](#)

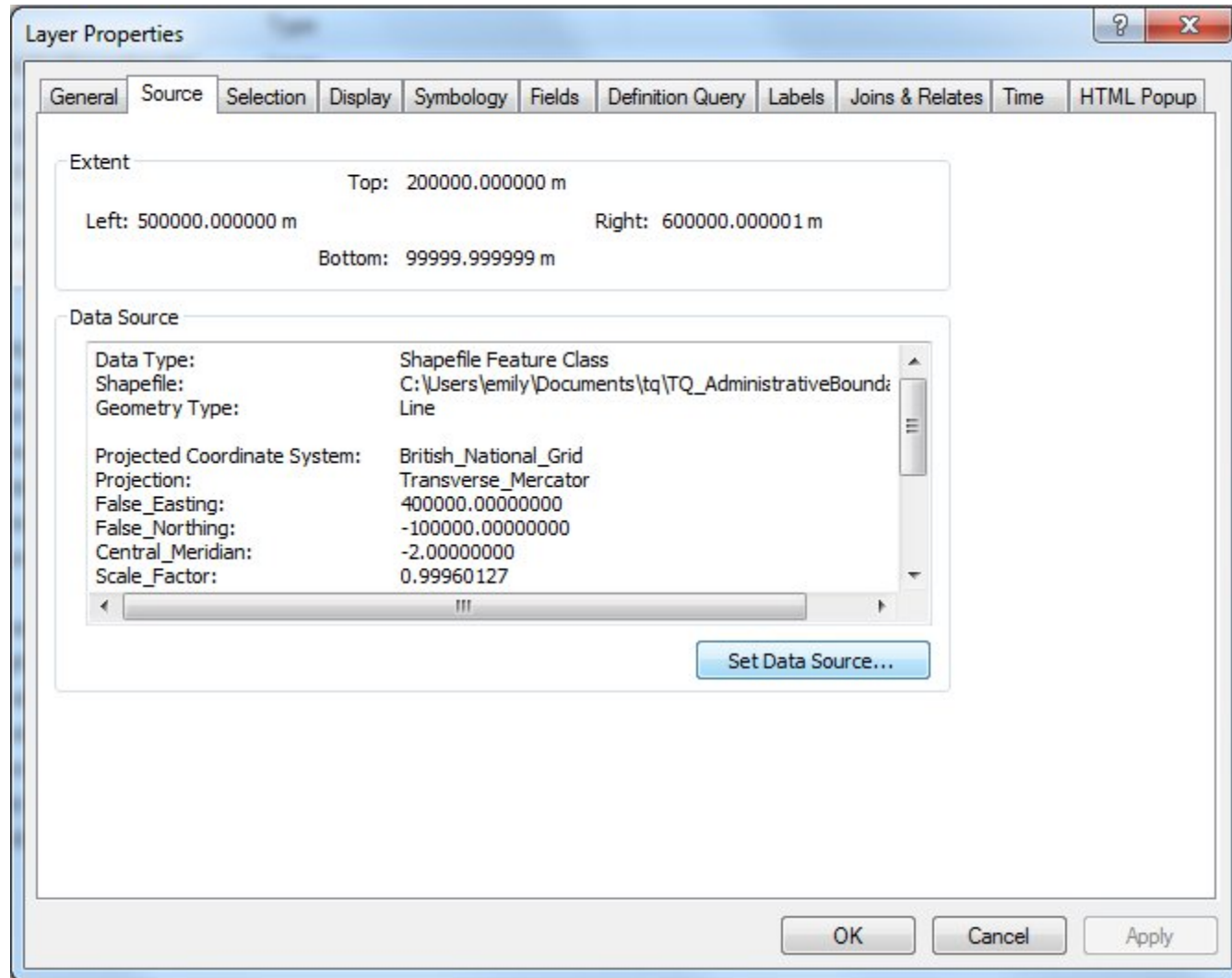
Setting the Data Source

Before adding the Layer Files to ArcMap it is necessary to set the data source for each file. To do this see the following steps:

- 1 - Open ArcCatalog and connect to the folder containing the downloaded Layer Files
- 2 - Select the folder containing the Layer Files, right-click on each Layer File in turn and click on Properties

