Small Hive Beetle and Tropilaelaps mite Contingency Plan

November 2026

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Pest-Specific Contingency Plan

Small Hive Beetle (*Aethina tumida*) and *Tropilaelaps* mite



Aethina tumida (left) *Tropilaelaps* mite (right). Courtesy The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Crown Copyright.

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Scottish Government Small Hive Beetle (*Aethina tumida*) and *Tropilaelaps* mite Pest- Specific Contingency Plan

Introduction

1. This plan sets out the role of the Scottish Government and the actions that will be taken as well as governance, roles, and responsibilities in response to a suspected or confirmed outbreak of Small Hive Beetle (SHB) or *Tropilaelaps* mite in Scotland.

2. Serious or significant pests require strategic level plans, developed at a national level, describing the overall aim and high-level objectives to be achieved and the response strategy to either eradicate or contain an outbreak to minimise the impact on the sector.

3. The purpose of a Pest Specific Contingency Plan is to ensure a rapid and effective response to an outbreak of the pest described.

4. This Plan gives details of the teams and organisations involved in a bee pest response in Scotland. It also describes how these teams and organisations work together in the event of an outbreak of SHB or *Tropilaelaps* mite.

5. It will be tested regularly to ensure that it remains fit for purpose through field or desktop exercises. It will be reviewed annually to take account of changes in policy, governance and lessons learned from exercises, suspect cases, or other outbreaks/emergencies.

6. The response steps to a possible, negated, and confirmed outbreak are:

    - Alert
    - Triage
    - Search
    - Identification

- Confirmation
- Co-ordination and response
- Post-incident management

Legislation

7. In Scotland, legislative control is underpinned by The Bees Act 1980 which empowers Ministers to make orders to control diseases and pests affecting bees and provides powers of entry for authorised persons to carry out necessary surveillance, inspection, and certification requirements.

8. The risk that these two exotic pests could pose to bee colonies is recognised in The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007 (as amended) ("the Order") which makes them both statutory notifiable pests. This means that the law requires that any beekeeper or person in charge of a hive who knows or suspects that one of these two pests is present in their hives or is present on or in the same premises or vehicle as their hives must notify Scottish Ministers immediately.

9. The Order also empowers authorised persons to take appropriate measures against SHB and *Tropilaelaps* mite, such as destruction, treatment, and prevention of the movement of infected hives. Similar legislation exists for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Scope

10. This plan describes how the Scottish Government will respond if SHB or *Tropilaelaps* mite is discovered in Scotland. Bee health policy is a devolved area and therefore each UK administration is responsible for addressing an outbreak under the auspices of their individual Honey Bee Health portfolios, and therefore similar contingency plans for England, Wales and Northern Ireland are available from those respective administrations.

11. The Scottish Government, Defra, and Welsh Government (WG) are committed to working together to tackle animal and plant health and to share information during an outbreak openly and co-operatively. Similarly, we would keep the Bee Health Team in Northern Ireland informed of developments.

Objectives

12. The aims and objectives of the plan are to protect Scotland's honey bee population from SHB and *Tropilaelaps* mite by:

- Detecting its presence as soon as possible.
- Intercepting and preventing establishment.
- Eradicating any outbreak if considered practicable.
- Containing and controlling an outbreak, if field evidence suggests that it is well established in a defined but limited geographical area.
- Establishing long-term management where eradication and control is no longer possible due to the number and extent of outbreaks; and
- Aiding the beekeeping industry, pest controllers, and local authorities in the form of training and advice on pest control

Command and Control

13. The response to a SHB or *Tropilaelaps* mite incursion will be controlled using a Strategic, Planning and Operational Command Structure:

Strategic Command: Pest-Specific Strategic Oversight Group (Oversight Group), led by the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO). The Oversight Group is responsible for overall policy of command and control.

Planning Command: In the event of a SHB or *Tropilaelaps* mite incursion, a Pest-Specific Incident Management Team (Incident Management Team) will be convened and will be responsible for planning and co-ordination of actions

determined at a strategic level by the Oversight Group. The team will be led by the Honey Bee Health Policy Lead (Incident Management Lead).

