Assessor Marking Sheet South of England Style

NHLS Accreditation Scheme Documentation

Document AS3.4

Document Information

Document Name:	Assessor Marking Sheet - South of England Style
Document Group:	NHLS Accreditation Scheme Documentation
Document Number:	AS3.4
Classification:	Public
Document Version:	Version 1.0
Last Updated:	8 September 2025

© National Hedgelaying Society 2025

ASSESSMENT MARKING SHEET

Assessment Details

Date: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Location: _

Specific Location: _ *What3Words or Map Grid Ref.*

Assessment Level: Bronze / Silver / Gold *Circle one*

Assessor(s)

Name: _ Name: _

Signed: _ Signed: _

Candidate

Name: _

Date of Birth: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Chainsaw Certificate No: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ *Required if using a chainsaw*

Issuing Authority: Lantra / NPTC / Other Other: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Declaration: I have read and understood the risk assessment relating to the training and assessment days. I declare that I am physically fit enough to take part and that I will inform the assessor of any medical condition that may effect my ability to complete the assessment. I have also been made aware of the assessment appeals procedure.

Signed: _

By signing this form you are confirming that the details provided are correct and you confirm the conditions laid out in the declaration above.

Assessment Marking Sheet

			Pass Mark			
Section	**Max.**	**MARKS**	**Bronze**	**Silver**	**Gold**	**Notes**
1 Pleaching • Starting the cut at the correct height for the size of the stem, thinning the stem down in an even manner with no splitting back. • Smooth finish to the cut with no “hacking”. • Sufficient sapwood in hinge. • Pleachers interlocked and overlapped to ensure flow of line and to secure each other. • Side branches pleached into line as necessary.	20		10	12	15	
2 Stool & Heel • Trimmed close to ground: 25mm to 75mm (1” to 3”) depending on stem diameter. • Trimmed at an angle 30° to 45° in line with pleaching cut. • Heel not split	20		10	12	15	

			Pass Mark			
Section	**Max.**	**MARKS**	**Bronze**	**Silver**	**Gold**	**Notes**
3 Stakes & Binders • Stakes central in the hedge, firmly driven in and evenly spaced every 40cm to 50cm (15” to 20”). • Stakes vertical when viewed from front and along the hedge. • Stake tops trimmed at an angle in line with hedge. • Binders show a smooth top line following general ground contours. • Tops of binders at least 120cm (48”) from the base of each stake. • Tops of stakes a “fist” (10cm to 15cm/4” to 6”) above the binders.	20		10	12	15	
4 Appearance • Hedge 120cm high (48”) and 90cm to 120cm (36” to 48”) wide (depending on material available). • Hedge is dense at the base and stockproof. • Trimmed to shape with the top trimmed horizontally to the bottom of the binders and excess material trimmed off the vertical sides.	30		15	18	23	

			Pass Mark			
Section	**Max.**	**MARKS**	**Bronze**	**Silver**	**Gold**	**Notes**
5 Tools • Billhooks and axes must have a sharp edge with no cracks or chips. • Billhook cutting edge to have a narrow shoulder. • Use the tool appropriate for the job in hand. • If a chainsaw or other power tools are used, they must be in good working condition.	10		5	6	7	
6 Gateway Start & Finish (Gold only) • Satisfactory interface of the laid hedge to a gateway or other gap at start and finish of length.	20				15	
7 Questions and Answers (Bronze only) (See Q&A form on page 6)	10		5			

			Pass Mark			
Section	**Max.**	**MARKS**	**Bronze**	**Silver**	**Gold**	**Notes**
8 Health and Safety • Correct PPE for tools being used. • Safe use of tools and placement while working. • Work area safe and clear of brash. • Good awareness of possible risks.	Pass/ Fail		–	–	–	
9 Root lay, Back lay & Side Lay (Silver and Gold only) • Gold and Silver candidates will be expected to be able to demonstrate all three techniques	20			12	15	

Assessment Q&A (Bronze only)

10 Questions should be picked from the AS4 document for this section.

	AS4 Question No.	Pass/Fail	Notes
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			