

National Bee Unit

Bee Safari's



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

1. What is a bee Safari?

A bee safari is where associations, or groups of beekeeping friends arrange a day of colony inspections in a number of apiaries with a Bee Inspector.

2. What is expected of the association?

The association arranges a schedule of volunteer apiaries to maximise the number within the area and time span. A member or members of the association accompanies the Bee Inspector to direct them to the apiaries. A break for lunch should be included if more than one team is involved so that everyone can meet up and discuss the day's events.

Ensure that the group members maintain apiary hygiene and limit transfer of disease and disorders from one site to the other. Provision of disposable gloves is recommended for those attending. Please refer to the [Apiary Hygiene and Quarantine Fact sheet](#) for guidance.

3. What time should I allow in the schedule?

Each colony inspection takes about fifteen minutes and on top of that it is necessary to add the travelling time between apiaries.

4. What will the Bee Inspectors do?

Bee Inspectors will examine colonies for signs of brood disease and *Varroa*. He/she will show those present how to examine colonies with this in mind. They will also make general observations about the colonies. They will not criticise the beekeeper but may make suggestions on how to help improve their bee management skills. A Bee safari is an educational experience and allows beekeepers to share best practice.

5. What happens if foulbrood disease is found?

The Bee Inspector will take the usual course of action, taking a sample while talking through the actions to be taken. He/she will advise those present on the hygiene methods that they should use to prevent spreading of disease. He/she will ask those present to respect confidentiality unless the beekeeper wishes to be open about the disease outbreak.

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6. How much will it cost?

There is no charge for the Bee Inspector's services. Transport for beekeepers between apiaries must be organised with your association as inspectors aren't insured to carry members of the public.

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