



Apiary Risk Assessment

BeezKnees – Detailed risk assessment with hazards, controls and action tracking

www.beezknees.co.uk

Last updated: [DD-MM-YYYY]

Document ref: BK-AGR-02

Version: 1.0

Next review: [DD-MM-YYYY]

Site / Apiary name: [SITE NAME]

Address / location: [ADDRESS / WHAT3WORDS / GRID REF]

Assessor: [NAME]

Landowner / manager contact: [NAME + NUMBER]

Scope: Routine beekeeping activities including inspections, feeding, swarm control, harvesting, treatments, and site access.

Guidance: Add site-specific risks (water hazards, machinery, public rights of way, events, livestock, slopes, security).

Hazards, risks & controls

Hazard	Who might be harmed	Risk (what could happen)	Controls (how risk is reduced)	Action/owner
Bee stings	Beekeeper, visitors, contractors, public	Pain, swelling, distraction leading to falls; potential anaphylaxis.	Apiary positioned away from paths; calm handling; avoid working bees in poor weather; keep first aid; emergency plan; signage as needed; do not invite untrained visitors into apiary during manipulations.	[ADD]
Anaphylaxis	Anyone stung	Life-threatening allergic reaction.	Emergency contact details; clear location reference; call 999 if suspected; keep work buddy arrangements where possible; advise landowner of work times if remote.	[ADD]
Slips/trips	Anyone accessing	Falls due to uneven ground, mud, hidden holes, vegetation.	Maintain clear access; tidy apiary; suitable footwear; avoid access after heavy rain; use head torch if low light; keep tools/boxes stored safely.	[ADD]
Manual handling	Beekeeper	Back strain, dropped boxes, crushed fingers.	Use correct lifting; split brood boxes; use trolley; plan lifts; gloves with grip; avoid lone heavy lifts.	[ADD]
Smoke/fire	People/property	Burns; grass/hedge fire; smoke inhalation.	Use smoker stand; keep water/extinguisher; avoid during high fire risk; fully extinguish; store fuel safely.	[ADD]
Vehicles/access	Beekeeper/site users	Collision; getting stuck; blocked access for emergency vehicles.	Agreed parking; do not block gates; high-vis if near traffic; avoid muddy routes; keep keys/phone accessible.	[ADD]
Livestock	Beekeeper/livestock	Being knocked over; livestock agitated by bees.	Work away from livestock; close gates; agree timings; maintain fencing; do not leave sugary feed exposed.	[ADD]
Public interface	Public, visitors	Uninformed access to apiary; stings; complaints.	Discrete siting; signage where needed; no public access without permission; keep calm colonies; provide water source.	[ADD]
Treatments/chemicals	Beekeeper	Skin/eye irritation; inhalation; contamination.	Follow label; PPE (gloves/eye protection) as needed; wash hands; avoid eating/drinking during application; store securely; dispose responsibly.	[ADD]

Emergency plan

Nearest A&E / minor injuries: [DETAILS]

Exact location (what3words / grid ref): [DETAILS]

Landowner contact: [NAME + NUMBER]

Beekeeper emergency contact: [NAME + NUMBER]

Incident reporting: [Describe how incidents/near-misses are recorded and reviewed]

Sign-off

Assessor signature: _____

Date: _____

Reviewed by (optional): _____

Date: _____