



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency



BEE FARMERS
ASSOCIATION

DASH

Disease Assurance Scheme for Honey bees Handbook / Working Protocols

Version 4

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APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

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What is the Disease Assurance Scheme for Honey bees - DASH?

The Disease Assurance Scheme for Honey bees (DASH) is a joint initiative between the National Bee Unit (NBU) and The Bee Farmers' Association Ltd (BFA). The NBU is part of the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) and is responsible for the implementation of the Statutory Bee Health Programme in England & Wales.

The aim of the scheme is to reduce the costs associated with disease within commercial beekeeping operations and improve the health of honey bees within the operation.

DASH is recognised within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Farming Regulation Task Force Implementation – [Earned Recognition Plan August 2013](#).

The scheme is entirely voluntary, and participants may leave at any time. There is no charge for participating in the scheme; training and equipment such as LFDs and reply-paid labels are provided.

DASH accreditation applies to your own bees only, it does not extend to any bees belonging to someone else that you may manage or assist with. DASH members are not authorised to treat a colony that is not their own.

What is Earned Recognition?

In the context of this work, earned recognition is finding ways to reduce the administrative burden of regulation on those who have a strong track record of reliability and adherence to standards.

It does not necessarily mean a reduction in the total countrywide number of inspections, but rather an opportunity to improve targeting of those inspections on those operations where the risks are highest. This allows the NBU to focus its limited inspection time on those beekeepers not within DASH.

In considering earned recognition we must ensure that:

- Safety and environmental standards are protected.
- Where used, recognised third party inspections are demonstrably robust, independent and subject to proper checks and controls.
- Introducing earned recognition should be fair and proportionate, undertaken in consultation with interested parties.
- Regulators remain fully responsible for enforcement and sanctions.

Effective Bee Health Management

Bee Health management means assessing the impact of disease on your operation and implementing a strategy to reduce it, in partnership with your Bee Inspector.

Adopting an effective health management strategy is fundamental to reducing the cost of disease to your business.

The National Bee Unit will facilitate health management by offering a supportive health improvement service, including thorough audit visits, to enable you to plan disease control within your operation where appropriate and necessary.

It can help you to achieve and maintain low disease levels and improve the profitability of the business.

Biosecurity

Good biosecurity is essential to the health of your bees. Infectious diseases cannot be effectively controlled without effective biosecurity within your operation.

Basic guidance on biosecurity and other aspects of bee health management is provided in [Appendix F 'Apiary Hygiene and Quarantine'](#). Detailed guidance and requirements specific to your operation should be discussed with your Bee Inspector.

How does DASH Work?

Entry criteria

The scheme is only open to active, full members of the Bee Farmers' Association (BFA) who are registered on BeeBase.

To be eligible to join the DASH, Bee Farmers must: -

- Manage bees using a high level of biosecurity to minimise the spread of disease.
- Have a minimum of 150 colonies.
- Be active, full members of the BFA.
- Be registered on BeeBase.
- Not have a business-model that involves managing other bees.

Following training, an assessment and a full audit of all colonies, admission to the scheme is at the discretion of the NBU.

All DASH members are expected to update their apiary sites and colony numbers on BeeBase and be required to self-report any disease finds to the NBU as outlined in this handbook. Training and equipment needed for diagnosis of suspect disease is provided by the NBU.

The scheme is entirely voluntary, and participants may leave at any time. There is no charge for participating in the scheme; and equipment such as Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests for foulbrood and reply-paid labels will be provided.

To administer the scheme the BFA and the NBU, which is part of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), work together and share information on DASH members.

For further information about what to expect when APHA asks for or holds personal information, please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/personal-information-charter>

For further information on how the BFA use personal data, please go to:
<https://beefarmers.co.uk/privacy-policy>

Four phases of the Scheme

Phase One – Establish eligibility to join the scheme

Bee farmers wishing to join the scheme will make an application via the BFA, usually following a request in the Bee Farmer magazine. Prospective DASH candidates are invited to answer an online questionnaire which the BFA reviews and applications that meet agreed criteria are then forwarded to the National Bee Unit (NBU).

Phase Two – Training and Assessment

All DASH candidates, their employees and apprentices are invited to attend a DASH training event and must pass an assessment before being eligible to move to phase three.

Phase Three – Establish good biosecurity standards

All bee colonies owned by the applicant are inspected by the National Bee Unit's Inspectorate to give an accurate and reliable assessment of the disease situation within the operation. This inspection is referred to as the Baseline audit.

If you delegate disease inspections to employees, it is preferred that they attend and pass a DASH training course. If you delegate disease inspections to employees who have not passed the training and assessment process, it is your responsibility to complete mandatory disease checks a minimum of twice a year.

Depending on the outcome of the baseline inspection a management plan is agreed to reduce risk and **maintain/enhance** biosecurity standards, so disease levels can be kept to a minimum.

Phase Four – Monitoring of the operation

The NBU perform risk-based audits every three years in line with the Regulators' Code to ensure that previously agreed management actions are working and that protocols are being followed correctly. If non-conformities are found, additional help and advice is provided.