Operational Command: A Pest-Specific Operational Response Team (Operational Response Team) will be established and led by the Honey Bee Health Delivery Lead (Operational Response Team Lead). The Operational Response Team is responsible for developing and implementing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and inspections in the field.

14. Flexibility and proportionality in the execution of the response is important. For a small outbreak it may not be necessary to establish all the structures required for a major outbreak. Most of the activities and functions described in the response structures will still need to be delivered, but there may be variations in the way this is achieved.

Background Information

Small Hive Beetle

15. Small Hive Beetle (SHB), indigenous to Africa, belongs to a family of scavenger beetles known as the Nitidulidae. SHB has spread to the USA, Canada, Mexico, Jamaica, Australia, and Cuba where it has proved it can be a serious pest of European honey bees. In 2014, SHB was confirmed in Italy and there is an increased risk of its accidental introduction into the UK.

16. The beetle mainly lives and breeds on its primary host, the honey bee, in colonies, stored comb, and beekeeping equipment but it can also survive and reproduce on ripe fruit. The beetles multiply to vast numbers, their larvae tunnel through comb to eat brood, ruin stored honey and ultimately destroy infested colonies or cause them to abscond.

17. SHB has the potential to be spread by movement of package bees, honey bee colonies, swarms, honeycomb, beeswax, soil, and fruit. Adults can survive for two weeks without food and water, 50 days on used comb and several months

on fruit. Adults can fly at least five miles to infest new colonies. Weak colonies are at the greatest risk of infestation. Strong colonies will actively remove larvae but are not able to deal with adult beetles due to their hard exoskeleton and their defensive behaviour.

18. SHB is a major threat to the long-term sustainability and economic prosperity of UK beekeeping and, consequently, to agriculture and the environment through disruption to pollination services, the value of which is estimated at hundreds of millions of pounds annually.

***Tropilaelaps* mite**

19. These mites have spread significantly in recent years from their natural home in tropical and sub-tropical zones of Asia and are a serious threat to the Western honey bee *Apis mellifera.*

20. They infest both brood and adult bees, causing damage similar to Varroa mites, irregular brood patterns, stunted and deformed bees, and colony decline or collapse. The mites cannot survive in broodless colonies, but their feeding leads to brood mortality and shortened lifespans in adult bees.

21. Predictions are that the climate will become warmer in the future. Warmer winter temperatures and more colonies continually rearing brood, mean that in the UK the potential for *Tropilaelaps* mite to spread and to impact on beekeeping are increasing.

22. *Tropilaelaps* mite is spread by the importation of bees. The mites are mobile and can readily move between bees and within the hive. They rely on adult bees for transport between colonies via drifting, robbing, or swarming. Beekeeping practices can also contribute to their spread. These mites have the potential to cause major economic damage and losses to beekeeping and, consequently, to agriculture and the environment through disruption to pollination services if they became established.

Official Action on Suspicion

Identification information

23. Information on how to identify SHB and *Tropilaelaps* mite is available on the following websites:

    Small hive beetle:
    Scottish Government
    National Bee Unit

    Tropilaelaps mite:
    Scottish Government
    National Bee Unit

24. SHB and *Tropilaelaps* mite are most likely to be found during inspections by a beekeeper or the Bee Health Inspectors. If any suspect cases are reported to other Government contacts, they should be forwarded to the Scottish Government's Honey Bee Health Team.

    Email: bees_mailbox@gov.scot

25. The Honey Bee Health Delivery Lead/Deputy from the Rural Payments and Inspections Division (RPID) will take immediate investigative action according to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and report all investigations to the Scottish Government's Honey Bee Health Policy Team.

