



Gold Navigator Award Syllabus

Minimum course duration for training is 2 days with at least 12 hours of tutor contact time. Additional time may be required for inexperienced candidates.

Maximum duration for a separate, practical assessment is 6 hours.

Maximum tutor/student ratio for training and assessment is 1:4.

The Learning Outcomes

On completion of the award, participants will be able to plan and confidently follow safe routes away from paths and tracks in any open countryside through being able to:

- Utilise the skills and techniques of the Bronze and Silver Awards in the context of Gold Award navigation strategies.
- Utilise contours and fine detail as the prime method of navigation.
- Accurately: follow a route, judge distance, check progress against time, use relevant compass skills and maintain continuous map contact.
- Use back bearings and transits to confirm current position.
- Use aspect of slope as an aid to relocation.
- Select appropriate techniques within an overall navigation strategy.
- Navigate in intricate terrain in reduced visibility i.e. mist or darkness.
- Select an appropriate, safe route in relation to height gain and loss, dangerous terrain and other major hazards.
- Assess the route ahead in the field in relation to prevailing conditions or changing circumstances (e.g. weather, time, daylight, ability/fitness) and re-plan the route appropriately if necessary.
- Shorten a route, use an escape route and know emergency procedures.
- Recognise the occurrence of a navigational error within a few minutes and apply appropriate relocation techniques.
- Select appropriate clothing, equipment and first aid for walking in remote areas in all weather conditions.
- Understand the physical demands created by hill and moorland terrain in all weather conditions.
- Understand the effects of cold, heat, fatigue and discomfort on decision making and execution of a selected route.

Assessment Guidance Notes

- Assessment should be taken at a later date in order to provide sufficient opportunity for candidates to practise the required skills.
- Practical assessment should take place over a distance of 6 to 10km depending on terrain.
- The terrain used should include a variety of intricate contour detail along with ridges, valleys and less obvious handrails.
- In the absence of inclement weather or testing conditions, the candidate's awareness and knowledge of navigating safely in such conditions can be ascertained by questioning.
- Candidates should plan a safe walk of appropriate distance, explain the issues involved and estimate the time needed for a specific leg.
- Candidates should demonstrate an acceptable level of knowledge in relevant safety and countryside/environmental issues.