

## Apply for a Cave 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 Cave Leaders may choose to downgrade their award to the Cave 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 caving)
- 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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## Cave 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](#)
- [Long Churn Flash Flood Presentation](#)
- [Hydrology of Goydon Pot and Manchester Hole](#)
- [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.

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 & 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

### Underground emergency gear

Spare Lighting – suitability / duration  
First Aid Kit  
Emergency Food  
Survival – shelter / warmth  
Knife  
Writing Material

### Underground hazards

Pollution  
Weil's Disease  
Radon Gas  
Loose / Slippery Rocks  
Holes  
Deep / Fast Water  
Awareness of Flooding – speed of / likely effects  
Evidence of cave's reaction to Flooding  
Difficulty of Rescue  
Statistics / Common Rescue Incidents

### Conservation & access

Site Specific  
General  
Public Relations

### Cave environment

Basic Surface Geology / Topography / Karst features  
Cave Development / Bedding & Joints / Passage Shapes  
Cave Deposits  
Temperatures / Draughts  
Flora & Fauna  
Fossils  
Formations (speleothems)

### 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  
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

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## Your next steps

On successful completion of the Core Skills Reassessment candidates Cave 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.