



Adventurous Activity Permits for mountain activities: hillwalking

Guidance for Candidates, Assessors and Commissioners

Version 1: September 2019



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Disclaimer:

This guide is intended to assimilate the hillwalking information available for Scouting into one document. For the avoidance of doubt, where differences arise, the rules laid out in Scouting's Policy Organisation and Rules (POR) (see: <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/71>) take priority.

Hillwalking definition:

Hillwalking is the movement on foot over hills and mountains. It takes place on a variety of terrain types and in a variety of environments.

Mountain definitions:

Terrain 0 is below 500 metres above sea level and/or is less than 30 minutes travelling time from a road or track upon which an ambulance could travel or an occupied building or another means of summoning help, such as a telephone box. Terrain 0 does not contain areas of mountainous or steep ground where scrambling (regularly using hands for balance) or the use of a confidence rope may be required.

Terrain 1 is below 800 metres, but more than 500 metres above sea level; or is more than 30 minutes, but less than three hours travelling time from a road/track upon which an ambulance could travel or an occupied building or another means of summoning help, such as a telephone box. Terrain 1 does not contain areas of mountainous steep ground where scrambling (regularly using hands for balance) or the use of a confidence rope may be required.

Terrain 2 is over 800 metres above sea level; or more than 3 hours from a road/track upon which an ambulance could travel or an occupied building or another means of summoning help, such as a telephone box. Areas of terrain 2 may contain steep ground where scrambling and the use of a confidence rope might be required (excludes climbing activities). ***Additionally, note that groups taking part in terrain 2 activities must have immediate access to someone holding a relevant and current full First Aid Qualification (two-day course) such as is awarded on completion of CMAT's Adventurous Activity First Aid Course, which is run every December.***

Winter conditions refers to when conditions such as snow and ice prevail or are forecast. This cannot be defined by a portion of the year. Snow/ice cover is not the only defining feature of winter conditions. Severe cold, high winds and shortened daylight hours should also be considered.

Summer conditions refers to any condition not covered by winter conditions.

Travelling Time refers to the time it would take a person to walk by the quickest safe route; and for this purpose, a person shall be deemed to walk at 5 kilometers per hour and to take, in addition, one minute for every 10 metres of increase in the height above sea level of any uphill section of that route.

Specialist terrain definitions:

Glaciers are large masses of ice and rock that exist in the high mountains of the world. Specialist knowledge is required in order to use mountain paths that cross glaciers and contact with local experts should always be sought. The use of crampons, ice axe and ropes may be required in order to safeguard certain routes.

Scrambling routes fall in between hillwalking and rock climbing. Typically, scrambling requires the average person to use hands for balance. Expertise on the appropriate use of the rope and route-finding on steep terrain is required to safeguard the group.

Via ferrata or 'iron way' refers to a climbing route, which is secured by steel cables. Participants attach themselves to the cable using specialised shock-absorber lanyards. Therefore, via ferrata requires both specialised hillwalking and climbing expertise to effectively safeguard participants.

Hillwalking assessors for Suffolk – September 2019:

Name (qualifications), district & contact email	Hillwalking
Neil Bolger (MLS), Stowmarket, neil@anfab.co.uk	Terrain 2 summer
David Ward (MLS), Wolsey, helanddave@btinternet.com	Terrain 2 summer
Roly Dakin (MLS), Wolsey, twopintsofguinness@yahoo.co.uk	Terrain 2 summer
Keith Sparrow (MLS), Wolsey, kmsparrow@yahoo.co.uk	Terrain 2 summer
Keith Gadsden (MLS), Wolsey, kgadsden@ntlworld.com	Terrain 2 summer
Simon Dennis (MLS), Stowmarket, parp.dennis@btinternet.com	Terrain 2 summer
Andrew Waller (MLS), Bury St. Edmunds, andrew.waller@aht.org.uk	Terrain 2 summer
Lucy Waller (MLS), Bury St. Edmunds, lucywaller027@btinternet.com	Terrain 2 summer

MLS: mountain leader summer award

Contact details for all assessors can be found via the 'Assessor Search' function on Compass. Click on the search symbol (magnifying glass) then click on 'Find Members'. The 'Assessor Search' option will appear in the menu on the left of the screen.

