



IDENTIFICATION OF BARLEY VARIETIES FROM THE GRAIN

1-DAY TRAINING COURSE

April 2026

This one-day practical training course aims to provide the skills for barley variety identification from the grain. The physical characteristics of the grain learnt on this course can be used at any point of the process eg intake, grain storage, point-of-sale, on farm and in the field. No previous experience is required as full instruction on botanical structures will be given. This course is also suitable as a refresher for those with previous training/experience.

TIMETABLE

- 10:00 Welcome Tea/Coffee. Meet and introductions.
- 10:15 Presentation: Characters of the barley grain used for identifying varieties.
- 11.00 Practical study: Examination of the characters of harvested ears.
- 11.45 Practical study: The effects of threshing on grain samples.
- 12.30 **Lunch**
- 13.00 Practical study: “Test examinations” of unnamed threshed grain samples.
- 14.00 Presentation: Barley breeding and trends in barley growing.
- 14.30 Practical study (continued): “Test examinations” of unnamed threshed grain samples.
- 16.30 Finish

Grain characters will be demonstrated using a range of plant material including barley ears and harvested seed from named barley varieties. Course notes will include descriptive information on all the varieties on the current AHDB Barley Recommended Lists.

Location: Sophi Taylor Building, Niab, Park Farm, Villa Road, Histon, CB24 9NZ

EQUIPMENT

Bringing the right equipment on the day is essential.

Delegates will need the following:

Essential: A **x10** or **x20** hand lens. Hand lenses will be available to borrow/buy on the day. Hand lenses can also be ordered on the internet from the Natural History Bookstore or Amazon.

Essential: either a **Stanley type blade, a scalpel, tweezers or a mounted “Borradaile” needle** – available from any DIY store.

A shared microscope will be available on the course for detailed teaching and examination of specimens and characters. Delegates are welcome to bring their own portable microscopes.