



**SINGLE PITCH AWARD  
SYLLABUS & GUIDANCE NOTES  
Print-friendly version**



## **Single Pitch Award Handbook**

This award is for those who wish to supervise groups on the single pitch crags and walls of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

### **Participation Statement**

Mountain Training recognises that climbing, hill walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions. Mountain Training has developed a range of training and assessment schemes and associated supporting literature to help leaders manage these risks and to enable new participants to have positive experiences while learning about their responsibilities.

### **Acknowledgements**

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# Prospectus

## Preface

Many of us began rock climbing on single pitch crags. The accessibility, the relatively defined nature and the less serious atmosphere often means that such outcrop routes are ideal for beginners and natural places to introduce others to rock climbing.

Increasingly, however, indoor facilities such as climbing walls are used as a means of introduction to climbing. These can allow a high level of performance to be developed prior to venturing out on natural rock. Both indoor and outdoor venues are now available for novices to start rock climbing.

The number of organised groups enjoying rock climbing and abseiling on outcrops, crags, quarries and climbing walls has multiplied in recent years. Mountain Training is concerned that high standards of supervision are maintained, so that both enjoyment and safety are enhanced, without compromising either the sport of climbing or the participation of other crag or wall users. High standards of supervision and group management are best achieved through experience, personal qualities, training and validation.

This handbook provides advice for anyone involved in taking groups single pitch rock climbing and particularly for candidates working their way through the Single Pitch Award scheme. It is designed to support the knowledge and experience of candidates, trainers and assessors without prescribing methods. There are many technical manuals, developed by climbers, which will continue to illustrate evolving techniques and these notes are designed to complement such literature.

This document is divided into the following sections:

- Prospectus that explains the way you progress through the Single Pitch Award scheme from registration to assessment.
- Syllabus that lists the skills of a single pitch supervisor.
- Guidance Notes that help advise candidates of protocols and procedures.
- Appendices that provide background information.

## 1 Introduction

This scheme has been designed to provide a level of basic competence for those who are in a position of responsibility during single pitch rock climbing activities. Whilst the award does include some elements of personal competence it is not designed as a measure of such. It should not be used as either an entry requirement or measure of suitability for individuals who wish to climb on climbing walls or crags.

## 2 Scope of the scheme

This scheme is for those who are in a position of responsibility during single pitch rock climbing activities. It is primarily concerned with good practice, leading to the safe and quiet enjoyment of the activity. Completion of a training course alone, without passing the assessment course, is not a qualification in itself, although it may be of considerable personal benefit to the trainee.

It is valid throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland and is recognised by the Adventure Activities Licensing Scheme.

For the purposes of this scheme, a single pitch route is one which:

- is climbed without intermediate stances.
- is described as a single pitch in the guidebook.

- allows climbers to be lowered to the ground at all times.
- is non-tidal, non-serious and has little objective danger.
- presents no difficulties on approach or retreat, such as route finding, scrambling or navigating.

The majority of these routes must be in the UK and Ireland.

It will be the responsibility of the employer or organising authority to develop management strategies for the employment of award holders beyond the scope of this scheme.

If you are in doubt about a particular venue the appropriate people to approach for advice are qualified Mountaineering Instructors (MIA or MIC) or British Mountain Guides. The officers of Mountain Training may also be consulted.

It is the duty of the employer or organising authority to decide whether a leader possesses the personal attributes needed to take responsibility for the appropriate care and management of participants and for ensuring that child protection requirements are met. It is the combination of technical skills, breadth of experience and personal qualities that forms the basis for effective supervision. This scheme assesses the technical skills and experience; the employer or organising authority must gauge the personal qualities.

The scheme does not cover:

- general mountaineering skills, such as those needed to approach and return from remote mountain and moorland crags.
- multi-pitch rock climbing skills, the teaching or supervision of leading, (these are covered by the Mountaineering Instructor Scheme).
- access to tidal sea cliffs or any other location where escape is not easily possible.
- the gauging of a candidate's personal qualities.