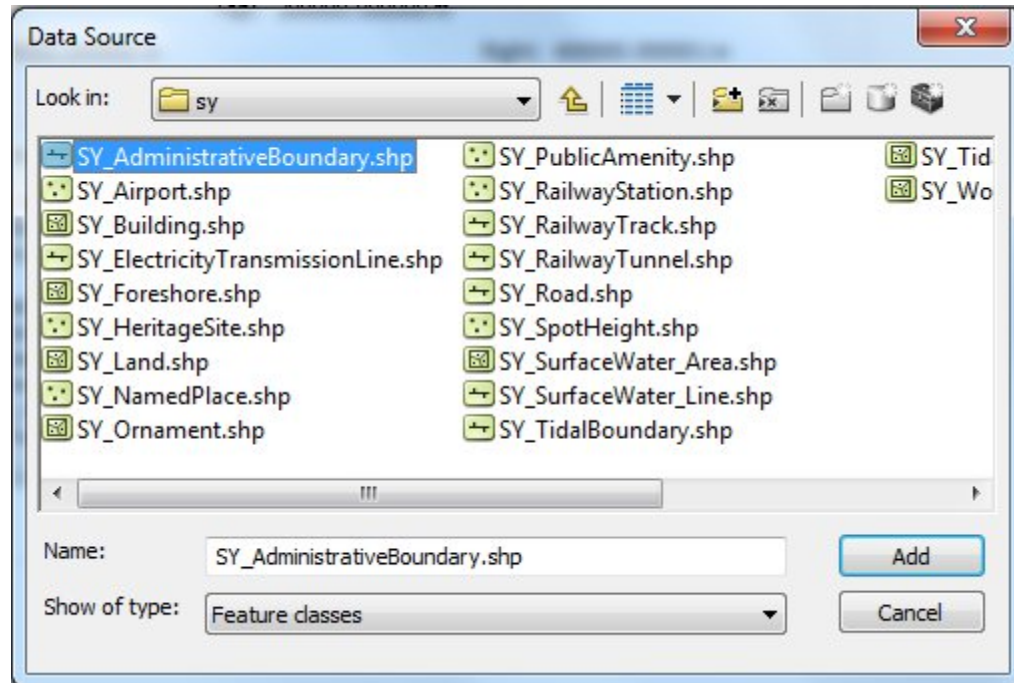


- Select the Source tab, and then click on Set Data Source



3 - Navigate to the location of the downloaded VectorMap District data you wish to use in ArcGIS 10

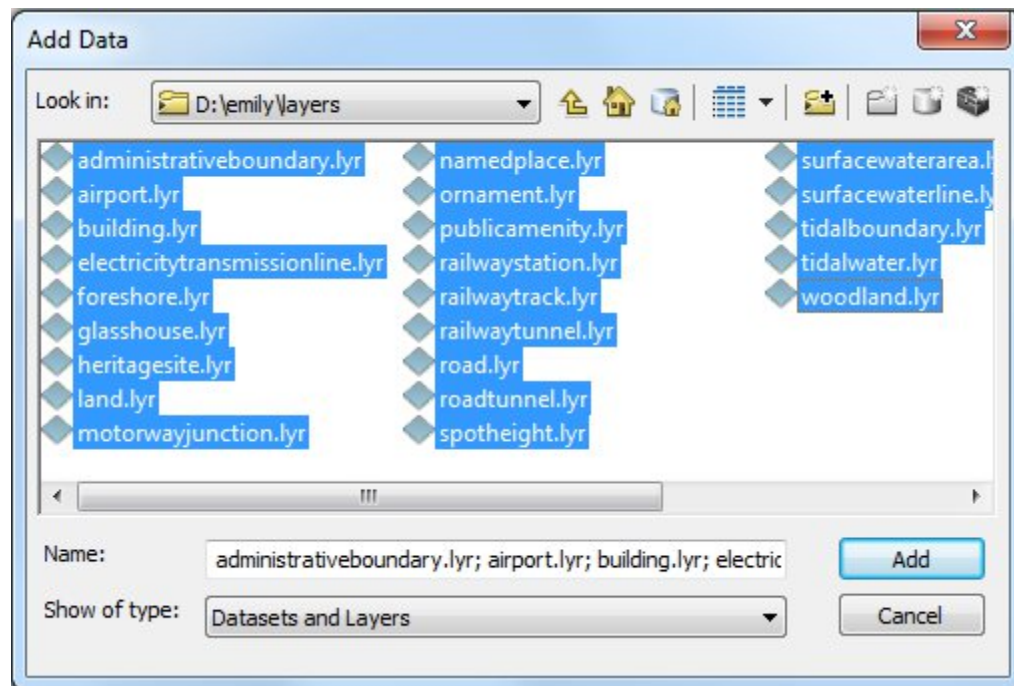
4 - Navigate to the Shapefile corresponding to the Layer File that you have selected. For example, if you are setting the data source for administrativeboundary.lyr navigate to the administrative boundary Shapefile



5 - Click Add, then Apply and then OK

6 - Repeat for each .lyr file.

Once you have set the data source for each of the Layer Files, open ArcMap. Using the Add Data button, navigate to the location of the Layer Files that you just set the data source for. Add all the Layer Files.



If you have downloaded data for more than one district tile it is necessary to complete the above steps for one of the tiles (including adding the Layer Files to ArcMap),

and then repeat all steps again for each tile, adding the Layer Files to ArcMap after each change of data source.

