



BCA Local Cave Leader Level 1 Assessment

With Steve Banks

Overview

Steve Banks runs a wide range of caving provision both home and abroad to suit all interests. This British Caving Association (BCA) assessment is the first step on the instructional ladder. Holders of this award have been assessed as competent to lead others in a restricted number of predominantly horizontal caves using simple ropework where necessary.

The assessment comprises two separate days: Core Skills Assessment and Group Day Assessment. You must have separate assessors for each and you may not use the person who trained you to assess your Core Skills.

Core Skills assessments may be conducted anywhere in the UK or even abroad, though the Group Day must be in the region in which you are wishing to hold the award. The list of caves is personal to each individual and is agreed with the assessor at the end of the Group Day. Any caves out of area must be agreed by an assessor from the relevant panel.

Prerequisites

- Attendance on an approved, in-date training course
- An up-to-date and well organised LCMLA logbook
- A minimum of 25 caving trips at Level 1 standard
- A minimum of 5 'Quality Trips' above the standard of Level 1
- You will also require an in-date First Aid award to validate any caving qualification.

Core Skills Day

This day will examine your knowledge of caves and caving including geology, geography, speleology and hydrology. It will test your personal skills and your ability to deal with a variety of appropriate incidents. Relevant navigation, ropework and rigging will also be examined.

Steve will run this day by setting appropriate tasks and by permitting you the space to demonstrate your approach to dealing with them. He will also be asking questions to investigate your knowledge on the topics above. He will do everything possible to provide a stress free environment to enable you to work to your potential.

Core skills days can be run on a 1 assessor to 2 candidates basis.



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Group Day

This may be conducted with a group of your choice, though Steve will organise one for you if necessary. The cave chosen for the trip must be one from the more challenging end of your potential list as Steve must be assured you can operate at that level before agreeing to caves of that standard. You will need to agree your choice with Steve in advance.

You will be asked to run your trip in the manner you see fit and Steve will benignly observe asking occasional questions when appropriate. He will not intervene unless safety is compromised.

This day is always run on a one to one basis.

Date and Cost

These courses are run by arrangement only; costs are as advertised on the website. Candidates should contact Steve to discuss their requirements. The fees include a pre-assessment discussion, organisation of a group if needed, mileage (in the Western Dales), the use of any technical equipment, a very thorough verbal debrief and comprehensive written feedback.

All candidates for assessment are welcome to discuss the course in advance with Steve who will be pleased to advise on any element of the days and on what would constitute a good pass. Clearly, he will not be able to advise you during the assessment itself.

Venue

Core Skills assessments can be run anywhere there are suitable caves. Group Day assessments will be in Northern England.

Equipment

It is anticipated that most candidates will possess their own kit, though if you have any difficulties please contact Steve. Any clients Steve organises for the Group Day on your behalf will be appropriately equipped.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these assessment courses please feel free to contact Steve, he will be happy to advise and assist you in any way possible.

Due to high staff/client ratios and the highly disruptive effect of late withdrawals, any course cancelled within 30 days of the start will incur loss of all fees. If you have any concerns regarding your ability to participate in a course on which you have enrolled you are strongly advised to take out appropriate insurance. Steve Banks is not in a position to indemnify clients against any illness, injury or other misfortune which may affect attendance. If the course has to be cancelled a full refund will be given.



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