

# Countryside Leader Award (CLA) Status, Management and Accounts

## CIC Status

The CLA is run by Foundation Expedition Leadership (FEL), which is a Community Interest Company (CIC).

*CIC status means that FEL is a not-for-profit limited company. An asset lock ensures that all profits are ploughed back into the company.*

## Aim

Improve access to the countryside for young people. The CLA is the main way that we achieve this: by providing a simple process by which leaders can gain and demonstrate competence in leading groups in the countryside.

We also offer outdoor First Aid courses, technical advice, and support with DofE supervision and assessment. For this we charge a reasonable fee either for our time or per place on the course, and 1% of these earnings are given to the CLA, see *use of profits* below. This ensures that any income not directly from administration of the CLA still actively benefits the CLA scheme.

## Use of Profits

Profits will be used to reduce fees, improve training and further improve quality assurance as appropriate. If FEL folds, assets will be shared between RNLI and Mountain Rescue.

## Statement of Accounts

CICs are required to produce an annual statement of accounts. This verifies that FEL is honouring its commitment as a not-for-profit organisation.

## Directors and Advisers

We have deliberately kept the CLA clean, simple and responsive to feedback. FEL has three Directors: Alice Turner (MIA), Colin Kirk (IML, WML), and Paul Bond (ML and FRGS), who are experienced outdoor educators with a long history of working with DofE. Clive Atkins (MIA, IML and Outdoor Education Adviser to eight Local Authorities) is Key Adviser.

## Steering

The CLA is targeted specifically, though not exclusively, at teachers and youth-workers who wish to lead DofE expeditions. We aim to meet their need exactly and efficiently.

Decisions are made by the Directors after seeking advice and feedback from Local Authority Outdoor Education Advisers and users of the CLA. We consult closely with DofE London Region and London Boroughs to ensure that the CLA is fit for purpose. As recognition broadens we seek advice from all areas and organisations that recognise the CLA.

## AALS Recognition

The Adventure Activities Licensing Service (AALS) recognises the Countryside Leader Award (CLA) as adequate evidence of a person's technical competence, within the remit of the award, at the time of their assessment, and within the context of a licensed provider's other safety management arrangements.

## Insurance

FEL CIC is insured by Adventure Activities Mutual to £5,000,000 public and products liability and £10,000,000 employers' liability.

## More information

Please contact us if you would like more information:

Email: [info@countrysideleaderaward.org](mailto:info@countrysideleaderaward.org)

Web: [www.countrysideleaderaward.org](http://www.countrysideleaderaward.org)