The hillwalking permit scheme:

A Hillwalking permit is required for all hillwalking activities that take place in Terrain 1 or Terrain 2. Definitions of these terrains can be found on page 2. Hillwalking activities in Terrain 0 do not require a hillwalking permit.

Levels of Permit

There are four levels of permit available for hillwalking. These are:

- Terrain 1 - Summer conditions
- Terrain 1 - Winter conditions
- Terrain 2 - Summer conditions
- Terrain 2 - Winter conditions

Additionally, each of these permits can be further restricted to end up with an individual permit to the level of the competence and requirements of the individual.

Types of Permit

There are three types of permit available for Hillwalking. These are:

Personal: allows a young person (under 18) to take part in hillwalking with other young people with a personal hillwalking permit in groups of between 4 and 8 individuals. It does not allow the holder to go hillwalking with anyone not holding a hillwalking permit, unless that individual is an adult who is independently responsible for themselves. Likewise, personal permits cannot be used to discount young people from numbers on a leadership permit. Personal permits expire when the young person turns 18.

Leadership: allows the permit holder to lead hillwalking for a single group of up to 8 people, including the permit holder. The permit holder must remain with their group at all times.

Supervisory: allows the permit holder to remotely supervise up to three hillwalking groups, each containing from 4 to 8 people. Groups should be no further than 3 km away from the permit holder if the permit holder is on foot or 10 km away if the permit holder is in a vehicle. The permit holder should be able to communicate with each group and each group should always be able to contact the permit holder. The permit holder remains responsible for all of the groups being supervised, but designates someone with appropriate skills to be the leader of each group. This designation only lasts for the current activity and whilst the permit holder is supervising. People designated as group leaders should hold the necessary skills and be responsible enough to lead a group safely in the terrain in which they are walking. There is no problem with making young people group leaders if they have the correct skills, as this can be a useful development tool. However, the difficulties of remote supervision should not be underestimated especially under winter conditions with the additional potential hazards associated with reduced visibility and snow-covered terrain. Further guidance can be found in the publication "Remote Supervision Guidance Notes 2016", covering the supervision of groups operating independently, which is available from Mountain Training (<http://www.mountain-training.org>). It should be recognised that a supervisory permit is a very high-level permit that is not given out lightly. It is designed for very experienced permit holders who have taken part in their activity in multiple locations and have seen and know how to deal with almost every eventuality. Supervisory permit holders would normally be expected to at least hold a mountain leader award appropriate to the conditions (summer or winter).

Specialist Terrain

When in terrain or using skills that have not been assessed for a terrain 2 hillwalking or a climbing permit (such as glaciers, scrambling, via ferrata), then specific approval is required for the activity from the responsible Commissioner based on advice from someone with knowledge and experience of the activity. Specific approval is in addition to the holding of a terrain 2 hillwalking and/or climbing permit.

How to obtain a permit:

The permit assessment process has four main stages to it.

- 1. Technical competence.** Assessed by a County-approved assessor and recommended via Compass.
- 2. Knowledge of the Scout Association rules.** Assessed by the County-approved assessor or responsible commissioner.
- 3. Child protection.** Completed by the responsible commissioner. It ensures that the applicant has a valid DBS and has completed safeguarding and safety training such as is provided in module 1 training for adults or module A training for young leaders.
- 4. Personal suitability.** Completed by the responsible commissioner to ensure that the applicant is suitable to hold a hillwalking permit.

