

Apiary Risk Assessment**Location – West Lothian****Date – February 2020**

Description – Apiary of up to 10 beehives in dis-used walled garden located off single track private road. Access for vehicles and pedestrians through padlocked gate. Ground area within walled garden is unkept, access track to hives cut through grass. Area not suitable for vehicle access during the winter due to wet and slippery ground conditions.

Hazard	Risk	Control
Unauthorised access to apiary hazards and risks	To all personnel / livestock / pets – risk of accident, injury, introduction and transfer of pests and disease.	No unauthorised access to apiary; no animals / pets permitted on site; main gate should be closed during apiary work; biosecurity procedures should be observed.
Bee stings	To all personnel in and around the apiary – risk of stings from bees.	No unauthorised entry to apiary; all personnel in apiary to wear approved PPE – suit, veil, gloves, boots; personnel should have confirmed awareness of apiary risks; beekeeper should ensure no risk to personnel or livestock in vicinity before commencing work; hives should not be unnecessarily opened when bees in poor temperament.
Rough tussock grassland, underlying scrub growth, wet during winter.	To all personnel – risk of slips, trips, and falls while accessing and working with hives in the apiary.	Authorised access only; suitable footwear necessary; grass track and hive area kept cut during season; no vehicular access during winter.
Heavy hive components.	To all personnel – risk of slips, trips, falls, musculoskeletal injuries from lifting and carrying operations.	Lifting and carrying operations to be planned beforehand and carried out in approved manner; use physical and mechanical aids where necessary.
Lighted Smoker	To all personnel, hives, equipment and habitat – risk of fire, burning and asphyxiation injuries.	Apiary kept clear of dry vegetation; smoker not to be left unattended whilst lit; use only suitable burning medium avoiding sparks; extinguish smoker and seal spout when not in use.
Chemicals and Treatments	To all personnel / bees – risk of ill-health from incorrect dosage, ingestion, inhalation, contact with chemicals and treatments.	Only use approved chemicals and treatments; ensure compliance with all product safety information; store products in a safe and secure container to avoid unauthorised contact or use. Dispose of old containers / products in approved manner.

The apiary is located in an area where there are over 130 other apiaries within a 10km radius with no practical way of stopping bees bringing in pests and diseases when they are foraging out over the wider countryside. Apiary biological security is managed by following these simple steps to avoid the import, transfer and spread of disease, infections, and pests:

Biosecurity Control:

Management Area	Controls
Apiary Hygiene.	Avoid unnecessary vehicle and personnel access to apiary; thoroughly clean clothing after visits to other apiaries; keep protective clothing clean and free of old honey, wax and propolis; use disposable gloves if possible; clean tools and equipment regularly; sterilise hive components before use; collect scrapings and remove from apiary to discourage robbing; keep hives in good repair; replace broken or damaged parts to ensure good fit and discourage robbing; keep brood comb under 3 years old by systematic replacement; remove all unused hive components from the apiary; avoid crushing bees when manipulating hives; keep screens in clean condition if used.
Colony Health.	Keep hives and internal components clean and in good repair; carry out regular detailed inspections; discard old components and rotten frames off-site; keep brood frame foundation under 3 years old by systematic replacement; only use clean foundation from a known source; use careful handling practices when carrying out inspections, avoid crushing bees (other bees will clean up carcasses and spread any exposed infections); use clean screens or dummy boards to avoid robbing during inspections; avoid moving frames between hives; be sure of health status of new colonies, nucs etc; always sterilise second hand components. Be aware of disease incidence in the local.

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Iain D Dewar, February 2020