



Andover and District Beekeepers Association



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Andy Kingman (Cowdown) Apiary site

Risk assessment and procedures

Version 8.0 March 2023

Site post code – SP11 6LE

Grid reference – OS Explorer Sheet 131

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Document change status

Revision	Date	Reason
1.1	November 2017	Original draft
1.1	January 2018	Acceptance of draft
1.2	April 2018	Generator details
1.3	November 2018	Changes to site management
2.0	December 2018	Changes to site ownership and control telephone numbers
3.0	February 2020	Annual review – no changes
4.0	February 2022	Annual review – no change – Covid restrictions 2021
5.0	March 2022	Changes to emergency site details and treatment in the event of Anaphylactic Shock.
6.0	May 2022	Changes to emergency site details and fire risk procedures
7.0	May 2022	NHS overview – Insect bites and stings
8.0	March 2023	Changes to site name and management structure

Cowdown Apiary site

1. Site access

1.1 Cowdown Solar Farm site (hereafter referred to as the solar farm) is controlled by PSH Operations through whom and by whom access is both 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). On pre-arranged arrival at the main gate access is via a double width metal gate with a four digit coded padlock; activity will be monitored on CCTV. The password and access code are known to only the apiary site manager –vacancy and his immediate team

1.2 The site management team and/or mentors will have both the main gate and apiary site codes for the locks. The main gate must never be locked when beekeepers are present on site but the gate must be closed – but not chained closed.

The reason being that emergency vehicles can gain access if required.

1.3 Upon departure both gates to be locked and the codes scrambled preferably set to all zero's to protect the integrity and security.

- 1.4 Access for beekeepers has been agreed for seven days a week with core times being dawn to dusk, dependent upon time of year and prevailing weather conditions.
- 1.5 Access must be arranged ahead of arrival as there is no landline or telephony available at the main gate. Failure to do so will result in the attendance of the police.
- 1.6 Visitors to the site are asked to be sensible and to minimise the number of calls into the Solar Century control room and where possible to arrange mutual visits at the same time.
- 1.7 The official address for the solar farm site is:

Cowdown Solar Farm

Cowdown Lane

Andover

SP11 6LE

2. Parking

Under no circumstances are the access tracks to be obstructed but there is limited parking immediately outside the apiary, however, care should be taken as although the tracks are laid to scalplings the rest of the site is basically pasture grazing and can be very soft, particularly in or after wet weather. The main gate is laid to concrete but offers little parking and will necessitate a walk to the apiary.

3. Site safety

It is the wish of Andover Beekeepers that users of the site do not go alone and under all circumstances are accompanied by one of the site management team or at least a second beekeeper. New beekeepers visiting the site must be accompanied by a mentor or experienced beekeeper.

3.1 Lifting and handling

Common sense prevails when attempting to heft boxes or transport hives particularly as the site is some distances from the road and access limited.

3.2 Bee stings

Common sense prevails as the likelihood of being stung is always present and normal precautions should be observed. All beekeepers must have available and be prepared with antihistamine preparations or (if appropriate) their own 'epi-pen' to be administered as would be the case with any other apiary visit. No remedial treatments will be available on-site

See also NHS overview document – this manual section 6

Overview insect bites and stings – in accordance with current BBKA advice and practice.

3.3 Falls

After wet weather the site is likely to be slippery underfoot and irrespective of this the site is itself undulating with many trip hazards and depressions left by rabbit activity. Utmost care should therefore be taken when on site.

3.4 Reporting all accidents and emergencies

All accidents and emergencies must be recorded in the on-site accident log and at the most convenient time reported verbally to the apiary site manager.

4. Weather

It is not envisaged that much site access or activity will take during incremental weather conditions so fog, heavy rain, snow etc. are unlikely to pose a problem, however, care should be taken driving on site as they are often muddy and slippery following rain. Care should also be taken after high winds when perhaps hives are inspected for although there are no trees the winds across the exposed site can be strong.

5. Mobile coverage

Mobile phone coverage is good at both the main gate and on the apiary itself and it is strongly recommended that any visit is accompanied by a charged mobile phone.

6. Rubbish

No rubbish bins or facilities will be provided so all site users are asked to remove all rubbish, including bee specific detritus at the end of each visit.

7. Toilets

There are no toilet facilities at all available on site so take adequate steps before attending site.

8. Water

There are no water facilities at all available on site. Any requirements for water must be transported to site on a per occasion basis.

9. The Container

The container is of standard all steel construction having no windows and with a double full height set of doors with locking bolts and a padlock. A key to the padlock will be secreted on site in a location known to the apiary site manager and his team..

10. Electricity

Electricity is provided to the container by means of a standalone petrol generator – Type/model number delivering 230 volts AC with a maximum capacity of 3.5Kw capable of giving light to the container and the ability to run a kettle. The installation is protected by

an RCD and bonded, coupled to earth by means of a chemical earth located adjacent to the container.

The generator is only to be operated by Association members having first received basic instruction on its working and general maintenance. Note should be taken on each visit as to the amount of petrol in the generator and replenished accordingly.

11. Fire

Within dry weather the site has a higher risk of fire so under no circumstances is smoking and the use of naked flames be used other than to prime a smoker and then with extreme care. Where a smoker is used and no longer required it should be not be left unattended and extinguished as best as possible by closing it down and not tipping onto the floor. The contents should be decanted into the 'ash bucket' located outside the container and the lid firmly replace to exclude oxygen.

A generator will be installed on site, adjacent to the container and housed within a locked, sound insulated, fire retardant steel cabin. All fuel with the exception of that in the generator will be transported to site and removed upon departure on a per occasion basis.

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

Firefighting equipment

Neither fire extinguishers nor a ready source of water is available on site. Buckets of sand are available adjacent to the generator and a provision of fire beaters will also be available by the container and also close to the hive area at the bottom of the apiary site.

See also – separate fire procedures document.

12 Environmental considerations

The solar farm is contained behind locked, security fencing so no access is possible and as yet no animals (sheep, etc.) have been deployed for pasture management. Both the solar farm and apiary site have been sown with a wild flower mix to encourage bio-diversity but there are peripheral areas of scrub and bushed and the site itself is surrounded by arable farmland. It is in the interest of all parties that this is not adversely disturbed or that no pollution of any description occurs. Any such occurrences to be reported to the apiary site manager.

13 Getting to site

Access from Andover is via the A303 slip road heading West (towards Stonehenge), pass under the main A303 and get into the outside lane to cross the A303 slip road going into Andover. The sign points to Cowdown and extreme caution must be taken to cross this busy road.

14 Emergency details, useful addresses and telephone numbers

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- Apiary site manager – vacancy
- PSH Operations – 07795 904394
- Others – to be advised