

THE 2027 BEGINNER

BEEKEEPING COURSE

Learn before you keep. Discover the science, judgement and responsibility behind looking after honey bees.



THE COMPLETE 13-WEEK ONLINE THEORY COURSE

£85

3 JAN - 28 MAR 2027

Sundays at 6 PM (UK time)

60-90 min • recordings • Moodle

Theory is open nationally. Optional supervised practical training in Manchester and Cheshire costs an additional £300 and requires separate selection.

ENROLMENT CLOSES 31 DECEMBER 2026

01 / DISCOVER WHAT MAKES BEES EXTRAORDINARY

Your beekeeping journey starts here

No bees? No experience? That is exactly what this course is for. Across 13 Sunday lessons, you will explore real colony-care decisions before you consider keeping your own.

£85 TOTAL

13 LIVE SESSIONS

RECORDINGS + MOODLE



WEEK 01 / 03 JAN 2027

Meet the Honey Bee Colony

How do thousands of bees work together to keep their colony alive through winter?

- Identify queens, workers and drones and describe their different roles.
- Explain how a colony develops and what it needs to survive winter.



WEEK 02 / 10 JAN 2027

Your First Hive: Where Do You Begin?

Before buying bees, discover what you really need—and what responsible ownership involves.

- Identify the main hive components and explain why each is used.
- Compare apiary sites, essential equipment and the responsibilities of sourcing bees.



WEEK 03 / 17 JAN 2027

From Flower to Hive: Feeding the Colony

What do honey bees eat, why do they need pollen and when might they need your help?

- Explain the roles of nectar, pollen and water in colony health.
- Use a seasonal scenario to identify risks to food stores and possible feeding decisions.



WEEK 04 / 24 JAN 2027

Swarming: When Half Your Bees Decide to Leave!

Why might a colony suddenly divide—and what clues tell you it could happen?

- Explain why colonies swarm and recognise important queen-cell stages.
- Compare possible swarm-management responses in a model colony.

02 / PROTECT THE COLONY

Becoming a bee-health detective

Healthy colonies are not an accident. Discover what you can observe, what questions to ask, and how informed action protects bees.



WEEK 05 / 31 JAN 2027

Varroa: A Tiny Mite with a Big Impact

Discover the parasite that changes how every responsible beekeeper manages their bees.

- Describe the Varroa life cycle and its connection to honey bee viruses.
- Interpret simple monitoring results and identify when more information is needed.



WEEK 06 / 07 FEB 2027

Protecting Colonies: Your Varroa Strategy

What would you do when monitoring suggests your colony is at risk?

- Compare integrated pest-management approaches and their limitations.
- Propose a seasonal monitoring and management plan for a hypothetical colony.



WEEK 07 / 14 FEB 2027

Bee Health Detective: Reading the Signs

Bees cannot tell us they are unwell—but they leave clues on the comb.

- Distinguish common healthy and concerning adult-bee and brood appearances.
- Describe safe next steps when signs are unclear or specialist help is needed.

03 / RESPONSIBILITY AND BIOSECURITY

The bigger picture of bee welfare

Learn to consider what is happening inside the hive - and how your decisions can affect other colonies and nearby beekeepers.

**WEEK 08 / 21 FEB 2027**

Unwanted Visitors: Pests and Invaders

From wax moths to invasive hornets, learn what to look for before problems spread.

- Recognise selected established and exotic threats to honey bee colonies.
- Explain prevention, monitoring and appropriate reporting routes.

**WEEK 09 / 28 FEB 2027**

When Bee Health Becomes Serious

What should you do if you suspect a notifiable bee disease?

- Identify visual warning signs that justify concern about serious brood disease.
- Explain how to stop risky movements and report a suspected notifiable problem.

**WEEK 10 / 07 MAR 2027**

Behind the Scenes: Caring for Your Apiary

The less glamorous jobs—cleaning, repairs and hygiene—can be some of the most important.

- Explain how poor hygiene and equipment handling can spread disease.
- Create a safe biosecurity and equipment-maintenance checklist, including supervised heat treatment where suitable.

04 / GETTING READY FOR SPRING

From curious beginner to informed learner

Your final weeks bring the whole story together: the queen, the first inspection and the decisions you may face as colonies grow in spring.

**WEEK 11 / 14 MAR 2027**

All About the Queen: The Future of the Colony

What happens when a colony loses its queen—and how can a new one take her place?

- Describe how a queen develops and the role she plays in colony continuity.
- Interpret hypothetical evidence of queen problems and identify sensible next checks.

**WEEK 12 / 21 MAR 2027**

Inside the Hive: Your First Inspection

Imagine opening a hive. What would you look for—and what might the bees tell you?

- Outline how to plan a purposeful, safe inspection under supervision.
- Read photographs of brood, bees and stores and complete a simulated inspection record.

**WEEK 13 / 28 MAR 2027**

Spring Is Here: Are You Ready?

Bring the pieces together and plan what a colony needs as the season begins.

- Identify key spring risks involving stores, colony strength, queen status and pests.
- Draft a reasoned spring-management plan for a model colony and explain when to seek help.

05 / COURSE FEES AND HOW TO JOIN

One starting point. Two possible pathways.

The online course stands on its own. You do not have to apply for practical training, and paying for theory does not secure a practical place.

STAGE 1 / ONLINE THEORY**£85**

Open to anyone. 13 live Sunday lessons, recordings, Moodle activities and theory completion checks.

STAGE 2 / OPTIONAL PRACTICAL**£300**

Supervised sessions at selected Manchester/Cheshire apiaries. Limited places; successful theory completion and a separate suitability application required.

TOTAL IF SELECTED FOR BOTH STAGES**£385**

HOW ENROLMENT WORKS

- 01 Request enrolment information before 31 December 2026.
- 02 Join the Sunday lessons from 3 January; use recordings and Moodle to catch up.
- 03 Complete all 13 weekly activities and knowledge checks by 31 March 2027.
- 04 For optional practical training, apply separately with a short statement (up to 500 words or an accessible alternative).

Practical Award: Available only after supervised practical learning and submission of a portfolio that meets BeeEducated assessment requirements. Practical places are limited; an application does not guarantee acceptance.

Joining, safety and refund terms will be provided before payment.

ONLINE COURSE beeducated.co.uk/online-beekeeping-course/

Questions? bees@beeducated.co.uk