

This method is used for pinpointing your location if you are unsure of where you are. In most instances you should know this but may get lost during adverse weather conditions or perhaps after stopping.

To use this method, you need to take **three bearings** from fixed points in your area. These can be natural features such as hill crests or human features like churches. Follow the steps below to **triangulate your position**.

### Step 1: Find a Feature

Locate a fixed point in your environment that you can identify on your map.  
Good examples would be:

- Churches
- Radar Towers
- Hill Crests
- Lakes
- Triangulation Pillars

**NB** It is unlikely that you will be completely lost, you should have a rough idea of which part of your map you are located in.

### Step 2: Take a Bearing



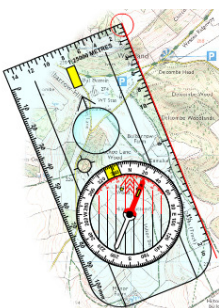
Point your compass at your feature (keeping it flat at all times) and rotate the bezel until the North Arrow lines up with Magnetic Needle.

**You now need to account for magnetic variation. Look at your map to work out how to adjust your bearing for this variation.**

**NB** Make sure that you are as accurate as possible as a slight mistake can put you out by 100s of metres!

**NB** Be careful not to adjust this reading!

### Step 3: Mark Your Bearing



Locate your feature on your map and place the edge of your compass against the feature.

Line up the straight lines underneath your compass ring with the north lines on your map.

Draw a pencil line along the edge of the compass.

**NB** Make sure that you are as accurate as possible as a slight mistake can put you out by 100s of metres!

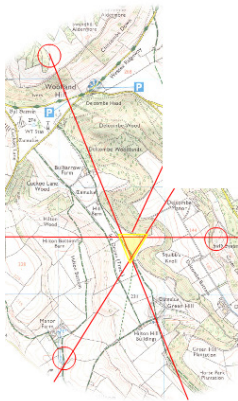
#### Step 4: Find a Second Feature



Repeat step 1 and 2 using a different Feature and take a bearing ensuring that you are careful with your accuracy.

Again lay your compass on your map starting at your Feature and line up the north lines on the map with those of your compass backing. Draw a second line with a pencil.

#### Step 5: Find a Final Feature



Once again, locate a third feature and repeat the stages to take a bearing and draw the pencil line on your map.

You should now find (if you have been accurate enough) that your three lines almost crossover. In fact you should find a small triangle shape that represents the area you are currently standing in.

Providing you are stood on a footpath, it is likely you would work out exactly where you are. If there is more than one footpath in the area then orientate your body to face the direction you think you should travel in and get a rough bearing of the direction. Using the map (orientated north) you can see which footpath you are on.

#### Advice

- By using this method accurately you can never really be lost providing you have a map and compass to hand.
- If you found yourself in a valley where landmarks were hard to come by, you could climb a valley side and triangulate from a high point.
- In many instances you can get a rough idea of your location simply by looking around and applying some common sense. For example if you are near to a settlement and you can see a spire, check your map for the most likely settlement with a church spire. Or if you are walking parallel to a river then you can only be heading in one of two directions.
- By far the best way to avoid needing to triangulate is to keep a close eye on your map. Share the workload so that everyone has a go. Keep your head up whilst walking and stay one step ahead. Is your next leg of your journey taking a footpath to the left of the right? When are you crossing a stream or lock?