

Apply for a Vertical Cave and/or Mine Core Skills Reassessment (CSR)

How to apply for a course

Award holders whose qualification has expired may apply for a Vertical 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/Mine Leaders may choose to downgrade their award to the Cave/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 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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Vertical Cave and/or 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 Vertical 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

- [Vertical Leader: Ropework](#)
- [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 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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Vertical Cave/Mine Leader

Vertical equipment

Leader's personal equipment – suitability / care
Choice and suitability of equipment for group members' use – harness / cowstails / descender etc
Knowledge of ppe regulations and equipment standards
Ropes – types / construction / longevity / usage / storage / care etc
Karabiner / maillons – types / usage / limitations etc
Ladders / spreaders / tethers – types / construction / linkage / limitations / coiling / storage etc
Descenders / ascenders / pulleys / belay devices etc – types / usage / limitations
Bolt hangers – types / usage / limitations

Knots

Use of an appropriate range of knots
Knowledge of suitability / limitations

Rigging

Equipment preparation / packing
Rigger protection – methods and their advantages / limitations
Natural anchors – suitability and use
Artificial anchors – pre-use checks
Knowledge of fall factors
Traverse lines
Belay systems – construction using rope / slings – alignment and forces – sharing loads
Pitch head – approach / ease of access / position of leader etc
Ladders – use of spreaders etc. / deployment etc
Group abseil rope
Lifeline – incl. Double lifelining

Lifelining methods

Belay methods and devices – use and limitations
Position of leader
Safety of group members – waiting / to & from pitch head
Efficiency / fluidity of lifeline technique
Double lifelining
Communication

Descent / ascent

Group ladder climbing- pros and cons / hazards / style
Group abseiling – pros and cons / hazards
Lowering – pros and cons / hazards
Leader personal safety – ladder / abseil

Emergency vertical techniques

Improvised harness – rope only / slings & krabs
Use & limitations of waist belay
Chosen belay method or device – ability to lock off / ability to lower off / ability to convert to hoist etc
Ladder problems and solutions
Abseil problems and solutions
Lowering problems and solutions
Traverse problems and solutions
Assistance to exhausted ladder climber
Hoist of exhausted / injured group member – with assistance / without assistance
Conversion of hoist to lower

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Your next steps

On successful completion of the Core Skills Reassessment candidates Vertical Cave and/or 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.