



North Somerset Beekeepers

(a Branch of Avon Beekeepers Association Reg Charity No 271717)

Apiary Health and Safety Policy and Risk Assessment

This is the statement of general policy and arrangements for:		North Somerset Branch of Avon Beekeepers Association
Overall and final responsibility for health and safety is that of:		The Committee of North Somerset Branch of Avon Beekeepers Association
Day-to-day responsibility for ensuring this policy is put into practice is delegated to:		Apiary Manager or Assistant
Statement of general policy	Responsibility of:	Action/Arrangements
To prevent accidents and cases of work-related ill health and provide adequate control of health and safety risks arising from beekeeping activities.	Apiary Manager	Relevant risk assessments completed and actions arising out of those assessments implemented. (Risk assessments reviewed every year or earlier if working habits or conditions change.).
To provide adequate training to ensure members and volunteers are competent to do their work.	Apiary Manager	Members and volunteers are given necessary health and safety induction and provided with appropriate training and personal protective equipment.
To engage and consult with members and volunteers on day-to-day health and safety conditions and provide advice and supervision on occupational health.	Apiary Manager	Members and volunteers routinely consulted on health and safety matters as they arise.

To maintain safe and healthy working conditions, provide and maintain plant, equipment and machinery, and ensure safe storage/use of substances.	Apiary Manager	System in place for routine inspections of safety equipment to ensure that action is promptly taken to address any defects. Users of hive cleaning or bee treating chemicals are trained in their safe handling/use.		
Health and safety law information is displayed:	In the apiary shed			
First-aid box, defibrillator and accident book are located: Accidents and ill health at work reported where applicable under RIDDOR: (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) www.hse.gov.uk/riddor Tel: 0845 300 9923	In the apiary shed			
Signed: (for the North Somerset Branch of Avon Beekeepers Association)	<i>Tom Francis</i>	Date:	08 th December 2025	
Subject to review, monitoring and revision by:	Tom Francis Apiary Manager	Every:	12	months or sooner if work activity changes

HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT

Introduction

There are members of the public who are interested in the craft of beekeeping, or may be considering taking it up as a hobby, and wish to visit the Apiary to see what is involved or to get practical experience. There are also members of North Somerset Beekeepers who will be instructed in beekeeping techniques as part of their training. This Risk Assessment considers the health and safety issues that may arise at the Apiary as a result of this and also other beekeeping activities that are carried out.

Tom Francis
Apiary Manager

<p>Location of the “Langford Apiary” Bristol Veterinary School Langford House Langford Bristol BS40 5DU</p> <p>Adjacent to Hen House building</p> <p>OS Grid Reference: ST460608</p> <p>What3words location: unclaimed.inert.leave</p>	<p>Task, Activity or Situation:</p> <p>Apiary activities for and on behalf of the North Somerset Beekeepers, including public displays and education (outside the apiary area); and training, hive inspection, honey production and other bee/apiary related activities (within the apiary area)</p>	<p>Assessed by:</p> <p>Tom Francis Apiary Manager</p> <p>Telephone: 07811391035</p>	<p>Date of Assessment:</p> <p>08th December 2025</p> <p>Re-assessment date:</p> <p>08th December 2026</p>
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HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED AND HOW?	EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES	RISK LOW/ MED/ HIGH	WHAT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE TO CONTROL THE RISK?	BY WHOM?
Vehicles	North Somerset Beekeepers members, visitors to the apiary could be struck by a vehicle entering, leaving or parking.	Visitor/member parking to be in designated parking areas in Car Park main site. Apiary Manager and Assistants only will be allowed to park adjacent to the apiary	LOW	North Somerset Beekeepers members & visitors to be informed of designated parking areas, and reminded to take care within vehicular access and car parking areas serving the apiary	Apiary Manager / Assistant / Beekeepers in Charge
Slips, trips & falls	North Somerset Beekeepers members, visitors to the apiary on slippery wet ground or tripping over obstacles.	Slip resistant surface within the apiary area where appropriate. Walkways kept clear of beekeeping equipment Provision of a First Aid kit.	LOW	Members & visitors made aware of slippery and uneven surfaces due to rain, animal activity, mud, etc. In extreme circumstances refuse entry to the site. Wellington boots to be worn in the apiary rather than laced shoes Routine housekeeping undertaken to reduce likelihood of slips, trips & falls. Hive lids to be upturned and placed on stands during inspections. All equipment to be placed under or close to stands, and kept clear of walkways.	Apiary Manager / Assistant / Beekeepers in Charge
Manual Handling	North Somerset Beekeepers members, visitors etc to the apiary injuring themselves whilst manipulating or lifting beehives and associated equipment	Good lifting practice to be used by all.	LOW	All new members/visitors to be made aware of potential weight of hive parts and instructed in appropriate method of lifting.	Apiary Manager / Assistant / Beekeepers in Charge