### **3 Stages in the Scheme**

#### **Register for the Single Pitch Award**

To register for the scheme you must be at least 18 years old, have at least twelve months personal rock climbing experience and have a genuine interest in climbing and the supervision of groups. You must also be a member of a mountaineering council (British Mountaineering Council, Mountaineering Scotland or Mountaineering Ireland) and have an account on the Mountain Training database (<http://mt.tahdah.me>). Once you have created an account, click on the registration tab and pay the registration fee.

Candidates with particular requirements or special needs may wish to contact Mountain Training staff for advice and guidance.

#### **Record your experience**

The Single Pitch Award scheme is based on experience and it is crucial that you record this experience in some way. Mountain Training has developed a digital logbook (DLOG) to help you keep track of your climbing sessions and other experience. Prior to attending a training course you must have led at least 15 graded rock climbs outdoors on routes where the protection is leader placed.

#### **Attend a training course**

Single Pitch Award training courses are delivered by Mountain Training approved providers and involve a minimum of 20 hours contact time. The course emphasises those skills which a candidate

may have difficulty in learning without expert guidance; it is not a basic skills course but a refinement of the techniques of personal climbing and an extension into the skills associated with supervising climbers. Some aspects of the syllabus may not be covered as fully during the training course and candidates should be able to deal with these items themselves.

At the end of the course the course director will complete a course report on the Mountain Training database and record your attendance. Once this has been completed you will have a record in the training tab of your account.

Candidates are encouraged to use the skills checklist provided (<http://www.mountain-training.org/climbing/other/downloads>) to evaluate their current skills and to plan, with their trainers, their particular route towards assessment.

### **Consolidate your experience**

Candidates will generally see new ideas and techniques during training and will therefore need some time to practise and evaluate these before taking the assessment. During this period of consolidation, candidates are advised to climb at as wide a range of venues as possible, both as an individual and when assisting with the supervision of others. Mountain Training recommends that all but the most experienced candidates allow a minimum of three months between training and assessment. There is currently no time limit on the validity of a training course and some candidates may take several years to complete the award.

### **Attend an assessment course**

Before you book onto a Single Pitch Award assessment, make sure you have done the following:

- You must be at least 18 years old.
- Have attended a Single Pitch Award training course or been granted exemption from training.
- You must be familiar with the syllabus.
- Be competently leading Severe grade climbs on outdoor crags with leader-placed protection.
- Have led a minimum of 40 climbs on outdoor crags on leader-placed protection at a variety of venues.
- Be proficient in the use of climbing walls.
- You must have assisted in the supervision of approximately 20 instructed sessions at a variety of locations, some outside and some inside (a session is a half day or evening)
- Hold a valid first aid certificate.

Candidates should be familiar with all aspects of the syllabus before assessment, even if some parts were not covered in detail during training. Assessment courses provide at least 20 hours contact time between candidates and assessors and candidates are tested in accordance with the syllabus.

Following the assessment the course director will complete a course report on the Mountain Training database which will record one of three possible results:

**Pass:** awarded where the candidate has demonstrated appropriate knowledge and application of the course syllabus and the necessary experience and attributes have been demonstrated.

**Defer:** awarded where the candidate has generally performed well and has shown the necessary experience and attributes, but where complete proficiency has not been attained in certain aspects of the syllabus or where a lack of experience has been identified.

**Fail:** awarded where the candidate's performance has been generally weak, or the necessary experience and attributes have not been shown. A complete assessment course will need to be subsequently attended.

In the case of a deferral, candidates will generally return to their original assessment provider, however they can be reassessed by any appropriate provider. Practical reassessments cannot take place within three months of the initial assessment to allow sufficient time for practise and preparation. All deferral reassessments must be completed within five years.

#### **Continue to gain and record experience and any relevant additional training**

All Mountain Training award schemes are based on the current and relevant experience of the individual award holder.