How to clip data (to make it more manageable)

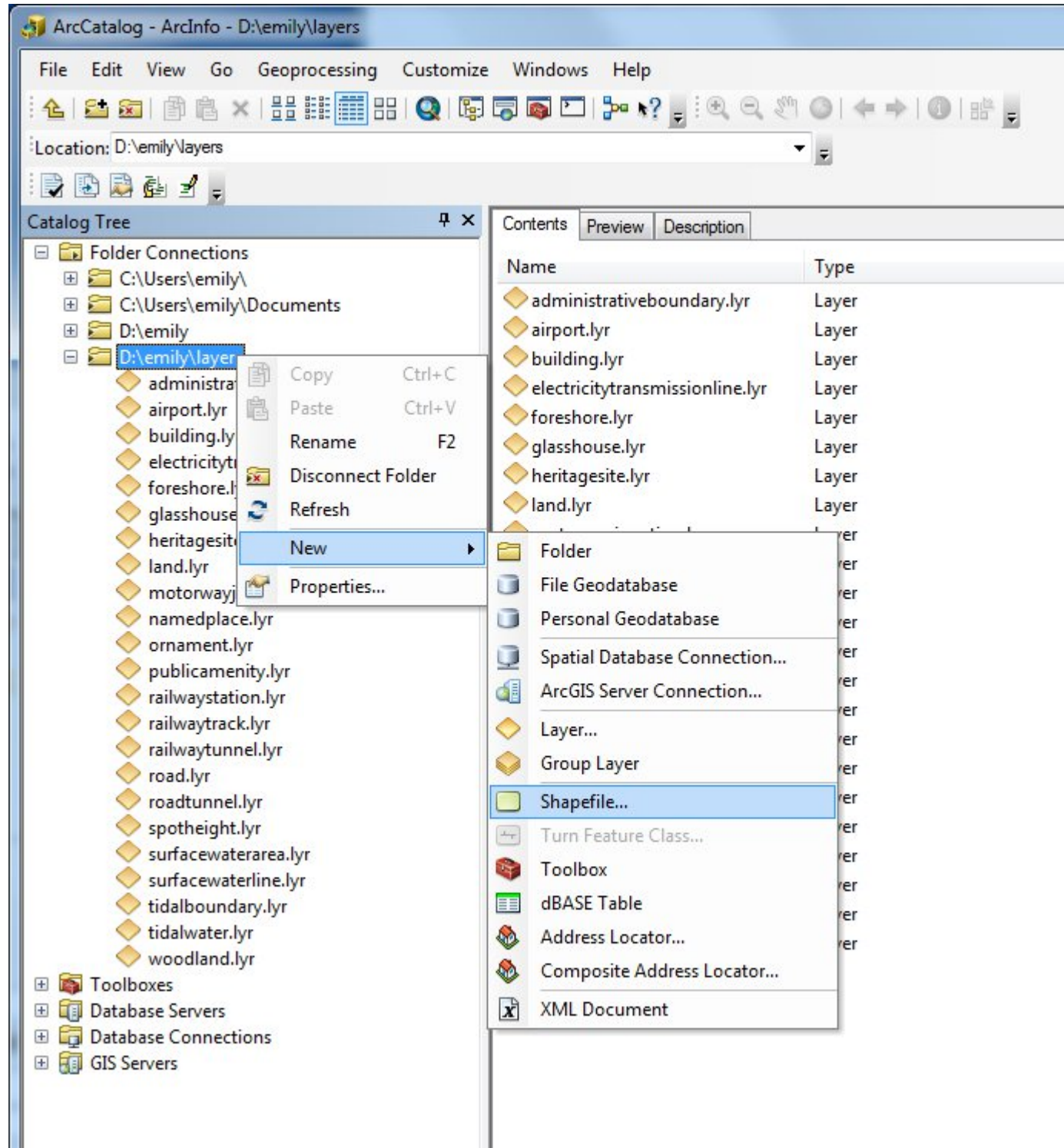
VectorMap District data is delivered in 100km by 100km tiles, which often cover an area larger than what is required. You can clip the area in ArcGIS so it only covers the area you are interested in, and is therefore more manageable.

