



Cumbria mines access

Dave Hollingham, Mountain Experience (07387588500, mtnexperience@aol.com) has invested a great deal of time and effort in organising mines inspections throughout Cumbria to enable group access.

Inspections have been completed for **Smallcleugh** (annual) and **Tyne Bottom** (bi-annual). These are category 3 and will require regular inspection. Also **Goldscope Mine** near Keswick has also been inspected. These have been funded by small groups of providers. If you are interested in gaining access to these reports or contributing to the next round of reports, please get in touch with Dave Hollingham.

Inspections are due to go ahead on 10th June for a first round of venues in the Coniston area, notably **Hodge Close** and **Coppermines Valley** with sufficient funds pledged to fund a second day probably in the autumn which is expected to focus on the **Old Man of Coniston** and possibly the Tilberthwaite area.

The primary focus for these inspections is on venues that will fall into category 1 or 2 and should not require further inspection by a mines inspector unless there is a significant change reported by users or their technical expert. Use of these simple venues should be possible through local training and advice without the need to become a Mines Leader. It is hoped that some more extensive venues may be approved for use in future which may then lead to needing to be a qualified Mine Leader.

Those supporting this will become members of the Cumbrian Mine Inspection Report Scheme. A list of members will be maintained by Dave in the first instance. All paid up members will have access to the full range of reports funded by the scheme and a facebook page and email group will be established for members to provide and receive updates.

Invoices are being sent to the providers who have declared their intention to support this scheme. If further providers wish to support this in the future then any additional funds will be put towards extending the range of inspected venues. **This is open to any activity providers that would benefit**, so if you are interested in finding out more please contact Dave directly.

The Cumbria based [Land and Nature Skills Service](#) (LANSS) has recently been established with a website currently being developed and full launch due in September 2024. The idea is for LANSS to act as a hub, improving access to training and learning across the farming, forestry and environmental sectors. I am representing IOL on the stakeholder group and will be championing the broader outdoor learning sector.

[The Outdoor Partnership Coastal Cumbria](#) has now been running for 4 years. Its focus is to 'work with clubs, schools, individuals and specialists to increase opportunities for people in coastal cumbria to achieve their potential through outdoor activities, active participation, volunteering, training and education.' The project is lottery funded and engages a Stakeholder group who identify



local needs that TOP can help meet by sourcing funding and making connections between providers and communities. If you would like to know more please contact me (as Chair of the Stakeholder group and representing IOL) or the Development Officer, Claire Bryant (claire.bryant@outdoorpartnership.co.uk) .

Canoeing survey

Tess Shipton, a Masters student at the University of Cumbria who works at Brathay, is looking for people who canoe in a professional capacity who have a few spare moments to fill out a questionnaire (which should take around 15-20 mins). She is looking into where canoeing sits in the UK outdoor learning sector, in relation to its origins in places such as Canada.

Participant information: <https://docs.google.com/.../1A5Qc99TaXQWFbJda4AoT.../edit...>

Questionnaire: <https://forms.gle/72mBCBJiTwbkGLht6>

North west jobs

There are 10 currently vacancies across the region, including trainee, instructor, trainer, admin and management roles. See the [IOL jobs](#) page for details.

Regional conference 2025

We are currently confirming a venue and looking at a date in late January. If you have any ideas for workshops you would like to see (or present), please let us know. More details to follow soon...

Updates from the Roundtable

- High Quality Outdoor Learning 2024 is currently being written and going through a consultation process. It updates and expands the previous HQOL from 2015 and will be published in a variety of forms over the next few months.
- The website has been completely revamped. Please have a look at it and see what's there, especially your personal membership area.
- The [Outdoor learning digital map project](#) continues to grow. The intention of the map is to provide MPs an overview of outdoor learning in their constituency, so the greater the representation the better in terms of making the case for OL being a significant sector. Please consider adding your pin to the map.
- Access to [Special Interest groups](#) are a key benefit of IOL membership. Current groups include: Adventure for All; Alternative Provision; Bushcraft; Field studies; Freelance professionals cooperative; Nature premium; Youth work; and Young Explorers. There are



also two new ones starting soon - Outdoor therapy and Environmental stewardship. Well worth a look.

- [Keeping people safe in the outdoors](#) is a project looking to develop a means of sharing the learning from accidents and near misses. The phase 1 pilot has been completed and a full report is available.

Dave Harvey 09/06/24

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