

Local Cave and Mine Leader Information

LCML Scheme

The Local Cave and Mine Leader Assessment (LCMLA) Scheme provides an award recognising the competence of those wishing to take responsibility for others underground, for the benefit of employers or others in authority. The main considerations are equally the safety of the group and the conservation of a fragile environment.

The scheme has four stages, enrolment, training, assessment and issue of an award. Prior to entering the scheme, prospective candidates should have experience of the exploration of caves, mines and potholes. The prospective candidate should then enrol in the scheme and receive a log book in which progress is recorded. The candidate should be over 18 and have achieved a suitable level of experience before undertaking a training course. The candidate should then go forward to be assessed against a set of modules. On successful completion of a set of modules, the candidate shall be given an award.

The award reflects the level of competence of the holder in specified caves and mines and is set at two levels: Level 1 for non-vertical systems, or at Level 2 for vertical systems with pitches up to 18m explored with ladders, although single rope techniques is an option for the leader only. Those wishing to undertake more ambitious objectives should register for the Cave Instructor Certificate Scheme. The award is only valid for a period of three years and is subject to conditions of maintaining a level of activity and holding a valid first aid certificate. An award holder can update their award for periods of an additional three years by undergoing an update process.

Each caving and mining area in the British Isles has its idiosyncratic features in the nature and form of the underground systems, the objective hazards likely to be encountered and in problems related to access and conservation. The LCMLA Scheme is designed therefore, to reflect the needs and interest's peculiar to each area. It is flexible in that the candidate is assessed with regard to the caves or mines or potholes in which they wish to lead parties. The assessment has a core syllabus, standardised nationally, but has a local knowledge element (hence the name) to take account of specific hazards and problems of conservation, access etc of each site that a party is to be led within. A key feature of the scheme is a specific assessment of the candidate with regard to a declared list of named cave and / or mine sites in which the candidate wishes to lead parties.

(Taken from LCMLA Handbook)

Registration form link: https://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=training:lcmla_reg_form_190617_current.pdf

LCMLA Handbook link: https://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=training:lcmla_handbook_ed5.pdf

Details front page:

Local Cave & Mine Leader: Level One Training

I know you want the best standard of training to equip you as a professional or responsible organiser underground.

These LCML training course are designed for you to lead groups in both caves and mines in any part of the UK you choose to assessed in.

BCA Mandate: A minimum of one month's notice is required for all training courses
Previous experience: Personally competence with at least 12 cave or mine trips. 18 years or older.

Registered on the BCA's Local Cave and Mine Leader Scheme .

Duration: Min 3 full days

Min Ratio: 1 instructor to 1

Max Ratio: 1 instructor to 6

Price on application

Local Cave/Mine Leader Assessment Scheme

These are run in most of the major caving regions in the UK including the Peak District, Yorkshire Dales, North & South Wales and Somerset.

The courses start at 9.30am on the first day and end at 5.00pm on the final day with a formal de-brief and a look at assessment procedure.

Cavers will be expected to have their own caving clothing and equipment for the training courses but I can provide anything that people are short of. Some sessions will be held outdoors so suitable clothing will be needed for this.

Registration and Logbooks

An application form can be obtained by contacting the Training Administration Service Provider or down loading one from the British Caving Association web site.

The completed application form should be sent with the current registration fee to the Training Administration Service Provider. The registration fee covers the administration costs of Level 1 and Level 2 assessments, it does not cover the subsequent addition of other sites and areas, revalidation or the Cave Instructor Certificate scheme. Neither does the registration fee cover the cost of Trainer/Assessors' services.

There is no lower age limit on registration or gaining prior experience. However, there is an age limit on progressing through the scheme.

Logbook

The applicant will be registered with the scheme and be given a logbook and registration number, which should be referred to in all correspondence.