Holders of this award may, through additional training or breadth of experience, have competencies over and above those assessed as part of this award. If award holders are to be deployed to operate beyond the strict scope of this award then the employer or organising authority should develop a strategy for managing such deployment. This management should include the involvement of a suitably experienced and qualified technical advisor who can assess the suitability of the award holder to operate on specific venues, routes or activities and testify to their competence to do so. (See Mountain Training's National Guidelines for more information on technical advisors.)

#### **4 First Aid Requirements**

For any leader, first aid is an essential skill and the Single Pitch Award assessment requires a current first aid qualification. The minimum requirement is that such a course must involve at least two full days or sixteen hours of instruction and include an element of assessment. It is the responsibility of award holders and/or their employers to evaluate their likely work and the type of situations that they can reasonably expect to encounter and to maintain current appropriate first aid training and qualifications.

#### **5 Exemption from Training**

Experienced climbers who already have substantial personal climbing experience and experience of supervising groups on climbing walls may apply for exemption from training. To qualify for exemption candidates must, at the very least, meet the minimum experience requirements for attendance at an assessment course.

Further details of the exemption process can be found on the Mountain Training website.

There is no exemption from assessment.

#### **6 Equal Opportunities**

Mountain Training is committed to promoting equal opportunities for all participants in climbing, hill walking, and mountaineering. Candidates, trainers and assessors should express a positive attitude towards equal opportunities and act as positive role models.

Mountain Training ensures that wherever possible the design of a qualification ensures there are no disadvantages for people with a protected characteristic (as defined by the Equality Act 2010) compared to learners who do not share that characteristic. However in some circumstances it may be necessary for a reasonable adjustment to be made. Further information on making an application for a reasonable adjustment can be found on the website:

There are also arrangements for special consideration for any learner suffering illness, injury or indisposition. The website includes information on how an application for special consideration may be made.

## **7 Complaints and Appeals Procedure**

The Single Pitch Award scheme is subject to regular monitoring and review. Candidates who have any feedback to give on their courses, both conduct or content, are encouraged to submit written comments to the provider and/or to Mountain Training as a part of that review process.

If for any reason you find it necessary to complain about an aspect of the delivery of your training or assessment then you should contact the course director.

If the dialogue with the course director fails to resolve your concerns then you should contact an officer within the relevant national Mountain Training board.

Candidates are encouraged to decide whether their concerns take the form of a complaint, where some aspect of the course was unsatisfactory but the outcome is uncontested or an appeal, where a candidate believes the assessment result is incorrect and wishes the board to arbitrate.

# Single Pitch Award Syllabus & Guidance Notes

## 1 TECHNICAL COMPETENCE

Candidates must demonstrate competence in the following areas.

### 1.1 Equipment

Candidates should be able to:

- a. identify equipment suitable for personal and group use at a given venue.
- b. demonstrate an ability to evaluate the condition of equipment and ensure appropriate care and maintenance.
- c. demonstrate the ability to use climbing wall equipment appropriately.

### 1.2 Anchors

Candidates should be able to select suitable, sound anchors in a variety of situations including:

- a. spikes and blocks
- b. nuts and camming devices
- c. threads, chockstones and trees
- d. fixed equipment

### 1.3 Belaying

Candidates should be able to:

- a. connect self and others to the rope.
- b. set up sound belay systems to single and multiple anchors.
- c. attach self to the belay system.
- d. demonstrate the use of direct and indirect belays.
- e. use a variety of different belay techniques/devices competently and choose the most appropriate for a given situation.
- f. set up top and bottom rope systems and choose the most appropriate system for a given situation.
- g. arrange appropriate runners and belays to protect a seconding climber.
- h. hold falls and carry out lowers.

### 1.4 Abseiling

Candidates should be able to:

- a. abseil without the use of a safety rope.
- b. set up fixed and releasable abseils, using a safety rope for the abseiler where necessary.
- c. use a variety of different devices and methods competently and choose the most appropriate for a given situation.
- d. solve common abseiling problems such as tangled ropes, inadvertent locking and pendulums.
- e. choose an appropriate abseiling site with consideration for:
  - i. ease of take off
  - ii. loose rock
  - iii. impact on the environment and the climbing resource
- f. demonstrate methods of safeguarding a novice abseiling.

