

Relief

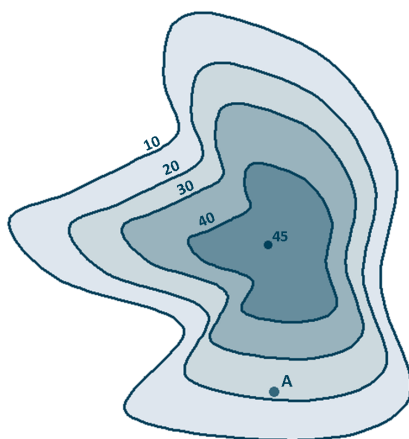
Definition

The relief of a place refers to the shape of the land there, such as the gradient of a hillside or the depth of a valley.

Contour Lines

Contour lines are lines on a map that join places of the same height above sea level (in metres). On Ordnance Survey maps they are coloured brown.

Contour lines can help tell readers the rough height of any point on the map. For example, point **A** on the map, right, is likely to be at a height of around 22m above sea level.



Layer Shading and Spot Heights

Height on some maps is also represented by different colours, with the darkest shade indicating the highest land.

Spot heights are single spots on Ordnance Survey maps with the exact height marked next to them. They are almost always found at the highest point in the immediate vicinity.

Identifying features using contour lines

Contour lines also indicate the shape of the land. The closer the contour lines are together, the steeper the land will be in real life. The reader can also look at the way contour lines are arranged to work out what the feature will look like if one were to create a cross section through the area.

	Contour lines	Cross section (x - - y)	Photograph
Escarpment			
Hollow			
Valley			