

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 Core Skills Assessment

A one-day practical; personal skills, equipment and competence underground assessment in a horizontal venue not well known to the candidate.

Pre-requisites

Candidates must have attended a Cave and Mine Leader training course (or in exceptional circumstances have been granted exemption from training) prior to attending this course.

Prior to presenting for assessment candidates must evidence that they have sufficient personal experience in a variety of caves and mines. As a guide, the minimum experience expected is:

- One-year caving and mine exploration with at least 30 trips in at least 10 different systems across at least 2 different regions and in mines of different types, i.e. metal, stone and /or slate, including **5 quality trips**.
- A proportion of these should be as a leader under supervision.
- Some trips may be above and beyond the remit of the award

A **quality trip** should satisfy at least 4 of the following criteria: -

- Exploration of a new route or cave and mine (new to the candidate that is),
- Incorporates at least 4 to 5 hours of underground exploration.
- An experience that develops an individual's caving and mining knowledge, skills and awareness.
- Incorporates caving and mine exploration skills above the level of the candidate's qualification.
- Of the candidates own making i.e. the candidate is to lead the trip, or it is one done with peers and not led by an external source.
- Involves the application of vertical skills, digging or exploration.
- Exploration of caves with a streamway that responds to rainfall.

Candidates are to nominate 5 cave and 5 mine logged trips as quality days and justify this selection to the Trainer/Assessor using the above criteria.

Course Overview

A ratio of 1 Trainer/Assessor to 1 candidate only for this module.

The assessment must be conducted by a different Trainer/Assessor from the one who delivered the training for this module.

Practical assessments normally take up a full day with at least 4hrs spent underground. The mine core skills assessment part must be undertaken in the region appropriate for this award.

The first part of the assessment is theoretical and is normally based upon a written response to a question paper based on the content of the assessment. The paper is completed in the candidate's own time and is unsupervised. If desired, a candidate may opt to cover this work orally, though this will increase the duration of the assessment.

British Caving Association

Scenario-based questioning is sometimes used by assessors in areas such as dealing with emergency situations but will not be used extensively to assess leadership skills. Trainer/Assessors must ensure that it is made clear to candidates when scenario-based questioning is to take place.

Where a candidate is deferred they must in general return to the original Trainer/Assessor – but can opt to do a complete reassessment with any Trainer/Assessor. If a candidate 'fails' they may choose any Trainer/Assessor for reassessment except the Trainer/Assessor that delivered training. It was also agreed that safety issues which require the candidate to go underground again will be an automatic fail. Issues such as geology weakness would mean a defer and can be resolved by an interview. The Trainer / Assessor has the right to terminate the assessment if the candidate is not up to the required standard in fundamental areas of the syllabus relating to safety or conservation.

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

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 Accident & emergency procedures Incident management Assessment / first aid treatment / plan of action Rescue call out Hypothermia – awareness / treatment / action	Light failure Cancellation of destination note Overdue problems Access to dry clothing History Brief history of named mines General working methods Minerals obtained Access / law / information Land ownership / access arrangements Mine ownership Mineral rights ownership Application of legislation Survey & information sources Duty of care
---	--

Your Next Step

Once a candidate has satisfied themselves that they are ready to be assessed, they can present themselves to a Cave and Mine Leader Trainer/Assessor provided the minimum personal exploration experience had been achieved. The candidate is to submit an up-to-date logbook to the Trainer / Assessor together with a list of sites covering those caves and mines or parts thereof, that the candidate wishes to lead parties in.

Cave & Mine Leader Group Day assessment must be completed within one year of successful completion of Cave & Mine Leader Core Skills Assessment.