### 1.5 Personal Climbing Skills

Candidates should be able to:

- a. interpret guidebooks effectively.
- b. choose routes suited to personal ability.
- c. move with confidence on Severe grade rock climbs.

- d. place runners suitable for lead protection.
- e. demonstrate a basic understanding of the safety chain and fall factors.

### **1.6 Background Knowledge**

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of:

- a. the history, traditions and ethics of UK rock climbing.
- b. the home nation Training Boards and MLTUK.
- c. the club system and the Mountaineering Councils.
- d. competition climbing.

## **Guidance notes**

Single Pitch Award courses take place on a variety of outdoor crags with all of their associated hazards. These courses are therefore for participants with a degree of independent experience. Whilst staff will endeavour to maintain a safe working environment, participants also have a duty to exercise judgement and care regarding personal safety and that of other members of the group.

These guidance notes should be read in conjunction with the relevant sections of the syllabus and are designed to assist in training and assessing by emphasising approaches to and interpretation of aspects of the syllabus.

The success of any course, whether training or assessment, depends upon the contributions made by all involved. It is essential that candidates have the required levels of personal experience and that training and assessing staff are active climbers who are up to date with current practice. There are often many safe and effective approaches to any particular task in a specific crag context and the breadth of experience brought to the course by each person will contribute to the range of learning opportunities.

Candidates should have experience of a range of climbing areas and styles so that they can grasp all aspects of training and understand assessment tasks clearly. Candidates should feel free to ask simple questions since they are often the most pertinent and it is a good idea to make a record of topics and techniques covered on a training course so that they can build on their skills afterwards. Candidates should also feel free to ask questions on assessment courses, as a clear understanding of tasks and contexts is vital to a satisfactory outcome.

## **1. Technical Competence**

The Single Pitch Award syllabus does not define a set of techniques; rather it describes a range of skills with which candidates should be familiar. It is likely that training courses will be run as a series of open discussion workshops taking advantage of the experience of trainees as well as that of trainers. Assessments allow for a possible range of responses to any given situation.

### **1.1-1.3 Equipment, Anchors and Belaying**

The Single Pitch Award syllabus is based on the assumption that candidates are already rock climbers with experience of leading climbs at crags. It will be expected that candidates will have some experience of selecting anchors, belaying, climbing and abseiling. So the emphasis on a training course will be to provide opportunities to share ideas and refine techniques. Potential supervisors should be aware of the range of equipment suitable for use by novices as well as that for personal climbing use. It would be expected that a Single Pitch Award holder could offer advice on choice and suitability of equipment, as well as having a reasonable knowledge of its care, maintenance and life expectancy. In addition to being able to offer advice on the selection and use of equipment, a

candidate should be aware of sources of information, which include current publications and materials produced by the Mountaineering Councils.

There is an expectation that candidates will be familiar and competent with basic skills such as harness fitting, tying on and belaying and should also be capable of independently setting up a basic but sound anchor system suitable for a leader arriving at the top of a route.

The wider the range of personal experience the more the candidate will be able to understand the contents of the course and able to contribute to discussion. Whilst the training course will cover as much variety as possible the candidate should seek out personal experience of different rock types, environments and anchor equipment and systems both prior to and post training.

#### **1.4 Abseiling**

As a personal skill candidates should be familiar with the technique and practice of abseiling with or without a safety rope as a means of descent or equipment retrieval.