Guidelines for DASH Participants

Principles

1. Accreditation is in *three stages*: assessing your eligibility, training and assessment of your competence to recognise and manage disease and a baseline inspection of all your colonies. All three stages must be completed before full membership status is conferred.
2. Once assured, if you find foulbrood you are empowered under the scheme to deal with it yourself. You still have a legal duty to report disease and pests, so that nearest neighbours at risk (or that may be the source of disease) can be inspected by the NBU.
3. There is a low level of bee disease throughout the UK, therefore, DASH members cannot assure bees and or produce as 'free of disease'. Promotion of products by DASH members claiming 'free of disease' or 'DASH assured' is misleading and is considered a non-conformance on the scheme. Accredited DASH Bee farmers may say the following on websites and other communications material:
A member of the National Bee Unit's Disease Assurance Scheme for Honey bees (DASH) - Assured to recognise, manage and responsibly report honey bee disease.
4. DASH members may not advertise products with 'DASH' but may say:
Visibly free of disease on DD/MM/YYYY, checked by: [name DASH member].
5. All DASH members are expected to update their apiary sites and colony numbers on BeeBase, self-report any disease and maintain appropriate records. For more information see [Appendix L](#). Your records must be sufficient to enable you to trace colony movements should you discover disease, together with veterinary medicine records.
6. All DASH members must maintain documentation containing details of veterinary medicinal products administered to colonies for at least five years. Find out more here: <https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/diseases-and-pests/varroa/medicines/>
7. Once you are assured, inspectors will no longer routinely inspect your bees however, they will still maintain contact with you regarding disease incidence in your area and are available should you need advice or assistance. DASH apiaries identified to be at risk, may still require an NBU inspection.
8. If you are part of the Voluntary or Enhanced Sentinel Apiary Programmes (VSA and ESA), we encourage you to continue your participation. Apiaries in exotic risk areas are subject to checks for exotic pests. You can find out more information about the VSA and ESA programmes on BeeBase: [Sentinel Apiaries » APHA - National Bee Unit - BeeBase](#)

DASH Training and Assessment

The purpose of the initial training and assessment is to ensure that you can look for and recognise foulbrood; and that you know and can use appropriate husbandry measures to avoid and, where necessary, manage foulbrood disease.

The training includes an introductory online session followed a number of weeks later by a day of intensive training, normally held at the NBU apiary in Sand Hutton, Yorkshire.

Typical DASH training syllabus:

- Barrier management: good practice, disease spread prevention and equipment storage
- Equipment disinfection techniques
- Identifying diseases and brood conditions in combs (and photographs)
- Apiary session — inspecting for disease, exotics, carrying out a shook swarm, demonstration of a destruction with active involvement from candidates
- Apiary Session — destruction of diseased colonies, health and safety tips, apiary hygiene, and prevention of reoccurrence
- Veterinary medicine administration record compliance requirements
- BeeBase and record keeping
- Disease recap and photo demo
- Examination and disease identification test
- BeeBase records

The day ends with the assessment which is carried out and marked by the NBU. Those passing both parts of the assessment can progress to the second stage of assurance, the Baseline Audit.

Those who do not pass the assessment, cannot progress, but can apply to join the next DASH intake.

Baseline Inspection and Audit

The intent of the baseline audit is designed to assess how you manage disease risk across your operation and to check that the terms of the scheme are being complied with. Examples of non-compliance are provided on the next page. If foulbrood is found on the baseline inspection, this will not prevent you from being on the Scheme. Examples of non-compliance are provided on the next page. Your Bee Inspector will contact you to arrange an inspection of all your colonies, premises and working protocols. The audit is split into 3 sections:

1. Biosecurity: apiary hygiene, witnessed shook swarm / destruction
2. Premises check: equipment storage, extraction room
3. Documentation: VMD records, BeeBase records and standstills, import documentation (if relevant)

1. Biosecurity:

- 1.1. These initial inspections would normally be carried out in a short, intensive block of time, to complete them quickly and efficiently, thereby reducing disruption to your operation, and giving a clear block of time for disease to be dealt with if found.
- 1.2. The baseline inspections will be carried out in the normal way, but jointly, to provide you with guidance and assistance in the early stages of DASH.
- 1.3. If any foulbrood is found, it must be dealt with according to the statutory protocols, this includes a mandatory standstill until a clear inspection after six weeks.
- 1.4. To ensure you can manage foulbrood diseases, you will have witnessed a shook swarm and demonstration of a destruction in your training. Additional guidance can be found in the appendices in this handbook. If disease is found during your baseline audit, we will require you to demonstrate your proficiency of a shook swarm or destruction, as appropriate. We would support you to carry out the associated six-week follow-up inspection if disease is found during the baseline audit.
- 1.5. If foulbrood is found, the inspectorate may visit to observe and check that destructions and/or shook swarms are being carried out according to the guidelines. See Appendices: A — Destroying colonies of bees infected with AFB or EFB, G — Shook Swarming, H — Care after a Shook Swarm Procedure and I — Disinfecting a Hive after Disease.
- 1.6. It is likely that we would also carry out the associated six-week follow-up inspections with you.

2. Premises

- 2.1. The audit will review biosecurity on your premises, apiaries, and equipment. It is important to maintain equipment hygiene to reduce the spread of disease.
- 2.2. Your extraction room will be reviewed to see if it is bee-tight.

3. Documentation

3.1. Keeping good records is an important part of the DASH. You must disclose all of your apiary sites at the time of the baseline inspection. Subsequently, you must enter any new sites onto BeeBase within 14 days of them coming into use.

3.2. Veterinary medicine administration records must be complete to be compliant with the scheme.

Where relevant, we will make recommendations for changes in the way you do things e.g., to help with disease prevention and control. Recommendations that are not rectified within an agreed timescale will not receive DASH accreditation.

Minor Non-Compliance — Notified Verbally

Following notification of a minor non-compliance, rectifications will be agreed between the Inspector and the DASH member. Agreed rectifications must be carried out within 21 days. Examples of minor non-compliance include:

- a) Poor biosecurity of PPE and working methods e.g., dirty bee suits, hive tools, poor barrier management practices
- b) Poor biosecurity of premises/apiaries and equipment
- c) Poor record keeping on BeeBase e.g., not recording new apiary sites on BeeBase within 14 days of them coming into use
- d) Poor record keeping to trace colony movements
- e) Veterinary medicine administration records incomplete
- f) Inappropriate promotion of products by DASH members claiming, 'free of disease'

Examples of rectification evidence that may be agreed include:

- a) Photos of before and after, showing improved biosecurity e.g., clean equipment, and barrier management practices
- b) Visible up to date records on BeeBase
- c) Evidence of colony movements
- d) Completed veterinary medicine administration records
- e) Photos of before and after showing improved biosecurity of premises/ apiaries and equipment as appropriate
- f) Evidence of withdrawals of advertisements and/or published rectifications

If agreed rectifications have not been carried out within 21 days, suspension from the scheme will be considered.

