

West Norfolk & King's Lynn Beekeepers Association Abbey Farm Apiary

DUTY BEEKEEPER

- Each team will consist of the Duty Beekeeper as shown on the Apiary Calendar plus as many other people who turn up for the inspection/visit.
- If a Duty Beekeeper finds they are no longer available for an 'Open Apiary' slot it is their responsibility to try and find someone to swap with.
- If the weather proves to be unsuitable then please still do the 'Open Apiary' slot in case anyone turns up and wants to ask questions.

APIARY RULES

- Whatever the Duty Beekeeper chooses to do at the inspection is the correct action.
- There is no single way of doing things, it is up to the current team how they chose to inspect the hives.
- Given the above there should be no criticism of actions taken by previous inspection teams.
- Hives will only be opened by or under the supervision of the Duty Beekeeper.
- The Duty Beekeeper will ensure that the First Aid kit is available at the site when anyone is visiting.
- No vehicles to travel along the track beyond the end of the shed.

COMMUNICATION

- The Duty Beekeeper must have access to a mobile telephone in case of any emergency.
- The hive records will be the primary means of communicating between the operatives; i.e. what has happened and what needs to happen at the next inspection. Kept in ring-binder in shed.
- Please ensure that you let the next person on the rota know how the inspection went and anything that needs to be looked at.

GENERAL SET UP OF THE APIARY

- Hives in the apiary should be run on 'model' lines. This means that the layout of the apiary, equipment, quality of the bees and condition of the hives should be as high a quality as we can manage.
- All the equipment for making inspections other than protective clothing is in the bee shed, this is to minimise the risk of spreading disease. Let the coordinator know if you think we are missing any equipment.
- Drone culling. All colonies will have 1 short frame, marked by 2 drawing pins. Please cut off the 'extra comb' once all the brood is capped. Add note to hive record if it is just being capped as a reminder to the next team.

Later in the season when they draw worker cells below the frame they can be left and moved to the edge of the brood nest/hive

- Swarm Control. There should be Nucleus boxes on site ready for swarm control, please replace if you use them. So if queen cells with larvae are found, please remove 2 frames with brood (no queen cells), 1 stores all with covering bees and the queen to a Nuc box adjacent to the colony.