



# Shipston-on-Stour Beekeepers

Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Reg No 1197656

## Introduction to Beekeeping Course 2025 - Health and Safety guidelines.

### Personal Protective Equipment

During bee inspections all students must wear full protective clothing. This must include a beekeeping suit that will be provided by Shipston Beekeepers. Students will need to bring their own clean Wellington boots or other sturdy foot ware with ankle protection, deemed suitable by the course tutors. Students are also required to bring their own clean, close fitting 'Marigold' type gloves. Part of the ethos of the Course is to encourage learners to manage risk and take responsibility for their own well-being. For this reason, students will be asked to check that suits are fitted correctly and that all zips are fastened correctly.

### Shipston Beekeepers Training Apiary Location: Lower Brailes



Access to the apiary from the B4035 is along 'Cow Lane' a private track used by pedestrians, children, horse riders and maintained by Cow Lane residents. Please drive considerately and slowly when entering or leaving the apiary.

## What3Words locations:

The apiary is located at ///digit.headlines.explorer

The nearest road access is at ///cocktail.kitten.bloomers

Emergency Contacts: In the event of an emergency 999 should be dialled immediately

## General Health and Safety

- It can be busy around the apiary site, equipment may be left on the ground and there are uneven surfaces. Livestock may be present in the orchard within which the apiary is situated.
- The main hazards are slips, trips and falls.
- Bee hives are heavy (full super 15 kg). Take care when lifting (bend knees, not your back!).
- You must wear bee suit in the fenced off apiary area with veil on [except when lighting smokers].
- Don't light a smoker with bee veil on – fire hazard.
- Please leave emergency contact details and sign register.

## Bee stings and Accidents

### Principles:

- All accidents must be logged in the accident book
- If you are stung tell one of the tutors; see also 'Getting Stung' below. We have antihistamine tablets in the first aid kit but cannot administer them to you.
- A severe reaction to a bee sting is a 999 medical emergency; see **Anaphylaxis** below.

### Getting stung:

The most important thing is to get the sting out fast to minimise the dose of venom.

It is generally thought that a bee sting should not be squeezed for fear of forcing more venom into the skin but experiments have shown that as long as action is taken quickly there is no difference at all between scraping, tweaking or squeezing. Time can be wasted finding a penknife or scraper, so the best method is to scratch out the sting with a fingernail or hive tool quickly. It is essential to continue to monitor anyone showing a reaction to a bee sting, even if the first reaction is quite minor. Uncomfortable swelling around the site of the sting is a normal reaction. It may last for several days. A doctor may advise the use of an antihistamine. This should not be administered without professional advice. Antihistamines can cause drowsiness.

Sometimes a bee will sting through the bee suit or gloves. Then it only takes a moment to shift the clothing and dislodge the sting, smoke the area and remove the sting from the clothing. The best way to avoid this is to have two layers of clothing.

## Anaphylaxis

Anaphylactic shock is very rare, but if it does happen, very quick and calm procedure is essential. Anaphylactic shock results from a sudden drop in blood pressure. The observable symptoms include the rapid onset of pain away from the location of the sting, tingling of the lips,

dizziness, nausea, vomiting and collapse. The following advice is adapted, from that issued by the BBKA:

- If anaphylactic shock is suspected get someone to call the emergency services immediately. Explain that it's a bee sting reaction.
- If the person is conscious
- Loosen tight clothing at the waist and neck.
- Sit her/him on the ground, leaning against a wall, tree or similar.
- Make the person as comfortable as possible to help breathing.
- The person may be short of breath, feeling sick or feeling faint and may be very frightened so stay with the person, talk quietly and encourage her/him to breathe in and out regularly.
- If the casualty is an experienced beekeeper, ask if this reaction is usual and if s/he has any medication provided by her/his GP (i.e. antihistamine tablets). If so let her/him self-medicate.

**If the person is or becomes unconscious**

- Loosen tight clothing and place the casualty in the recovery position on her/his side.
- Tilt the head back for a good airway.
- Put underneath arm behind the back.
- Check that s/he is breathing and that s/he has a pulse in the side of the neck.
- Do not try to give the casualty any food or drink.
- If the casualty's heart or breathing stops, resuscitation should be provided
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## Shipston Beekeepers Introduction to Beekeeping Course Consent Form

I agree to (please tick):

- my child taking part in the Shipston Beekeepers Introduction to Beekeeping Course 2025
- Shipston Beekeepers keeping a record of this form for health and safety reasons
- my child being filmed or photographed during the activity, with the possibility that these photographs/media recordings may be used for articles on the Shipston Beekeepers website (sbka.org.uk). Shipston Beekeepers will take all steps to ensure these images are used solely for the purposes for which they are intended.

*Note: if consent is not given, Shipston Beekeepers will not use any images taken during the activity that contain the child/young person, or will edit the young person out of any images used on the Shipston Website.*

I understand that my child needs to follow the behaviour code and any safety rules so that Shipston Beekeepers can keep them safe.

After careful consideration of the benefits and risks involved I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the Shipston Beekeepers Introduction to Beekeeping Course. I take full responsibility for my child. They will be under my direct supervision at all times and I will not leave them alone at any time.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Any relevant medical information (especially any known allergies to bee stings or latex):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Other information  
\_\_\_\_\_