

## Risk assessment

**Company name:** Aycliffe Beekeepers Association

**Assessment carried out by:** Clare Midgley and Tony Lamb

**Date of next review:** April 2025

**Date assessment was carried out:** April 2024

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
<b>Slips trips and falls</b>	Any person visiting the Apiary site. The floor is of gravel and uneven in places. There are beehives on site and wooden hive stands which are obstacles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weeds are regularly cleared.</li> <li>Debris is disposed of.</li> <li>Equipment is cleared away.</li> </ul>	Check site for hazards on a visit- by- visit basis.	Any ABKA member visiting site	At each site visit.	
<b>Fire</b>	Any beekeeper using a lighted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beekeepers are trained in</li> </ul>	Remind new beekeepers not to light	Supervising Beekeepers in	At each site visit.	

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<b>Fire cont.</b>	smoker may burn themselves. Smokers that have not been correctly extinguished may set light to wooden sheds and hives.	the safe use of smokers.	<p>smoker whilst their protective hood is in place and to refer to their training.</p> <p>Check that all smokers are correctly extinguished before the site is cleared. Take extra care when it is windy.</p>	<p>the Apiary to remind new Beekeepers</p> <p>All ABKA members using the site.</p>		
<b>Hazardous substances</b>	Any person handling substances intended for the control of Varroa mites on bees. Some substances are toxic if mishandled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varroa treatments are carried out by experienced beekeepers in accordance with best practice (BBKA) and the manufacturer's instructions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that all beekeepers using hazardous substances are aware of the correct disposal procedure for unused items.</li> <li>All chemical treatments used</li> </ul>	<p>Member nominated at the time to be in charge of scheduled treatments.</p> <p>Any experienced</p>	At next planned session for varroa treatment in Spring, Late Summer / Autumn or as deemed necessary.	

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<b>Hazardous substances cont.</b>	Washing soda solution used for cleaning hive tools is caustic to skin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unused substances are disposed of according to the manufacturer's instructions.</li> <li>Clean water is available via the allotment taps for dealing with contamination</li> </ul>	<p>must be recorded and that record kept for five years. A proforma is attached with this risk assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervise any new beekeeper in the making up and use of a washing soda solution.</li> </ul>	<p>beekeeper mentoring another.</p> <p>Any experienced beekeeper mentoring another.</p>	At each weekly visit to check bees.	
<b>Lifting and Handling</b>	There is much lifting of heavy hive boxes when keeping bees. Beekeepers working on their	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beekeepers work in pairs and to lift boxes and hive parts in pairs</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure hives and boxes and hive stands are stable and in good repair.</p> <p>Ensure equipment stored in sheds is</p>	<p>Members of the Apiary team</p> <p>Equipment officer and</p>	Review annually	

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<b>Lifting and Handling cont.</b>	own may struggle to lift a heavy box and injure themselves.		stacked safely and correctly.	helper		
<b>Working with Bees</b>	Any person entering the apiary may be stung.  Some people may be allergic to bee stings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warning signs for members of the public sited outside of the apiary. Note that the public cannot enter the apiary without a member of ABKA being present.</li> <li>First aid provision in 'old' shed.</li> <li>Those who</li> </ul>	<p>A general antihistamine or sting cream is provided for the use of any person who has been stung. It will be administered by the person affected by the sting if they request medication.</p> <p>Box needs to be checked re contents annually or when box is opened for use. There are no first aiders</p>	Training		

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Working with Bees cont.		<p>may be affected carry their own epi pen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beekeepers are advised to walk away from the bees when they have been stung. This reduces the presence of the alarm pheromone and the risk of further stings.</li> <li>Protective suits and gloves must be worn in the Apiary</li> </ul>	<p>present</p> <p>Remind new beekeepers to work quietly and gently when opening and examining hives.</p>	officers and mentors		

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<b>Lone Working and isolated site</b>	The apiary is at the edge of a large allotment site with limited vehicular access. The hives are sited behind a locked gate and fence. Any person working on their own and having an accident might not be able to summon help.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beekeepers are advised not to work on their own.</li> <li>Beekeepers advised to inform a colleague or other person when working on their own.</li> <li>Keep mobile phone in bee suit pocket where it is accessible.</li> </ul>	<p>A notice is displayed identifying the Apiary location details in case of emergency or the need to summon an ambulance.</p> <p>Beekeepers leading the training sessions brief that this is a personal responsibility and good practice.</p> <p>New Beekeepers are briefed before each Apiary session by Beekeepers leading the training session.</p>			Location is Pigeon Plot 4, St Oswald's Allotment site, Hylton Close, Washington Crescent, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4BA What three words: fitter.breathing.trifling

End