

BHAF Research Priorities 2026–2030

Summary for England and Wales

Purpose

To outline the key evidence gaps where new research would most strengthen honey bee health in England and Wales. BHAF does not commission or directly fund scientific research; instead, this statement highlights areas where additional evidence would be most valuable to the sector.

Priority Evidence Gaps

Emerging & Changing Risks

Better evidence to identify and assess new or evolving threats to honey bee health, including potential pathways of introduction and spread.

Surveillance & Diagnostics

Improved tools and approaches for detecting pests, diseases and health stressors, and for interpreting surveillance data with confidence.

Pest & Disease Management

Evidence on the effectiveness and practical application of treatments and management approaches, including how best to translate findings into clear guidance.

Husbandry & Beekeeper Practice

Understanding how routine husbandry, management skills and competency influence colony health and contribute to pest and disease risks.

Research Capacity

Ensuring sufficient expertise and collaboration to address priority questions relevant to honey bee health.

Out of Scope

The following areas fall outside BHAF's remit for this statement:

- Honey authenticity, adulteration and fraud
- Research on non-Apis pollinators (unless directly linked to honey bee disease risks)
- Commercial honey production, marketing or trade issues
- Broad biodiversity, land-use or environmental studies not directly related to honey bee health