

CONDITIONS FOR KEEPING BEES ON ALL ALLOTMENT SITES

1. CONSENT

Bees shall not be kept on any allotment until the allotment tenant has submitted a request in writing to keep bees on his or her plot to the Allotment Manager and that request has been agreed in writing by the Allotment Manager.

Beekeepers making such an application will be expected to be either experienced, to be working towards a British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) qualification and / or to have close guidance from an experienced beekeeper and hold the relevant insurance documents.

2. CONSULTATION

Prior to making an application the plot holder should inform, both verbally and by a prominently displayed notice on the plot, notifying neighbouring allotment gardeners of the request to keep bees on the allotment and prominently display such a notice for a minimum period of 28 days in the growing season and 56 days outside the growing season, indicating that a request to keep bees has been submitted to the Councils Allotment Officer.

Where an objection on allergy or medical grounds is made to the Council and substantiated, the Council may refuse permission to place bees on the site.

3. DUTY OF CARE

The beekeeper owes a duty of care to –

- The public in the vicinity of the hives
- Other allotment gardeners working nearby
- Intruders even though it is clear that their intention was to disturb the colony.

They should erect a notice in advance informing others of the opening of the hives, usually once a week or fortnight in the peak season.

4. SITING AND NUMBER OF HIVES

Hives should be sited as far as possible from any public road or path or jointly used road or path within the allotment site, and the location must be agreed in advance with the Council. The chosen location must have fences, fine mesh or maintained hedges of up to two metres tall to encourage the bees to fly high over neighbouring plots or gardens.

No more than two hives will be permitted per plot with a maximum number per site not exceeding two hives per acre subject to the limits set out below and the actual number stated in the Agreement.

Alder Farm – 6 Hives	Blake Dene – 1 Hive	Broadstone – 4 Hives
Whitecliff – 0 Hives	Widdicombe – 3 Hives	

Prior consent from the Council must be obtained for any change in the location and number of hives kept on site.

5. EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

The beekeeper must provide the Council with details (names, address and telephone number) of persons able to deal with emergencies (such as swarming) during any absence or unavailability of the bee keeper. These details must be also always be prominently displayed on or near to the beekeepers allotment.

6. COMPLAINTS

The Council will investigate any complaints and in particular those with health and nuisance elements and in consequence may subsequently withdraw permission via the issue of 14 days notice for the removal of all hives.

7. INSURANCE

The beekeeper is required to hold a current Public Liability insurance policy, which provides specifically for Beekeeping risk in the sum of five million pounds (5,000,000) cover.

The Beekeeper must annually provide the Councils Allotment Officer with copies of the renewed insurance certificate.

8. PESTS AND DISEASES

The beekeeper is encouraged to register all hives with the National Bee Unit 'Beebase', (part of Defra).

If the beekeeper suspects that notifiable pests are present in the hive or that bees are suffering from a notifiable disease they must inform the National Bee Unit who will arrange for an inspector to assess the hives/bees and provide a copy of the results of inspection to the Councils Allotment department.

9. SALE OF HONEY

The beekeeper will not sell honey on their plot or display notices that honey is available for sale on the Allotment Site or Garden.

The sale of honey or related products may only take place at the Association Hut with the approval of the Allotment Association Management Committee.

10. WITHDRAWAL OF CONSENT

The Council may withdraw the permission giving 14 days notice to remove the hives if;

- The permit holder contravenes any of the above conditions.
- The permit holder contravenes any conditions within the allotment tenancy Agreement or any separate Allotment Association rules.
- Substantiated information is received that requires a review of the arrangements

Any costs resulting from the withdrawal of consent shall be borne by the allotment holder.



AGREEMENT

I hereby accept and agree to abide by the additional Conditions of Tenancy laid down by the Council for the keeping of honey bees as set out in the 'Conditions for Keeping Bees on all Allotment Sites'

Maximum Number of Beehives allowed per plot = ----

Signed: -----

Plot Number: -----@----- **Allotments**

Dated: -----

The Council hereby accepts the above signatory, as a beekeeper, upon adherence to the conditions set out above.

Insurance Details Provided :-----

Dated: -----

Signed:-----

Further information available from;

The British Beekeepers Association The National Agricultural Centre Stoneleigh Warwickshire CV8 2LG www.britishbee.org.uk	National Bee Unit Foss House Kings Pool 1-2 Peasholme Green York Y01 7PX www.nationalbeeunit.com
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Please return this agreement to the above address marked for the attention of the Allotment Department.