Major Non-Compliance — Notified in Writing

If evidence of a major non-compliance is found, as listed below, some of which are contraventions of bee health legislation, they will result in the DASH member being removed from the scheme.

- a) Wilful non-disclosure of all apiary sites at the time of the baseline inspection
- b) Persistent inappropriate record keeping to trace colony movements
- c) Non-conformance of import regulations & documentation
- d) Levels of disease that should have been diagnosed within the normal routine
- e) Not reporting foulbrood
- f) Not complying with the terms of any NBU licences or notices
- g) Moving a colony or colonies infected with EFB without requesting a Movement Licence from the NBU
- h) Moving honey from an infected (or suspect) colony or colonies, without a Honey Movement Licence
- i) Not destroying a colony or colonies infected with American Foulbrood. All bees must be euthanised; brood, frames, stores, and those hive parts not capable of being disinfected, must be burnt in a pit
- j) Use of unauthorised treatments and medicines
- k) Aggressive or abusive behaviour towards NBU staff

If evidence of major non-compliance is found and there are extenuating circumstances, these will be fully examined before a member is removed from the scheme.

DASH Membership Timeline

Autumn	BFA invite and review DASH applicants, current active members forwarded to NBU
Winter	NBU review applications
Spring	NBU contact candidates and invite to training sessions
Spring	NBU host online training for applicants with an online assessment
Spring/Summer	NBU offer a mix of comb workshop events and/or apiary visits focussing on disease recognition and biosecurity
1 year	Baseline Inspection of all colonies, equipment and premises including checking the extraction room is bee-tight. Timing of inspections is dependent on regional DASH audits due
1 year	Successful DASH members receive a certificate of competency. Applicants may receive improvement orders where necessary and are asked to rectify any non-compliances within an agreed period
3 years	NBU perform risk-based audits every 3 years in line with the Regulators' Code: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulators-code
Annually	Online sessions on scheme updates and in-field disease recognition sessions to be offered for bee farmer continued professional development

DASH in Practice

Once you pass the assessment and baseline inspections are completed with no outstanding improvement notices, you become a fully assured DASH member and receive a certificate.

Equipment Provided

The National Bee Unit will provide you with a kit of consumables which will normally include the items below:

- a. [Bee Farmer Self Inspection Forms](#) (BFSI Form) to report foulbrood (Appendix J)
- b. Test kits (LFDs) for EFB and AFB
- c. Eppendorf tubes with labels for samples of suspected diseased material, for example diseased larvae, or scale
- d. Padded envelopes with first class, reply-paid labels for sending tube samples, LFD's and extraction bottles containing buffer solution, together with the Bee Farmer Self Inspection Form

If you need additional equipment, contact the NBU office on 0300 3030094 or by email at nbu-dash@apha.gov.uk

Inspecting your colonies, and what to do if you find foulbrood

We recommend that you inspect all your colonies fully for foulbrood three times a year. If you have recently had foulbrood, more regular inspections are required, particularly at the apiary in question. See [Appendix K — The Control of European Foulbrood](#). When inspecting for disease, we recommend shaking bees off brood frames to allow you to get a clear view of the brood. See Appendices: A — Destroying colonies of bees infected with AFB or EFB, G — Shook Swarming and H — Care after a Shook Swarm Procedure. If you find foulbrood the inspectorate may visit to observe and check that destructions and/or shook swarms are being carried out according to the guidelines.

The antibiotic Oxytetracycline (OTC) is no longer used in England and Wales to treat EFB. Research suggests its use suppresses rather than eradicates or contains disease.

Please note that this leaflet is provided as general guidance for all beekeepers. Only assured DASH members are authorised to carry out shook swarms and destructions

on colonies they own. DASH members must not destroy or treat colonies for foulbrood belonging to others, or that they manage on behalf of another.

If you do not find foulbrood in an apiary, you need take no action. There is no need to inform the NBU of your clear inspections, EXCEPT 6 – 8 weeks after a positive foulbrood report. Submitting a clear inspection after reporting statutory disease removes the standstill on affected apiaries.

Legal requirements

It is a legal requirement for all beekeepers including DASH members to notify the NBU regarding suspicion of notifiable diseases or pests. If you find signs of foulbrood in a colony, the procedure is as follows:

LFD Use

1. When available, you can confirm your visual diagnosis of foulbrood using the appropriate LFD. Check that you are using the correct LFD for AFB or EFB, and that the test kit has not passed its use by date before performing the test. Guidance on how to use LFDs is provided here, <https://www.vita-europe.com/beehealth/products/efb-diagnostic-test-kit/>. A positive LFD is a definitive and reliable confirmation of the visual diagnosis.
2. If you use an LFD — whether it comes up positive or not — write: your name, ID number, apiary name, date and hive number immediately on the back of the LFD, and on the extraction bottle containing the buffer solution.
3. If the LFD shows 2 blue lines it is positive. Fill in the inspection form with details of the infected colony or colonies. Note on the form whether you are destroying or shook swarming the colony and the total number of colonies in the apiary. It is not necessary to fill in details of uninfected colonies.
4. Post the completed [BeeFarmer Self Inspection Form](#) with the positive LFD and extraction bottle containing the buffer solution as soon as practicable (preferably the same day, but certainly by the next day) using the padded envelope and reply-paid label provided.
5. If you believe from clinical signs that a colony may have foulbrood, but the LFD does not show positive, you should take samples of apparently infected cell contents in an Eppendorf tube (supplied), label appropriately for identification, and send to the NBU, with the negative LFD and the BFSI form, in a padded envelope using a reply-paid label. It is important to send negative LFD and extraction bottles containing the buffer solution. This allows the lab to monitor whether LFDs are working. If you have any disease identification questions, contact your local inspector who will be happy to help.

