

## A Hive Of Activity



The Honeydale bees have been busy! Paul and Chris Wells carried out an inspection and discovered that the 'special measures' hive has reacted well to the new queen introduced earlier this month. She is healthy, laying lots of eggs and with plenty of bees present...



...so she's been marked (white for 2016)...



and had her wings clipped.





All is looking very good and a mass of beautifully coloured pollen has been



Some of the bees have deformed wing virus.



This is not unusual, but is an indicator that some varroa is present. The bottom hive was checked and varroa was found, along with wax moth grubs, so this hive is under supervision and may have to be treated for varroa.

Hive 1 (to which we added several additional supers) has now produced a lot of honey so far [see pic], with some perfect honey-filled frames.



No queen, eggs or brood were visible though, but the calm temperament w suggests the queen is not too far away and is still active. The colony have p cells which usually means they are preparing for the queen to lay eggs. And

be carried out at the end of the week to see if she can be found.

The swarm box is still confusing us. It has a healthy number of bees but no queen. However the bees are displaying a healthy temperament so it'll be left for a while and inspected again. It may be necessary to introduce eggs into this hive to stimulate the bees to create a new queen and it may then be possible to develop a new colony from it. We'll have to watch this space.



The Honeydale bees already have company, as Chris Wells has now brought more bees up to the farm. There are currently four nucleus boxes there, with more on the way.



Once the bees have acclimatised they will be transferred to some more pe  
hives at the end of the week. Having seen the honey production from our hi  
enthusiastic about having his hives at Honeydale and looking forward to lot

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