1. Introduction

This is an assessment checklist to use in assessing an applicant to gain a permit to lead caving. More details on the permit scheme, assessing, technical skills and caving can be found in resources listed on [scouts.org.uk/a-z](http://www.scouts.org.uk/a-z).

**Using this checklist**

This checklist is the syllabus that an applicant should be assessed against for the technical section of gaining a permit. The columns on the right of each skill show whether it is applicable for each type of permit:

* P – Personal permits
* L – Leadership permits

Once an assessment is complete, the assessor should either submit a recommendation on Compass (if the assessor and applicant are from the same County/Area/Region) or fill in the back page and give it to the applicant to take to their Commissioner to be added to Compass.

1. Equivalent qualifications
2. If an applicant holds an award of the British Caving Association from the table below, or equivalent or higher, and has up to date logged experience, then no practical assessment is likely to be required as they have already shown competence in all of the skills listed in this assessment checklist. They will still require a recommendation from an assessor for a Commissioner to grant them a permit.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Qualification** | **Permit** |
| Local Cave Leader Award -(Horizontal) Cave Leader | Caving – No Vertical Pitches – Leadership |
| Local Cave Leader Award - (Vertical) Cave Leader | Caving with Ladders – Leadership |
| Local Cave Leader Award -Vertical Cave Leader including SRT for Leader  | Caving with SRT for the Leader – Leadership |
| Cave Instructor Certificate | Caving with SRT for the Group – Leadership |

1. Technical publication

If you require any more technical information on any of the elements in the checklist, these can be found in the official technical manual, which is:

**Alpine Caving Techniques: A Complete Guide to Safe and Efficient Caving** *by Georges Marbach and Bernard Torte* ISBN 3908495105

Caving Name:

| Core Skill | No Verticle Pitches | With Ladders | With SRT for the Leader | With SRT for the Group |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| P | L | P | L | P | L | L |
| **Responsibilities** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Be aware of the limits of your own abilities
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Choose objectives appropriate to the group.
 |  | [ ]  |  | [ ]  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Plan effectively in advance.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Understanding of access restrictions.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Understanding of the environmental impacts of underground exploration and knowledge of how to minimise these.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Understanding of cave development and features.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| **Group Management** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Manage and communicate with a group effectively, both above and below ground.
 |  | [ ]  |  | [ ]  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Ensure the group is adequately briefed before caving.
 |  | [ ]  |  | [ ]  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| **Risk Assessment** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Know how to complete a risk assessment.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Able to effectively identify the hazards and risks and know how to reduce or remove them, during caving.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Knowledge of the effects and dangers of Radon Gas.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Knowledge of the effects and dangers of Carbon Dioxide and other gases found underground.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Knowledge of the causes and signs of Weil’s Disease.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Ability to assess vertical obstacles for dangers including loose rocks, damaged anchors.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| **Weather** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Knowledge of where to gain weather information.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Knowledge of how weather conditions can affect caving.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Knowledge of the effect adverse weather in a cave’s catchment area has underground.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Understanding of cave flooding and the causes and signs.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
|  |
| **Technical** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Demonstrate movement through a variety of different types of passage commonly found underground, including those involving water of varying depths.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Ability to navigate underground using maps, guidebooks and surveys.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Demonstrate selection, use and justification of appropriate knots.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Demonstrate selection and use of suitable belay points and anchors – both natural and artificial.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Demonstrate use of an assisted handline and hoisting techniques to aid a weakened caver up an obstacle or variety of obstacles.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Ability to select a suitable type of handline for a given application.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Ability to rig a traverse rope that would guide a person away from dangers.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Ability to assess and use fixed aids such as chains, rigid ladders and ropes.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Demonstrate how a rigger can protect themself whilst rigging a pitch.
 |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Demonstrate how the knowledge and understanding of fall factors affects rigging.
 |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Ability to construct a suitable pitch head system.
 |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Demonstrate a variety of direct belay systems, and indirect systems for emergency use.
 |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Demonstrate a variety of lifelining techniques.
 |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Knowledge of ladder climbing techniques.
 |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Knowledge of how to deal with novice ladder climbers.
 |  |  |  | [ ]  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Demonstrate how to convert a hoist to a lower and vice versa.
 |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Demonstrate how to hoist an exhausted / injured person.
 |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Demonstrate how to extricate someone from a ladder entanglement.
 |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Demonstrate appropriate techniques for self rescue prior to both ascending and descending a pitch.
 |  |  |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Ability to set up a SRT rig.
 |  |  |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Demonstrate appropriate coaching methods of ascent, descent and the safe use of traverse lines.
 |  |  |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Demonstrate a variety of techniques for SRT progression.
 |  |  |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Knowledge of common problems with SRT and ability to deal with them.
 |  |  |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Demonstrate competence in various aspects of standard SRT including; deviations, rebelays, ascending, descending and mid rope changeovers.
 |  |  |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Knowledge of novice SRT problems and how to deal with them.
 |  |  |  |  |  |  | [ ]  |
| * Ability to rescue someone incapacitated mid pitch when descending and/or ascending, from above and below, both with and without a spare rope.
 |  |  |  |  |  |  | [ ]  |
| * Knowledge of SRT safeguards including abseil and the use of lifelines.
 |  |  |  |  |  |  | [ ]  |
| **Emergency Procedures** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Knowledge of relevant procedures in the event of an accident.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Knowledge of the Cave Rescue process and of how to initiate a Cave Rescue callout.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Ability to cope with light failure of both a party member and the leader.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Understanding of the difficulty of rescue beyond certain features and constrictions.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Understanding of potential problems in the case of an accident to the leader.
 |  | [ ]  |  | [ ]  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| **Equipment** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Knowledge of personal equipment required and how it is used.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Knowledge of group equipment required and how it is used.
 |  | [ ]  |  | [ ]  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Understanding of additional equipment required by the leader.
 |  | [ ]  |  | [ ]  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Understanding of limitations and maintenance of technical equipment used during underground exploration.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Knowledge of suitable sources of lighting for use underground, including limitations, maintenance and duration.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Select and justify suitable rope for underground and show knowledge of how to clean and store them.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Knowledge of equipment required for ascending and descending vertical pitches
 |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| * Knowledge of caving ladders and spreaders, their uses and limitations.
 |  |  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |

