

## West Dorset Beekeepers Association Apiary Risk Assessment 2019

### Parnham Farm, Netherbury, Bridport DT6 5LY

WDBKA Apiary is situated in a relatively isolated site in a Dutch Barn off a farm track. There is a public footpath running along the track. The Apiary is visited weekly by Association members during the spring and summer months and is used for teaching purposes for members and students. The Apiary policy outlines the arrangements for how the site is managed and supervised.

The hives are separated from public access by fencing/screening and a locked gate and all equipment is stored in locked sheds. The Association strives to achieve the highest possible standards of beekeeping husbandry and follows current BBKA and NBU guidance.

#### Risks to Members/Students/Visitors/ Passers by

Hazard	Exposure	Risk	Control Measures	Action required
Stings	Members and students whilst working at Apiary. Particularly at end of session when gloves/clothing removed	Local reactions and if allergic, anaphylaxis. Likelihood of stings occurring is moderately high. Risk of severe reactions is low but consequences would be severe if anaphylaxis.	Check new visitors do not have history of anaphylaxis. All hives face outward in same direction minimising risk of standing in flight path. Session cancelled if poor weather or bees appear bad tempered. All present at session fully protected with suit/gloves. Session leader checks all suits properly done up. Visitors/students can remove suits away from apiary at end of session. Procedure for first aid management of stings to be posted in a prominent place and followed. First aid kit in Clean Shed. Record of any stings to be made in log book. <b>6 stings in the 2018 season</b>	<b>Continue to use checklist at the start of each session</b>  <b>All 4 hives are new 2018 genetic stock so need careful assessment to ensure gentle and suitable for teaching</b>  <b>Continue to record stings</b>
	Visitors. Walkers on footpath.	Risk low on foot path however some walkers deviate across front of Apiary.	Warning notice on Apiary Gate Gate locked Netting above head height across whole of front of apiary to deflect bee flight path upwards.	

Manual Handling	Members moving hive equipment on site or to and from site e.g. for Melplash Show, extraction of honey	Back injuries Foot injuries from dropping heavy hive parts	Always 2 or more members at each visit Heavy lifting undertaken with co-ordinated approach. Access to front of Apiary by car if equipment moved on/off site to minimise need for carrying. Anyone with problems not required to assist in lifting	<b>None</b>
Slips and Trips	Members and visitors moving around the site	Falls	Site is level and spacious with concrete floor protected from the weather. Site is regularly cleaned at weekly sessions. All equipment stored in sheds.	<b>None</b>
Chemicals	Members from contact with: Oxalic Acid Formic Acid Acetic Acid Used by members for treatment of Varroa/sterilisation of comb Cleaning fluids (washing soda)	Eye/skin irritation Lung damage from inhalation of vapour. Risks minimal if used according to manufacturer/ NBU guidance	All varroa treatments used according to recommended application instructions.	<b>Hazard Data sheets to be added to health and safety file</b>
Fire/explosion	Members/students from lighting smokers sterilising equipment with flames. Small compressed gas canisters	Burns	All students instructed in how to light a smoker. Smokers lit without hoods up and without gloves on. At end of session all smokers emptied and ensured that embers are not smouldering. Smokers stored in separate shed to canisters. Flaming of equipment in open outside of sheds.	<b>None</b>

Risk Assessment completed by Carole Astbury 25.9.2017 updated 20.1.18, further update 6.1.19

Accepted by ..... on behalf of WDBKA Date.....

Review date January 2020 or earlier if any accident or incident

**Action Plan**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Allocated to</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>
Continue with checklist and sting recording and assess colony temperament	AMC/ meeting lead	Ongoing but AMC to review compliance	Ongoing
Obtain Hazard Data/ COSHH sheets for chemicals and put in health and safety file	Carole Astbury	January 2019	January 2019