26. If a sample is available, it will be collected and sent to SASA for official confirmation. If a sample is not available, the Honey Bee Health Delivery Lead/Deputy will liaise with the Honey Bee Health Policy Team, Honey Bee Health Veterinary Advisor, and SASA Senior Entomologist to confirm whether (a) inspectors should be despatched immediately to the site or (b) further

information needs to be gathered from the reporting individual before deciding whether an inspection is needed.

Official Action on Confirmation

Establishment of Statutory Infected Areas (SIAs) and Movement Restrictions

27. If Scottish Ministers are satisfied that SHB or *Tropilaelaps* mite (as notifiable pests) are present, they may issue a notice under article 10 of the Bee Disease and Pest Control (Scotland) Order 2007 declaring an infected area. The notice may state that some or all of the rules listed in the Schedule to the Order will apply to all or part of the infected area (including movement restrictions), if the Scottish Ministers consider this is necessary to stop the notifiable pest from spreading.

28. The notice(s) will define precise boundaries and will be published on the Scottish Government's website, BeeBase and elsewhere as appropriate.

29. To enable the efficient and timely issuing of an SIA, a template has been agreed with Legal.

Small Hive Beetle:

30. Based on current knowledge of the dispersal of SHB, it is anticipated that a SIA will initially cover a minimum 16km radius around the location of the initial credible sighting on the grounds that the SHB is likely to be present in this area. The infected area may be altered and enlarged as circumstances change, or new infected areas may be declared.

Tropilaelaps mite:

31. For *Tropilaelaps* mites, it is also anticipated that the SIA will initially cover a minimum radius of 16km, but inspections will initially be prioritised within a radius

of 5km. All apiaries within the designated SIA will be subject to movement restrictions, which will be clearly detailed in the statutory notice declaring the infected area.

Operational activity

32. This next section of the Contingency Plan sets out an overview of the processes and governance of the search, identification, confirmation, co-ordination and response, and post-incident management.

33. It is triggered by either official confirmation from Science & Advice for Scottish Agriculture ("SASA") (a division of the Scottish Government's Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate), of the presence of SHB or *Tropilaelaps* mite or an assessment that the information provided constitutes credible evidence of the presence of SHB or *Tropilaelaps* mite and requires further investigation.

34. SG Honey Bee Health Team will follow Standard Operating Procedures ("SOPs") to ensure that operational activities are undertaken consistently and in line with agreed process.

35. Immediately on confirmation from SASA or agreement that the information or evidence confirms or strongly suggests a SHB or *Tropilaelaps* mite outbreak in Scotland, the following governance procedures will be implemented to manage and respond to the incident.

36. A flowchart summarising the actions taken is provided in Annex A.

Strategic

Pest-Specific Strategic Oversight Group

37. On confirmation of finding SHB or *Tropilaelaps* mite in Scotland, the SG Honey Bee Health Policy Team will convene the Pest-Specific Strategic Oversight Group (Oversight Group) and arrange an urgent meeting.

38. The Oversight Group will be chaired by the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO), in this case the Chief Veterinary Officer. Membership will include:

- Honey Bee Health Senior Veterinary Advisor.
- SG Honey Bee Health Policy Lead in their capacity as Incident Management Lead.
- Operational Response Team Leader
- SG Comms.
- Senior Entomologist at SASA.
- SG Animal Disease lead.
- SG Head of Area Office in the area concerned.
- others deemed appropriate.

39. The Honey Bee Health Policy Lead (hereafter the Incident Management Lead (IML) shall be responsible for the preparation of documentation for Oversight Group meetings, the execution of agreed recommendations, and the management of all strategic functions associated with the outbreak. The SRO, Incident Management Lead, Operational Response Team Lead, and Senior Veterinary Advisor for the outbreak will attend any ministerial meetings required.

    Specific activities for the Oversight Group will include:

- **Immediate actions:** An Oversight Group meeting will be convened by the IML within 24 hours to agree the strategic approach and identify issues. The meeting will be chaired by the SRO for the incident.