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Cuts, abrasions etc	North Somerset Beekeepers members, visitors to the apiary suffering cuts, abrasions or other minor injuries whilst on site.	Provision of a First Aid kit	LOW	Advising North Somerset Beekeepers members & visitors to take care when manipulating hives, using hive equipment etc.	Apiary Manager / Assistant / Beekeepers in Charge
Use of Smokers	North Somerset Beekeepers members, visitors to the apiary suffering burns, smoke inhalation. Risk of fire	Provision of firefighting equipment. Provision of First Aid Kit	LOW	Smokers to be of sound construction and fit for purpose. Smokers to be lit in a controlled environment outside the apiary, veils removed whilst smokers are lit. No smokers to be placed on polystyrene hive roofs or parts. Smokers to be emptied on hard standing outside apiary, and fully extinguished. Extra care to be taken in dry weather.	Apiary Manager / Assistant / Beekeepers in Charge
Use of Gas torches	North Somerset Beekeepers members, visitors to the apiary suffering burns, smoke inhalation. Risk of fire	Provision of firefighting equipment. Provision of First Aid Kit	LOW	Ensure no flammable debris in the area, remove equipment to hard standing for scorching, follow user guidelines, store equipment as recommended.	Apiary Manager / Assistant / Beekeepers in Charge

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Bee Stings	A North Somerset Beekeepers member or visitor to the apiary exhibiting an adverse reaction to a bee sting/s, possibly resulting in Anaphylactic Shock	<p>BBKA Advisory Sheet L002a 'Summary of Actions in the Event of a Serious Bee Sting Reaction' to be displayed on notice board at Apiary.</p> <p>BBKA Information sheet L002 'Bee Stings' displayed inside Apiary Shed</p> <p>Provision of antihistamine cream and tablets in First Aid box for minor reactions to stings.</p> <p>Apiary Location information displayed on notice board.</p> <p>No members to use Apiary unless *suitably experienced or accompanied by suitably experienced member.</p> <p>No person to enter the apiary without another adult in attendance.</p>	MED	<p>All visitors/new members to be given induction talk on recognising symptoms of anaphylactic reaction. Any epi-pen carriers asked to identify themselves, and permission sought in advance to administer pen if needed.</p> <p>Any epi-pen carriers to declare where their epi-pens are kept.</p> <p>All attendees to be instructed to call ambulance immediately stating “anaphylaxis” if anaphylactic reaction suspected in any other attendee.</p> <p>Persons to be deployed to road to indicate apiary site to ambulance.</p> <p>Attention is drawn to apiary location to all new attendees.</p>	Apiary Manager / Assistant / Beekeepers in Charge / All attendees

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<p>Use of chemicals / apiary medication</p> <p>See below for application and use of Thymol, Acetic Acid, Formic Acid and Oxalic Acid</p>	<p>The user, eg the Apiary Manager, or North Somerset Beekeepers member</p>	<p>1. Safety Data Sheets for all chemicals used available in Apiary Shed.</p> <p>2. Bee medications only to be administered by Apiary Manager / Assistant / *suitably experienced beekeepers, or trainees under direct supervision of one of the above.</p> <p>3. Only products approved by VMD (Veterinary Medical Directorate) to be used.</p> <p>*Suitably experienced - BBKA Basic Assessment or 10 years minimum keeping bees.</p>	<p>HIGH</p>	<p>All attendees to be briefed on proper use and hazards of any chemicals/medication used at the apiary as appropriate.</p>	<p>Apiary Manager / Assistant / Beekeepers in Charge</p>

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THYMOL (Apiguard)	The user, eg the Apiary Manager, or North Somerset Beekeepers member	<p>Only products approved by VMD (Veterinary Medical Directorate) to be used.</p> <p>Apiguard</p> <p>Apilife Var</p> <p>Thymovar</p> <p>Safety Data Sheet to be read before using product.</p> <p>All instructions supplied with the product to be followed.</p>	MED	<p>Wear protective gloves and clothing.</p> <p>Avoid contact with eyes by wearing protective safety goggles (eg EN 166).</p> <p>In case of accidental eye contact, flush eyes thoroughly with running water (for at least 15 minutes) lifting upper and lower lids occasionally. Seek medical advice if irritation persists.</p> <p>In case of skin irritation rinse the skin immediately with copious amounts of water. Immediately remove contaminated clothing. Seek medical advice if symptoms develop.</p> <p>Inhalation: In cases of excessive inhalation of vapour and/or gases, remove the casualty into fresh air. If nausea persists or symptoms of poisoning are apparent, seek medical assistance.</p> <p>Ingestion: Clean mouth with water and give large amounts of water (although not to unconscious). Do not induce vomiting. Seek medical assistance.</p>	Apiary Manager / Assistant / Beekeepers in Charge

