



## Handling Skills

### Programme outline

The outline for the course is as follows:

	<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Day 2</b>
<b>morning</b> 09:30 – 12:30	Workspace management Manipulation finesse Inspection purpose	Queen finding, handling & introduction Uniting colonies
<b>afternoon</b> 13:30 – 16:30	Frame handling Quick swarming inspection Multi brood box colonies	Making nucleus colonies Difficult colony inspections

### Preparation

The course is aimed at those with 2-3 years of practical beekeeping behind them. We assume that students are familiar with the principles and basic-level practice of annual colony management techniques such as routine inspections, artificial swarms, nucleus making, uniting colonies. Please ensure that you are familiar with the principles and methods of Bailey Comb Change, Shook Swarm, and the 'Pagden' method of artificial swarm as these will be referred to. The following titles are recommended as examples of good refreshers for general techniques and management:

*BBKA Guide to Beekeeping*, Davis & Cullum-Kenyon  
*Haynes Bee Manual*, Waring & Waring  
*Guide to Bees and Honey*, Hooper

The course aims to improve handling skills so is largely practical. We will not be teaching specific manipulation methods, but will address specific skills and situations that arise in the apiary. The intention is to improve manipulation skills that underpin most of the standard methods and interventions.

### What to bring

- Clean beekeeping clothes, veil, boots, etc.
- Umbrella

Smokers and hive tools will be provided.

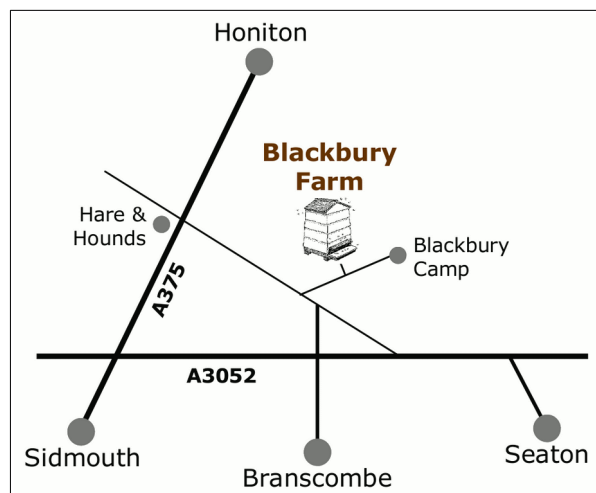
## Directions

Our training centre is located between the towns of Honiton, Sidmouth, and Seaton at

**Blackbury Honey Farm, Southleigh, Colyton, Devon, EX24 6JF**

Blackbury Honey Farm is located about a mile from Southleigh village so please do **not** follow Southleigh signs – instead follow the brown **Blackbury Camp** and **Honey Farm** signs.

**Satnav users** – the postcode is inaccurate - when it tells you that you have arrived, follow the brown signs for Honey Farm and Blackbury Camp.



## By car

1. Honiton is reached by the A30, which connects with the M5 at Exeter and the A303 and A35 to the East.
2. Follow signs out of Honiton for Sidmouth on the A375.
3. At the crossroads with the Hare and Hounds pub, turn left and follow the brown tourist signs for Blackbury Camp.
4. Follow this road for about 2 miles – do **not** go to Southleigh village.
5. Turn left where indicated by the brown Honey Farm sign, and Blackbury Honey Farm is the first gateway on the left. There is ample parking.

## By train

Honiton station is about five miles away and is served by the London Waterloo – Exeter service. Taxis from Honiton station can be booked on 01404 850800 – please ask to be taken to Blackbury Camp, Southleigh and you will pass our gate.

## Accommodation

The following local B&Bs are popular with our students:

- Records Place, Southleigh, EX24 6JA, tel. 01297 680649
- Smallicombe Farm, Northleigh, EX24 6BU, tel. 01404 831310
- The Old Bakehouse, Colyton, EX24 6ND, tel. 01297 552518

Other options available locally include:

- Woodlands Hotel, Sidmouth, EX10 8HG, tel. 01395 513120
- Premier Inn, Honiton, EX14 1BQ, tel. 0871 527 9508
- Travelodge, Seaton, EX12 2NA, tel. 0871 622 0701
- YHA Hostel, Beer, EX12 3LL, tel. 0845 371 9502

Seaton Tourist Information Centre can advise regarding local accommodation options:

- [seaton.gov.uk/tourist-information](http://seaton.gov.uk/tourist-information), 01297 21388, [admin@seaton.gov.uk](mailto:admin@seaton.gov.uk)

## Contact

The training centre at Blackbury Honey Farm is coordinated by Daniel Basterfield, who can be contacted on 01404 871600 or at [dan@blackburyfarm.co.uk](mailto:dan@blackburyfarm.co.uk).