- Determining a “battle rhythm” for the outbreak including frequency of Oversight Group meetings.
- Developing recommendations as necessary for Ministers on the strategic direction of response and control policies based on the advice of the Incident Management Team and scientific advice from SASA.
- Consider and provide sign off on the recommended action plan for the outbreak presented to the Group by the Incident Management Team, which will include whether eradication or containment should be pursued and agreeing priorities and when to establish/remove any Statutory Infected Areas (SIA’s)
- Considering the impacts of the outbreak, including on bumble bee and feral bees in the vicinity, and whether suspending exports is necessary.
- Agreeing communication and stakeholder engagement plans.
- Agreeing an official spokesperson for interviews with the media.

Planning

Pest-Specific Incident Management Team

40. A Pest-Specific Incident Management Team (Incident Management Team) will be established, led by the Honey Bee Health Policy Lead acting as Incident Management Lead.

    The Incident Management Team will comprise:

    - Scottish Chief Veterinary Officer (or Deputy).
    - Honey Bee Health Veterinary Advisor.
    - Honey Bee Health Delivery Lead.
    - Honey Bee Health Team Deputy Lead Inspector
    - SASA Senior Entomologist.
    - SASA Entomology Manager.
    - Deputy Head of Office in the area concerned.
    - National Bee Unit representative.

41. The Incident Management Team is responsible for developing specific actions to deal with the outbreak, as directed by the Oversight Group.

    The functions of the Incident Management Team include:

    - **Immediate actions:** The Incident Management Lead will draw up the SIA with the help of the SG legal team. Dissemination of information to the public, beekeeping associations, and other stakeholders per the Communications Plan.
    - Set up and providing secretariat to the Oversight Group meetings.
    - Maintaining outbreak records/documents (e.g. action list, core briefing, event briefing, lessons identified).
    - Gathering intelligence about the outbreak and providing advice and options on management and recommended actions to the Oversight Group.
    - Identifying and securing additional resources as required to manage the incident.
    - Applying for any necessary and additional funding required for the duration of the emergency, upon senior management request.
    - establish and/or remove any SIAs.
    - Liaising and communicating with SRUC, SG Bee Health Inspectors, beekeeping associations, and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities following activation of the contingency plan

42. The Incident Management Team will be convened immediately when a credible report has been confirmed to initiate the initial actions as set out in the Operational section of this Plan.

43. The Incident Management Team will convene daily or at such other frequency as is determined by the Oversight Group.

44. The Incident Management Team will note and distribute agreed actions from each Incident Management Team meeting allowing attendees to prepare appropriate comms and plan for next steps.

45. Using the templates in the Communications Plan, the Incident Management Team will notify Ministers that a finding of SHB or *Tropilaelaps* mite in Scotland is being investigated and that pre-agreed press lines will be issued.

46. The Incident Management Team will liaise with other Devolved Administrations to apprise of the outbreak and actions being taken.

Operational

Pest-Specific Operational Response Team

47. The Honey Bee Health Delivery Lead/Deputy will take on the role of Operational Response Team Lead in the event of any confirmed outbreak and will initiate actions appropriate to whether the incursion is isolated (e.g. Pest confirmed in two geographically separate apiaries that have been linked to known movement of bees, but no or very limited findings in surrounding apiaries – eradication is likely to be successful) or widespread (e.g. Pest confirmed in more than one geographically separate location and pest is present in multiple apiaries in each SIA. Especially if no known links between locations – eradication is unlikely to be successful) and to establish a Pest-Specific Operational Response Team (Operational Response Team).

48. The Operational Response Team Lead will set out specific actions for the outbreak, considering the ‘battle rhythm’ set by Oversight Group. The actions will be agreed by the Incident Management Team and signed off by the Oversight Group.

49. Specific activities of the Operational Response Team Lead will include:

- Directing and co-ordinating response measures, including determining areas and apiaries on which to concentrate surveillance, allocation of apiary searches and use of appropriate pest controls in line with Incident Management Team decision making.
- Providing regular local contact and support for personnel working in the field.
- Maintaining contact with, attend and provide reports on outcome of searches and incident progress information to the Incident Management Team.
- Providing information to local beekeeping associations and liaise with local associations who may be able to contact beekeepers to facilitate inspection arrangements.