1 - Create a bounding polygon

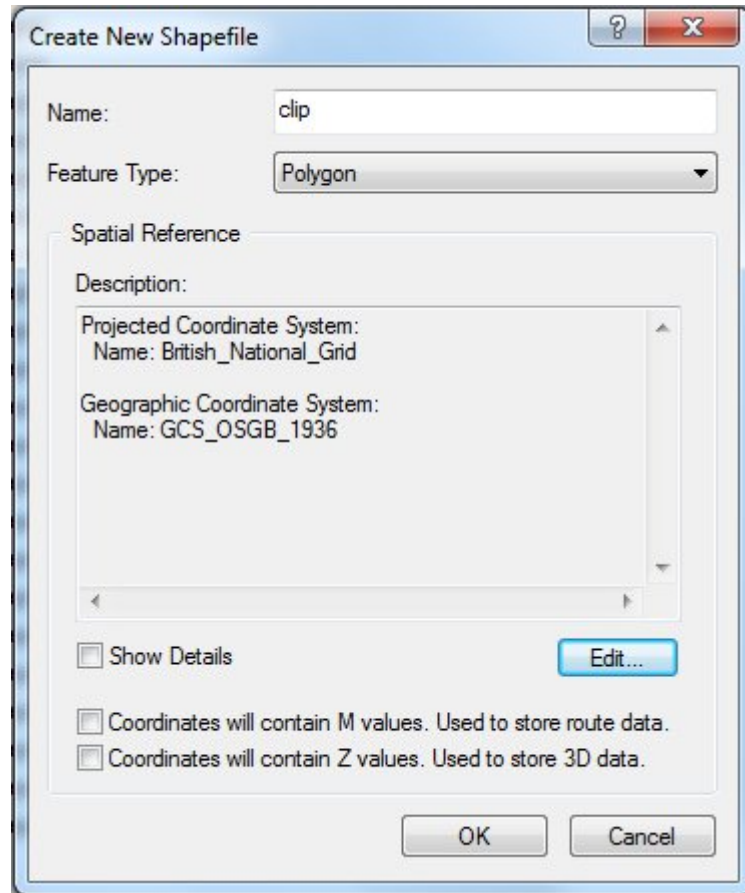
In order to clip the area of interest, it is necessary to create a new Shapefile which will be a polygon surrounding the area of interest. This polygon will then be used to clip the VectorMap District data. See the following steps to create a polygon Shapefile.

1 - In ArcCatalog, navigate to the folder containing the downloaded VectorMap District data. If you have used Layer Files to symbolise features navigate to the folder containing these Layer Files.

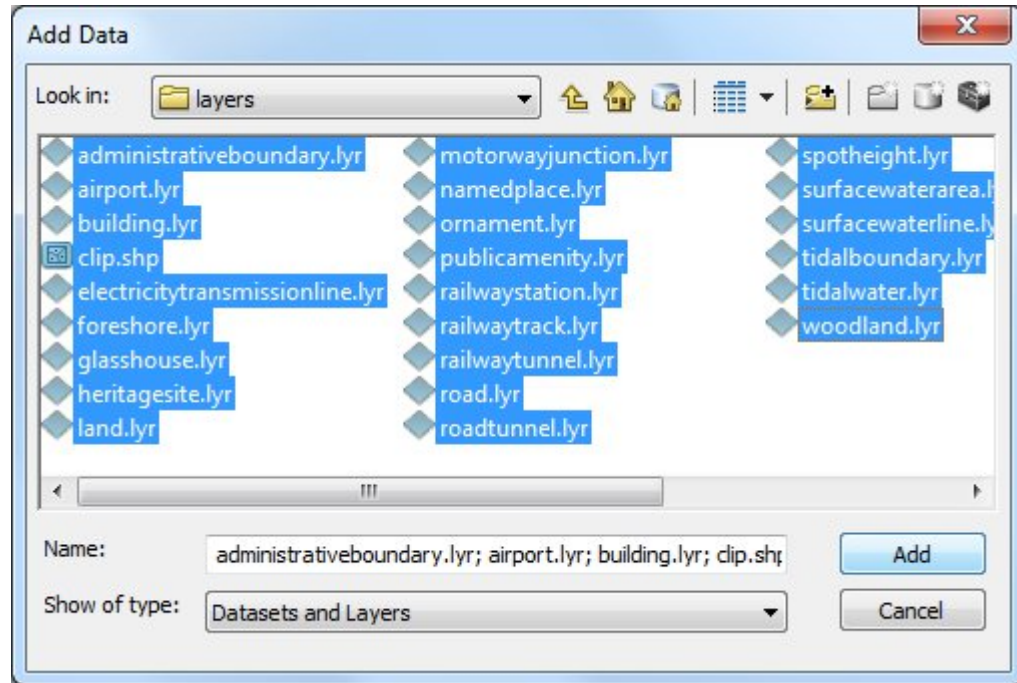
2 - Right click on the folder and create a new Shapefile.



3 - Give it a suitable name, set it to be a polygon and click on Edit to set the coordinate system to British National Grid.