#### **1.5-1.6 Personal Climbing Skills and Background Knowledge**

A sound knowledge and experience of climbing is fundamental to the Single Pitch Award scheme. An award holder is not simply a safe operator of ropes and judge of anchors but, equally importantly, a climber with an understanding of and interest in sustainable use of the climbing environment. The Single Pitch Award assumes at least 12 months' climbing experience prior to registration. It is therefore not a basic-skills course but more a refinement of the techniques of personal climbing and an extension into the skills associated with supervising novice climbers. Candidates must have led at least 15 climbs with leader-placed protection prior to attending a training course. Both training and assessment courses include visits to climbing walls, and candidates would find it beneficial to have climbed at a wall prior to attending a training course. The Single Pitch Award is a UK-wide award and it is important that candidates should feel confident about climbing on unfamiliar single pitch crags and climbing walls by the time they approach assessment.

Guidebooks are an important source of information for the rock climber. In addition to route identification details, history and background and important access and environmental notes are contained within most guides. If this is out of date, other sources of information should be used. Guidebooks are produced by a variety of organisations in different areas of the country and candidates are expected to be familiar with more than just those books that cover their own locality. Misinterpretation of a guidebook leading to incorrect route choice can result in difficulties. So the importance of this seemingly simple element of the syllabus cannot be overstated.

The Mountaineering Councils are not governing bodies that impose rules but, rather, representative bodies that defend the rights of climbers. At the point of registration on the Single Pitch Award scheme candidates must be current members of a Mountaineering Council or affiliated club. This ensures contact with the organisations that helped devise the award and conduct work on behalf of the climbing community.

Candidates are expected to be aware of current issues in climbing through an active personal involvement in climbing, access to Mountaineering Council information and by reading the climbing press or appropriate websites.

## **2. THE CLIMBING ENVIRONMENT**

Candidates must demonstrate competence in the following areas.

### **2.1 Access**

Candidates should be able to:

- a. understand and observe current access and conservation guidelines.
- b. interpret and use effectively the access information given in guidebooks and other sources of information.
- c. show an appreciation of and care for all aspects of the climbing environment.
- d. show an ability to obtain information on and willingness to comply with locally important crag issues and agreements.

### **2.2 Conservation**

Candidates should be able to:

- a. demonstrate good practice in the conservation and care of the environment.
- b. operate in such a way as to minimise impact on the environment (including the climbing resource).
- c. define problems of conservation and the effects of human pressure on the climbing environment.
- d. manage groups so that they have minimal impact and leave the crags in an improved condition where possible.
- e. demonstrate an awareness of the general environment on UK crags as well as locally important species and the legal situation relating to protected flora/fauna.
- f. demonstrate some knowledge of different rock types and crag features.

### **2.3 Etiquette and Ethics**

Candidates should be able to:

- a. demonstrate an awareness of responsibilities to the general public, environmental agencies, local residents, landowners and the climbing community.
- b. demonstrate an awareness of local rock climbing ethics related to single pitch crags.
- c. operate a flexible programme of activities so as to accommodate other site users.
- d. be aware of the hazards presented to other site users by the actions of a group and act to minimise these.
- e. demonstrate an awareness of the site-specific requirements and agreements relating to different crags, climbing walls and artificial structures.

## **Guidance notes**

### **2. The Climbing Environment**

Access to climbing areas is a right that depends in some areas on the good will of landowners and in all locations on the appropriate conduct of climbers. As an individual climber it is important to have an understanding of the issues and problems affecting access to climbing areas. As a Single Pitch Award holder introducing novices to the activity this responsibility is increased. It is also important for those working with groups to have a sympathetic understanding of the range of ethical considerations and the needs of other climbers using crags and walls.

#### **2.1-2.2 Access and Conservation**

Most guidebooks contain important information relating to the specific area covered. It is important to know how to access up-to-date information from local climbers and clubs, retail outlets, relevant websites or the Mountaineering Councils. Candidates must be aware of the potentially greater impact of groups upon the environment than that of individual climbers. If climbing, as an activity, is

to be sustainable into the future, then the impact of all climbers on the environment must be minimised. The crag itself as well as the ground in the immediate area at the bottom and top should be considered.