50. Specific activities of the Operational Response Team will include:
    - Conducting surveillance and apiary searches where SHB/*Tropilaelaps* mite was found.
    - Providing daily sit reps and the outcome of searches to the Operational Response Team Lead.
    - Use of pest controls as directed.

51. Based on the advice from the Operational Response Team Lead, the Incident Management Team will agree whether the outbreak is isolated (i.e., eradication is likely to be successful) and will develop a recommendation and action plan to present to the Oversight Group, where authorisation to proceed with eradication efforts will be sought.

Emergency Searches and Inspections

52. Based on intelligence from the Operational Response Team to establish the extent of the outbreak and, if possible, its source, the Operational Response Team Lead will recommend the size of the surveillance areas and priorities to the Incident Management Team for confirmation from the Oversight Group.

53. The NBU's BeeBase database and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) will be used to enable searches to be targeted at all known apiaries initially within a 5km radius of the outbreak and subsequently widened out to cover the 16km

radius of the SIA. This would also include apiaries that are identified through subsequent tracings e.g. any bee movements or sales of honey bees, hive products, and beekeeping equipment from the designated premises within the SIA.

54. The Operational Response Team Lead will arrange for teams of SG Bee Health Inspectors to be deployed to the outbreak area(s). They will seek to rapidly establish the extent of the outbreak and, if possible, its source. They will also establish if there are further primary infestations in the SIA or any secondary infestations further afield. Details of the inspection protocols are given in the SG's SOPs.

55. The Oversight Group will confirm the appropriate policy on bumblebees and feral honey bee colonies, including whether suspending exports are necessary based on the circumstances of the outbreak. If colonies are found in close proximity to an infested hive this should be noted in the inspection report.

56. Follow-up inspections will be completed based on any information gathered by this process. Risk analysis will be an integral component of the emergency searches to predict potential spread from the point of entry and assist with targeted inspections.

57. An inspection report should be submitted by the field inspectors to the Operational Response Team Lead after each inspection; the forms are contained within the SOPs. The Operational Response Team Lead will update the Incident Management Team meeting.

Trace forward/backwards

58. SHB/ *Tropilaelaps* mites are likely to spread within the UK from movements of bees during the beekeeping season. The Operational Response Team will arrange inspections of bees which were moved from the SIA prior to discovery of the pest. Other countries will be notified of exports from the UK prior to the

discovery of the pest. The SG will contact the CIT to establish if any exports have taken place.

Laboratory Diagnosis

59. Suspect samples sent by beekeepers or SG Bee Health Inspectors to SASA will undergo a confirmatory diagnosis. A report will be sent to affected beekeepers (copied to the Operational Response Team Lead) as soon as possible. Turnaround times and reporting will be reviewed if large numbers of samples are submitted. Any positive samples will be immediately reported to the Operational Response Team, and the Incident Management Team.

Isolated Outbreaks

60. After completion of the initial search, if the Incident Management Team considers that the outbreak is an isolated incident and eradication will be practicable, this may be attempted following consultation with the Oversight Group.

Widespread outbreak

61. If Bee Health Inspectors find several outbreaks across a large geographical area, the Operational Response Team Lead, in consultation with the Senior Responsible Officer, will make a recommendation to the Oversight Group regarding the likelihood of eradication and whether a policy of eradication or containment should be pursued. The Oversight Group will decide the outbreak strategy, where necessary consulting Ministers.

Decontamination/disposal

62. Whilst an eradication policy remains in place, all colonies that are infested or have been exposed to infestation and contain contaminated hive products in the affected area will be humanely euthanised and subsequently destroyed, normally by burning, in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Decontamination and Disposal.

