

National Bee Unit

FAQ 2



The Food and Environment
Research Agency

Bee Safari's

1. What is a bee Safari?

A bee safari is where an association, or group of bee keeping friends, arrange with one or more bee inspectors to examine a number of apiaries on the same day(s)

2. What is expected of the association?

The association arranges a schedule of volunteer's apiaries to maximise the number within the area and time span. A member or members of the association accompanies the bee inspector to direct him to the apiaries. A break for lunch should be included where if more than one team is involved everyone could meet up and discuss the days events. Lunch could be at a pub, a beekeeper's house or a picnic.

3. What time should I allow in the schedule?

Each colony inspection takes about fifteen minutes and on top of that it is necessary to add the travelling time between apiaries

4. What will the Bee Inspectors do?

The bee inspector will examine the bee colonies for signs of brood disease and varroa. He/she will show those present how to examine colonies with this in mind. They will also make general observations about the colonies. They will not criticise the beekeeper but may make suggestions to help them improve their bee management skills. It should be an educational experience.

5. What happens if foul brood disease is found?

The bee inspector will take his usual course of action, taking a sample and talking through the actions to be taken. He/she will advise those present on the hygiene methods that they should use to prevent spreading the disease. He/she will ask those present to respect confidentiality unless the beekeeper wishes to be open about the outbreak.

6. How much will it cost?

There is no charge for the bee inspector's services and they are usually more than willing to take a couple of members in their cars.

For further details, or to book a safari, please contact

Your Seasonal or Regional Bee Inspector, or the

National Bee Unit, Fera, Sand Hutton, York. YO41 1LZ. Tel 01 904 462 510

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NBU Web Site: www.nationalbeeunit.com

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