

Appendix 1 - BEEKEEPING POLICY and GUIDANCE FOR PROSPECTIVE BEEKEEPERS

This policy is based on good practice advice from other allotment associations and follows guidance provided by the National Allotment Society (NSALG). It also takes into account the findings of a risk assessment. The committee of our allotment association encourage responsible beekeeping on the sites, providing certain conditions are met, so if you are interested in keeping bees on your allotment, please read the following before you apply for permission.

Important points to note

1. Nobody has the absolute right to keep bees on an allotment site and permission must therefore be obtained from the committee.
2. All beekeepers on the site must have current, full membership of the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) via the local association. Evidence of membership must be made available on request.
3. Beginner/novice beekeepers wishing to keep bees on site must have undertaken a basic course in beekeeping. The committee will seek confirmation of this and beginners must be supported by an experienced beekeeper who will act as mentor.
4. No more than two active hives are allowed per plot, with the addition of a nucleus hive as and when required. When considering new requests, the Association will take account of the number and location of existing hives on the allotment site concerned. Evidence suggests a maximum of three hives per acre is considered desirable.
5. When positioning beehives, precautions must be taken so that the flight-line of the bees rises above neighbouring plots, paths and the roadway. This can be achieved by locating hives adjacent to a fence, wall, shed, fruit trees, or by employing a mesh screen.
6. New colonies of bees should be obtained from a source where the temperament of the parent colony is known to be gentle. If a colony becomes aggressive, the beekeeper must take appropriate action, by moving the colony to an alternative site away from the allotments. This must be carried out immediately that a problem occurs or is reported and the hive in question must be moved to a new location outside a 3 mile radius of the site and cannot be returned for a minimum of 3 months.
7. All beekeepers on sites must maintain their colonies in good state – carrying out regular inspections, practising swarm control and disease prevention and management (e.g. regular treatment against varroa). National regulations regarding notifiable diseases (e.g. European and American Foul Brood) apply. The number and location of hives must be registered with BeeBase: www.nationalbeeunit.com/
8. Before opening a hive, beekeepers should assess the local situation and alert anyone in the vicinity, if necessary waiting for a more appropriate time. Beekeepers should always assess their own safety requirements and take appropriate measures, wearing protective clothing and suitable footwear.
9. Beekeepers must keep their plot in good state.
10. Non-compliance with this policy may result in a request to remove hives from an allotment site.