Emergency Pest Control: Product Treatment Availability

63. Currently, most medicaments available overseas to control many of the exotic pests and diseases of bees are not approved or available in the UK for general use in apiculture. This is due to the apiculture sector, particularly in the UK, being a relatively small market. In the event of an outbreak of SHB or *Tropilaelaps* mite, SG policy, on advice from Operational Management Lead, will apply to the HSE to use treatment considered appropriate to control or treat affected colonies and the surrounding area.

64. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques will also be advocated as the best approach to control the pest. Details of current methods are available in advisory leaflets on the BeeBase website.

Treatment Schedules

65. As SHB has only been subjected to intensive scientific study for a comparatively short time, there are still significant gaps in the understanding of many aspects of its biology and habits. So far, chemical measures to control SHB have not been fully effective and are considered short-term measures. The use of nematodes as a soil treatment is being studied.

66. *Tropilaelaps* mite can be controlled using miticides (which have been registered by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate) combined with IPM methods.

67. Appropriate precautions as defined in the Special Treatment Certificates will be taken with any medicaments approved by the VMD to control SHB or *Tropilaelaps* mites in the hive. This is to prevent the risk of possible contamination of honey and other hive products. In such cases, it may be necessary in an emergency to place storage restrictions on the use of harvested honey or other hive products from treated colonies, to allow time for residues to break down before consumption or sale. In such instances, SG will inform Food Standards Scotland (FSS) of any additional controls placed on harvested honey or hive products subsequently intended for human consumption.

68. Operational instructions to carry out the detailed requirements of this contingency plan are set out in the SG's SOPs. Parallel and separate Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) and health and safety assessments will be produced where appropriate. The SG reviews and revises SOPs as a minimum bi-annually.

External Communications and Correspondence

69. The official spokesperson for interviews with the media will be agreed at the first meeting of the Oversight Group. Any request for a press interview will be sent to the SG Comms to deal with. Only officers who have received media training should provide statements or interviews to journalists, including trade press. Statements/information issued by social media should be cleared by SG Comms prior to release.

Notifications

70. The Incident Management Lead will notify the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) within 24 hours of a confirmed case of SHB or *Tropilaelaps* mite. Thereafter they will provide at least weekly update reports.

71. SHB and *Tropilaelaps* mites are notifiable under the Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007 (as amended).

72. A detailed Communications Plan accompanies this Contingency Plan and will be owned by the Honey Bee Health Policy Team who will be responsible for ensuring that it is implemented at the appropriate points.

UK devolved administrations

73. For cross-border outbreaks, all relevant UK Government departments will be included in the Oversight Group meeting but for Scotland-only outbreaks will be updated as part of wider stakeholder communications per the communications plan.

Stakeholders

74. The Bee Health Improvement Partnership (BHIP), local beekeeping groups and associations will be informed and consulted for advice as required by the Oversight Group. Other stakeholders will be kept informed of developments per the communications plan. Academic institutions, specialist pest control experts, or government departments overseas with specific expertise will also be consulted if necessary.

75. In the event of a confirmed SHB or *Tropilaelaps* mite outbreak, the SG Honey Bee Health Policy Team will trigger its communication plan which includes providing advice/guidance for the wider stakeholder community (e.g. Bee Farmers Association (BFA), Scottish Beekeepers Association (SBA), Plant Health colleagues, animal health field officers, veterinary officers, allotment associations, garden centres, pest control companies, local authorities/councils, ports authorities etc.) to raise awareness.

Communications with beekeepers

76. The SG delivers training for beekeepers to raise awareness of SHB and *Tropilaelaps* mite, and how to detect these pests in their apiaries. In the event of a confirmed SHB /*Tropilaelaps* mite, all registered beekeepers and beekeeping associations will be informed via an email alert.

77. All beekeepers registered on BeeBase within 16 km radius of an outbreak will be informed by email. They will be provided with advisory material and Apiary Information Sheets and, if SHB/*Tropilaelaps* mite is found in the beekeeper's apiary, they will be asked to complete an Exotic Pest Incident Questionnaire for return to the SG. These returns will provide essential information on sales, purchases and recent colony movements and help inform decisions made by the Incident Management Team for follow-up inspections, etc. All efforts will be made to contact other beekeepers within the outbreak area and encourage registration on Beebase.

