

Asian Hornet Conference 6th March 2021

Asian Hornet update...

Karl, our club Asian Hornet Action Team co-ordinator recently attended an Asian hornet conference. One of the talks was by Andrew Durham who has spent most of his life holidaying in France.



Andrew's talk was on the reports from the different departments in France and the issues of the Yellow Legged Hornet (Asian Hornet). There is now clear evidence of the spread of the hornet throughout France. Nests destroyed or found and reported are plotted on a map. This map clearly shows that the spread of this hornet seems to follow the rivers. In Brittany alone there were over 5000 confirmed nests in one

year. It was thought the hornets were mainly woodland dwellers, but it has now been confirmed that urban areas are very desirable due to the abundance of food.

Small primary nests or embryo nests can be found in sheds, cavity walls, compost bins, meter cupboards or anywhere sheltered and warm. The larger secondary nest is not necessarily built high up in trees as was thought. Typically, they are often found below 5 metres, in small bushes or shrubs just 1 metre off the ground and any of the above.

Asian Hornets are a menace to tree surgeons, gardeners, children, or anyone near or close by. Around 100-150 people get stung by the hornet in the department of Manche each year and around 50% get 3 or more stings.

The true figures for nests found or reported is probably more, as the cost of removing an Asian Hornet nest is between 200-300 euro's and if there is a "Collective Fight" in the department then the cost is usually nearer 100 euro's with some of that paid by the commune.

It's not a case of IF we get them, but WHEN we get them in the UK. It's up to everyone to be vigilant and report sightings to the relevant authorities or ask someone with knowledge like a local beekeeper. If you can, take a photograph of what you think is a Yellow Legged Hornet (Asian Hornet)



Above all, it is important to report any suspected sightings of this species as soon as possible. If you do come across an Asian Hornet or suspected please do not touch, kill them or attempt to destroy the nest.

To help distinguish between the many species of Vespa species, the French Museum of Natural History have produced an [AH_Identification_Information_Sheet](#)

Reports should be sent in via the Asian Hornet Watch app or the online recording form using the links below:

- [Asian Hornet Watch app for iPhone](#)
- [Asian Hornet Watch app for android](#)
- [Online recording form for Asian Hornet](#)

You can also report sightings by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk. Please include information on location, date and number of Asian hornets you have seen.