Sending samples to confirm foulbrood diagnosis

If one or more colonies test positive for foulbrood in an apiary, or you suspect they may have foulbrood, it is essential that you place the apiary under voluntary standstill immediately, and do not move any colonies or equipment out of the apiary. This is a legal requirement. We will issue an official Standstill Notice to you ([Appendix D](#)) by email, or by post if your tube sample(s) test positive.

Send any samples of diseased larvae or scale in a labelled Eppendorf tube. Label the tube with the apiary ID, colony number and date. Make sure the tube is closed tightly. Send the tube, along with the completed [Bee Farmer Self Inspection Form' \(BFSI Form\)](#), to the NBU laboratory using the reply-paid labels supplied to DASH members

After a sample is sent to the laboratory the presence of a notifiable disease will be confirmed by an authorised person on the basis of a laboratory test result whether or not the tube samples test positive for foulbrood.

When disease is found, apiaries remain under standstill until you have carried out a follow-up inspection that shows no signs of foulbrood in any colonies and submitted a clear foulbrood report to the office. As outlined in 'Six week follow-up'. NBU can then issue a Withdrawal of Standstill Notice as per [Appendix E](#)

After You Find Foulbrood: notification, treatment, follow-up and movement licences

1. After finding AFB, DASH members must notify the NBU and, following laboratory diagnosis, destroy all infected colonies. This is a legal requirement. Full destruction protocols are shown in [Appendix A](#). In summary, the bees must be killed and all bees, brood, frames, stores and those hive parts not capable of being disinfected, must be burnt in a pit. Woodwork must be scorched. Special treatment protocols apply to plastic hives.
2. Where infection of EFB is less than 25% of brood of the relevant age (4 – 6 days old), you have the option to destroy or shook swarm the colony or colonies. Where infection is heavy (greater than 25% of brood of the relevant age), you must destroy the colony. Refer to Appendices [G — Shook Swarming](#) and [H — Care after a Shook Swarm Procedure](#) for guidance.
3. If you wish to move a colony or colonies infected with EFB to a hospital site for shook swarming you must request a Movement Licence from your Regional Bee Inspector (RBI) and comply with its terms. See [Appendix B](#) for an example licence.
4. If you wish to remove honey from colony or colonies infected with EFB, you must request a Honey Movement Licence from your RBI ([Appendix C](#)). Without a movement licence, colonies infected with AFB must have the honey on them destroyed. Honey licence requirements are designed to minimise the risk of transferring foulbrood bacteria to clean kit in the process of extraction: frames should be burnt after honey has been extracted, frames from infected colonies must be extracted last before washing down and it is important that bees cannot access wash-down water.

Six Week Follow-Up

5. A minimum of 6 weeks (and ideally before 8 weeks) after you have treated the infected colonies for foulbrood either by destruction or shook swarm, you should re-inspect all colonies in the apiary.
6. If the inspection is 'clear' of any foulbrood, you should notify the NBU office by email at nbu-dash@apha.gov.uk, quoting your ID number and the apiary name. Your apiary will remain on standstill until you submit a clear inspection to the NBU Office. Once informed, NBU will record a clear inspection on BeeBase and email you a [Withdrawal of Standstill Notice, as per Appendix E](#)
7. If you find foulbrood whilst doing the follow-up inspection, the apiary remains under standstill, you must post in the form and LFD(s) exactly as for an initial foulbrood find. In this case, the 'follow-up clock' starts ticking again at the apiary from when you treat

or destroy the infected colonies and you would re-inspect again at the end of another 6 weeks.

Audits

1. Audits are carried out every 3 years to check that the terms of the scheme are being complied with. The intent throughout an audit is to support you to achieve good standards of disease prevention and control.
2. The first formal Audit visit will take place 3 years after the date of your accreditation. Provided the audit is satisfactory, your accreditation will be renewed. If not, you will have the opportunity to rectify any non-compliances as set out in the baseline inspection or audit.
3. In addition to DASH audits, apiaries identified to be high risk because of disease or pests may still require an NBU inspection.
4. There are two types of DASH Audit:

Full Audit	Reduced Risk Audit
20% of DASH member's colonies across at least 3 apiaries, selected by the NBU	10% of DASH member's colonies across at least 2 apiaries, selected by the NBU

If your operation is assessed as low risk, it may be eligible for a 'Reduced Risk Audit'.

Risk based audits

DASH members who have had one full audit and not more than **two consecutive low risk** audits may be eligible for subsequent reduced risk audits. The categories of risk to be reviewed in the region with the RBI include compliance, disease, pests and business type as below.

	Level of Risk	Description of Risk
COMPLIANCE RISK	High*	Major non-compliance
	Medium	Some minor non-compliance
	Low	Fully compliant
DISEASE RISK	High	Red: disease risk on BeeBase is <3 km of disease
	Medium	Amber: disease risk on BeeBase is between 3 – 10 km of disease
	Low	Green: disease risk on BeeBase is > 10 km of disease
EPS RISK	High	EPS Red, imports – queens, packages, nucs
	Medium	EPS nearest neighbour identified
	Low	No EPS nearest neighbour identified
BUSINESS RISK	High	High risk: e.g., imports/exports/significant movements or sale of bees
	Medium	Medium risk: e.g., some bee movements & sale of bees
	Low	Low risk: e.g., honey production

* If there is evidence of major non-compliance, the DASH member is not eligible for a reduced risk audit. All other areas of risk may be mitigated by compliance and therefore eligible.

Rescinding of scheme membership

When a member leaves the scheme for any reason, they will no longer be able to say the following on websites and other communications material:

- *A member of the National Bee Unit's Disease Assurance Scheme for Honey bees (DASH) — Assured to recognise, manage and responsibly report honey bee disease.*
- *Visibly free of disease on DD/MM/YYYY, checked by [name DASH member].*

Appendix A: Destroying Colonies of Honey Bees Infected with AFB or EFB

INTRODUCTION

The method of destruction to kill a colony is by asphyxiation with petrol. Combs and dead bees are then burnt in a pit in the ground. The hive and other equipment are normally disinfected for re-use. The essential requirement for this procedure is that all potentially infectious material is properly destroyed and that no further spread by exposure of infected material, combs and honey is allowed to occur.

