

AN INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING

What bees need!
Apiary siting
Nectar and pollen

Setting up an apiary

- ▣ Home or out apiary?
- ▣ Chat with your neighbours
- ▣ Easy access
- ▣ Away from other Apiaries
- ▣ Hidden from road, paths (& thieves)



- Level ground
- Early sun & shade at mid day
- Water nearby
- Plenty of room for Beekeeper to work on the hive
- Irregular layout pattern for Hives
- Safe flight path



Neighbours



- Screen Hives from neighbours
- Be aware of bee flight path.
- Keep them flying high. Use screen or hedge.
- Inspect when your neighbours are not enjoying their garden.
- Remember cleansing flights and the washing.
- Have a "bolt hole" arranged.
- Remember , neighbours can use Public Nuisance Statutes.



Stowmarket and District Apiary An out apiary!



- Mainly national hives
- Well spaced
- Raised off the ground
- Sheltered site
- Fenced
- Storage shed
- Warning signs

Another out apiary





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A Home Apiary With a WBC hive

- Concrete slab
- Space around hive
- Shelter from wind
- Storage shed
- Fruit trees
- Hedge screen from road

Examples of apiary sites



Who is going to get a bad back



Not the way to store equipment



Honey picks up smells

Easy way to get disease



Plants pollinated by bees

- OSR
- Beans
- Top fruit
- Soft fruit
- Salad crops – (for seed)
- Sunflowers
- Blackthorn
- Hawthorn









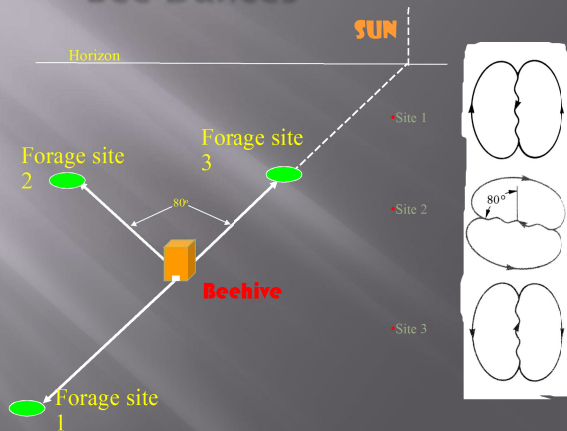


Hard Work

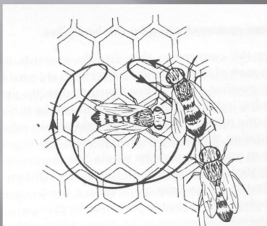


- ▣ Bee flight
 - 13 to 15 mph
 - Twice round the world for pound of honey
 - visits up to 1000 flowers per day
 - 30,000 trips per pound of honey
 - Trip approx 30 mins & up to 6 miles

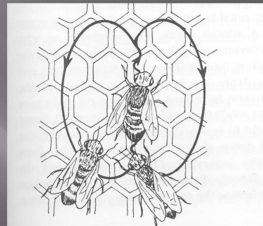
Bee Dances



Bee Dances



Round Dance
– inaccurate –
food nearby



Waggle Dance
– accurate –
food further away

Bumble bees do the same

From: Encyclopaedia of Beekeeping by Morse & Hooper









Importance of Beekeeping

- ▣ UK consumption of honey
- ▣ UK Production of honey
- ▣ Value to UK agriculture
- ▣ Value to the Environment
- ▣ Number of beekeepers
- ▣ Number of bee farmers
- ▣ Number of colonies
- ▣ Number of feral colonies



- ❖ £25m pa
- ❖ £11m pa
- ❖ £165m pa
- ❖ ??????????
- ❖ 30,000
- ❖ 40
- ❖ 230,000
- ❖ ?
