Displacement

Source: Cartographic Generalisation Topographic Maps, 1977, Swiss Society of Cartography

In winding roads over mountain passes the change in gradients due to displacement should be as small as possible.

The different slope angles between the road terraces (A) should remain in the same relation to each other when the terraces are widened as scale decreases (B).

The contour lines (to be imagined from the profiles in the figure) should be displaced, due to the greater space needed for the map symbols, in such a way that no topographical changes will take place. Trigonometrical points (see pyramid) should not be displaced. Topographical points might be displaced a little.

1 railway (single track)
2 3rd class road
3 river
4 footpath (eliminated in smaller scale)
5 railway (double track)
6 1st class road

A: Gradient correct
B: Gradient incorrect (red correct)

Space should be reserved for elements which have to be represented in other colors.