

# Finding Your Position

If you do not know your position, the first essential step is to orient the map, preferably with a compass.

## ***Finding Position from Local Detail***

In the normal case where you know your approximate position but wish to pinpoint it more accurately, and where there is local detail marked on the map, identify at least two definite points as close to you as possible and preferably at right angles to each other in direction. Keeping the map correctly oriented, as initially determined, mark the direction of your own position from each point and note where these intersect. That should be your position. Check by sighting on a third point in a different direction, and confirm by the approximate distances from your position.

If you can line up your position with any recognised straight line on the map, eg, a section of a railway or a road, or between two identified points, this will confirm the setting of your map and the line on which your position must be. A direction cutting this line from a known point at right angles will give you your position, subject to check on a third point.

On hilly ground the contours will help in determining your position, especially if you place yourself on the line of a ridge or spur which is clearly defined, or on a sharp top of a hill. Streams and stream junctions are useful landmarks in more open country.

