



British Caving Association

British Caving Association, The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 8RG
WWW – <http://www.british-caving.org.uk>, Email – bca@british-caving.org.uk

LCMLA SCHEME Pre-Assessment Experience

The Training Committee of 09 December 2009 approved a revision to the LCMLA award pre-assessment experience requirements.

For Level 1: candidates who are ready for assessment at LCMLA Level 1 will have experience amounting to an absolute minimum of: -

- One year caving with at least 30 trips in at least 10 different systems across at least 2 different regions.
- 5 of these trips should be quality days.
- A proportion of these trips should be as a leader under supervision.
- Some trips may be above and beyond the remit of level 1.

For those wanting a mines award the minimum experience is: -

- One year mining with at least 30 trips in at least 10 different systems including at least two different types of mines, i.e. metal, stone and /or slate.
- 5 of these trips should be quality days.
- A proportion of these should be as a leader under supervision.
- Some trips may be above and beyond the remit of level 1.

For Level 2: an additional 30 underground trips all of which should be in vertical cave systems. 5 of these should be quality days

Definition Of Quality Days

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

- Exploration of a new route or cave (new to the candidate that is),
- Incorporates at least 4 to 5 hours of underground exploration.
- An experience that develops an individuals caving knowledge, skills and awareness.
- Incorporates caving 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.
- For level 1, involves the application of vertical skills, digging or exploration. For level 2 an extension of vertical skills, digging or exploration.
- Exploration of caves with a streamway that responds to rainfall.

These changes are fairly radical and some leeway will be granted between January and May 2010. Candidates wishing to progress to assessment should discuss their pre-assessment experience with a Trainer / Assessor and if there are any issues they should contact the Training Office Graham Mollard. These changes will be reflected in Edition 5 of the LCMLA Handbook which is currently being prepared and will be available on CD or via the website as soon as possible in 2010.