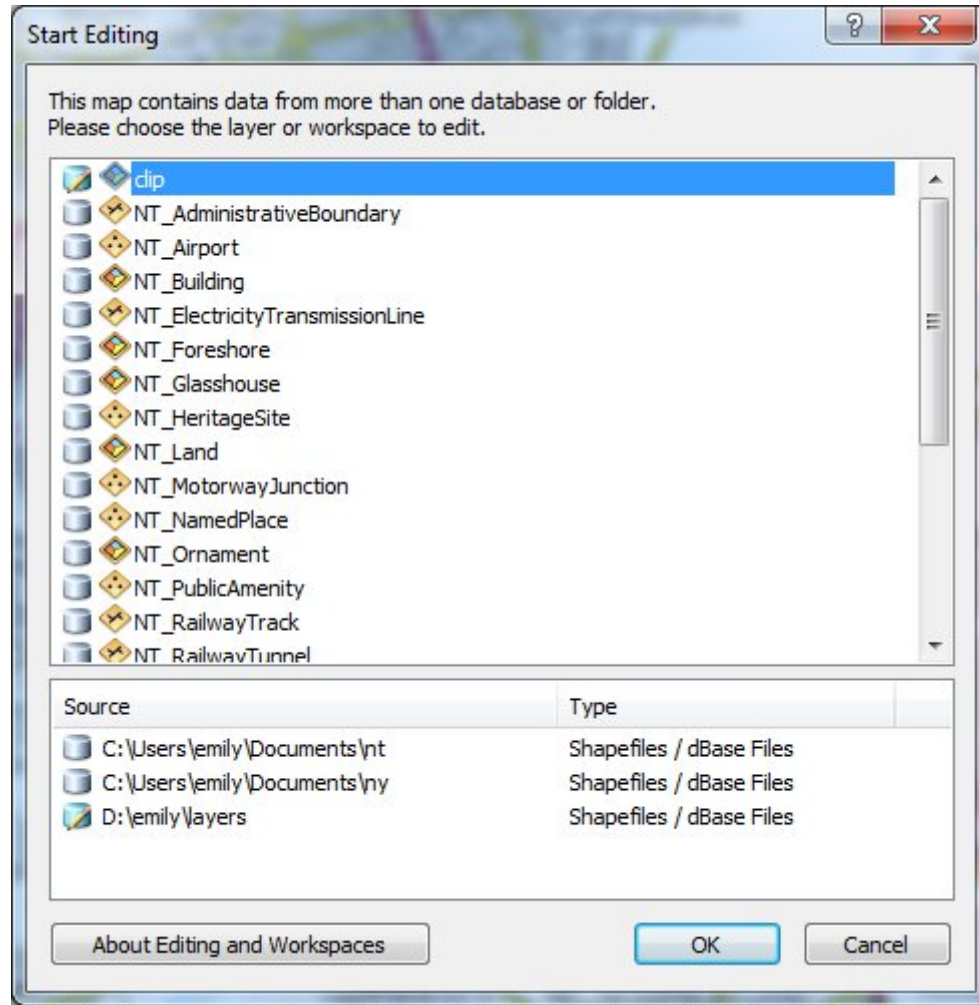
4 - Open ArcMap, and add the downloaded VectorMap District data (which will either be Shapefiles, or Layer Files that have had their data source set appropriately, as demonstrated in the previous section, [how to set up representation](#)), including the new Shapefile you previously created in ArcCatalog.



5 - Navigate to the area of interest

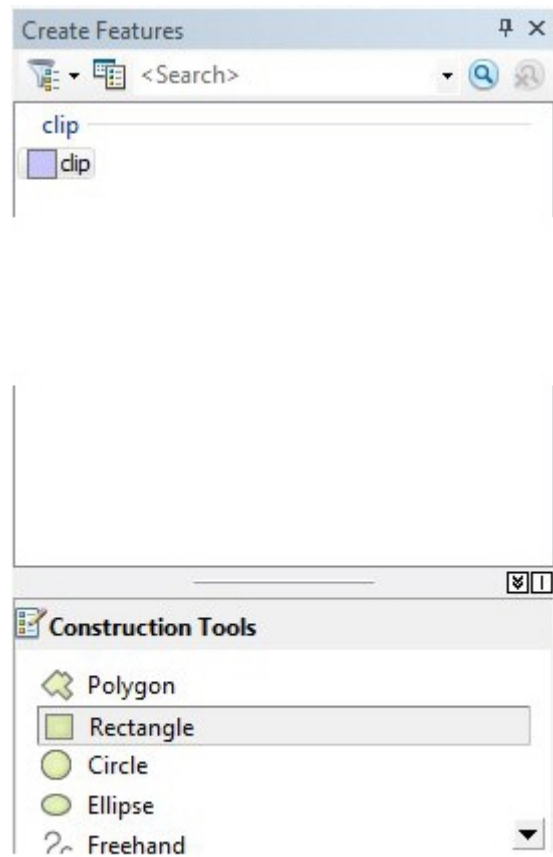
6 - Open the Editor toolbar  click on Editor, then select Start Editing.

7 - When asked to choose the layer or workspace to edit, select the polygon Shapefile you created and click OK.

