

Swarm Collection and Distribution Protocol

Contents

Divisional Swarm Collectors	1
MAD Swarm collectors; Tel No	1
BOC area:.....	1
SWF.....	1
Mayland.....	1
MTC area.....	2
BBKA Swarm collectors	2
Swarm Co-ordinator:.....	2
Swarm Collectors.....	2
BBKA Swarm Directory eligibility	2
DMBKA Protocol	2
Swarm Collection	2
Initial contact information taken at point of call:.....	2
On Site.....	3
Disposal and hiving.....	3
Swarm collection List.....	3
Eligibility to be a Swarm Collector.....	3
Swarm Disposal List	4
Eligibility to be a Swarm Receiver.....	4
APPENDIX A – Swarm ID calling Card.....	5
APPENDIX B - BBKA SWARM COLLECTOR DISCLAIMER NOTICE.....	5

Divisional Swarm Collectors

All Swarm collectors within the division to be recorded with names and contact phone numbers. List to be updated when required.

Swarm collectors to, ideally, have kept bees for two seasons and, where possible, assisted an experienced collector.

MAD Swarm collectors; Tel No

BOC area:

Peter Davidson 07733 41 06 45
Keith Lomax 07882 13 21 19

SWF

Neil Phimister 07841 23 62 18

Mayland

James Scott 07850 30 01 77

MTC area

Glenn Mayes 07979 86 29 52
Carlie Mayes 07979 86 29 52
Darren Burge 07565 52 86 05

John Ferguson 07966 43 24 23

BBKA Swarm collectors

Swarm Co-ordinator:

Carlie Mayes

Swarm Collectors

Peter Davidson 07733 41 06 45
Glenn Mayes 07979 86 29 52
Carlie Mayes 07979 86 29 52

BBKA Swarm Directory eligibility

1. BBKA Swarm contacts on website – updated 1 March each year
2. Jan – BBKA circulate list to divisional secretaries.
3. mid Feb – Division DMBKA, makes a return to BBKA confirming which swarm collectors are to remain on the list

Eligibility for inclusion:

1. DMBKA committee will decide if swarm collector is experienced and skilled sufficiently to be on BBKA list
2. BBKA accept DMBKA list as being acceptable for inclusion on the BBKA list

DMBKA Protocol

Swarm Collection

Initial contact information taken at point of call:

1. Name/address/postcode of swarm
2. Information regarding the swarm and location
 - a. Size of swarm
 - b. Height and position of swarm – roof, chimney etc (ref to Bees in Chimney policy)
 - c. Length of time in situ
 - d. Advise as to possible actions to take and clear area of people if possible
 - e. Explain what will happen during collection
3. Confirm any expenses – at Beekeepers discretion or the Swarm Co-ordinator's discretion
4. Identify beekeeper – two if required

- RECORD date of call on **Online Swarm List – this is held in Dropbox** – invitation sent by Swarm Co-ordinator to this online list.
- No request will be made for a donation/fee/charge – this will be left to the discretion of the beekeeper in their liaison with the caller

On Site

- Consider all aspects of H&S onsite
- Advise
- Secure swarm using appropriate beekeeping techniques
- Only use foundation NOT drawn comb
- Keep all bees ventilated once removed
- Leave contact number in case of unexpected problems – Swarm Calling ID Card [APPENDIX A]
- Obtain signed BBKA Swarm Collector Disclaimer [if appropriate – APPENDIX B]
- RECORD date of collection of swarm on **Online Swarm List**
- RECORD any expenses or donations obtained as appropriate

Disposal and hiving

- All swarms will be collected and held at divisional nursery
- Hive on foundation NOT drawn comb
- Do not feed for 2 days
- Isolate
- Check for AFB, EFB after 3 weeks? [this could be at the receivers apiary]
- All swarms will be assessed by the collecting beekeeper for viability.
 - The swarm will be brought up to colony status with a minimum of 1 frame of brood
 - A laying and marked queen (it should be noted that the queen may be older than the colour she is marked – the colour will be the year previous to the current one and in line with the recognized International colour coding.)

Support given by Swarm Co-ordinator

Swarm collection List

The swarm collection list is a record of all calls taken by a Swarm Collector or Swarm Co-ordinator for the division. This is kept as an online document and can be updated remotely. It contains all information relating to the swarm. This has worked well for the past three years.

Date of call	Location of call POSTCODE	Tel	Name	Height Location Chimney etc	How long in situ	Advice given	Bumbles/w asps other insect NFA	Expenses Amount quoted	Beekeeper allocated	Date removed	Expenses donations received
26/6	CM06QX	0797986 2952	Mrs Jones	Hedge	3 days	Yes	honey	£10	Peter D	26/6	£10
26/6	CM08PP	07893 389898	Mr Smith	Bird box	1 day	Yes	Bumbles NFA				
26/6	CM08PP	07893 389898	Miss Evans	Tree	5 days	Yes	honey	NIL	Peter D	27/6	£30
26/6	CM38PP	07893 389898	John Stern	Shed	1 day	Yes	Bumbles NFA	£10 plus donation	Glenn M	27/6	NIL

Eligibility to be a Swarm Collector

- Registered full Member of DMBKA [therefore have necessary insurance]
- Attended a recognized beekeeping theory course
- Be registered on BeeBase [provide their BB number]
- A minimum of two years beekeeping experience

Swarm Disposal List

The Swarm Disposal List is kept in order to re-locate swarms to those who have made a request

This is kept as an online document, stored in Dropbox, and can be updated remotely. It contains all information relating to the swarm and the beekeeper receiving. This has been used for the past three years successfully. As a Swarm Collector, the Swarm Co-ordinator will arrange for you to be able to edit and update this file as required.

Date on list	Member name	Tel	Location	Swarm collected Date	Swarm Received by member Date	Donation received	Paid [Swarm Co-ordinator will chase]		
20/1	Lois	01621 879878	Steeple	26/6	26/6	£10			
21/1	Jon	07893 389898	Maldon						
1/2	Mary	07895 993847	Heybridge						
5/3	Fred	07893 389898	North Fambridge						

1. All members receiving a swarm to be ask for a donation of between £30-50
2. Instructions to be provided with the swarm and how to hive – BBKA Guidelines used
3. Swarms will be provided in nuc boxes which are to be return to the swarm collector promptly with replacement comb.
4. The member will be invoiced for six new frames and six new sheets of foundation at book price.

Eligibility to be a Swarm Receiver

1. Registered full Member of MAD [have necessary insurance]
2. Attended a recognized beekeeping theory course
3. Registered on BeeBase [provide their BB Number]
4. Priority will be given to
 - a. New beekeeper
 - b. Member who has lost overwintered colony
 - c. Member with less than 5 hives

POLICY DOCUMENT

Written – 28 March 2016 – Carlie Mayes

Updated – 20 April 2016 – Carlie Mayes

Updated – 15 April 2017 – Carlie Mayes

Updated – 16 January 2018 – Carlie Mayes and Jo Boden

Updated – 13 April 2018 – Carlie Mayes

APPENDIX A – Swarm ID calling Card



APPENDIX B - BBKA SWARM COLLECTOR DISCLAIMER NOTICE

Example

BBKA SWARM COLLECTOR DISCLAIMER	
PROPERTY OWNER DETAILS	
Name	
Address	
Post Code	
Email	
Tel	
BBKA SWARM COLLECTOR DETAILS	
Name	Carlie Mayes
Address	4 Brockley Cottages
	Ulting
	Maldon
Post Code	CM9 6DY