

Mapwork - Contour Lines

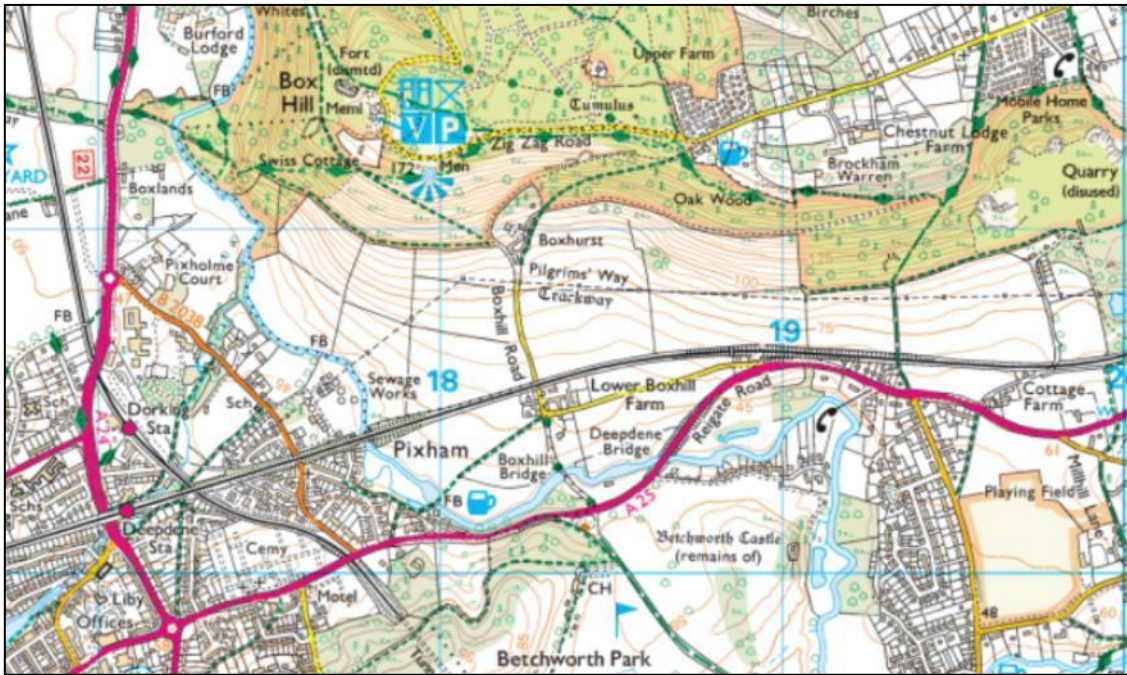
Hills and Valleys.

This week you are going to continue with map work but we are going to look at how hills and valleys are represented on Ordnance Survey (OS) maps.

Have a look at the map extract. How can you tell what is high and what is low? What other features can you see?

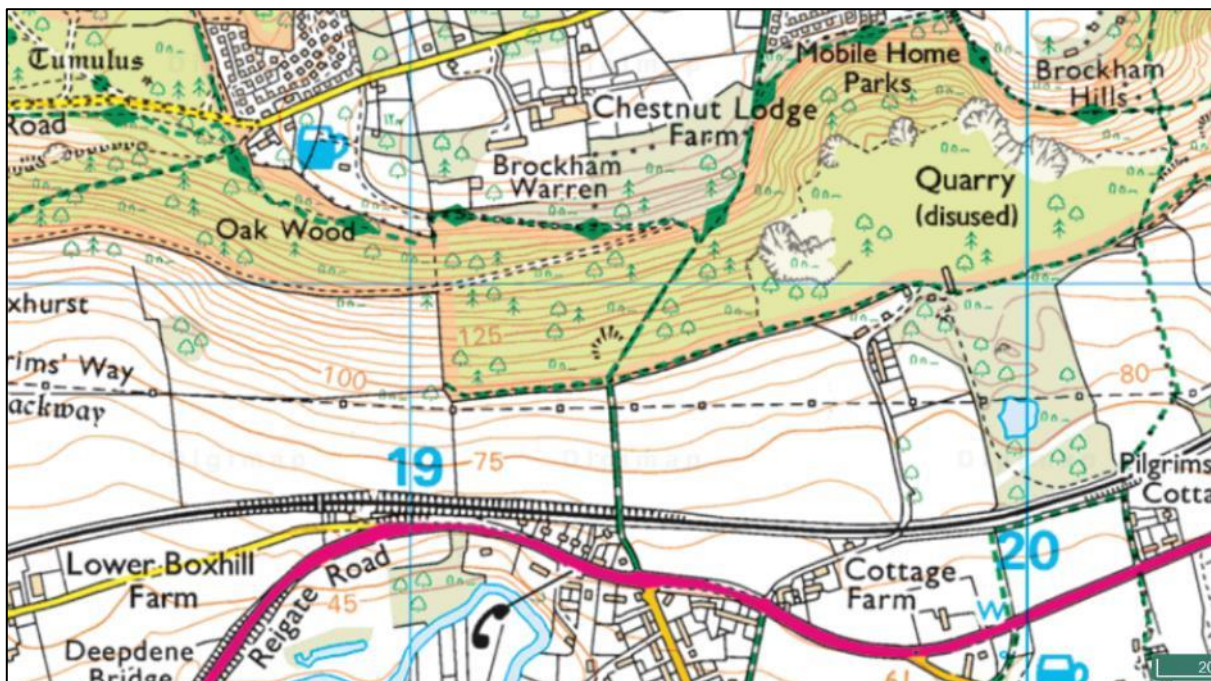
Read through this page on the BBC website and watch the video. There is a little bit of revision on symbols and an explanation about contours.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvsfr82/articles/zjdkhbk>