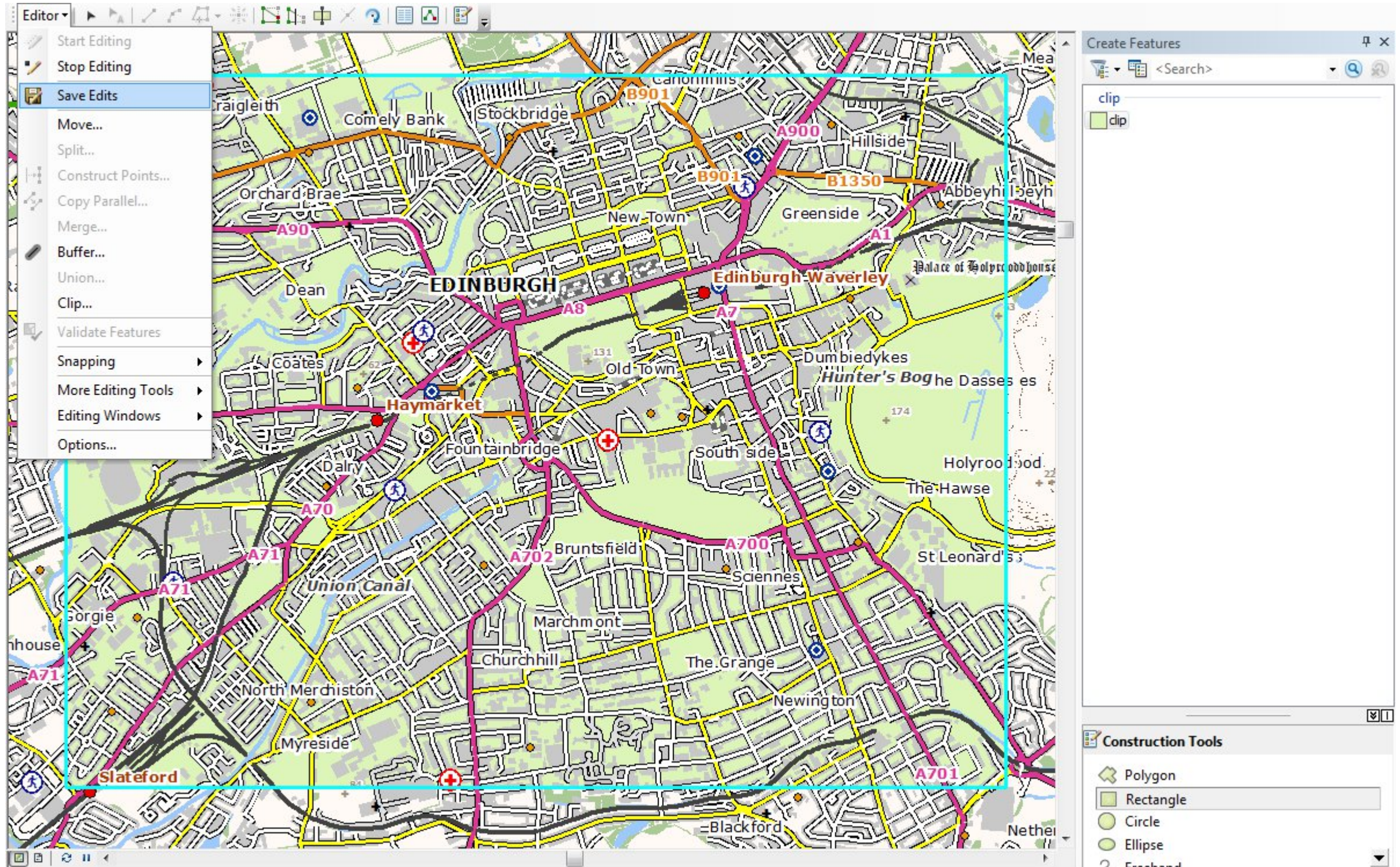


8 - A panel titled Create Features should appear on the right, and the created Shapefile should be listed in it.

9 - Make sure the Shapefile is highlighted, and from the Construction Tools section at the bottom of the panel select rectangle.



10 - Digitise around the area you are interested in, and when you have finished click on Editor on the Editor Toolbar, and select Save Edits.

