Coaching Page.

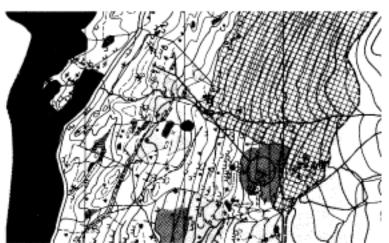
Hints on Approaching Controls.

Certain types of control always demand particular care. Controls in an area where visibility is low (eg. thickets), and controls on steep slopes are good examples. Take great care with these. Try and approach the control on a level route rather than diagonally up or down the slope. Some controls have peculiarities which can help you to find them:

Rockface foot/Embankment foot are best approached from the side or below. Platform, spur, gully are best approached from above (this is true for most other controls as well, but to a lesser extent). Sunken features, (eg. ditch, depression) should be treated with more caution than raised features (eg. ruin, knoll) as the marker will be less visible. Point features (eg. boulder, pit) should be treated with more caution than line features, although take care with controls on the end of line features.



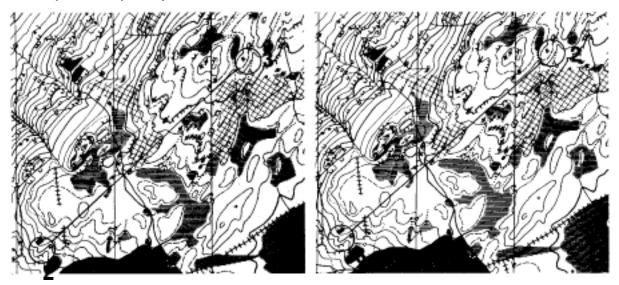
A control on a steep slope is always dangerous. If you miss you lose a lot.



Controls in thickets are also difficult. If you miss, you have to come out and try again.

Another valuable technique is to consider what will happen if you miss the control. A conscious evaluation of the problems can give a good guide to the care that you ought to take. It is sometimes worthwhile deliberately overshooting if it gives you a good attack point behind the control, and you might hit the marker on the way to the attack point.

What happens if I miss? It's always worth weighing this up. Here the same leg is shown, but in opposite directions. In the first diagram, missing the control could be very time-consuming as there are no locating features beyond it. The leg in the second diagram is easier. There is a fence, a stream and a vegetation boundary to catch you if you drift off course or overshoot.



- Geoff Todkill