



on – Cowdown fire risk and procedures

Andover and District Beekeepers Association



Andover and District Beekeepers Association

Andy Kingman (Cowdown) Apiary site

Fire risk and procedures

Version 8.0 March 2023

Site post code – SP11 6LE

Grid reference – OS Explorer Sheet 131

GR 384442

Three word location code:

HERB:TRANSIT:HEADS

Revision history

Version	Date	Description
1.1	November 2017	Draft
2.0	April 2018	Revisions to generator and petrol storage
3.0	November 2018	Change to ABKA prime site contact
4.0	December 2018	Changes to site ownership and operations procedure
5.0	February 2020	Annual review – no changes
6.0	March 2022	Changes to site emergency details
7.0	May 2022	Changes to emergency site details and fire risk procedures
8.0	March 2023	Changes to site name and management.

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1. Introduction

This document to be used in conjunction with Andover Beekeepers Association – Andy Kingman (Cowdown) Apiary site - Risk assessment and procedures but addresses specifically the risk of fire

Cowdown Solar Farm site (hereafter referred to as the solar farm) is controlled by PSH Operations through whom and by whom access is regulated and gained by pre-appointment on 0203 488 7000. Security is managed via closed circuit television cameras situated at the main gate and strategically around the site and specifically via two cameras adjacent to the apiary site (hereafter referred to as the apiary).

The official address for the solar farm site is:

Cowdown Solar Farm

Cowdown Lane

Andover

SP11 6LE

1. Fire Risks and hazards

The main sources causing the possibility of fire on-site:

- The use of smokers whilst working with bees
- Petrol spillage when topping up the on-site generator
- Owing to the risk of fires smoking will not be allowed on site.

During most times of the year the ground cover will be too green or damp to be combustible, however, during periods of dry weather it may well be dry enough to catch fire and coupled with the prevalent windy conditions it may soon get out of hand requiring emergency service attendance.

There are no water facilities at all available on site in consequence non will be available to extinguish fire risk. Any requirements for water must be transported to site on a per occasion basis.

All rubbish to be removed from site on a per occasion basis.

2. The use of smokers

The use of 'smokers' will be permitted but to minimise fire risk the embers and detritus within them must be fully extinguished and cold before being decanted into the 'ash bucket' located outside the container with the lid firmly replaced to exclude oxygen. It is the responsibility of both mentor and the person being mentored to ensure that these simple steps are taken.

3. Petrol Generator

A generator has been installed on site, at the rear of the container, housed within a locked, sound insulated, fire retardant steel cabin. Spare petrol will be held in a standard steel container and stored within the confines of the steel cabinet. Under no circumstances will petrol be stored within the container. Any spillage resulting from filling the generator to be covered in sand from the bucket adjacent to the generator. Please ensure that the sand in the bucket is covered to keep it dry. It is not to be used for depositing rubbish. Any need for replenishment of the sand to be reported to the site management team at the earliest convenience.

A Wolf 2300LR generator is 5.5 hp 4 stroke with an air cooled engine running on **unleaded fuel** delivering a continuous 2.2Kw over two 13 amp domestic power

outlets at 230 volts each. The fuel tank holds 12 litres of unleaded petrol and will give a runtime of up to 10 hours.



Instructions on how to operate the generator will be found on a card attached to the generator which is to be used by persons previously trained and familiarised with its operation as conducted by Andover Beekeepers Association. A record of such trained persons shall be displayed within the on-site container.

The area around the generator and on-site container will be regularly mown and raked with grass cleared away to minimise the risk localised fire.

4. Smoking

The risk of grass fire is always present during periods of dry weather and prevalent wind smoking will not be permitted on site.

5. Firefighting equipment

No fire extinguishers will be deployed on site, however, buckets of sand will be available adjacent to the generator and a provision of fire beaters will also be available by the container and adjacent to the hive site itself. See note above on replenishment of sand and its remaining dry.

6. Contacting the emergency services

Should any fire occur then it should be assessed as to whether it can be controlled and extinguished by the beekeepers present on site. If a fire is seen to be getting out of control – this will happen very quickly particularly if it is windy then it vitally important to contact –

- Firstly, the Fire Brigade stating the full address (as above) and the three word site identity location code – **HERB:TRANSIT:HEADS** and nature of the fire and possible severity.
- Secondly PSH Operations security on 0203 488 7000 advising them of the emergency and actions so far
- Thirdly the site management team again advising of actions so far.

Try where possible to contain the fire by creating a fire break down wind of the fire by the use of beaters and/or sand but not to the detriment of individual safety and well-being.

7. Mobile coverage

Mobile phone coverage is good at both the main gate and on the apiary itself.

8. Emergency details, useful addresses and telephone numbers

Post code – SP11 6LE

Grid reference – OS Explorer sheet 131 – GR 384442

- Hampshire Fire and Rescue – 999 asking for the Fire Brigade
- Apiary site manager – vacant
- PSH Operations – 0203 488 7000
- Others – to be advised