General public

78. Information on the outbreak will be made available on the SG website. The SG website information will include:

- Full details of the infested areas, control measures, and restrictions. This will include maps of the outbreak areas at a minimum scale of 10km square.
- Advisory and technical information on biology of the pest and detection and control methods for beekeepers.
- Information for beekeepers on how to send suspect samples to the lab at SASA to prevent, as far as possible, the risk of spread of the (suspect) pest during transit.
- General advice for interested parties, e.g. press
- Links to relevant websites for further technical information.

Immediate area of outbreak

79. The Operational Response Team Lead will work in partnership with the Local Authority environmental health colleagues who will provide information to people within the immediate area of the outbreak. Information to be cleared by the Oversight Group and SG Comms before distribution.

Media

80. External communications will be coordinated through SG Comms. The official spokesperson for interviews with the media will be agreed at the first meeting of the Oversight Group. Any request for a press interview will be sent to SG Comms. In all cases SG Comms must be kept informed of the status of the outbreak and any action taken.

Review

81. Based on intelligence from the Operational Response Team, the Incident Management Team will assess whether the outbreak is an isolated one which may be contained. It will then make a recommendation to the Oversight Group who will then confirm if eradication should be attempted. It may be necessary to extend the SIA to contend with outbreaks that spread slowly in an attempt to further slow them down and contain them geographically.

Recovery

82. Response procedures laid down in this plan continue until SHB/*Tropilaelaps* mite is eradicated or the decision is taken that the pest cannot be eradicated, and a management plan is introduced.

Post-eradication: surveillance

83. Bee Health Inspectors will revisit the affected areas, and place neighbouring apiaries under close surveillance for at least 2 years. However, the length of time under which affected areas will remain under increased surveillance will be highly dependent on the nature of the outbreak. Surveillance will continue until sufficient evidence has been gathered to present to the WOAH to declare pest free status.

Moving from eradication to containment

84. If an incursion proves to be established and widespread, and eradication attempts have failed, the Oversight Group, taking advice from the Incident Management Group, may advise Ministers that eradication as a control method no longer remains practical. If Ministers agree, a policy of containment and long-term management will be implemented.

85. The lifting of the SIA will be considered by the Oversight Group in the light of the extent and spread of the outbreak(s). The focus will shift to providing technical advice and training services for beekeepers to recognise and efficiently control

