



Name of activity	Caving		Reference number						
Location of activity	North Yorkshire Generic		Ratio for activity			2:12 for L1 Horizontal 2:8 for L2 Vertical 1:4 for SRT Vertical Trips			
Level of qualification needed to lead	Assessed and in date Level 1 or 2 LCMLA (site specific cave) or in date CIC (all cave venues) Current First Aid Certificate								
Level of qualification needed to second	LCMLA L1 trained for L1 trips, LCMLA trained for L2 trips, or in house trained and approved. In house training to agreed by CIC Technical advisor								
This document must be read in conjunction with	Standard Operational Procedures Site specific hazards document for caving in Yorkshire								
Key: L – Likelihood, S – Severity, R – Risk					Risk Score 1- 2 = Low 3- 4 = Medium 5- 6 = High				
Activity Description	Foreseeable Hazard	Who might be harmed and how?	L	S	R	Control measures	L	S	R
Access walk to and from the cave	Fall down a cave entrance	Any member of the group serious bodily injury fatality	2	3	5	Route choice and local knowledge group control brief group of any hazards	1	3	4
Access walk to and from the cave	Slip or Trip	Any member of the group minor injuries, cuts bruises twisted ankle or sprains	2	2	4	Instructor local knowledge route choice slippery limestone hazard when wet or frozen especially at some cave entrance's	1	2	3
Access walk to and from the cave cold weather winter	Wet and Cold wind chill	Any member of the group particularly on exit of the cave, cold wet tired exposed to wind chill rapid cooling hypothermia conditions	2	3	5	Instructor awareness spare hats and gloves in dry bag for exit in cold conditions warm drink and extra food in winter	1	3	4



Activity Description	Foreseeable Hazard	Who might be harmed and how?	L	S	R	Control measures	L	S	R
Caving whilst under ground	Flooding	Member of the group or whole group caught by flooding entrapment or drowned, cold, wet , hypothermia	2	3	5	Recent weather and rain fall profile up to date forecasts and radar cave choice local knowledge. Dynamic risk assessment on the ground water indicators on route to the cave and in the cave	1	3	4
Caving whilst under ground	Deep powerful and channelled water	Any member of the group water to powerful to progress against washed of feet bruised bashed washed away held under by water drowned	2	3	5	local knowledge and experience of cave and water levels group age size and prevailing conditions and forecast	1	3	4
Caving whilst under ground	Accident trip or slip	Any member of the group or an Instructor bodily injury twist broken bone	2	2	4	Effective group control use of a rope or spotting suitable footwear worn.	1	2	3
Caving whilst under ground	Trapping jewellery or loose clothing	Any member of the group or an Instructor catching self or clothing	2	2	4	Remove or tape rings and other piercings. Secure loose clothing no necklaces.	1	2	3
Caving whilst under ground	Head Injury	Any member of the group or Instructor bumping or hitting their head against the roof or a Head injury potentially serious	3	3	6	PPE/FPE Helmet correctly adjusted and fitted to be worn at all times. Instructor briefing hazard awareness	1	3	4



Activity Description	Foreseeable Hazard	Who might be harmed and how?	L	S	R	Control measures	L	S	R
Caving whilst under ground	Equipment PPE/FPE Failure Misuse of equipment. Unsuitable equipment	Any member of the group or Instructors equipment failure or human error incorrect use of equipment serious injury or fatality	2	3	5	Trained, assessed and experienced NGB qualified staff. Equipment formally checked periodically. Visual inspection in use by Instructors. Suitable equipment available for chosen trip.	1	3	4
Caving whilst under ground	Lighting failure	Any member of the group or Instructors	2	2	4	light check before departure carry complete spare head torch sets rather than changing bulbs or batteries in the cave	2	0	2
Caving whilst under ground	Cold wet first stage Hypothermia	Any members of the group cold wet exhausted first stage hypothermia	2	3	5	Instructor considers nature of trip conditions time of year and the group. Can you keep group dry? check clothing monitor group carry high energy food	1	3	4
Caving whilst under ground	Disorientation group get lost route-finding problems	All members of the group frightened scarred tired psychological harm	2	2	4	Trained and assessed NGB qualified staff local knowledge and experience	1	2	3
Caving whilst under ground	Other groups caving	All members of the group rock fall or equipment dropped by another group head or impact injury fatality	2	3	5	Instructor awareness of the potential hazard of having a group above you.	1	3	4



