

British Caving Association

How to book onto a course

Register with scheme

All candidates wishing to book onto a training or assessment course must be registered with the LCMLA & CIC award scheme. Candidates need only register once, for which there is a one-off fee for both the Local Cave and Mine Leader Award and Cave Instructor Certificate schemes. To register;

- Click here: <https://britishcaving.azolve.com/> and sign up
- Click on "Membership" and purchase LCMLA/CIC Scheme Membership
- A video which walks candidates through the sign-up process available here: <https://youtu.be/jo9IuUmx5FY>

Register for a course

Courses are delivered by Trainer/Assessors following the award scheme syllabus. Trainer/Assessors must register all courses with the Qualification Management System (QMS), however in some cases may choose not to advertise the course publicly on the system.

Candidates can only book onto a course if the pre-requisites are met.

Book onto a course through the Qualification Management System

- Log onto the QMS: <https://britishcaving.azolve.com/>
- Find a course
 - Click on Events & Courses
 - Select course type then region
 - Select a course
 - Click "Add to cart" (note in most cases candidates are unable to book onto a course if they do not meet the pre-requisites)
 - **Follow the payment method, even though the payment will be zero, and complete the order**

Book onto a course direct with a Trainer/Assessor

If booking directly with a Trainer/Assessor, or for courses not advertised on the system, candidates will need to provide the following details (in the same format registered with the QMS) to the Trainer/Assessor so that they can add candidates to the course:

- First Name
- Last Name
- Membership Number (note this starts with ME)
- Date of Birth

In both cases, once booked onto a course the Trainer/Assessor will contact candidates with joining instructions, booking conditions and invoicing details.

Please be aware that Trainer/Assessors may remove candidates from a course if the Trainer/Assessors bookings terms and conditions are not met.

British Caving Association

Cave & Mine Leader Training

Training courses are aimed at experienced cave and abandoned mine, explorers who aspire to be leaders in both horizontal cave and mine systems.

Pre-requisites

Register with the scheme

A minimum of 12 caving and 12 mine exploration trips, although at the discretion of the Trainer, a candidate can be accepted with less experience.

Course Overview

A three-day (24 hours) training course with a ratio of 1 trainer to 6 candidates. At least 12 hours should be spent underground. The training course can be undertaken in any region where both caves and mines are suitable.

The training course will have some elements of personal skill development, however, will primarily focus on leadership skills and techniques appropriate for leading groups within the remit of this award. It assumes candidates will have the basic level of competence in caving and mine exploration.

The training course will cover the key areas of the assessment syllabus listed below, with a tailored focus on areas candidates typically have difficulty with or identify with the Trainer/Assessor as requiring further input. QMC have prepared some resources that may support a candidate, these are available on the BCA website.

Trainer/Assessors may offer resources and guidance for a candidate to help further their knowledge however candidates are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the syllabus prior to attending a training course so they can identify areas they are unfamiliar with and address these with their trainer.

Resource Links

- [Cave & Mine Leader: Ropework](#)
- [Weather and its Effects on Caves](#)
- [Cave & Mine Leader: Water Safety](#)
- [Cave Emergency Card](#)
- [Long Churn Flash Flood Presentation](#)
- [Hydrology of Goydon Pot and Manchester Hole](#)
- [Mine Terminology](#)
- [Radon](#)

Syllabus

The full checklist used by Trainer/Assessors which forms the syllabus for this award is provided below. Candidates should ensure they are familiar with all aspects of the checklist prior to booking an assessment.

British Caving Association

Core Skills Assessment Checklist

<p>Pre-trip checks Weather forecast & sources Water levels and fluctuations – recent rainfall / catchment areas Effects of bad weather – surface Access procedures Conservation awareness – surface Destination notes Cave rescue call out procedure Guidebook / survey information Navigation – surface Clothing – suitability for wet / dry venues Helmet / belt / boots – suitability Lighting – suitability / duration / maintenance etc Technical gear – suitability / limitations / maintenance of rope / krabs / sling etc</p> <p>Underground emergency gear Spare lighting – suitability / duration First aid kit Emergency food Survival – shelter / warmth Knife Writing material</p> <p>Underground hazards - generic Pollution Weil's disease Radon gas Loose / slippery rocks Holes Deep / fast water Awareness of flooding – speed of / likely effects Difficulty of rescue Statistics / common rescue incidents</p> <p>Underground hazards - cave Evidence of cave's reaction to flooding</p> <p>Underground hazards - mine Adit or other entrance Roof supports Bad ground False floors Stacked deads Shafts – bypass method Flooded shafts – bypass method Submerged obstacles Hoppers</p>	<p>Rotten stemples / ladders / staging Cables / chains / pipework Abandoned machinery Old explosives / detonators Dumped chemicals Dangerous gases Poor ventilation – treatment / action Evidence of mine's reaction to flooding</p> <p>Surface hazards - mine Shaft tops Loose shaft lining (ginging) Unstable spoil heaps Unfenced excavations (stopes) Wheelpits Abandoned buildings Abandoned machinery Unconsolidated slimes dams</p> <p>Conservation & access -generic Flora & fauna (inc. Bats & hibernacula) Effect of litter & pollutants Site specific General Public relations</p> <p>Conservation - mine Artefacts Minerals / formations</p> <p>Cave environment Basic surface geology / topography / karst features Cave development / bedding & joints / passage shapes Cave deposits Temperatures / draughts Fossils Formations (speleothems)</p> <p>Technical skills Surface navigation in poor visibility / darkness Underground movement skills – over a variety of passage types Underground navigation / survey interpretation / timing Suitable knots Selection and use of suitable belay points (natural and artificial including bolts) Lifelining rope only</p>
--	--

British Caving Association

<p>Lifeline using italian hitch / slings / krabs etc Assisted handline / hoist Traverse Improvised harness – rope only / other Handlines – limitations / position of leader Unprotected climbs – position of leader Use of fixed aids – chains / ladders / ropes Communications / group management Leadership / judgement</p> <p>Accident & emergency procedures Incident management Assessment / first aid treatment / plan of action Rescue call out Hypothermia – awareness / treatment / action</p>	<p>Light failure Cancellation of destination note Overdue problems Access to dry clothing</p> <p>History Brief history of named mines General working methods Minerals obtained</p> <p>Access / law / information Land ownership / access arrangements Mine ownership Mineral rights ownership Application of legislation Survey & information sources Duty of care</p>
--	---

Group Day Assessment Checklist

<p>Suitability of Venue & Trip for group Weather Conditions / Water Levels / Flood Awareness Compliance with Access Procedures Surface Navigation / Care of Groups en-route to Venue Suitability of Clothing & Personal Equipment of Group</p> <p>Vertical aspects Appropriateness of technical equipment Protection of group on scrambles with and without a rope Suitability and effectiveness of technique for descent / ascent Own progression</p>	<p>Leadership Style / Rapport / Sensitivity to Group Effectiveness of Party Management / Group Control & Safety Education / Conservation / History etc Suitability of Group Briefings (Technical, Educational, Information, Hazards) Use of Assistant Leader(s) if appropriate Appropriate Emergency Kit & Rescue Call-Out Organization & Running of Day Duty of care</p>
--	---

Exemption From Attendance On A Training Course

Experienced cavers who already have substantial experience of personal caving and leading and supervising groups on caving trips may seek exemption from attendance on a training course.

Your Next Step

Once a candidate has satisfied themselves that they are ready to be assessed, they can present themselves to a Cave Leader Trainer/Assessor provided the minimum personal exploration experience had been achieved.