

Point of Work RAMS

Task for Assessment	
Live honeybee removal from a building or place of inconvenience	Date: 20 February 2025
Address: 10 Abbots Walk, Reading RG1 3HW. This work is taking place within a Scheduled Monument, which is designated under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act. The bee removal will have no impact on the abbey ruins. All staff and contractors working on site will be made aware of this before any works commence. Any damage caused to the monument would be considered a criminal offence under the Act.	
Description of Task – (What are we doing?)	
• The live and safe removal of an established colony of honeybees from within a redundant chimney at the property. • The bees will be physically removed using portable hand tools. • The comb and bees will be removed, and the bees will be rehomed in a quarantine apiary in Old Alresford, Hampshire. • The visible entry points will be sealed to prevent further ingress. • C-caps will be fitted to the redundant pots. • To remove and dispose of the bee waste through appropriate waste streams. • To remove any building waste through appropriate waste streams.	

Monitor and review at regular intervals (minimum annually), or when there are changes in Staff, Equipment, or Work Activity

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Method of Task - (How are we going to do it?)

Scaffolding will be erected by our approved contractor to allow safe working at height, the chimney stack will be opened up using portable hand tools (primarily an Arbortech cutting saw) ensuring the integrity of the building at all times.

Windows of brickwork on the stack will be removed, not exceeding two bricks wide by four courses high to allow the safe removal of the bees. At least six courses of brickwork will be retained vertically between windows to ensure the structural integrity of the stack.

In addition to this the flaunching at the top of the stack will need to be removed to allow the removal of the pot, it may be necessary to take the stack down from the flaunching, this would be undertaken brick by brick (only on the flue with the bees in), should we need to undertake works outside of the agreed method, works will stop, and we will take appropriate advice.

Once the bees have been fully exposed the comb will be removed in sections, the brood comb will be banded into frames and placed within the nucleus hive. As each section of comb is removed the bees are shook into the hive, this will ensure the least amount of stress on the bees. Once all the comb has been removed the remaining bees will be collected using a specialised bee-vac.

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Personal Protective Equipment Requirements		Special Tools or Equipment Requirements	
Hard hat and high visibility vest/jacket	No	Bee-vac	Yes
Bee suit and gloves	Yes	Arbortech cutting saw	Yes
Gloves and safety glasses	Yes	Battery/Petrol/110V - Disc cutter	Yes
Dust mask or respirator	Yes	Battery/110V SDS Drill	Yes
Endoscope	Yes		
Work at Height Assessment			
	All work from ground level		
Yes	Temporary Access Platform	Scaffolding will be erected by our approved contractor	

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Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Risk before	Risk L M H	Control measures to eliminate or control the risks	Risk after	Risk
1	Working at height/fall from height	Major injury/Life threatening.	Staff members	3 x 5 = 15	H	Working from temporary access tower/scaffolding. At least one member of staff on site is PASMA trained. 3 points of attachment when ascending/descending ladders.	1 x 5	M
2	Falling objects/struck by falling objects	Serious injury	Staff members/ general public	3 x 4 = 12	H	Signage and barriers to restrict access to working areas. Toe-boards to be installed on towers/scaffolding. Hard hats to be worn when working below the tower/scaffolding.	2 x 4 = 8	M
3	Asbestos within the property	Life threatening	Staff members	2 x 5 = 10	M	Asbestos awareness training for at least one member of staff on site, stop work if asbestos is found or considered to be in the working area. Asbestos records held/available from client.	1 x 5 = 5	M
4	Use of portable hand tools	Cut to operator/debris in eyes	Staff members		M	Trained and competent staff. Correctly maintained tools. Gloves and safety glasses to be always worn when using cutting equipment.		
5	Stings to the public following the release of the bees.	Concern by stung person	Staff members/ general public	4 x 2 = 8	M	Closure of the footpath. Signage and barriers. Ensure staff members are aware of the normal reaction to stings and appropriate treatment. Bee suits and gloves to be worn by staff members.	2 x 2 = 4	L
6	Stung person develops anaphylactic shock.	Serious reaction leading to the requirement of rapid medical treatment.	Staff members/ general public	3 x 5 = 15	H	Site first aiders briefed on the possibility and requirement for fast medical response. Means of calling emergency services known (mobile phone) available. Mobile phone signal must be checked and if not available the location of the nearest landline must be located. Staff members are aware of site address.	2 x 2 = 4	L

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Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Risk before	Risk L M H	Control measures to eliminate or control the risks	Risk after	Risk
7	Escape of bees whilst in transit back to the quarantine apiary	Possible major escape of bees leading to the possibility of stings.	Staff members/ general public	3 x 2 = 6	M	Ensure the hive is secured within the vehicle and that a sheet to cover the hive is within reach and a soapy water spray to quieten the bees is readily available. Entrance to the hive and other means of escape secured in a way that requires tools to release e.g., screws, wire, bolts or straps. A suitable insecticide should be available should there be a requirement to euthanise the bees should control not be gained.	2 x 2 = 4	L
8	Overheating of bees in the hive when transporting back to the quarantine apiary.	Possible stress or even death of the bees.	Bees	3 x 5 = 15	H	Ensure a supply of water for the bees and protect from direct sunlight. Ensure there is sufficient airflow under the hive to prevent overheating. Remove the hive to a suitable location if there is a possibility of overheating.	2 x 2 = 4	L
9								
10								

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Emergency Contingencies						
Mobile Phone Signal Strength					Nearest A&E	Site Grid Reference/what3words (if necessary)
1	2	3	4	5	Royal Berkshire, London Road, Reading RG1 5AN	

Risk Assessment Reviewed by: Signed by (Site Safety Co-ordinator)		Daren George		Date:		
All hazards have been correctly identified and controlled to allow the SAFE removal of the honeybees						
Operatives on site briefed:				Signatures to confirm briefing:		
Daren George						
Chris Smith						

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The risks arising from each hazard have been classified using the likelihood (frequency) X severity (consequence) matrix. Here the likelihood of a hazard causing injury or damage (assuming no control measures) is set against the possible severity or consequences and multiplying the two variables the product is a numerical rating of risk.

The matrix classifications are as follows:

	Likelihood (frequency)		Severity (consequence)
1	Very Unlikely (less than once in 10 years)	1	Minor Injury, No Lost Time/Damage
2	Unlikely (once in 5 to 10 years)	2	Minor Injury, less than 3 days lost time or minimal loss
3	Likely (once in 5 years)	3	Reportable injury or occurrence
4	Very Likely (once in 1 year)	4	Major injury, Severe Damage or loss
5	Certain (Greater than once per year)	5	Fatality or Major Incident

By rating the likelihood of a hazard causing injury or damage to what possible severity or consequences and multiplying the two variables the product is a numerical rating of risk. This can be shown as on the matrix below:

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SEVERITY (CONSEQUENCE)

		1	2	3	4	5
LIKELIHOOD (FREQUENCY)	1	1	2	3	4	5
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	5	5	10	15	20	25

1 - 4	Low Risk	5 - 10	= Medium Risk	More than 12	= High Risk
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Completed by: Daren George



Position: Director
Date of last review: 25 March 2024

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