Activity Description	Foreseeable Hazard	Who might be harmed and how?	L	S	R	Control measures	L	S	R
Caving whilst under ground	Exposure to Radon Gas	All members of the group however particularly relevant to Instructors regularly caving	2	2	4	Instructor Read Radon Gas Policy choice of caves time of year Radon levels particular known bad spots use caves with a number of entrances good ventilation. Record hours underground to calculate exposure levels.	1	2	3
Caving whilst under ground	Another groups caving	Any group member Instructor rock fall or equipment dropped by another group head impact injury fatality	2	3	5	Instructor awareness of the potential hazard of having a group above you.	1	3	4
Caving whilst under ground	Weill's disease	Any member of the group or Instructors in contact with water born disease	1	2	3	Use active stream caves. Beware stagnant water in caves near farmland. Brief not to ingest water and to wash hands before eating. Make sure they are aware of signs and symptoms to watch out for	1	2	3
Written by: Mike Margeson			Date January 2011			Signature Mike Margeson			
Reviewed by: Graham Derbyshire and Mike Margeson			Date January 2013			Signature Graham Derbyshire			
Reviewed by: Graham Derbyshire and Mike Margeson			Date November 2018			Signature Graham Derbyshire			
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Site Specific Risk Assessment Notes - Caving in Yorkshire

Upper and Lower Long Churn Cave, Borrins Moor

- Particularly unsuitable in high water levels. Careful consideration of previous, current and predicted rainfall.
- Alternative plan for uncertain weather conditions.
- Several unprotected vertical drops in and around the cave, notably at Middle Entrance (hole in floor, edge of cave) Diccan Pot (avoided) and drops into Dollytubs (managed by qualified leader)
- Care and good group control on the surface in the vicinity of Alum Pot on approach to cave
- Several areas of slippery rocks near entrances in daylight
- Dollytubs pitches cold
- Base of Dollytubs pitches close to drop into Alum Pot – good group control

Ribblehead Caves - Runscar and Thistle

- Care near busy road.
- Unprotected drops on approach to cave – good group control.
- Possible instability in shakehole between Runscar 3 and 2 and at low exit from Runscar 4. Leader check before use.
- Unsuitable in very high-water conditions.

Great Douk Cave

- Care near busy road.
- Steep path down into large shakehole – group control
- Slippery rocks at entrance
- Spotting of waterfall climb
- Unsuitable in high water levels
- Group control if attempting flat out crawl to Middle Washfold

Sunset Pot

- Relatively remote location
- Reponds quickly to rainfall
- Care and group control near to vertical drops

Yordas Cave and Gorge

- Spotting of rock steps in gorge
- Care in gorge – sudden vertical drops – group control
- Cave unsuitable in high water levels
- 'Dig' (hole) in cave – possibility of falling into – group control
- Short spottable rock step in lower part of cave

Old Ing Cave

Some deep water

Unsuitable in high water conditions

- Traverse rope over deep pool for handline
- Trip hazard – underwater ‘fins’ of rock
- Possible overhead instability in places – monitor – no sign of recent movement

Calf Holes/Browgill Cave

- Appropriate rigging and good group control at Calf Holes Entrance – 10m vertical drop
- Use of rope and/or spotting on Staircase climb
- Possible Overhead instability in Waterfall chamber and Final chamber – monitor – no current sign of recent movement.
- Choice of group for cave – lots of crawling. Size of participant consideration for unavoidable squeeze.

Bull Pot of the Witches

- Appropriate rigging and good group control and briefing on and around entrance traverse or pitch and other vertical drops in cave.
- Some areas of the cave are unsuitable in high water levels.
- Choice of group for cave – relatively demanding environment.
- Route choice in slippery muddy passages to avoid falling hazards. Spotting.

Valley Entrance

- 5m vertical drop at end of Roof Tunnel – group control by qualified leader
- Care near road
- Instability in Great Aven. Monitoring.
- Possible high Radon Levels – restrict use as much as possible until further research has been conducted.

Heron Pot

- Possible blocked exit – pull through only when group has successfully exited the cave
- Intimidating exit for some group members
- Pitches cold and draughty
- Group management on ledge between pitches – very close to next pitch