

NHLS ASSESSOR GUIDE

Marks for certificate level	<i>Bronze</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Gold</i>
<u>BUILD OF HEDGE APPROPRIATE FOR ... DEVON STYLE</u>			
Marks Available	20	20	20
Section pass mark	10	12	15
<p>Pleachers laying at appropriate angle and as horizontal as possible and with few overlaps. Smooth cuts with no split backs. Heels of cuts removed and offcuts removed from hedge.</p> <p>Crooks chosen suitable for the style, of correct quality and placed at the correct angle and trimmed to the correct height. Only needed as and where required. Crooks used in the hedge hidden as much as possible. No bonds.</p> <p>Correct height as set by assessor. Crooks strong and firm.</p> <p>Very stock proof.</p> <p>Overall appearance is of a high standard.</p>	PASS 20 - 16	PASS 20 - 16	PASS 20 - 18
<p>Pleaching good but not showing to front of hedge.</p> <p>Adequate spacing and at the correct angle for the style.</p> <p>Not all in a good position but holding the hedge firmly. Height of some crooks not consistent to style height or too low.</p> <p>Crooks well placed and firm but tops poorly removed.</p> <p>Crooks uneven nor straight but firm and secure. Hedge could be cleaner with tidier secondary cutting. Good selection of crooks for their strength. Odd one maybe not doing its job 100%. but too visible.</p>	PASS 15-10	PASS 15 - 12	PASS 17 -15
<p>Very irregular placement of stems, poor build.</p> <p>Poor cutting, no regularity to pleachers. Some split backs. Heels not removed correctly.</p> <p>Very irregular build, some stems laid off too far. Some crooking not firm, damaged tops, not holding hedge secure. Missed one or more pleach. Front of hedge poorly cleaned with poor secondary cutting. Many gaps along length. Some of the finer points why the finished hedge is not consistent is irregular placed/non- existent pleachers within the hedge. Selection of crooks could be better and not serving a useful purpose. Crooks standing out making the hedge look uneven and unattractive.</p> <p>Is hedge stock proof?</p>	FAIL 9 -5	FAIL 11 – 6	FAIL 14-7
<p>No understanding of correct build for style. Poor cutting. Split backs. Heels not removed.</p> <p>Very poor pleaching and little attempt at secondary cutting. Overall poor build. Poor placing of crooks which are not straight nor firm or holding the hedge secure. General appearance uneven and inconsistent. Poor selection of crooks which serve no purpose and are easily seen. Some crooks split or broken off and left showing. No trimming of front of hedge. No trimming of back of hedge.</p> <p>Too many gaps.</p> <p>Very poor crooking. Not stock proof.</p>	FAIL 4 - 0	FAIL 5 – 0	FAIL 6 - 0

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