SAFETY

Destruction of colonies is a hazardous process and, if not carefully carried out, may put the operator and property at risk.

Wear protective clothing for example: a boiler suit, wellington boots and heat resistant gloves. Have a fire extinguisher, fire blanket or water close to hand.

Follow appropriate safety precautions for the transport and use of butane/propane cylinders.

Take great care in the use of petrol in proximity to the fire. In particular be prepared for residual petrol on combs to release explosive petrol vapour into the pit. Store unused petrol at a safe distance from the fire. **Never** add more petrol to a fire that may still be burning.

Follow appropriate guidelines for lifting.

Light fires well clear of houses, other buildings, overhead cables, flammable materials such as stacks of straw, trees, hedgerows, ripe cereals, or stubble. It may be that a fire is too great a risk at the location and alternative arrangements will have to be made. If you have fire risk concerns regarding a destruction, please discuss with your Regional Bee Inspector.

Avoid breathing smoke or fumes produced by burning hives and equipment, particularly if these may contain plastics or other synthetic materials, which it has not been possible to separate before burning.

PROCEDURE

Euthanising colonies

1. Visit the apiary at dusk, or at a time when the bees are not flying.
2. Confirm the identity of the hive(s) to be destroyed by reference to your records and the markings on the hive.
3. Seal the entrance of the hive with an entrance block or in some other way so that bees can neither leave nor enter the hive. If the hive is equipped with an open mesh floor, ensure that it is closed and adequately sealed. Check for any other gaps and seal these also. If the bees are in a polystyrene hive, then they should be transferred to a wooden one beforehand, otherwise the petrol may melt the polystyrene.
4. Lift the lid of the hive and apply about 500 ml of petrol for large colonies or about 250 ml for small colonies, through the feedholes of the crown-board. If no feedholes are present, lift the crown-board, add the petrol and replace the crown-board quickly to prevent bees escaping. Leave for at least 5 minutes after which the bees will normally be anaesthetised or dead.

Avoiding nuisance from smoke

The production of smoke from fires is covered by legislation including the Clean Air Act 1993, The Environmental Protection Act 1990, and the Highways Act 1980.

Some synthetic materials such as plastics can produce toxic fumes when burned. Avoid breathing smoke by standing upwind of the fire at a safe distance. Do not burn synthetic materials if suitable alternative disposal methods are available. (Plastic and polystyrene hives can be disinfected according to the guidelines in [Appendix I](#) — Disinfecting a hive after disease, so do not have to be burnt).

The following is a selection of relevant advice from the [Defra Code of Good Agricultural Practice](#) to minimise problems caused by smoke from burning materials in the open:

Avoid burning if it will cause nuisance to nearby residential areas.

Do not burn plastic, rubber or other materials known to produce dark smoke.

Do not add any more material that burns slowly if a fire produces dark or excessive smoke.

Only light fires downwind of public highways, houses, other buildings, or flammable materials, so that the wind will carry any sparks or smoke away from them.

Fires must not be lit near a public road. If the fire, or smoke from it, causes injury, interruption, or danger to road users, this may be an offence under the Highways Act 1980.

If the fire is likely to be sizeable and/or prolonged, and particularly if passing persons or vehicles may not see that it is attended, the local Fire Service Control Room should be advised that this is 'Controlled Burning'. You will have to telephone them to advise when the controlled burn is complete.

Burning bees and combs

1. Burn the bees and combs either immediately following killing the bees or, more normally, if there is insufficient light, the following day.
2. Minimise robbing and subsequent spread of infection by:
 - Prompt burning to prevent petrol causing leakage of honey from the combs which may then escape from the hives. Postponing burning for several days is to be avoided.
 - Not leaving combs or honey exposed during the operation.
 - Not burning at times when bees are liable to rob exposed combs.

Dig a pit at least 0.6 m in depth and 1 m in diameter in a suitable location at a safe distance from buildings, fences, trees, dry grass or any other combustible material which may be at risk of catching fire.

Destruction of a large number of colonies may require a correspondingly larger pit. Bring the colonies to be burned to within a safe distance of the fire on the windward side. The reason for digging a pit is that it allows the remains of the fire, in particular, potentially unburnt and infectious honey, to be covered up with soil to prevent bees gaining access.

Prepare a fire at the base of the pit, using paper, cardboard, small sticks, or other kindling as necessary, then add any empty combs arranged in a pyramid around the outside of the fire followed by any combs of brood. Leave combs of honey until last so that the honey is released as they melt and runs into the pit without threatening to extinguish the fire. Wherever possible, it is preferable to add all the combs before lighting the fire; however, if the number of combs makes this impractical it may be necessary to add further combs when the fire is burning.

3. **Keep well back if petrol vapour is present in the pit, as it may explode.** Light the fire in a safe manner.
4. When the fire is burning well, add any remaining combs, one by one, to the fire. **Be very careful with combs that may contain residual petrol, as these are liable to ignite suddenly when placed on the fire.** Add any dead bees from the base of the hive.
5. Burn any stored combs that can be identified as recently originating from the affected hive(s).

6. Burn any hive parts that will not withstand flaming, such as cloth quilts, zinc queen excluders. The hive boxes themselves should be burned if old and rotten.
7. Scrape the hive boxes, floor, crown-board and roof so they are free from wax and propolis; collect the scrapings and put them on the fire.
8. Check around the pit to ensure that no wax particles or dead bees have been dropped, and burn any which are found.
9. Leave the fire until all the combs are completely burned before filling the hole with the soil previously removed.
10. Conditions in the field are not precisely controlled and it may sometimes be necessary to make minor changes to the above procedure.

