



GM 2019/2 – to all AA Secretaries

04/01/2019

The Role of BBKA Associations and Beekeepers concerning Asian Hornets

Each Branch or Association will be asked to set up a team that can assist with local requests for help in identifying Asian Hornets. It is vital that all Beekeepers can identify Asian Hornets.

The ID sheet, poster and postcard can be downloaded from the [Asian hornet pages of BeeBase](#) or ordered from the NBU office (nbu@apha.gsi.gov.uk).

Each team should be organised with contact numbers and a team leader who can be contacted by an Area Association Co Ordinator. (This will facilitate easier dissemination of information)

Associations should encourage their members to register on BeeBase and to ensure that their contact and apiary details are up to date. If an email address is included this will ensure individuals can receive alerts from the NBU when Asian Hornets are sighted in their area

The BBKA will set up a system similar to that used for reporting swarms. This will allow the public to search for a local association (secretary or AHAT leader) to arrange assistance with the identification of suspect Asian hornet sightings or leads. Team members from local/area Associations can follow up leads on invite/request from members of the public and aid them with identification and obtaining a specimen and photograph. These should be sent in through the alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk email address or the [Asian Hornet Watch](#) app.

All beekeepers should be encouraged to keep an eye out for Asian hornets in their apiaries catching bees or on flowering plants feeding on nectar or other insects. In the winter months nests in deciduous trees may become visible.

All Asian hornet sightings or nests should be reported (with a photograph or video) through the alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk email address or the [Asian Hornet Watch](#) app.

Monitoring and Trapping.

- Monitoring traps can be used in the spring or late summer especially around risk points such as ports or areas where nests have occurred previously. A [fact sheet](#) and [YouTube video](#) on how to make an Asian hornet monitoring trap are available from the [Asian hornet pages of BeeBase](#).





- It would be very helpful if all beekeepers who use monitoring traps were encouraged to record their use on BeeBase by editing their apiary records, how to do this is described on page 9 of [Beekeeper Pages FAQ](#).
- **It is illegal to trap and release an alien species. This means it is illegal to trap and release an Asian Hornet.**

Insurance Issues

The insurance cover that is provided is excellent and covers all that Beekeepers do in the normal process of beekeeping including swarm collecting.

Beekeepers are insured for beekeeping activities including swarm collections **BUT** They are **NOT** insured if trespassing or entering areas without the landowners permission

They are **NOT** insured if involved in **trapping and releasing** Asian Hornets as this is an illegal activity, Asian Hornets are an invasive species and sightings must be reported.

Members of the public have **NO** insurance through the BBKA unless participating in Beekeeping activities with BBKA members.

Beekeepers involved in tracking hornets or searching for hornet nests in order to protect their bees are **not insured** if climbing ladders, trees or scaling buildings above the height specified in their BBKA policy concerning swarm collection.

Beekeepers should only be involved in tracking activities directed by the NBU and will **not** be insured if they are practically involved in Asian Hornet nest destruction, this will be undertaken by specialist Pest Controllers appointed by the NBU.

During a NBU response. (this will be led by Bee Inspectors)

- If the Asian Hornet is from Europe and there is no risk that it is from a local nest then nothing further will happen.
- If flying Asian hornets are seen then a contingency response will be initiated and the local association contacted. Alerts will be sent out from BeeBase across the county to increase awareness.

The BBKA are asking all AREA Associations to supply contact details for their AREA Coordinator to the BBKA office. These people will be the main point of contact and be asked to disseminate information to their local branches/associations and members. The BBKA will be sending out more information about any appropriate training and information that may be useful to limit the impact of Asian Hornets.

