



*keeping bees on things*

**With climate change and increasing pesticide use we all need to contribute to understanding what is happening locally, to all pollinators including bees. Continual observation and reporting is key to understanding how these changes are affecting their environment.**

Unlike other food producers, and other countries, UK beekeepers are not required to be registered and therefore there is little “real time” data produced about the health of the industry. The data would help the BKA identify and resolve local problems and the regulatory authorities to develop national strategies.

This lack of a national beekeeper database is evident in one university’s research which permits uncontrolled varroa infestations, without beekeeping neighbours being alerted of these trials.

In the absence of another way to confront these challenges we have developed **beeWatch**. It services local communities by sharing information between beekeepers and non-beekeepers in “real time” i.e. as it happens.

**beeWatch engages everyone** in the harvesting of swarms and the notification of both pesticide use and colony losses. The system works on smartphones, tablets and web pages.



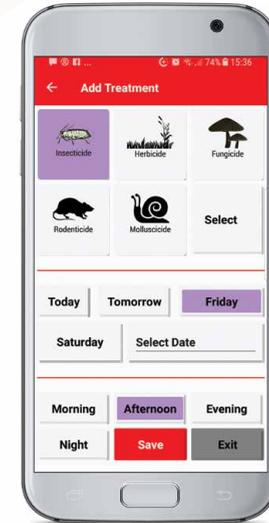
## *Pesticide Treatment*

Using the **beeWatch** app, or web pages, it only takes 10 seconds for any registered non-beekeeper to instantly notify all local beekeepers of a planned pesticide treatment.

If plans change then notifications can be edited, instantly updating beekeepers and treatment records.

Apiaries within 5 km of a treatment are the ones alerted and displayed on a map making non-beekeepers aware how close apiaries are to them.

Beekeepers can use the app or web page to keep records of colony losses varroa treatments and hive inspections. Non-beekeepers can compile land treatment reports using the data captured by **beeWatch** and send swarm alerts.



4 taps and a treatment has been recorded and sent to local beekeepers



Apiaries affected by treatments within 24 hours are displayed in red

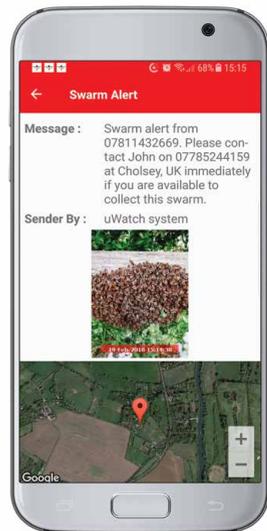
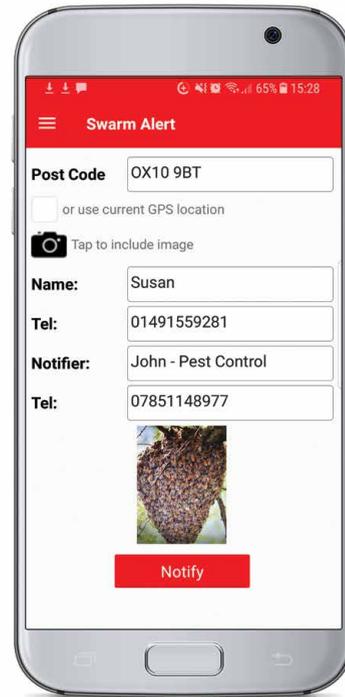


## Swarm Harvesting

### A TIME CRITICAL YET VALUABLE EXERCISE

Typically, a swarm needs to find a new home within 48 hours and may also need feeding to ensure survival.

Any **beeWatch** user can instantly alert a local **registered swarm collector** of a swarm. The alert will contain contact details, location displayed on a map, and a date/time stamped picture of the swarm.



**beeWatch** delivers swarm information instantly to collectors with a *buzz* on their phone. *Claimed* means that the swarm is no longer available for others to collect.

Registered BKA **Swarm co-ordinators** have a map displaying the ongoing progress of notified swarms, updated in real time. New ones will appear on the map in red with contact details included in a pop-up. As soon as a swarm collector has *claimed* the swarm its colour changes, indicating if the collection is in progress or was successful or not.

## The Next Steps

### BEEKEEPER OR NON-BEEKEEPER? REGISTER FOR BEEWATCH TODAY

The spraying season usually starts in April and swarms occur in May, but **unexplained colony losses happen any time**. The UK beekeeping industry has many organisations all doing good work in many areas but valuable information is not being generated or shared countrywide.

#### The problems we have to face up to include:

- Over the past 20 years climate change and especially pesticide use has dramatically affected bees and there is no coordinated, “real time” monitoring or reporting of their effects.
- There is nowhere in the UK a beekeeper can get a sample of dead bees independently tested, at reasonable cost, to find out why they died.
- Some pesticides which are banned for farm use are readily available to anyone else via the internet or in garden centres and retailers.
- There is a dearth of meaningful data on the affects of legitimate pesticide use by golf courses, allotments, pest control, landscaping and grounds maintenance companies, equestrian centres, chicken farmers, hotels, local councils, garden centres and even beekeepers.
- There is no data on how effective the swarm harvest is, or what real colony losses number are and when they are.

To assist in addressing these issues **beeWatch** has harnessed the power of the smartphone to deliver the information we need, when and where it is needed. While **beeWatch** has already benefitted from significant investment the small annual charge will be used to develop the system further, based on user feedback.

**REGISTER TODAY** [www.bee.watch](http://www.bee.watch) [lb@uwatch.co.uk](mailto:lb@uwatch.co.uk) +44 1491 651 229