The issued logbook contains the following pages:

- Enrolment (yellow)
- Purpose of Logbook (white)
- Contents (yellow)
- Outline of LCMLA Scheme (yellow)
- Experience (white)
- Summary of LCMLA Training Courses, Assessment and Revalidation (yellow)
- Associated Awards and Courses Record (white)

Candidates with a lot of experience, perhaps going back over many years may find it difficult to give exact details. Candidates should attempt to demonstrate their breadth and depth of experience with the more historic experience summarised. Multiple entries of trips to the same cave or mine with similar groups may also be summarised. Only the most recent experience should be included in more detail.

Additional experience pages may be obtained from the Training Administration Service Provider or photocopied.

If a candidate subsequently registers on the Cave Instructor Certificate (CIC) Scheme pink pages will be issued for enrolment and partial assessment reports.

Syllabus

A copy of the Syllabus can be down loaded from the BCA web site -details in Directory. A free copy of the syllabus will be provided at registration. Further copies may be obtained from the TASP on payment of a charge to cover printing costs.

Leaflets

"Protect Our Caves", "Bats Underground", "Weils Disease", Speleoscene and "Cave Conservation Policy - Summary" are normally sent out with registration forms. Further copies may be obtained by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to the Training Administration Service Provider.

A free copy of Notes for Candidates will be provided at registration. Further copies may be obtained from the TASP on payment of a charge to cover printing costs. This material is also available at BCA Training web site.

Speleoscene

A copy of Speleoscene, the British Caving Association newsletter, is sent out with the logbook. Speleoscene is a source of up to date information about the scheme, access

changes etc. All candidates are encouraged to obtain the publication regularly. It is obtainable from some shops or by subscription.

Medical Conditions

Caving is a strenuous activity and emergency situations (e.g. carrying out a hoist on a climb or pitch) can be both physically and mentally exhausting. It is the responsibility of the LCMLA leader to ensure that he/she is physically able to carry out their anticipated and unforeseen roles in caring for their groups/clients. Medical advice should be sought if a condition or disability may limit the ability to perform these roles. During training or assessment it is essential that candidates do not put themselves or others at risk and therefore must notify the trainer/assessor of any condition which may significantly affect their caving activities.

Training

A training course is a compulsory part of the Local Cave and Mine Leader Assessment scheme at both Level 1 and Level 2. There are no compulsory training courses for the optional Modules 5 and 6.

Prior Experience - Level One

The only requirement is that the candidate has a basic level of competence as cavers or mine explorers.

The minimum experience prior to undertaking a Level one training course is 12 cave or mine exploration trips.

Candidates with less than 12 trips experience can be accepted on specially designed courses. However the training report issued to the candidate at the end of the course should note this fact and advise the candidate that more training may be required before assessment.

Prior Experience - Level Two

The only requirement is that the candidate has done some vertical caving.

Candidates must have completed a Level 1 training course.

Course directors shall have the right to refuse attendance on a training course if the candidate has insufficient experience. The candidate shall have a right of appeal to the Training Officer.

Duration Of Training Course - Levels 1 And 2

The minimum requirements are 2 days (16 hours) for each course. At least 6 hours should be spent underground. Trainer/Assessors may take into account appropriate vertical rope work qualifications held by candidates and reduce the duration of Level 2 training courses e.g. Mountain Leader Training Board, (Mountain Instructor Assessment).

I can run the following courses by prior arrangement:

Training

Level 1 Mine Leader Training (2 day)

Level 1 Cave Leader Training (2 day)

Level 1 Cave & Mine Leader Training (3 day)

Cave to Mine or Mine to Cave Transfer Training (1 day) - Mod 6

Level 2 Training (2-3 days)

SRT Training for those with a personal interest.

Assessment

Level 1 - Module 1 (Core Skills) Assessment

Level 1 - Module 2 (Group Day) Assessment – Derbyshire

Level 2 - Module 3 (Vertical Core Skills) Assessment

Level 2 - Module 4 (Group Vertical Day) Assessment - Derbyshire

Level 2 - Module 5 (SRT for Leader) bolt on to L2 (can be done as part of Mod 3)

Before booking any LCMLA course, please visit the BCA Training website for registration and information on pre-requisites for courses. Other information and resources for LCMLA courses can be found on the LCMLA pages on this website or over at my blog. Feel free to drop me an email to ask any questions or discuss your needs.