Disinfecting hives and equipment

Detailed information on disinfecting hives can be found [Appendix I: Disinfecting a hive after disease](#)

1. Light the blowlamp and at a safe distance from the fire, thoroughly scorch the inside surface of the hive. Pay particular attention to the corners and any cavities. When finished, the inside of the hive should be a uniform dark brown colour, however, it is not necessary to char the wood. It is good practice to scorch the outsides of hive components due to likely contact contamination, especially if the outer surface of the hive is contaminated with wax, propolis or honey.
2. Clean and disinfect clothing and equipment used in the destruction.

Appendix B: Movement Licence — Bees



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

National Bee Unit

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Sand Hutton York YO41 1LZ UK

+44 (0)300 303 0094 - nbu@apha.gov.uk - www.nationalbeeunit.com

Date of issue.

NBU References.

To
Name.
Address.

Bees Act 1980.

Bees Diseases and Pests Control (England) Order 2006.

MOVEMENT LICENCE IN RESPECT OF BEES.

The Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in exercise of her powers under Article 6 of The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (England) Order 2006 hereby authorises the movement of bees and associated bee keeping equipment as listed below.

From:

To:

Colonies or hives of bees as may be numbered at the end of this licence.

Other bee keeping equipment as may be listed at the end of this licence.

Subject to the following conditions: -

- ❖ The colonies or hives, including any supers or crates must be marked with the hive number and taken directly by the shortest practicable route to the place of destination.
- ❖ All efforts must be taken to prevent honey bees having egress or access to the colonies or hives whilst in transit.

❖ *Continued overleaf.*

❖ After removal.

The standstill notice, form B3, relating to the original apiary site shall remain in force until such time as an authorised person issue form B9 'Withdrawal of Standstill Notice'.

Should no standstill notice be in force in respect of the destination apiary site then take notice that no hives, bees, combs, bee products, bee pests, hive debris or appliances; or any other thing liable to spread a notifiable disease or a notifiable pest may be removed, except under the authority of, and in accordance with the conditions of, a licence issued by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, or until such time as an authorised person issues form B9 'Withdrawal of Standstill Notice'.

Should a standstill notice, form B3, be in force in respect of the destination apiary site then that shall remain in force until such time as an authorised person issue form B9 'Withdrawal of Standstill Notice'.

Hive Numbers: _____

Other bee keeping equipment to which this licence applies: _____

This Licence is valid until: _____

Date:

Signature:

Name of issuing authorised person.

Address.

Issuing authorised person to delete and initial conditions or sections of this licence that are not applicable.

Appendix C: Movement Licence — Honey

National Bee Unit

Animal and Plant Health Agency

Sand Hutton York YO41 1LZ UK

+44 (0)300 303 0094 - nbu@apha.gov.uk - www.nationalbeeunit.com



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

To
Name.
Address.

Date of issue.

NBU References.

Bees Act 1980.

Bees Disease and Pests Control (England) Order 1982.

MOVEMENT LICENCE IN RESPECT OF HONEY.

The Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in exercise of her powers under Article 6 of The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (England) Order 2006 hereby authorises the movement of the bee keeping equipment listed below.

From: -----

To: -----

Supers and/or crates of honey for extraction being empty of honey bees, from the hives numbered at the end of this licence.

Other equipment as may be listed at the end of this licence.

Subject to the following conditions: -

- ❖ The supers, crates and frames must be marked with the hive number and taken directly by the shortest practicable route to the place of extraction at the above destination.
- ❖ All efforts must be taken to prevent honey bees having access to the supers, crates, frames and extracting room.

❖ After extraction.

The extractor and all associated extracting equipment must be thoroughly cleaned as soon as reasonably practicable.

The supers or crates and frames must be returned to the hive from which they came as soon as is reasonably practicable after extraction and in any case before the expiry date of this licence.

The supers or crates must be sterilised in an approved manner as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any case before the expiry date of this licence.

All combs must be destroyed as soon as is reasonably practicable after extraction and in any case before the expiry date of this licence.

The honey extracted must only be used for human consumption. Under no circumstances may it be fed to any bees whatsoever.

Hive numbers:

Other bee keeping equipment to which this licence applies:

This Licence is valid until:

Date:

Signature:

Name of issuing authorised person.

Address.

Issuing officer to delete and initial conditions or sections of this licence that are not applicable.

Appendix D: Standstill Notice.

National Bee Unit

Animal and Plant Health Agency

Sand Hutton York YO41 1LZ UK

+44 (0)300 303 0094 - nbu@apha.gov.uk - www.nationalbeeunit.com



BEES ACT 1980

BEE DISEASES AND PESTS CONTROL (ENGLAND) ORDER 2006 (ARTICLE 6 (1)) (ARTICLE 6 (2)) (*delete as appropriate)

STANDSTILL NOTICE

To (name, and address if known)

owner or person in charge of the hives or other controlled items on premises situated at:

The undersigned authorised person, appointed for the purposes of the Bees Act 1980 and the Bee Diseases and Pests Control (England) Order 2006* having reasonable grounds for:

- Supposing that a disease or pest notifiable under the Order is present on the above-mentioned premises
- Having been refused entry to the above-mentioned premises or vehicle
- Having been obstructed in exercise of his power of entry

hereby gives you notice that no hives, bees, combs, bee-products, bee pests, hive debris, appliances or any other thing liable to spread the notifiable disease or notifiable pest may be removed from those premises, except under the authority of, and in accordance with the conditions of, a licence issued by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, until this Notice is withdrawn by a further Notice (B9).

Signed: _____

Dated: _____ 20

Authorised person

NOTE: (1) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of this Notice or the Order shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000. (2) Licences will not normally be issued following any treatment of the bees.

