

Hedgelaying Skills – Gold Award (Skills Card)



At a glance...

Assessed Customised Provision

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| Duration Notes: | 5 days including assessment |
| Delivery Method: | Training (with Assessment) |
| Recognised by: | National Hedgelaying Society |
| Prerequisites: | Experience of Hedgelaying at a professional level |

Introduction

This is a 5-day practical training course in hedgelaying including a one day assessment, leading to accreditation at Gold level with the National Hedgelaying Society. Courses will be held between September and March.

Overview in brief

The training will prepare candidates to lay 10 metres of mature hedge to an Advanced standard in a recognised style within 5 hours, with hand tools.

If a chainsaw is used, they must have an up to date chainsaw certificate.

The course will also cover the techniques for root laying, side laying and back laying together with correct start and finish methods. It will provide training in the technical aspects of hedgerow management including knowledge of a range of UK styles.

[The National Hedgelaying Society](#) offers training and assessment in hedgerow management. A series of training courses and progressive practical tests lead to a Three - tier accreditation awards in hedgelaying. The scheme is designed to ensure that hedgelayers achieve the highest standards of craftsmanship. This training



course is a progression from the The National Hedgelaying Society Silver Award and will cover the skills required to carry out the traditional craft of Hedgelaying at an advanced level.



The finer details

The demand for the traditional craft of hedge laying is increasing. A traditionally laid and sensitively managed hedge allows farming and conservation interests to meet; for the farmer a natural barrier to confine and shelter stock is erected, whilst for the conservationist, a wildlife habitat is created.

The National Hedgelaying Society is keen to encourage training and assessment in Hedgelaying and has introduced a National Accreditation Scheme based on the delivery of training courses and assessments. There are four levels of training and assessment. Three levels of assessment are linked to the National Hedgelaying Society Accreditation Scheme at Bronze, Silver and Gold:

- Introduction to Hedgelaying - Beginner training course with basic assessment as part of the course
- Bronze Level Training & Assessment: Competent Level training with one day practical assessment
- Silver [Level Training & Assessment](#): Proficient [Level training with one day practical assessment](#)
- Gold Level Training & Assessment: Advanced Level training with one day practical assessment

This course is at Gold level and Candidates will learn advanced Hedgelaying techniques to prepare them for the one day Gold assessment at the end of the course. The assessment will require candidates to lay 10 metres of mature stock proof hedge to an Advanced standard in a recognised style within 5 hours, with hand tools and if a chainsaw is used they must have an up to date chainsaw certificate. Candidates must be able communicate the different styles and have good knowledge of hedgelaying. They must demonstrate the ability to lay a mature hedge showing the use of start and finish techniques and including back lay, side lay and root lay. The assessment must be completed on a mature hedge and must be an unguided assessment.

Who should attend?

The Gold assessment is the highest level of proficiency and is designed for those working in hedgerow management and restoration. Candidates should have established skills and experience in Hedgelaying before attending the course or assessment. Successful completion of the Gold Assessment will lead to National Hedgelaying Society Accreditation at Gold Level.

What will be covered?

- Health and Safety



- Hedge Laying Styles
- Hedgerow Legislation and Classification
- Hedgerow management & planting techniques
- Preparations at the Hedge
- Pleaching
- Building the Hedge
- Root lay, side lay and back lay techniques
- Start and Finish methods
- Methods of Staking and Binding
- Trimming and Finishing
- Technical aspects of Hedgerow maintenance



Other areas of interest

- Progression to the National Hedgelaying Society Assessor training
- Other Interest
- Traditional Boundary restoration e.g. dry stone

