

Dartington Hive



The Dartington hive in Sean's apiary is usually used as mating nuclei and to bring them on to full colonies before transferring to deep national hives.

This year the hive contains a colony with a super and a swarm collected a couple of weeks ago.

Points noted during the inspection:

- Hive is top bee space
- Slotted zinc queen excluder employed, bowing in middle witnessed
- Frames are warm way; Beekeeper stands as if cold way
- Half width super's good idea but do not take full compliment of frames with spacers
- Sizing does not match standard national super
- Held two colonies without fighting
- Even though only one side needed a super the other needed an empty super box to match height, so roof fitted
- Roof does not match up with standard super
- Two man lift to move empty hive!

Attractive points of hive:

- Large capacity
- Can carry out swarm control/splits within the single box
- Great example of matching horizontal beekeeping employed in the top bar hive with vertical beekeeping employed with the national hive

Wood working project for the winter to match super and roof up when using standard national super.



1 Two colonies one with super other without



2 Zinc slotted queen excluder bowing in middle (see bees)



3 Deep dummies between colonies