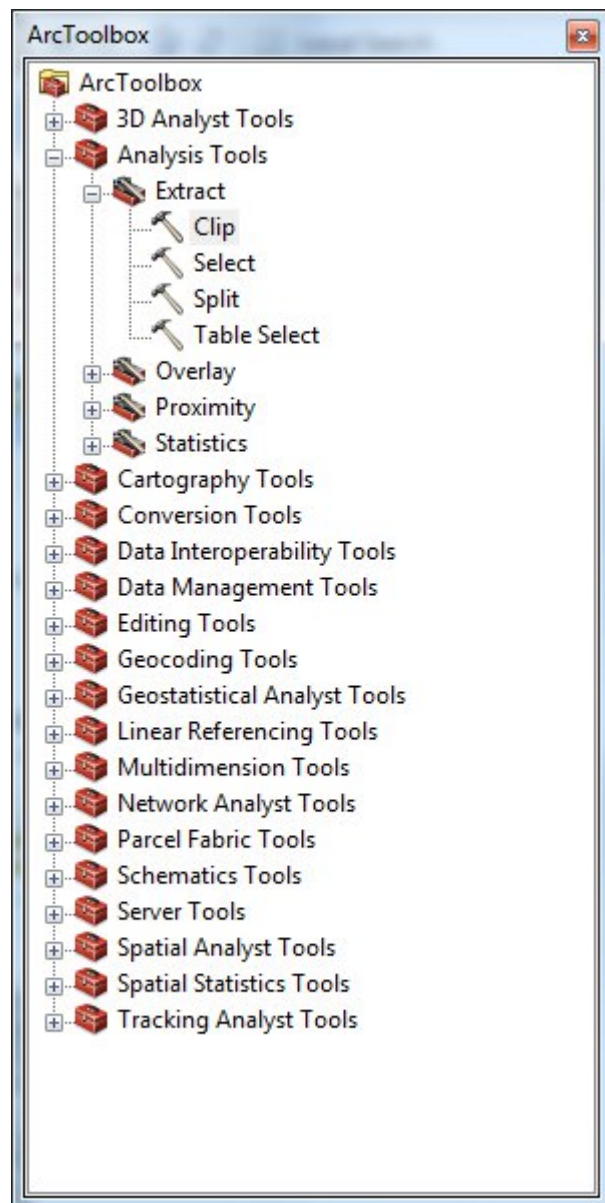


You should now have a polygon Shapefile enclosing your area of interest, which can be used to clip the VectorMap District data so that only the features within your area of interest are visible.

2 - Clip the data

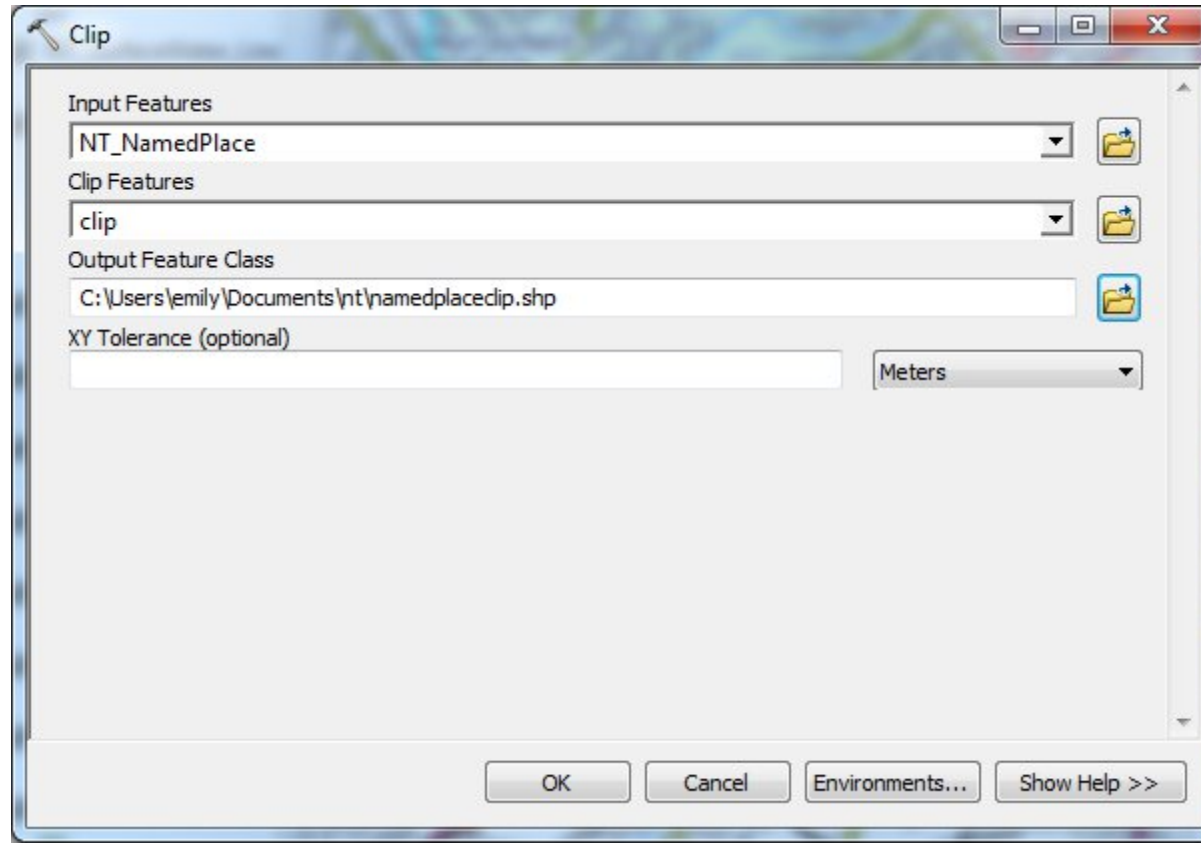
See the following steps to clip the data:

- 1 - Open ArcToolbox 
- 2 - Select Analysis Tools, then Extract, then Clip



3 - Select each Shapefile or layer file in turn as the input feature, and select the polygon Shapefile surrounding the area of interest you created previously as the clip feature.

