

There are very few places in the world that are free of the devastating **varroa mite** - one of the significant factors in the drastic decline of worldwide honey bee numbers.

The UK has only **3%** of the flowering meadowland and **50%** of the hedgerows that it had 60 years ago.

Contact

If you would like to learn more about the work of the Isles of Scilly AONB Partnership and the Isles of Scilly 'Honeybee Health Project' please visit our website www.ios-aonb.info

Alternatively you can call the AONB Unit on **01720 424315** or email: aonb@scilly.gov.uk

The pollination benefit of honeybees is calculated to help the British economy by **millions of pounds per annum.**

Bee Alert

Isles of Scilly

Honeybee Health Project



References: The British Beekeepers Association / Pezeta Bee
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ISLES OF SCILLY
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



defra
Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs

The Isles of Scilly are unique in many respects. For example, the 28 mile stretch of water between Cornwall and the islands acts as a natural protective barrier, keeping out some diseases and invasive species. As a consequence the islands' honeybee colonies are free of diseases such as varroa that have devastated many mainland hives.

The Isles of Scilly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership is collaborating with the islands' bee-keepers to develop the Honeybee Health Project which aims to keep the islands' honeybee colonies disease-free.



In the winter of 2011 there was a 16.8% decrease in honeybee stocks in the south west region.

You can help the honeybee by:

- 1** Thoroughly washing out old honey jars. Honey from other parts of the world can carry pathogens which harm bees.
- 2** Pollinating insects, such as the honeybee, require a rich and varied supply of pollen and nectar throughout the year. Growing pollinator-friendly plants in your garden will encourage a tapestry of biodiversity, including honeybees.
- 3** Maintain an insect friendly garden by not using chemicals. These can harm or even kill important insects, such as honeybees.
- 4** Buy local honey- it tastes delicious, it is good for you and it can aid immunity against hay-fever and other allergies. Locally produced honey reduces your carbon footprint, unlike honey imported from the other side of the world.
- 5** Learn what incredible and essential insects honeybees are. Stinging insects are often misunderstood and much maligned. Honeybees are generally very peaceful creatures unless they are directly threatened or interfered with. Without honeybee pollination we would have a third less food varieties on our tables at meal times.
- 6** Seek out a local bee-keeper if you are interested in starting beekeeping.