

Gold National Navigation Award - Assessment (NNAS)

Grade Four

For: More suited to regular hill walkers / hikers with recent regular experience of rough terrain. Good fitness and stamina necessary. Adventurous and fit novices could be fine - please ask.

Terrain: with a mix of pathed and off path ground which may be rough.

Average Daily Distance: 8-14 miles (13-22km)

Average Daily Ascent: Up to 4000ft (1250m)

Walking For: 6-9 hours (plus stops)

This is the assessment component of the Gold National Navigation Award. Candidates should have already completed the Gold Training component before undertaking this course.

This NNAS level represents supreme navigational technique and both the competence and assessment criteria which follow, reflect its demands: After a short period of revision competence has to be demonstrated in the following areas:

- Confidence in the use of the skills detailed in Bronze level and Silver level in open countryside or on hillside as well as in forests and mountain environments.
- Demonstrate the use of contours, to identify landforms (e.g. hilltops, valleys, spurs, re-entrants and knolls) and utilise them as the prime method of navigation. Demonstrate use of ridges and valleys as reliable handrails and the size and relationship of contour features, (e.g. a series of knolls) and use them for micro navigation to specific locations.
- Demonstrate the use of distance judgement, compass skills and continuous contact (by frequent checking) in complicated areas. This involves the use of both map to ground and ground to map techniques, the selection of appropriate techniques for each situation, and the integration of these into a navigation strategy.
- Demonstrate the ability to plan a safe walk or route in open country in line with set criteria of duration, difficulty and objectives. This must involve “Gold” NNAS skills and strategies and may be used by the candidate for practice prior to assessment if appropriate.

- Demonstrate an understanding of the special physical and navigation demands posed by hill and moorland terrain, poor weather conditions, daylight hours and the effects of fatigue and discomfort on decision making and execution of a selected route. This includes awareness of the effects of heat and cold.
- Application of good countryside practice and awareness as for Bronze level and Silver level.

Important Information

Start time: 08:30

Finish time: 17:00

Assumes: Completed Gold level training

Course Duration: 1 day assessment

Covers: Full range of interpretative skills and compass techniques for complex navigation on any terrain, Environmental and First Aid awareness. Future personal development advice.