Many crags are of local, national and international importance in terms of their geological and ecological interests. Crags designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), for example, have statutory protection and are administered by the national conservation bodies. Many crags support important populations of nesting birds or important species of flora (flowering plants, mosses, lichens etc.).

### **2.3 Etiquette and Ethics**

Candidates should be aware of their local rock climbing ethics, particularly those that relate to single pitch crags. The fact that ethics differ markedly from one climbing area to another should be noted. Accumulated experience of climbing in different locations should be seen as an important part of the background of a proficient Single Pitch Award holder. It is possible to read about the ethics relevant to different locations in guidebooks and other material, but the benefit of direct experience should not be underestimated.

## **3 SUPERVISION**

Candidates must demonstrate competence in the following areas.

### **3.1 Organisation**

Candidates should be able to:

- a. plan a day's programme of activities to take place at a crag and an artificial climbing structure.
- b. assess the abilities and objectives of the group participating in this plan.
- c. check underlying aims and the objectives of the event.
- d. demonstrate an awareness of responsibility to any authorising organisation, parents, individual group members, the group as a whole and other site users.
- e. demonstrate an understanding of the impact of weather on climbing.
- f. have built-in flexibility when planning activities in order to respond to changing circumstances.
- g. know how to call for expert help in the case of an accident or injury.

### **3.2 Group Management**

Candidates should be able to:

- a. choose appropriate venues and routes for group use considering:
  - i. suitability of approach/descent
  - ii. terrain at the base of the crag
  - iii. objective dangers such as loose rock
- b. demonstrate the safe and responsible management of all group members irrespective of whether or not they are directly involved in the climbing activity.
- c. brief individuals and the group appropriately.
- d. manage the individuals and the group effectively by:
  - i. good communication skills
  - ii. setting and reviewing targets
  - iii. identifying and reacting to the needs of the group in relation to involvement, interest, enjoyment and achievement.
- e. supervise a group of novice climbers belaying.
- f. manage time appropriately in relation to the plan, activity and conditions.

### **3.3 Supervising the Session**

Candidates must demonstrate competence in the following areas. They should be able to:

- a. issue appropriate rock climbing equipment and check correct fitting and use.
- b. deliver technical instruction to individuals and the group including:
  - i. choice and fitting of suitable harnesses
  - ii. attaching the rope to the harness
  - iii. advice, demonstration and coaching on climbing movement
  - iv. demonstration of effective use of chosen belay device
  - v. safe use of friction device for abseiling
- c. demonstrate an understanding of how to avoid common problems such as a stuck climber/abseiler.
- d. solve common problems including:
  - i. stuck climber whilst on a top or bottom rope
  - ii. stuck abseiler whilst abseiling with a safety rope
- e. demonstrate the use of bouldering activities with groups.
- f. demonstrate an understanding of warming up and injury avoidance techniques.
- g. understand the needs of those with physical and mental disabilities and medical conditions.

### **3.4 Personal Safety**

Throughout any training or assessment course there will inevitably be times when all or some of the party will be operating from or near the top of the crag. Trainers must ensure that all the candidates are comfortable with the situation they are placed in and should offer guidance and training in how candidates may protect themselves appropriately. This should be ongoing throughout the course and should take into consideration that the weather, prevailing conditions and locations will vary.

### **3.5 Children and Vulnerable Persons**

All Providers, Course Directors and staff involved in the delivery of Single Pitch Award courses must be aware of and comply with current legislation regarding children and vulnerable persons.

## **Guidance notes**

### **3.1 Organisation**

Whilst candidates may have little direct experience of organising climbing sessions they may well have the opportunity to assist with or observe such sessions. They should consider the implications of such factors as the nature of the group and its expectations and ability, the venue and its surroundings and the prevailing conditions upon the planning of a supervised climbing activity.

### **3.2 Group Management**

An award holder is expected to be proficient in the management of group members while they are not actually climbing as well as for the safe execution of climbing techniques. The supervision of novices whilst climbing should be seen as only one element of supervision, as it is the management of groups whilst not climbing that is often more complex.

