Mapping contours

Contouring produces an output line theme from an input grid or TIN theme. The value of each line represents all contiguous locations with the same height, magnitude, or concentration of whatever the values on the input grid or TIN theme represent. The output theme will contain a field called Contour in its attribute table which lists the value of each contour.

For grid themes the function does not connect cell centers; it interpolates a line that represents locations with the same magnitude. Rarely will the line pass through the original cell centers. Since the lines are smoothed, a realistic representation of the surface contours is produced.

For TIN themes the function interpolates a series of lines through the network of triangles, examining every triangle edge to see if a contour passes through it. Linear interpolation between the edge endpoints is used to calculate a contour's position along the edge.

You can create an individual contour line by clicking the Contour tool  , and then selecting a location in the view. The function traces the contour of the value that the chosen point represents.

How do you want to map contours?

- Create contours for an entire theme
- Trace the contour passing through a selected point