

# LANCASTER UNIVERSITY BEEKEEPERS (LUBK)

Annual risk assessment for the Apiary at Lancaster University

Carried out by LUBK, June 2017

## The Apiary site:

SW campus adjacent site to the Eco-hub, near the polytunnel, toward the trim trail, and keep a few colonies of honeybees. Size of hives and compound: a parcel of land 10 x 10 m approximatively, containing 4 hives and 4 swarm boxes ready for collecting swarms in spring/summer.

## People & Communication:

An interpretation board will be constructed outside the apiary enclosure to inform visitors and passers-by of the site, associated hazards and risk control procedures. This information is also included on the LUBK webpage which will include contact details for the LUBK committee.

In addition, **BBKA swarm Collectors Coordinator** as indicated on the BBKA website: , see <https://www.bbka.org.uk/swarm>

Visitors to site open days will register in advance with LUBK and registration forms and health and safety checklist will be sent out for completion in advance of attending the open day or training event.

## Who is affected:

- (A) Club members working on, and maintaining, the site;
- (B) Experienced beekeepers managing colonies and acting as trainers and mentors;
- (C) Trainee beekeepers starting as complete novices;
- (D) The general public who have shown an interest and are attending an introductory meeting;
- (E) Those living in the neighbourhood.
- (F) Trespassers.

Hazards identified	Associated risks	Who is affected	Actions and Controls
Injury/ incident/ medical issue	Lack of appropriate incident management or First Aid leading to exaggeration of injury, further injury, death.	A, B, C, D	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Injuries and incidents requiring first aid or emergency assistance will be managed by University Security. The security lodge will be contacted on <b>01524 594541</b> with clear information given as to location and type of incident.</li><li>1. For activity based at the Apiary, the Lonsdale Porters lodge is a First Aid point.</li><li>2. A First Aid kit will be kept in the apiary equipment shed for self-administration treatment of minor injuries. First Aid kit will include antiseptic cream and antihistamine tablets for treating minor allergic reactions to bee stings (or other insect stings).</li><li>3. The equipment shed will include a First Aid kit inventory/usage log, to enable supplies to be kept up to date.</li></ol>

Pre-existing allergy to bee stings	Bee sting leading to allergic reaction and or shock.	A, B, C, D	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All participants or visitors to the apiary to register with LUBK by filling in a health and safety checklist. This will include details on pre-existing allergies.</li> <li>2. Participants or visitors with pre-existing specific allergies will not be allowed access to the apiary.</li> <li>3. The First Aid kit located in the equipment shed will include antiseptic cream and antihistamine tablets for treating minor allergic reactions to bee stings (or other insect stings).</li> </ol>
Litigation following injury/ incident	Organisation involved in legal proceedings, reputational damage, project closure, legal charges.	A, B, C, D	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All first aid incidents and other incidents will be recorded into the LUBK incident report form. This can be accessed electronically at the following url: <a href="http://goo.gl/forms/qewyDZ96VI">http://goo.gl/forms/qewyDZ96VI</a></li> </ol>
Increased population of Bees in surrounding area	Contact with surrounding members of the public (e.g. trim trail or Lancaster House Hotel) leading to increased likelihood of bee stings varying from minor one off stings to anaphylactic shock	A, B, C, D, E & F	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bee flight paths to be managed by surrounding the apiary enclosure with 1.8 m fencing/screening. Screening will be provided by willow planting and existing dense scrub in the area. This will encourage the bees to forage further away for pollen and nectar from trees and wildflowers.</li> <li>2. Temporary screening in the form of high-density insect netting will clad the fencing for the first few years of the project whilst the willow plants establish.</li> <li>3. All C &amp; D must be accompanied by a B, and B must ask anyone who enters the area if they have had an adverse reaction to a bee or wasp sting in the past or have suffered from anaphylactic shock.</li> <li>4. All training to include (early on) explanation of bee stings, how to avoid them and what to do if you are stung.</li> <li>5. Anyone working with the hives must wear appropriate protective clothing. Club sets of clothing must be available at all meetings and training sessions.</li> <li>6. D,E,F will be informed of the presence of the Apiary via appropriate signage adjacent to the apiary fencing.</li> <li>7. A simple sign along the lines "Danger: Bees" should be fixed at a suitable point in the apiary itself.</li> <li>8. The action to take in the event of anaphylactic shock is to be included in the "emergency procedure".</li> </ol>
Swarms	Bees swarm to reproduce themselves. Enhanced risk of bee stings due to human reaction of fear to the swarm.	A, B, C, D, E & F	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implementation of seasonal swarm control in order to reduce the likelihood of swarms. Regular check by A or B.</li> <li>2. Appropriate signage adjacent to the apiary fencing to inform D,E,F of swarm procedures, include swarm line and apiary manager phone numbers.</li> </ol>
Tools and equipment	Cuts, abrasions, eye damage.	A & B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Any tools and equipment used on the site must be maintained in good condition. Appropriate instructions for equipment (strimmers etc) shall be kept in the site tools and equipment store together with the equipment.</li> </ol>