When all four stages have been completed for an adult applicant, the responsible commissioner will grant the permit on Compass. Compass is the definitive record of permits for adults. However, Compass does not permit details of permits to be maintained for holders under the age of 18. Therefore, when all four stages have been completed for an applicant under 18 years of age, the responsible commissioner will issue a permit card to the applicant, which states the date from

which the permit is valid, the date it expires (maximum of 5 years from assessment) and details of any restrictions. **For all hillwalking permits, the commissioner MUST then also inform Stephen Thorn (email: simon.thorn@btinternet.com) that a permit has been awarded.**

Further details on technical competence:

It is expected that applicants will have a solid background in each of the activities for which they are being assessed for a permit. This is important so that they are at ease in their area of competence and can effectively manage the group(s) for which they are responsible.

Hillwalking applicants should be able to demonstrate the principles and techniques contained in the mountain leader training handbook entitled "hillwalking" (see: <http://www.mountain-training.org/publications/hill-walking>). For winter permits, applicants should also be able to demonstrate the principles and techniques contained in the mountain leader training handbook entitled "winter skills" (see: <http://www.mountain-training.org/publications/winter-skills>).

Candidates will be assessed on the hill in small groups, usually with multiple assessors observing each candidate over the course of two days. An assessor that was responsible for training a candidate should not be responsible for assessing that candidate. The purpose of assessment is to establish the knowledge and capabilities of each candidate. Assessors will meet, discuss and moderate each assessment before making a decision on recommending the award of a permit with or without certain restrictions. The conclusions of assessors will be discussed with each candidate so that they can continue to build their knowledge and skills and improve their delivery of adventurous activities.

Log book of experience:

Applicants should have at least 20 days of personal experience of hillwalking in terrain 1 or terrain 2 prior to assessment for the relevant permit. A logbook based on the Scout Association activity logbook (https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/activities/hillwalking_log.doc) can be found at the end of this document. An example logged mountain day is included to help demonstrate the information required. A digital logbook for climbing and hillwalking is also available through Mountain Leader Training at: <http://www.mountain-training.org/candidate-management-system/digital-logbook>. Applicants should also have experience of leading groups of young people on the hills or through their role in Scouting. Applicants for hillwalking terrain 2 permits should already have experience of light weight camping in mountainous terrain. All applicants should be confident and competent in a variety of weather conditions appropriate to the permit for which they are applying.

Young people:

Only young people (under the age of 18) can hold personal permits. Members below the age of 18 can hold leadership or supervisory activity permits if they successfully complete training and assessment and meet the same standards as adult permit holders. Should a young person who holds such an activity permit turn 18 before the expiry date of their permit, then they can transfer the permit onto the adult permit scheme maintained on Compass. To do this they should complete the appropriate safeguarding training for adults, have a valid DBS and be approved by their relevant commissioner as described on page 5. Effectively, in this situation, the young person has already completed stage 1: technical competence and stage 2: knowledge of the Scout Association rules. The approved adult permit can then be granted for no more than 5 years after the original assessment. This allows a young person to work towards and gain an activity permit at

leadership or supervisory level and, if they gained that permit on their 17th birthday they could, once the above safeguarding conditions have been met, continue using that permit for a further four years after their 18th birthday.

National Governing Body qualifications:

Hill and Moorland Leader Award. Applicants holding the Hill and Moorland Leader Award (run by Mountain-Training) may progress directly to assessment for a summer terrain 1 permit.

Mountain Leader Award. Applicants holding the Mountain Leader Award (run by Mountain-Training) may progress directly to assessment for a summer terrain 2 permit.

