

Apply for a Mine Core Skills Reassessment (CSR)

How to apply for a course

Award holders whose qualification has expired may apply for a Core Skills Reassessment to regain their qualification

- Log into the Qualification Management System:
<https://britishcaving.azolve.com/>
- Go to
 - Events and Courses
 - Specialist Courses, CSR & Other
 - Core Skills Reassessment Application
 - Pay the appropriate fee and complete the application form

Register for a course

When registering for a course a candidate will be required to supply the following information

- Identify which qualification is to be re-assessed (note Vertical Mine Leaders may choose to downgrade their award to the Mine Leader if they feel it's appropriate)
- Date the award expired
- Summary of experience since the award was issued (to include: group days / technical instruction / personal mine exploration)
- Dates not available for the core skills reassessment within the next 3 months
- Outline of any extenuating circumstances (such as maternity, illness or injury) that may have prevented attendance at an update workshop*

** In some extenuating circumstances QMC may grant candidates the opportunity to attend the next update workshop rather than a CSR. Candidates are advised to [contact the training administrator](#) directly with supporting evidence if they feel this may apply to them. Candidates should note that their award will remain invalid until either re-assessed or an update workshop attended.*

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Mine Leader Core Skills Re-assessment

A bespoke pathway for candidates whose award has expired to re-engage with the award scheme.

Course Overview

CSR applications will be reviewed by QMC within 30 days and a recommendation made as to how proceed.

In most cases a Trainer/Assessor will be allocated by QMC to reassess a candidate. The reassessment would normally follow the Core Skills syllabus together with a requirement to satisfy the Trainer/Assessor that the candidate is current in their knowledge of the venues which they wish to lead groups.

In cases where the award has expired for a significant length of time a full re-assessment may be required. In such a cases additional fees may apply.

Resource Links

- [Cave & Mine Leader: Ropework](#)
- [Weather and its Effects on Caves](#)
- [Cave & Mine Leader: Water Safety](#)
- [Cave Emergency Card](#)
- [Mine Terminology](#)
- [Radon Underground](#)

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.

In addition to the Core Skills Assessment Checklist candidates are expected to satisfy the Trainer/Assessor that they are familiar with all the sites on their list.

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Core Skills Assessment Checklist

Pre-trip checks

Weather forecast & source
Water levels and fluctuations – recent rainfall / catchment areas
Effects of bad weather – surface
Access procedures
Conservation awareness – surface
Destination notes
Mines / cave rescue call out procedure
Guidebook / survey information
Navigation – surface
Clothing – suitability for wet / dry venues
Helmet / belts / boots – suitability
Lighting – suitability / duration / maintenance etc
Technical gear – suitability / limitations / maintenance of rope / krab / sling etc

Underground emergency gear

Spare lighting – suitability / duration
First aid kit
Emergency food
Survival – shelter / warmth
Knife
Writing material

Underground hazards

Adit or other entrance
Roof supports
Bad ground
False floors
Stacked deads
Shafts – bypass method
Flooded shafts – bypass method
Submerged obstacles
Hoppers
Rotten stemples / ladders / staging
Cables / chains / pipework
Abandoned machinery
Old explosives / detonators
Dumped chemicals
Dangerous gases (inc. Radon)
Poor ventilation – treatment / action
Weil's disease
Pollution
Loose / slippery rocks
Deep water
Awareness of flooding – speed of / likely effects
Evidence of mine's reaction to flooding

Difficulty of rescue
Statistics / common rescue incidents

Surface hazards

Shaft tops
Loose shaft lining (ginging)
Unstable spoil heaps
Unfenced excavations (stopes)
Wheelpits
Abandoned buildings
Abandoned machinery
Unconsolidated slimes dams

Conservation

Artefacts
Minerals / formations
Flora & fauna (inc bats & hibernacula)
Effect of litter & pollutants
Public relations

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

Technical skills

Surface navigation in poor visibility / darkness
Underground navigation / survey interpretation / timing
Suitable knots
Selection and use of suitable belay points (natural and artificial including bolts)
Lifelining rope only
Lifelining using italian hitch / slings / krabs etc
Assisted handline / hoist
Traverse
Improvised harness – rope only / other
Unprotected climbs – position of leader
Use of fixed aids – chains / ladders / ropes
Communication / group management
Leadership / judgement

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Accident & emergency procedures	Light failure
Incident management	Cancellation of destination note
Assessment / first aid treatment / plan of action	Overdue problems
Rescue call out	Access to dry clothing
Hypothermia – awareness / treatment / action	

Your next steps

On successful completion of the Core Skills Reassessment candidates Mine Leader Award will be reinstated for 5 years from the date of the assessment. Candidates should update their award before the expiry date of the award.