**Caving Name:**

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| --- |
| 1. Notes:
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**Caving - Permit Assessment**

DATA PROTECTION: This form is used to collect information about you for the purpose of approving your permit application, this is to be used by your Assessor and Commissioner. As part of this form we collect personal data about you, your Assessor and Commissioner, this detail is required so that we can log your permit onto Compass (the Scout’s membership database) and also follow up as necessary with your Assessor and Commissioner. We do not share your personal data provided in this form with any third parties. The data provided in this form is stored securely in Compass. We take your personal data privacy seriously. We will keep the data we capture from this form, in line with the Scout’s Data Retention Policy and it will be securely disposed of six months after the permit expires.

The applicant should keep this form once it has been completed by the assessor and take it to their Commissioner.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Applicant’s name** |       | **Membership No.** |       |
| **Type** | No Vertical Pitches [ ]  / With Ladders [ ]  / SRT for the Leader [ ]  / SRT for the Group [ ]  |
| **Category** | Personal [ ]  / Leadership [ ]  |
|  |
| 1. TECHNICAL COMPETENCE | Done | [ ]  |
| **Description:** Technical assessment based on competence in all areas of the assessment checklist.**To be completed by:** Either a County Assessor or an External Assessor with the appropriate NGB award. |
| Restrictions based on technical assessment:       |
|  | Date |       |
| Assessor Signature |       | **Name** |       |
| County Assessor Membership Number |       |
| External Assessor Phone/Email |       |
| External Assessor Qualification |       |
|  |
| 2. SCOUT ASSOCIATION RULES | Done | [ ]  |
| **Description:** Check of knowledge of the appropriate Scout Association rules for running caving. Appropriate rules can be found in the caving section of [scouts.org.uk/a-z](http://www.scouts.org.uk/a-z). **To be completed by:** Either a County Assessor, Commissioner or nominee of the Commissioner. |
| Restrictions based on knowledge of The Scout Association rules:       |
|  | Date |       |
| Signature |       | Name |       | Role |       |
|  |
| 3. SAFEGUARDING | Done | [ ]  |
| **Description:** Check applicant has undertaken the necessary personal enquiry checks and received the appropriate safeguarding training.**To be completed by:** Commissioner or nominee of the Commissioner. |
| Restrictions based on Child Protection:       |
|  | Date |       |
| **Signature** |       | Name |       | Role |       |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 4. PERSONAL SUITABILITY | Done | [ ]  |
| **Description:** Check the applicant is suitable (attitude, etc.) based on the demands of caving.**To be completed by:** Commissioner or nominee of the Commissioner. |
| Restrictions based on personal suitability:       |
|  | Date |       |
| **Signature** |       | Name |       | Role |       |
|  |
| 5. PERMIT GRANTED | Entered on to Compass | [ ]  |
| Restrictions:       |
|  | Permit expiry date (max. 5 years) |       |
| Commissioner signature |       | Date |       |