

The David Bellamy Conservation Award Scheme



Join the Honey Bee Friendly Park Project

Bees are a vital part of the British countryside. Not only are they beautiful and fascinating creatures, they are one of the most important pollinators of crops and other plants. That's why the recent dramatic decline in many of Britain's bee species is such bad news.

How BH&HPA members can help

The David Bellamy Conservation Award Scheme (DBCAS) has teamed up with the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) to form the Honey Bee Friendly Park Project which aims to get as many parks as possible working to conserve Britain's bees.

The project is open to all parks that participate in the DBCAS. Once signed up members will be able to display a '**Honey Bee Pledge**' logo that shows their park is committed to bee conservation.

What does taking part involve?

Signing up to the '**Honey Bee Pledge**' is free. Members will be asked to plant the forage crops that bees need to survive. This is a vital piece of work that will really help Britain's dwindling bee population. Members will be asked to record progress, e.g. take photographs and when the assessor visits, show them everything that has been achieved. The work will be reviewed by the assessors (only if an assessment visit is due) from the DBCAS. If enough work has been done members will get a certificate to confirm that their park is '**Honey Bee Friendly**'.

Continuing the good work

Once a park has got going with honey bee-friendly planting there are loads of other things that can be done to become even more Honey Bee Friendly. To help move forward, the project will provide them with help and advice on how to spread the word about bee conservation. Members will also be given information and support to help set up a hive on their park – they could even be selling their own 'park produced' honey!

This project is a great way to do something really valuable for Britain's wildlife. It also offers a way to prove members commitment to conservation. In addition all '**Honey Bee Friendly**' parks will be **publicised by the BBKA to its 24,300 members.**

Concerned about safety?

Bees are generally docile animals and hives need to be placed in quiet areas away from people, so the potential of stings is kept to a minimum.

For more information about the project, and to sign up, please get in touch with Rufus Bellamy on beefriendlyparks@aol.com or follow us on Twitter @BellamyParks