Communication is the basis of good organisation and effective group work. Communication is essential within a group at a single pitch venue and a climbing wall. As with all aspects of supervision, experience is the most effective way of developing these skills.

### **3.3 Supervising the Session**

Considerable experience of novice supervision should be gained between training and assessment in an assistant capacity alongside more experienced supervisors and instructors. As with personal

climbing, this experience should be gained in a variety of contexts: walls and crags, different rock types and different size groups.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1 Using the Digital Logbook

Mountain Training highly recommends that all candidates use the on-line digital logbook (DLOG) facility in the Candidate Management System to record their developing experience. If you choose to use an alternative method, for example spreadsheet or 'paper' logbook, then the entries should follow a similar format (headings, etc.) as those contained in DLOG. Entries should be concise and easy to read.

The logbook should provide a total record of your experiences and demonstrate, at assessment, that the Board's requirements have been fulfilled. It is an essential tool that can help trainers advise candidates on specific further experience needed before assessment and can also be used by employers after assessment to demonstrate continuing experience.

A key facet of all the Mountain Training Awards is that competence is fundamentally based on extensive quality personal experience of the activity. Having relevant and extensive personal experience is key to success at assessment.

### Appendix 2 Further Experience

Award holders should follow the National Guidelines issued by Mountain Training UK. In particular, they should note that their award is only valid where the holder is operating within the scope of the award and the holder has recent logged experience appropriate to the award.

Where there is any doubt advisers should contact the relevant national Mountain Training board.

According to the Health and Safety Executive there are four ways to demonstrate the competence of leaders. These are:

- to hold the relevant qualification
- to hold an equivalent qualification
- to have received appropriate in-house training
- to be competent through experience

Mountain Training endorses this view, while emphasising that national awards are the key components in such an approach. Further training events and opportunities to review new initiatives are valuable components in the continuing development of any leader.

To assist in providing further training opportunities the Mountain Training Association will make available information on matters of interest to all award holders including Continuing Personal Development (CPD) events.

The responsibility for ensuring that leaders receive refresher training must lie with the provider of the service, or the individual in the case of self-employed leaders. Award holders who wish to operate beyond the scope of their award(s) by virtue of their additional experience and/or training, for example a Lowland Leader award holder leading a party in local moorland terrain which they are familiar with, may be enabled to do so either through in-house training and/or within the context of a local scheme.

Local schemes are for the provision of skills needed to deal with specific restricted tasks, and the accreditation tends to be site or area specific, restricted and non-transferable. Therefore, it should be appreciated that local schemes are only suitable for use by organisations and not by individuals. Individuals (self-employed leaders) seeking additional training and assessment from a suitably qualified and experienced technical advisor, thus enabling them to develop further relevant experience, may find this allows them to demonstrate competence beyond the scope of the award. Award holders using this route to extend their personal remit should clarify the operational responsibility of the technical advisor and the implications for their insurance cover for operating beyond the scope of the award held

### **Appendix 3**

#### **Sample Programmes**

Sample Programmes and Course Notes for all Mountain Training awards can be viewed and downloaded here <http://www.mountain-training.org/sample-course-programs-and-course-notes>

### **Appendix 4**

#### **Post-assessment support**

Becoming a member of the Mountain Training Association is a recommended way of obtaining further relevant training and keeping up to date with developments within the Climbing Wall Leading Award, as well as other Mountain Training schemes. Mountain Training Association also provides networking and social events, for members to keep in touch and up to date. Membership is open to anyone who is registered for any of the national awards. For more information about Mountain Training Association including benefits of membership <http://www.mountain-training.org/associations/mountain-training-association>

### **Appendix 5**

#### **Ratios**

1:4 on training courses, maximum course size 8, minimum 4.

Assistant must be a Mountaineering Instructor or British Mountain Guide.

1:4 on assessment courses, maximum course size 8, minimum 2.

Assistant must be a Mountaineering Instructor or British Mountain Guide.