

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. Our allotment association encourages responsible beekeeping on our 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 written permission must therefore be obtained from the Hotwells and District Allotment Association (HwDAA).
2. All beekeepers on an HwDAA site must have current, full membership of the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) via a local association (eg Bristol Beekeepers). Evidence of membership must be made available on request.
3. Beginner/novice beekeepers wishing to keep bees on a HwDAA site must have undertaken a basic course in beekeeping. HwDAA will seek confirmation of this and will also ascertain the competence of experienced beekeepers. Beginners must be supported by an experienced beekeeper who will act as mentor.
4. No more than four 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 flightline of the bees rises above neighbouring plots, paths and the haulingway. 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, either re-queening, or moving the colony to an alternative site away from the allotments.

7. All beekeepers on HwDAA sites must maintain their colonies in good state – carrying out regular inspections, practising swarm control and disease prevention and management (eg regular treatment against verroa). National regulations regarding notifiable diseases (eg 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.

How to apply

Prospective beekeepers who are keen to keep bees on an allotment should download an [application form via our website](#). The completed form should be returned to the Secretary and the person making the request will be notified of the outcome in due course.

All HwDAA members will be reminded via the Association's newsletter and website that bee hives are located on some allotments and should therefore take due precautions, such as staying clear of hives, especially when the beekeeper is at work. Anyone at risk from bee venom is advised to carry necessary first aid items (eg anti-histamine spray, EpiPen).