Can you see the wavy lines on the map? These are called contour lines. The closer together they are the steeper the **gradient** of the hills and valleys. Find out what the work **GRADIENT** means.

Have a closer look.



If we stood on Brockham Green and looked north we would see part of this view. We would be able to see part of Box Hill in front of us, much higher than the surrounding lines. The map shows how steep the hill is in certain places.



If you look back at the map – to where the quarries are, there are no lines in some parts which shows that part of the land is flat. You can also see where there are cliffs – these are too steep to show with contour lines.

There is just a gentle slope north of the railway. We know this looking at the map because the contour lines are much further apart.

The numbers on the contour lines show the height of the land measured from sea level.

This part of the map shows the area of the Chimney Pots walk. Can you find the high point where the beacon is? What else do you notice about the lines? What happens to them near the river?



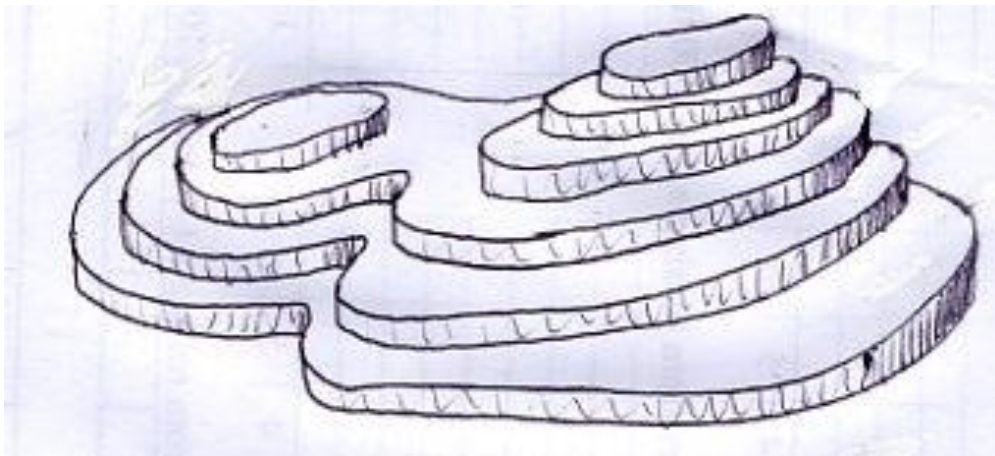
Now look at the area around Leigh. What differences can you see?



Now for the practical activity. You will be building a 3D model of a landscape to help you understand how the contour lines work.

Look at the slides on the Powerpoint - Map Skills Contour Lines for a review of what you have learnt so far.

Slide 7 will help you to create your model – although this version has two peaks.



Use the pdf - **Make your own contour island**

You will need lots of cardboard (the thicker the better) some felt tips, glue and some good scissors. You might need an adult to help you if the cardboard is quite thick.

Follow the instructions and make your own island by sticking the layers together. When you have finished it, you can draw around each layer to show the contour lines.