	***Vertical TBH*[1]**	***Horizontal TBH*[2]**
Construction *(similar timber can be used for both types)*	Easy: minimum of 3 identical boxes, with top bars, floor, roof and stand. Rebating for top bars may require table saw or router.	Easy: one larger box, legs, top bars and roof. Only hand tools needed, although circular saw an advantage.
Portability and storage *(neither is designed for migratory beekeeping)*	Easy to move when empty; no more difficult than a framed hive when full. Some extra storage space will be required for boxes not in use.	Easy to move when empty; needs two people when full. Self-contained, so no storage problems.
Ease of use	Once set up and populated, only maintenance is removing filled upper box and replacing empty box under stack; some lifting needed, but this could be mechanically assisted.	Requires more regular attention as honey is harvested a little at a time; no heavy lifting once hive is in place.
Security	As easily removed as any stacked hive by one man and a car. Easy to hide.	Difficult to steal: would need two people and a flat bed truck or van. Harder to hide, but does not look like a regular beehive.
Location	Leave-alone style suitable for home or out apiary.	More suited to home/local use due to more frequent checks during season.
Harvesting	Usually one box at a time, by removal of top box.	Usually one or two combs at a time throughout the season.
Wintering	Usually wintered in two boxes with reduced entrance and mouse guard.	Colony wintered in same box with follower each side. Design is relatively mouse-proof.
Inspection	Discouraged, but if top bars are not fixed, they can be removed if required.	Colony easily accessible from both ends, although disturbance should be kept to a minimum.
Feeding	Discouraged, but could be done using adapted roof and feeders designed for framed hives.	Discouraged, but when necessary can be done inside hive using simple container with float.
Swarm control	By increasing volume – adding one or more boxes below colony. Artificial swarming may be possible.	By increasing volume – adding top bars – or dividing the colony using followers. Artificial swarming easy.
Queen rearing & nucs	Not suitable, esp. if top bars are fixed: contradicts the 'leave-alone' protocol.	Swarm cells can be used: nuclei can be created within hive body using extra followers.
Brood comb renewal	Automatic: as the bees move downwards, comb is removed.	Manual: the beekeeper manages comb removal.
Varroa treatment[3]	Natural cell size. Oxalic acid[4] trickling possible; powdered (icing) sugar possible from above, or below if box is lifted.	Natural cell size. Oxalic acid trickling possible by separating top bars; powdered sugar possible from below if mesh floor is used.

1 Abbé Warré hive

2 Chandler top bar hive, using side entrance and follower boards

3 Our aim, as sustainable beekeepers, must be to provide the conditions in which bees can best deal with their own problems, including *Varroa*. However, benign treatments, such as powdered sugar, may be necessary in order to help the bees through the transition from frame-and-foundation hives to fully natural-cell. Once established on natural-cell comb, we aim not to interfere with their proven ability to learn how to live with a certain level of parasite infestation.

4 Oxalic acid, which occurs naturally in all plants, appears to be an effective *Varroa* treatment and the only known medication that kills *Varroa* inside brood cells, while appearing not to have adverse effects on bees if used in the recommended dilution. However, oxalic acid is extremely toxic and dangerous in undiluted form and I have read reports of the occasional queen being killed by it. For these reasons, I would rather not use it myself, but you must make up your own mind.