

## HwDAA - 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 (NAS). 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. Potential bee keepers should ensure that the location of their hives is agreed with neighbouring plot holders before they apply to keep bees and that these ploholders will not be unduly inconvenienced by the hives location
3. All beekeepers on an HwDAA site must have current, full membership of the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) via a local association (eg Bristol Beekeepers). HwDAA will keep a register of tenants keeping bees, along with membership numbers. This register will be checked annually. Evidence of membership must be made available on request
4. Beginner/novice beekeepers wishing to keep bees on an 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.
5. No more than three active hives are allowed per tenant, 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.
6. When positioning beehives, precautions must be taken so that the flight line of the bees rises above neighbouring plots, paths and the hauling way. This can be achieved by locating hives adjacent to a fence, wall, shed, fruit trees, or by employing a mesh screen.
7. 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.
8. All beekeepers on HwDAA sites must maintain their colonies in a 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/](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/)
9. 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.

**Hotwells & District Allotments Association Ltd.** Registered under the Co-operative & Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 Registered No: 6359R. Registered Office: 2 Kennel Lodge Road, Bower Ashton, Bristol, BS3 2JT

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10. Beekeepers must keep their plot in good state.
11. HwDAA advises against storing empty hives and unused equipment on site. IF any unused equipment or empty hives are stored on site they **MUST** be clean, free from any remaining honey comb and free from disease.
12. Bee colonies must not be brought on site from another location as a temporary measure.
13. 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 and complete 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).

[Link to bee keeping application form..](#)