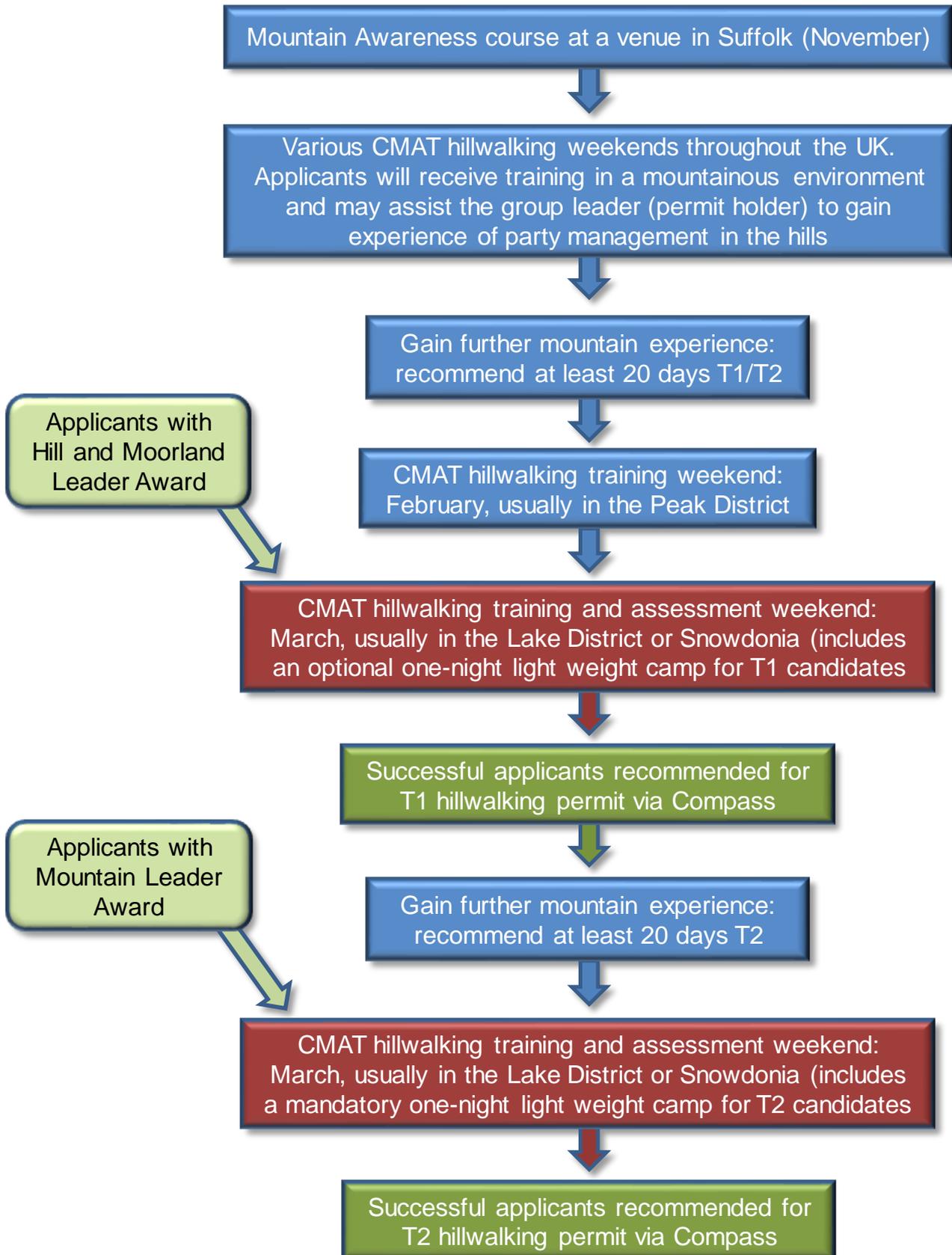
Winter Mountain Leader Award. Applicants holding the Winter Mountain Leader Award (run by Mountain-Training) may progress directly to assessment for a winter terrain 2 permit.

Mountain Instructor Award. Applicants holding the Mountain Instructor Award (run by Mountain-Training) can progress directly to assessment for hillwalking terrain 2 permits and multi-pitch climbing permits.

An infographic overview of how mountain leader training and the Scout permit schemes relate to one another can be found at: <http://www.mountain-training.org/campaign/scouts-infographic>.

A pathway to hillwalking permits and how applicants can gain training and be assessed through CMAT is illustrated on page 7.

