

## Swarms and local Beekeepers

Beekeepers are not obliged to deal with bee swarms. However, as a gesture of goodwill some members volunteer to remove swarms of honeybees which are reasonably accessible. Unfortunately, many calls to our swarm co-ordinators involve other insects, or they are honey bees but are inaccessible. Please answer these questions:

Your name, address and phone number	Location of the insects if different
<b>Are they flying insects?</b>	No - not a honeybee
	Yes- continue
<b>Size ?</b>	
• Smaller than a little finger nail	Not a honeybee
• Same size or larger than a thumbnail	Not a honeybee
• About the same size as little finger nail	Yes - continue
<b>Colour ?</b>	
• Yellow, black or brown with white bands	Not a honeybee
• Red or reddish brown bands	Not a honeybee
• Orange, brown, black with indistinct bands	Yes - continue
<b>Behaviour ?</b>	
• In a bank or lawn with piles of sand outside	Not a honeybee
• Going to and fro on flowers	Could be honeybees foraging on a good source of nectar, <b>not a swarm</b>
• Leaving spats of mud on wall?	Not a honeybee
• Hanging in pear shaped cluster from a branch, fence or in a hedge	Yes - continue
<b>Swarm size?</b>	
• Many individual insects flying around	Wait until the swarm settles then continue
• Smaller than a grapefruit?	A honeybee "cast" – leave alone and they will probably disperse in a day or two
• Bigger than a loaf of bread?	Yes - continue
<b>Where?</b>	
• Inside a compost heap, bird box or a hole in the ground	Not a honeybee
• In a grey or brown paper-like nest	Probably a wasp nest - contact a commercial operative
• Inside a chimney, wall or airbrick	Possibly honeybees but not accessible – contact a commercial operative
• In a roof space or on a wall	Possibly honeybees but may not be accessible – <b>contact a B&amp;DBKA swarm coordinator</b> and describe the location in more detail
• In a dog kennel , shed or compost bin	Yes - continue
• On a branch of a tree or bush	Yes - continue
• In a hollow tree?	Yes - continue
<b>How high from the ground?</b>	
• 2 metres or lower	<b>Contact a B&amp;DBKA swarm coordinator</b>
• Between 2 and 4 metres high	Possibly honeybees but may not be accessible – <b>contact a B&amp;DBKA swarm coordinator</b> and describe the location in more detail
• 4 metres or higher?	Possibly honeybees but not accessible – contact a commercial operative



**WASP**



**HORNET**



**BUMBLEBEE**



**HONEY BEE**

(not to scale)