			<p>2. The tools and equipment store shall be locked when the site is vacated.</p> <p>3. Members using the equipment and tools shall ensure that they know how to use it safely and correctly and shall use it in that way.</p> <p>4. It is the responsibility of any member who brings his own equipment onto the site to ensure that it is safe to use and is used correctly (see below “Lifting and carrying”).</p> <p>5. Where equipment instructions require that personal protective equipment “PPE”(gloves, goggle etc) is used, these instructions must be followed.</p> <p>6. Some PPE must be available on site, but members may bring with them and use suitable PPE.</p>
Lifting and carrying	Physical injuries, especially to arms and back.	A, B & C	<p>1. Members doing work around the site should not try to lift or move loads which are too heavy.</p> <p>2. Where appropriate find a mechanical way to move material (a trolley or wheelbarrow) or get assistance. For excessive loads seek advice and assistance.</p> <p>3. Some parts of hives (eg full supers) can be heavy. This should be explained during training and care should be taken not to become injured when making these lifts. Thus a “tool box” talk on manual handling should be provided as part of the training.</p>
Unsafe storage and housekeeping in the tools and equipment store.	Possible injury if items are inappropriately stored.	A&B	<p>1. Ensure correct storage of items (e.g. smokers, feed, spare tools and hives).</p>

## Emergency procedures:

- Only experienced beekeepers shall work alone on the site, and then only work with the bees – not carrying out any site work such as strimming or roof-work. When any site work is being carried out, there shall always be at least 2 persons present so that, if an emergency arises with one person, another is there to help.
- There shall always be at least one mobile phone available on the site. When first entering the site a check shall be made to ensure that the mobile phone can get a signal.
- *In addition, **BBKA swarm Collectors Coordinator: Richard Wilson - 01524 858247**. Alternatively, see <https://www.bbka.org.uk/swarm>*
- A First Aid kit will be kept in the apiary equipment shed for self-administration treatment of minor injuries. First Aid kit will include antiseptic cream and antihistamine tablets for treating minor allergic reactions to bee stings (or other insect stings).
- The equipment shed will include a First Aid kit inventory/usage log, to enable supplies to be kept up to date.
- The Lonsdale Porters' lodge is a First Aid point. **Injuries and incidents requiring first aid or emergency assistance** will be managed by University Security. The **security lodge** will be contacted on **01524 594541** with clear information given as to location and type of incident. Life threatening accidents requiring **999**, the location of the apiary is: Grid Reference=SD 48339 56966; X (Easting) : 348339 Y (Northing) : 456966; Latitude : 54.006116 Longitude : -2.7897141. Address (near) : Alexandra Park Dr, Lancaster LA1 4YN.
- Where there are expected to be a substantial number of people attending the site, it is recommended that a first aider (or a doctor) is present. Where non-club members are on site for training, open days etc., then a member of the club shall be designated as a responsible person (and identified by wearing a Hi-Viz jacket) to take responsibility for ensuring that the apiary site rules are being adhered to. The visitors shall be made aware of the inherent dangers including bee stings and what their actions should be in the event of an incident.
- All site information, including safety procedures and risk assessment is accessible online at an LUBK web page: .
- A sign clearly identifying the emergency procedure to be followed shall be posted in a prominent position at the site entry with clearly marked Apiary site location with Post Code and grid references for emergency service access.
- All first aid incidents and other incidents will be recorded into the LUBK incident report form. This can be accessed electronically at the following url: <http://goo.gl/forms/qewyDZ96V1>