B3 (ABI) (ver. 5.1)

Appendix E: Withdrawal of Standstill Notice

National Bee Unit

Animal and Plant Health Agency

Sand Hutton York YO41 1LZ UK

+44 (0)300 303 0094 - nbu@apha.gov.uk - www.nationalbeeunit.com



BEES ACT 1980

BEE DISEASES AND PESTS CONTROL (ENGLAND) ORDER 2006

WITHDRAWAL OF STANDSTILL NOTICE

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs hereby withdraws the notice B3 dated: _____ which prohibited the removal of hives, bees, combs, bee-products, bee pests, hive debris, appliances or any other thing liable to spread the notifiable disease or notifiable pest from the following premises:

Signed: _____

Dated: _____ 20

Authorised person

B9 (ver. 5.1)

Appendix F: [Apiary hygiene and quarantine](#)

https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/assets/PDFs/3_Resources_for_beekeepers/Fact_Sheets/Fact_03_Apiary_Hygiene_and_Quarantine.pdf

Appendix G: [Shook Swarming](#)

https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/assets/PDFs/3_Resources_for_beekeepers/Fact_Sheets/Fact_22_Shook_Swarming.pdf

Appendix H: [Care after a Shook Swarm Procedure](#)

https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/assets/PDFs/3_Resources_for_beekeepers/Fact_Sheets/Fact_09_Care_of_Colonies_After_Shock_Swarm.pdf

Appendix I: [Disinfecting a hive after disease](#)

https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/assets/PDFs/3_Resources_for_beekeepers/Fact_Sheets/Fact_16_Hive_Cleaning_and_Sterilisation_english.pdf

Appendix J: [Bee Farmer Self Inspection Form' \(BFSI Form\)](#)

https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/assets/PDFs/1_About_Us/Bee_Farmer_Self_Inspection_Form_2022.pdf

Appendix K: [Control of European Foulbrood](#)


https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/assets/PDFs/3_Resources_for_beekeepers/Fact_Sheets/Fact_11_Control_of_European_Foulbrood.pdf

Appendix L: Using BeeBase

1. Logging in to BeeBase. Log in using the right-hand 'Login' box on the BeeBase homepage or by clicking 'Log In' on the top toolbar www.nationalbeeunit.com. (Oval shows where has been clicked to produce the next page)

Cymraeg [Skip to main content](#) [Register](#) [Log In](#)

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Diseases and Pests](#) [Resources for Beekeepers](#) [Bee Health Improvement](#)
[Beekeeping in Scotland](#) [Bees and the Law](#)



Login

Username

Password

[Submit](#)

[Forgot Password?](#)
[Forgot Username?](#)

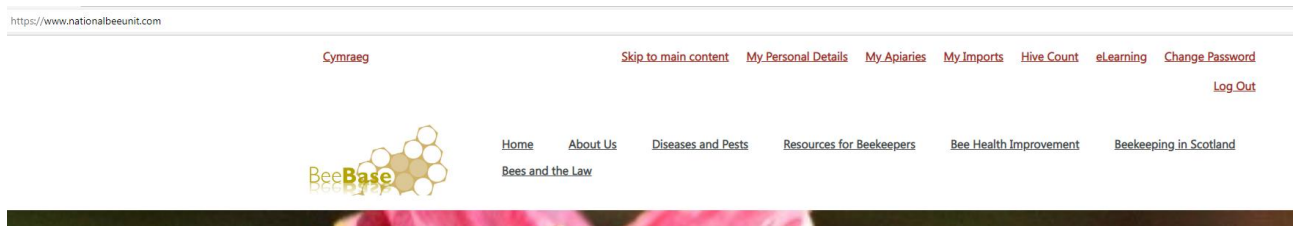
Please be aware:

1. Your username is not your email
2. Your username normally contains your surname
3. If you need to recover your username or password, use the links underneath the Login section
4. Password resets can take up to 5 working days but are normally instant or within 1 working day

Your BeeBase Account:

Links are across the top bar, click these to enter your records and make updates and amendments.

- Links are across the top bar, click these to enter your records and make updates and amendments



BeeBase: View History

2. Click 'view history' to view inspection history of a particular apiary (Oval shows where has been clicked to produce the next page)
3. 'NBU Reference' numbers are clickable, click them to view a copy of the inspection report

My Apiaries

Apiary History for [REDACTED]

Inspection Summary

Click the NBU Reference number to view inspection details

NBU Reference	Inspection Date	Inspected By	No. Of Colonies Inspected	No of Colonies Diagnosed With			
				AFB	EFB	AFB & EFB	Exotic Pests
CE19/17734	2019-04-16 00:00:00	[REDACTED]	15	0	0	0	0
CE18/85289	2016-04-27 00:00:00	[REDACTED]	9	0	0	0	0
CE15/7116	2015-04-29 00:00:00	[REDACTED]	15	0	0	0	0
CE11/2675	2011-05-26 00:00:00	[REDACTED]	19	0	0	0	0
CF09/92237	2009-06-03 00:00:00	[REDACTED]	23	0	0	0	0
CF07/85289	2007-06-05 00:00:00	[REDACTED]	9	0	0	0	0
CF99/19973	1999-04-29 00:00:00	[REDACTED]	5	0	0	0	0
SF97/2271	1997-07-14 00:00:00	[REDACTED]	14	0	0	0	0
CF97/14162	1997-07-11 00:00:00	[REDACTED]	14	0	0	0	0
CF97/14163	1997-07-11 00:00:00	[REDACTED]	8	0	0	0	0
SF95/895	1995-06-29 00:00:00	[REDACTED]	1	0	0	0	0
SF94/121	1994-05-12 00:00:00	[REDACTED]	21	0	0	0	0
SF94/122	1994-05-12 00:00:00	[REDACTED]	21	0	0	0	0
SF94/120	1994-05-11 00:00:00	[REDACTED]	22	0	0	0	0

Next BeeBase page shown after clicking:

