

Helensburgh & District Risk Assessment Document

Apiary Visitor Information Sheet (Page 7)

Introduction

Before visiting the apiary we would like to give you some information that will make your visit more enjoyable and most importantly keep you as safe as possible.

We will take all reasonable precautions to avoid anything which would make bees more likely to sting, but it is impossible to keep bees without occasionally being stung.

What happens if I am stung?

Inform leader and move away from the bees in company with someone else. If the sting is still present get help to remove it. For the **majority** of people the effects of being stung are no more than a small amount of swelling, irritation and pain. There are some exceptions to this if you are stung in the mouth or throat, or have an allergy. People, who have had severe allergic reactions to insect stings in the past, will probably have a similar or worse reaction if stung again.

It is therefore vital that you inform us before visiting if you have an allergy to bee or other insect stings. Some susceptible individuals can go into anaphylactic shock when stung by bees and this can have serious and potentially fatal consequences.

What do I need to wear when visiting the apiary?

You do not need to buy any specific clothing when visiting the apiary as we have a supply of protective equipment (suits, hoods and gloves), that we can loan you during your visit. If you have your own bee suit/gloves however please bring these with you. **Please bring your own Wellington boots.**

You are outdoors and exposed to the weather so you should ideally wear Wellington boots (recommended), other types of boot or stout walking shoes (**no heels or open tops**) and clothing appropriate to the weather expected.

Bees are very sensitive to smell so it is advisable not to wear strong perfumes, aftershave, deodorants etc

Other

Please make us aware of any pre-existing medical conditions that may affect your safety while visiting the apiary.

Many bees will be flying about but remember that you are wearing a protective suit. If you find that you are disturbed by the bees' behaviour then simply walk away from the hives and wait for one of the instructors to join you.

Please do not put on your bee suit when within sight of the main Helensburgh/ Vale of Leven/Loch Lomond road as we do not wish to advertise its presence to vandals or thieves.

We will ask for a note of the name of an emergency contact number for everyone attending.