

Relief and Vertical Interval

Relief

The term 'Relief' describes the rise and fall of the ground — hills and valleys. It is difficult to show on a map which is a flat surface. Various methods are used to show relief and the most important is the contour.

Vertical Interval

Contours

These are thin lines drawn on the map, usually in red or orange colours, each one of which joins up points of the same height. Against these lines are written figures which indicate their heights. The figures are written so that they can be read the correct way up when looking up the slope.

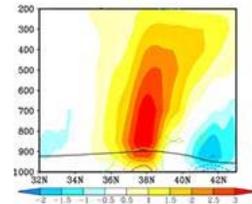
Hachures

Hachures are short disconnected lines drawn down a slope. They are short and close together on steeper slopes, longer and more spaced on gentler slopes. They are normally used to depict cuttings, embankments and steep slopes and are shown in black.

Cutting / embankment

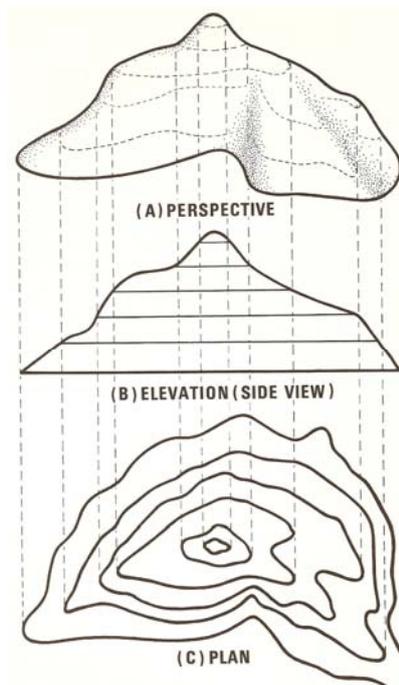
Layering (Altitude Tint)

These are uniform tints to show all ground between defined limits of height, i.e., all ground between 50 and 100 metres. Different tints showing layers give a clear picture of areas of varying heights.



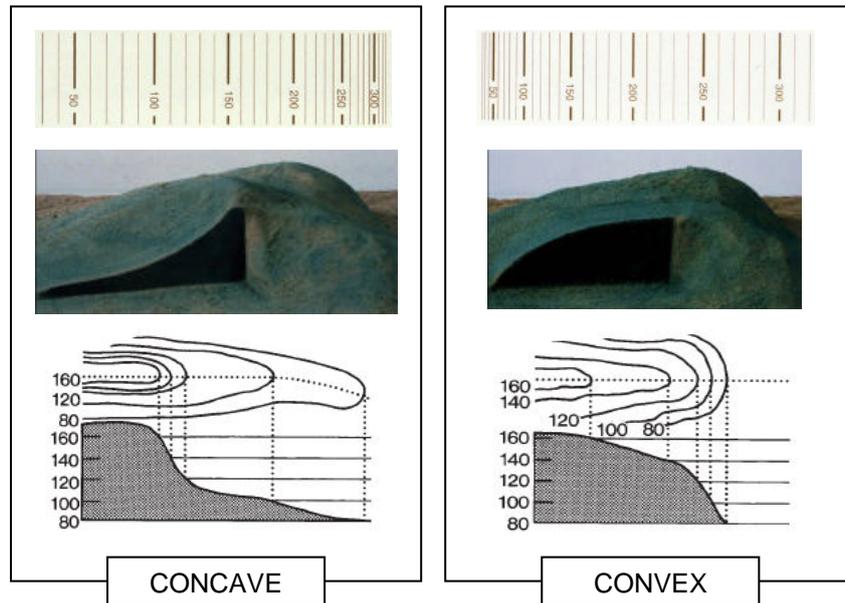
Interpretation of Contours

On the map the contour lines of a hill are shown at 'C' — looking down on them. The closer they are together, the steeper is the slope they represent, and the wider apart they are the gentler the slope. This is shown in at 'B' which is looking sideways through the ground at 'C'. At 'A' the hill is as it is normally seen in perspective.



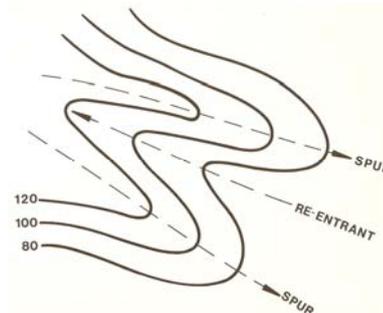
Convex and Concave Slopes

A convex slope is one which bulges outwards, and a concave slope is one which curves inwards. A simple way to remember this — a cave is something which goes inwards, and a concave slope also curves inwards.



Spurs and Re-entrants

Spurs and re-entrants appear to be very similar on the map, and it requires a little practice to be able to distinguish between the two. In both cases the contours appear as a hairpin shape. If no contour figures were shown it would be impossible to see which was which. As it is, if the bend of the hairpin points in the direction of lower ground it is a spur. If it points towards higher ground it is a re-entrant



Other Features

