National Hedge Laying Society

Assessor Marking Sheet Lancashire & Westmorland Style

NHLS Accreditation Scheme Documentation

Document AS3.5

Document Information

Document Name:	Assessor Marking Sheet - Lancs. & Westmorland Style
Document Group:	NHLS Accreditation Scheme Documentation
Document Number:	AS3.5
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 • The cuts should be long enough to bend the pleacher without damaging the bark according to the diameter of the pleacher. • The pleachers are laid to both sides between the stakes, not crossing over and the brush out to cover the stakes.	20		10	12	15	
2 Stool & Heel • Heels cut off cleanly angled away from the pleacher at 45°. • No damage to the bark to encourage good regrowth. • Heels left 5cm to 10cm (2” to 4”) high. • Uniform appearance.	20		10	12	15	
3 Stakes & Binders • Stakes placed approximately 50cm (20”) apart on alternate sides of the hedge • Stakes should be no higher than the top of the finished hedge.	20		10	12	15	

Section	Max.	MARKS	Pass Mark Bronze	Silver	Gold	Notes
4 Appearance • The finished hedge should be approximately 1m (39”) high by 70cm (28”) wide. • The hedge should be trimmed square but feathered brush on the side and top (“flying brush”). • The centre of the hedge is sightly lighter than the rest of the hedge so that the regrowth from the heels can grow through. • Brush evenly placed to both sides, from top to bottom no gaps in the bottom with no dead wood.	30		15	18	23	
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	

			Pass Mark			
Section	**Max.**	**MARKS**	**Bronze**	**Silver**	**Gold**	**Notes**
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 5)	10		5			
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			