Pathway to a hillwalking permit:



Adult groups in mountainous activities:

Adults, including Network members aged 18-25 years should be able to independently read and understand the guidance set out in the fact sheet [FS120087 Adult Groups in Adventurous Activities](#).

Each activity must have a co-ordinator who ensures that relevant medical information is obtained, the relevant Commissioner is advised, an in-touch scheme is in operation and the adventurous activity has been appropriately risk-assessed.

Each participant must sign an acknowledgement of risk statement such as:

“I am aware that adventurous activities such as climbing and hillwalking contain hazards, which may present me with the risk of personal injury. I have read and understand The Scout Association’s factsheet Adult Groups in Adventurous Activities.”

Useful links:

A Scout **route plan** for mountainous activities can be downloaded from:

<https://staging.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/3503/route-plan?cat=419,26,415&moduleID=10>

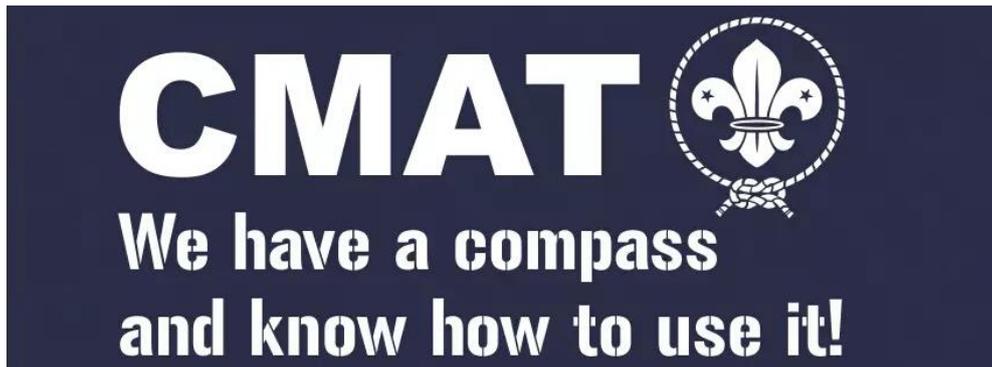
An **emergency card** can be downloaded at: <http://members.scouts.org.uk/fs120077>

Nights away information can be found at:

<https://staging.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/3499/nights-away-information-form?cat=419,26,415&moduleID=10>

In touch procedures can be found at:

<https://staging.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/2829/intouch?cat=419,26,415&moduleID=10>



Find your local CMAT contact:

ACC Adventurous Activities: Neil Bolger, email: neil@anfab.co.uk

Secretary: Steven Fosdick, email: stevenfosdick@gmail.com

Treasurer: Andy Black, email: ajb1962@gmail.com

Chairman: Andrew Waller, email: andrew.waller@aht.org.uk

County Administrator Land Permit: Stephen Thorn, email: simon.thorn@btinternet.com

Bury St. Edmunds:

Andrew Waller, email: andrew.waller@aht.org.uk

Lucy Waller, email: lucywaller027@btinternet.com

Deben:

Malcolm Bell, email: malcolm@curlewegreen.org.uk

Paul Martin, email: paul.1.martin@btinternet.com

Orwell:

Barry Martin, email: bwm@bwm.org.uk

Lowestoft:

Stowmarket:

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Keith Sparrow, email: kmsparrow@yahoo.co.uk

Keith Gadsden, email: kgadsden@ntlworld.com

Andy Black, email: ajb1962@gmail.com

Mick Dann, email: mickdann@gmail.com

Roger Dann, email: catt-explorers@outlook.com

Hillwalking Logbook

Date	Area	Details	Weather	Role in group	Comments
16 th June 2019	Snowdonia	Led group of six Scouts and their Leader up Snowdon from Pen-y-pass via the Pyg track and back down the Miners track.	Some high cloud with occasional light showers. Light breeze on summit with excellent visibility.	Leader	Excellent walk with a great group. Ice cream all round at the top to celebrate.