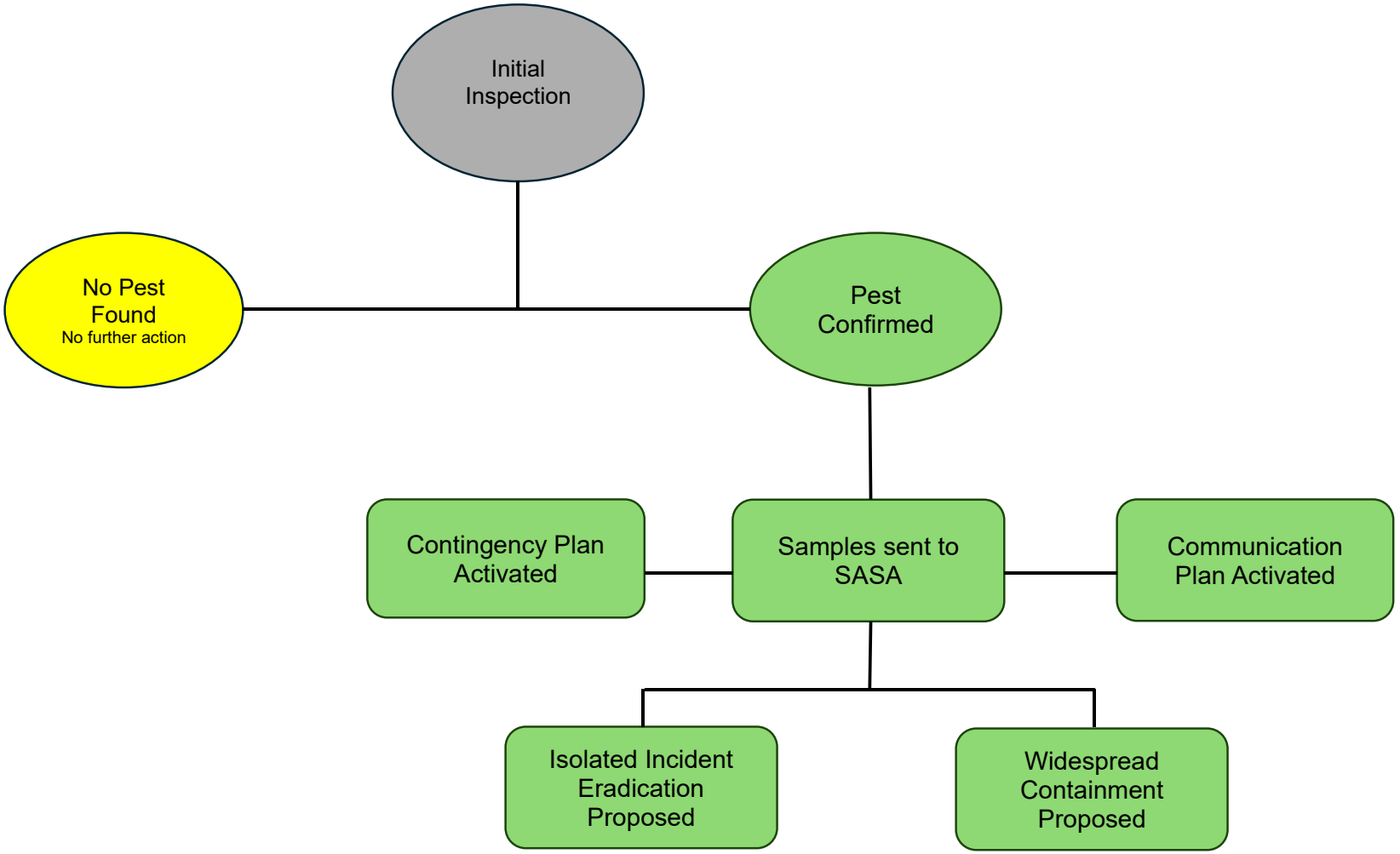
affected colonies. Longer term management options for dealing with the pest will be drafted by the Incident Management and Operational Response Team Leads for consideration by the Oversight Group.

86. The Incident Management Team will draw up guidance for beekeepers on management and control of SHB/*Tropilaelaps* mite which will be made available via SG web pages

Evaluation and Review of Contingency Plan

87. This Contingency Plan will be tested every second year with mock exercises, and the Plan reviewed and updated following each one. Lessons identified in exercises will be fed into an annual review of plans undertaken by SG. This review will also include lessons identified from other outbreaks.

Annex A: Summary of actions taken



Annex B: Glossary

Abbreviation	Description
APHA	Animal and Plant Health Agency
AI	Apiary Inspector
BD&PC Order	The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007 (as amended)
BFA	Bee Farmers Association
BHIP	Bee Health Improvement Partnership
CIT	Centre for International Trade
COSHH	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland)
Defra	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
FSS	Food Standards Scotland
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
IAP	Incident Action Plan
IML	Incident Management Lead
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
KM	Kilometre
NBU	National Bee Unit
NI	Northern Ireland
RPID	Rural Payments and Inspections Division
SASA	Science & Advice for Scottish Agriculture
SBA	Scottish Beekeepers Association
SG	Scottish Government
SG Comms	Scottish Government Communications Team
SHB	Small Hive Beetle (*Aethina tumida*)
SIA	Statutory Infected Area
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SRO	Senior Responsible Officer
SRUC	Scotland's Rural College
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America
VMD	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
WG	Welsh Government
WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health

Scottish Government
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