4 - Give it a suitable name and save in an appropriate location.

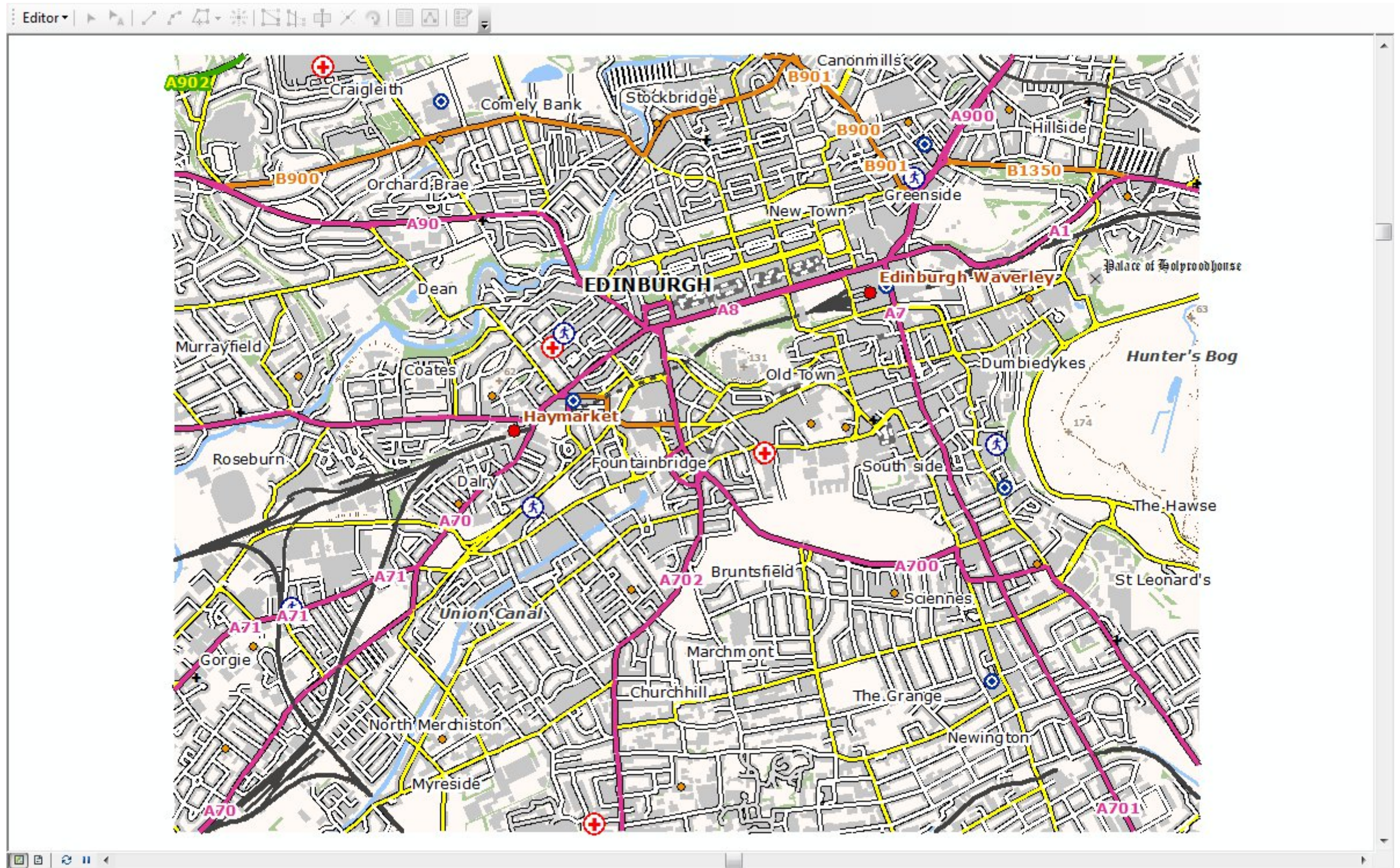


5 - Click OK.

A duplicate feature will be created for each feature that you selected to be clipped, but the extent of the duplicates will not pass the polygon you created to specify your area of interest. Make sure you un-check (or remove) the original feature classes, so only data within the area of interest is visible.

Symbology

It is important to note that the symbology of the newly clipped features will not resemble that of the feature you specified as the input, so it is necessary to either manually select the symbology desired for each feature, or, if you wish to use the Layer Files provided by EDINA, change the data source of each layer file in Arc Catalog to the newly clipped Shapefile (as shown in the [How to set up representation](#) section). Then, add the layer files to ArcMap, and un-check (or remove) the feature classes that haven't been clipped, so only data within the area of interest is visible.



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