My Apiaries

Inspection CE19/17734

NBU Reference	Purpose Of Visit	Inspection Date	Inspection Map Reference	ABI	Beekeeper Name (ID)	Apiary Name (ID)
CE19/17734	EPS	2019-04-16 00:00:00	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Colony Reference	Colony Details	Foulbrood Details	Exotic Details	Minor Disorders	Colony Observations
048	Hive type: Smith Combs of bees: 4 Combs of brood: 3 Diseased Brood: Date sample(s) in: Colony notes: Wax moth	Sample type: Field Test used: Visual Foulbrood diagnosis: N (Negative, no evidence of foul brood) ABI's recommendation: - Action taken today: - Foulbrood report comments: - Date reports sent out: -	Sample type: Field Test used: Visual SHB found?: No Tropilaelaps found?: No Exotic report comments: - Date reports sent out: -	Chalk brood: - Chilled brood: - Failing queen: - Bald brood: - Yes Sac brood: - Yes Alvei: - Varroa: -	Starvation: - Brood at all stages: Yes Drone laying queen: - Laying workers: - Suspect poisoning: -
064	Hive type: Smith Combs of bees: 8 Combs of brood: 4 Diseased Brood: Date sample(s) in: Colony notes: -	Sample type: Field Test used: Visual Foulbrood diagnosis: N (Negative, no evidence of foul brood) ABI's recommendation: - Action taken today: - Foulbrood report comments: - Date reports sent out: -	Sample type: Field Test used: Visual SHB found?: No Tropilaelaps found?: No Exotic report comments: - Date reports sent out: -	Chalk brood: - Chilled brood: - Failing queen: - Bald brood: - - Sac brood: - - Alvei: - Varroa: Yes	Starvation: - Brood at all stages: Yes Drone laying queen: - Laying workers: - Suspect poisoning: -

You can view full laboratory diagnostics as a PDF by clicking 'view reports':

My Apiaries

Inspection [REDACTED]

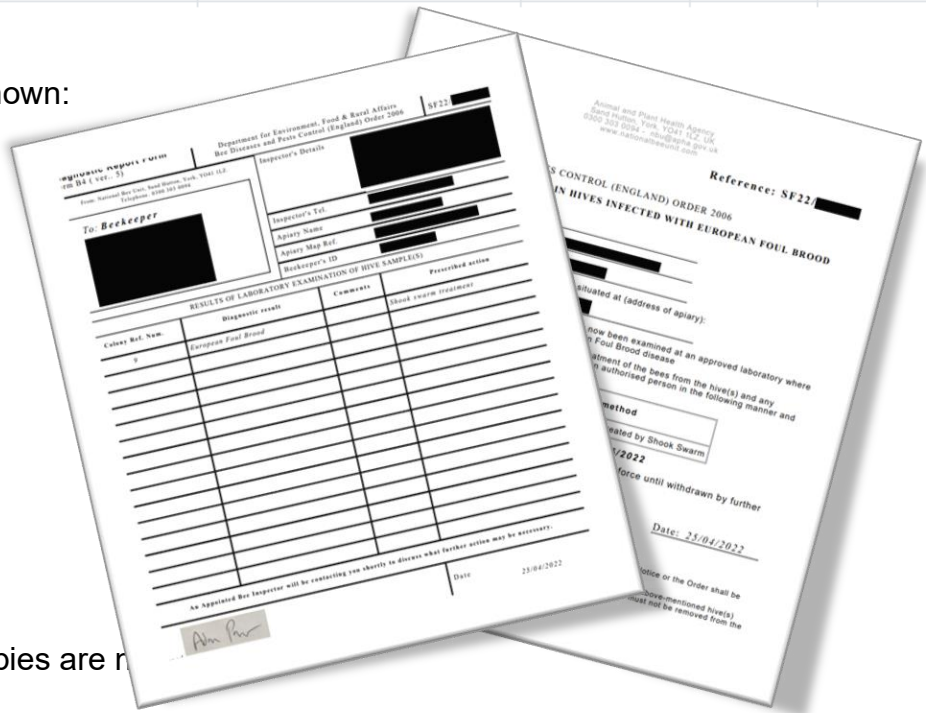
NBU Reference	Purpose Of Visit	Inspection Date	Inspection Map Reference	ABI	Beekeeper Name (ID)	Apiary Name (ID)
[REDACTED]	COB, 5KM, FUD, HSP, DSH	2022-04-21 00:00:00	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Discussed with [REDACTED] Bees already destroyed

[View reports](#)

Colony Reference	Colony Details	Foulbrood Details	Exotic Details	Minor Disorders	Colony Observations
89	Hive type: Commercial Combs of bees: 9 Combs of brood: 7 Diseased Brood: Date sample(s) in: - Colony notes: -	Sample type: Field Test used: Visual Foulbrood diagnosis: N (Negative, no evidence of foul brood) ABI's recommendation: - Action taken today: - Foulbrood report comments: - Date reports sent out: -	Sample type: - Test used: - SHB found?: - Tropilaelaps found?: - Exotic report comments: - Date reports sent out: -	Chalk brood: Yes Chilled brood: - Failing queen: - Bald brood: Yes Sac brood: - Alvei: - Varroa: -	Starvation: - Brood at all stages: Yes Drone laying queen: - Laying workers: - Suspect poisoning: -
61	Hive type: Commercial Combs of bees: 8 Combs of brood: 6 Diseased Brood: Date sample(s) in: - Colony notes: -	Sample type: Field Test used: Visual Foulbrood diagnosis: N (Negative, no evidence of foul brood) ABI's recommendation: - Action taken today: - Foulbrood report comments: - Date reports sent out: -	Sample type: - Test used: - SHB found?: - Tropilaelaps found?: - Exotic report comments: - Date reports sent out: -	Chalk brood: - Chilled brood: - Failing queen: - Bald brood: - Sac brood: - Alvei: - Varroa: -	Starvation: - Brood at all stages: Yes Drone laying queen: - Laying workers: - Suspect poisoning: -

Reports shown:



Printed copies are n

BeeBase: View Imports

1. View your imports by clicking 'My Imports' on the top bar.
2. Your imports will be listed in date order.
3. Click 'view reports' to see full report details as a PDF.

Imports Summary

Select year:

No EU imports for 2022

Third Country Imports

NBU Ref No.	Supplier Name	Notification Date	Date Bees Expected	Consignment No	Country of Origin	Arrival Status	View
I22/1048	[REDACTED]	12/09/2022	14/09/2022	23	Italy	Due/Arrived	View Reports

Reports shown after clicking:

