



## **Pitstone Allotment Association Beekeeping**

### **Rules**

#### **Approval**

Prospective beekeepers must consult and seek the approval of the allotment association before commencing beekeeping on the allotment and agree to follow the rules herein.

#### **Membership**

Full Membership of a local BBKA recognised beekeepers association is mandatory. It provides essential 3rd party insurance up to £5 million as well many other benefits. Evidence of membership must be made available on request. Beekeepers are not required to be plot holders but should be members of the allotment association.

#### **Contacts**

Beekeepers should ensure that up to date contact details are easily available to the allotment association, ideally being posted within the site in case of emergency

In cases of absence contact details of competent “cover” should be provided.

#### **Training**

Prospective allotment beekeepers should be able to satisfy an association of their competence. Evidence may include completion of a beekeeping course such as the , longstanding experience or supervision by an experienced mentor

#### **Number of Hives**

From time to time the allotment association may determine the upper limit of bee colonies per plot and per site based on individual site conditions. Considerations will include equity, availability of forage and minimizing inconvenience to others

#### **Hive Location**

Entrances should not face onto paths or nearby housing, preferably near the centre of a plot or behind the hedge on the east side of the site. The location should be agreed with the committee and chosen to minimize inconvenience to others.

### **Hive Management**

#### **Care**

Bees should be managed to ensure the well being of both the bees and other allotment holders and neighbours. Competent care and control of bees is expected at all times.

#### **Swarming**

Beekeepers should monitor and take prevention measures to endeavour to avoid swarming. Effective arrangements to promptly deal with a swarm are essential.

#### **Disease**

Beekeepers should be able to recognise diseased colonies, treat where possible and immediately contact the local bee inspector if a notifiable disease is suspected.

#### **Temperament**

Beekeepers should endeavour to keep docile strains.

#### **Water**

A water source separate from the allotment watering troughs must be available in each area keeping bees.

#### **Failure to comply**

Non compliance with an association’s rules may result in a request to remove hives from a site

## **Recommendations**

### **Mentoring**

It is highly recommended that novice beekeepers seek a mentoring arrangement with an experienced beekeeper especially in their first year.

### **Number of Hives**

A recommended maximum limit of 1 colonies per quarter plot with the temporary addition of one nucleus colony is suggested. The number of permanent hives for the site is recommended at a maximum of 12 (3 per acre). Evidence for this recommendation is based on the experience of several other beekeeping associations working in conjunction with Local Authorities.

This maximum number specifically excludes nucleus and colonies used to control swarming.

## **Hive Mangement**

### **Bee acquisition**

When acquiring a colony, local bees are often considered most suitable. Beekeepers should ensure that new colonies are disease free to prevent cross infection.

### **Time**

Potential beekeepers should be aware of the time involved in beekeeping and be able to actively manage hives on a weekly basis between April and September.

### **Screening**

Fencing/screening in order to raise the bees' flight path above head height is required if keeping a hive on an individual plot.

### **Inspections**

When carrying out hive inspections choose appropriate times and weather conditions when others users are least likely to be inconvenienced.

### **Registration**

Registration with BeeBase is recommended. BeeBase is run by the National Bee Unit on behalf of DEFRA providing free access to the regional bee inspector and other resources.

### **Stinging**

Beekeepers should have a clear understanding of the triggers for stinging: weather, clothing and odour can all be factors, and ensure others are aware of this information. Awareness of potentially severe allergic responses to bee stings is needed. Appropriate responses should be clearly understood. However, individuals claiming a severe reaction as a factor in objecting to beekeeping are requested to supply medical evidence of such to an association.

### **Spraying**

Risks to bees from spraying herbicides and pesticides should be discussed with the allotment association.

### **Interest**

Beekeepers should be prepared to work with other plot holders and neighbours to raise interest in beekeeping.

Rules broadly based non those at <https://www.newcastleallotments.co.uk/sites/default/files/NABG%20Bee%20Governance%20final.pdf>

## Beekeepers information sheet

To be completed by each beekeeper on site and to be kept updated.  
(Either Day and Night or Mobile contact numbers are required)

Name of Beekeeper	
Allotment Site	
Contact No. Daytime	
Contact No. Evening	
Contact No. Mobile	
E-mail	
Member of which Beekeeping Association?	
BBKA Membership No.	
Number of Colonies	
"Cover" Name	
"Cover" Contact No. Day	
"Cover" Contact" No. Eve.	
"Cover" Contact No. Mob.	
"Cover" E-mail	
Procedure that will be followed in event of Swarming.	
Signed/Dated (Beekeeper)	
Signed/Dated (Allotment Association)	