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OXALIC ACID (Api-Bioxal)	The user, eg the Apiary Manager, or North Somerset Beekeepers member	<p>Only products approved by VMD (Veterinary Medical Directorate) to be used.</p> <p>Api-Bioxal</p> <p>Oxybee</p> <p>Oxuvar</p> <p>Varroxal</p> <p>Safety Data Sheet to be read before using product.</p> <p>All instructions supplied with the product to be followed.</p>	MED HIGH	<p>When applied by TRICKLING</p> <p>When applied by VAPORISATION</p> <p>Wear protective gloves and clothing. Avoid contact with eyes by wearing protective safety goggles (eg EN 166).</p> <p>For Trickling and vaporising: Wear face mask to FFP2 specification</p> <p>For Vaporising: It is recommended that the person applying wears full face protection with A2 - P3 rating or higher. Observers should be min 2 metres distant if wearing FFP2 masks.</p> <p>Eye Contact: Rinse immediately with plenty of water, also under the eyelids, for at least 15 minutes. Seek medical assistance. Skin Contact: Wash off immediately with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes. If skin irritation persists, seek medical advice. Ingestion: Clean mouth with water and drink plenty of water afterwards. Seek medical assistance if symptoms occur. Inhalation: Remove to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. Seek medical assistance if symptoms occur.</p>	Apiary Manager / Assistant / Beekeepers in Charge

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FORMIC ACID (MAQS)	The user, eg the Apiary Manager, or North Somerset Beekeepers member	<p>Only products approved by VMD (Veterinary Medical Directorate) to be used.</p> <p>MAQS</p> <p>Varromed</p> <p>Formic pro</p> <p>Safety Data Sheet to be read before using product.</p> <p>All instructions supplied with the product to be followed.</p>	MED	<p>User Safety Procedures and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): When handling and applying the product, wear the usual beekeeping protective clothing. Avoid contact with eyes by wearing protective safety goggles (eg EN 166). In case of accidental eye contact, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice and show the package leaflet to the physician. Avoid contact with skin by wearing chemical resistant gloves (EN 374). In case of accidental skin contact, wash the exposed skin immediately with water and seek medical advice and show the package leaflet to the physician. Have water readily available. Avoid inhalation of vapour. Only open the product container and unwrap strips outdoors, standing upwind of the product. In case of accidental inhalation seek medical advice immediately and show the package leaflet to the physician. KEEP CHILDREN WELL AWAY DURING APPLICATION OF PRODUCT. Contaminated clothing should be removed and washed before being re-used. Do not eat, drink or smoke whilst handling and applying the product. Always wash hands with soap and water directly after use.</p>	Apiary Manager / Assistant / Beekeepers in Charge

HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED AND HOW?	EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES	RISK LOW/ MED/ HIGH	WHAT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE TO CONTROL THE RISK?	BY WHOM?
ACETIC ACID	The user, eg the Apiary Manager, or North Somerset Beekeepers member	<p>ACETIC ACID: Only to be used in the Apiary with the permission of the Apiary manager or Assistant or suitably qualified beekeeper, and then under direct supervision.</p> <p>Only to be used for control of wax moth and sterilization of frames in unoccupied supers and brood boxes.</p> <p>Safety Data Sheet to be read before using product.</p> <p>Manufacturer’s Instructions to be followed in applying.</p>	HIGH	<p>Health hazards Skin Corrosion/Irritation Category 1 A Serious Eye Damage/Eye Irritation Cat 1</p> <p>Precautionary Statements:</p> <p>Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection</p> <p>IF SWALLOWED: Rinse mouth. Do NOT induce vomiting</p> <p>IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing Immediately call an ambulance</p> <p>IF ON SKIN (or hair): Take off immediately all contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water or shower. Keep away from heat, hot surfaces, sparks, open flames and other ignition sources. No smoking.</p>	Apiary Manager / Assistant / Beekeepers in Charge