

The National Hive Count 2017

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The National Bee Unit is again asking beekeepers to take part in the National Hive Count and update their records on BeeBase with their colony numbers.

Vital Information

This information is vital for our planning and preparation for outbreaks of disease or exotic pest incursions.

Earlier this year, in September, and also last year, the discovery of the Asian hornet demonstrated the need for accurate and up-to-date information on the number of beekeepers, hives and apiaries in the UK.

These data helped to inform us about where we needed to deploy bee inspectors and, this year, have given us an idea of where to deploy Asian hornet traps in apiaries close to the sightings in Tetbury, North Somerset, and in Woolacombe in Devon.

Traps have been used successfully in France for targeting and killing Asian hornets. They, along with supplementary monitoring by beekeepers, who should use the monitoring trap we have designed, will help give the best chance of detecting the hornet.

Keep Up to Date

Therefore, it is vital that you use this opportunity of the Hive Count to update your contact and apiary details and colony numbers on BeeBase. By keeping your records up to date, you will help us to be able to respond effectively to an outbreak. Having the correct information enables us to alert beekeepers whose apiaries may be vulnerable, identify apiaries where the pest/disease might be found and to plan our surveillance/detection activities accordingly.

Submit Your Return

You can submit your return until the end of December. It is simple and easy. Go to <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/secure/beekeeper/hiveCensus.cfm> and then login to BeeBase to open the survey. Alternatively, login and then select 'Hive Census' on the option list.

You will then be asked to put the number of colonies you own into a text field, confirm how these are distributed by apiary and then submit the data. If you

no longer keep bees, you will be able to select non-current and then submit your return.

Government Commitment

The Government has demonstrated its commitment to improving the state of UK pollinators and building a better understanding of current populations and the major threats they face by launching the National Pollinator Strategy (NPS) in 2014.

Bees Needs week in July helped raise awareness of how people could help make our environment friendlier for pollinators.

Assessing Effectiveness

Being able to track the number of hives in the UK will help to assess how effective our work under the NPS has been to increase its contribution to the sector and its contribution both to the sector and to pollination services. *



Make sure you update your records on BeeBase



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