Lindley Educational Trust Hollowford Centre	**Risk Assessment** **Cave & Mine Exploration**	Current as of January 2026 By Paul Booker Review date by 31 January 2027

Benefit Statement	Provides an opportunity to explore this unique underground environment, additionally many people overcome personal fears, with support and encouragement from the rest of their group. Physical challenge & a sense of achievement.

HAZARD	RISK	CONTROL MEASURE	FURTHER ACTION REQURED	RESPONSIBILITY / DUE & COMPLETED DATES
Minibus Travel	Various injuries	Separate Risk Assessment	No further action at this stage	
General	Various injuries	Code of Practice applies Suitably qualified & experienced instructor (includes First Aid) Clear briefings & supervision All accidents, near misses and incidents are recorded and appropriate action undertaken as required. Safety reviewed in staff meetings. Seek & share information with similar providers	No further action at this stage	
For every session there will be a dynamic risk assessment on arrival and will be on going throughout the activity session				
Exposure to cold / wet environment	Hypothermia / tiredness	Venue and level of trip should be appropriate to the group – instructor will assess this through knowledge of the venue and its character in various weather conditions All participants to be equipped with specialist protective clothing, suitable for the conditions Emergency bag to be carried Ensure participants have suitable & adequate clothing plus access to extra clothing / warm drink dependent on proposed trip and group If necessary, stop activity and move to safety (often minibus). Change plans as necessary	No further action at this stage	
Equipment Failure	Various injuries	All equipment checked prior to use. Regular checks, maintenance & renewal schedule All equipment to correspond to required standards Personal protective equipment checked for correct fitting & monitored throughout by the instructor	No further action at this stage	
Fall From height	Serious injury Death	Any ascent / descent routes within the cave or routes involving being at height will be protected and managed by the qualified instructor by means of spotting or use of ropes.	No further action at this stage	

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Uneven ground / holes and obstacles	Tripping Various injuries	Clear briefing given at start of session to provide awareness of such hazards and throughout activity to maintain awareness of hazards Supervision of route by qualified instructor	No further action at this stage	
Flooding	Drowning	Venues used approved by Local Cave Leader Training Panel Qualified Instructor on activity to have specific sites on their qualification and good knowledge of how cave reacts in adverse weather conditions Should weather conditions (prior, current or forecasted) indicate the likelihood of flooding a venue less affected by the weather should be used	No further action at this stage	
Loose rocks, bad air	Serious injury	Venues used approved by Local Cave Leader Training Panel and monitored by PICA (Peak Instructed Cave Affiliation) Any new hazard spotted will be immediately reported to PICA and use of the venue suspended if necessary	No further action at this stage	
Mine hazards e.g. ‘miner’s deads’ (loose rocks), shafts in floor, unstable ground	Serious injury	Venues used approved by Local Cave Leader Training Panel and monitored by PICA (Peak Instructed Cave Affiliation) Mine venues are regularly inspected by PICA to check on stability and safety of approved routes Any new hazard spotted will be immediately reported to PICA and use of the venue suspended if necessary	No further action at this stage	
Participants	Various	Participants asked to share relevant previous & existing medical issues. Visiting group leaders asked any other (eg behavioural) issues Staff ratios (group size) amended as required	No further action at this stage	

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Radon	Lung disease	Working with British Caving Association protocols to manage exposure limits. Working with other PICA members to identify 'safer' trips within local cave systems. All staff to complete Radon underground knowledge test. Procedures for fulltime & freelance instructors to share exposure, time and venues logged underground. Cave specific guidance for managing exposure levels.	No further action at this stage	
Members of the public	Various	Venue choice Qualified & experienced instructor	No further action at this stage	