



Honey Bee Behaviour

Through understanding the natural behaviour of honeybees, we can better prepare ourselves as beekeepers to predict or respond to their needs. We will explore honeybee behaviour in areas such as seasonal population variation, communication mechanisms, foraging behaviour and organisation, workload distribution, reproduction, and swarming. In each of these we will discuss what is understood of honeybee behaviour, and the factors that influence this behaviour, in order to answer questions such as "Why do bees do this?" or "What would bees do next?".

Programme outline

The outline for the course is as follows:

	Day 1	Day 2
morning 09:30 – 12:30	Environmental Communication	Forage
afternoon 13:30 – 16:30	Workload	Reproduction

Tea and coffee will be served on both mornings from 9am. Lunches and refreshments are included in the course fee.

Preparation

You may find it useful to refresh your understanding of honey bee behaviour before or after the course by referring to some of the following titles:

The Biology of the Honey Bee, Mark Winston

The Behaviour and Social Life of Honey Bees, Ronald Ribbands

The World of the Honey Bee, Colin Butler

The Hive and the Honey Bee, Ch. 8, Graham (Ed) 1992

Honeybee Ecology, Honeybee Democracy, or The Lives of Bees, Tom Seeley

Social Organisation of Honey Bees, John Free

What to bring

Pen and paper for note-taking. Any preferred reference books. Course handouts will be provided.

This is a classroom-based course and so no beekeeping clothes are required.

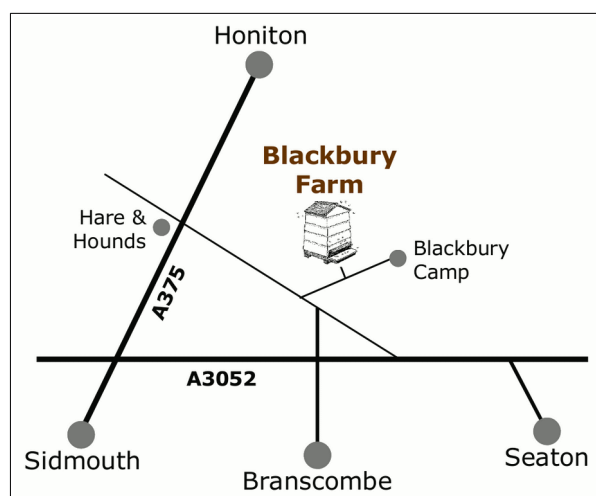
Directions

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, 01297 21388, 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.