

## **The Role of the BBKA Associations and Beekeepers concerning Asian Hornets**

Each BBKA 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 essential that all Beekeepers can identify Asian Hornets: the ID sheet, poster and postcard can be downloaded from BeeBase or ordered from the NBU office (nbu@apha.gov.uk).

The BBKA have asked every Branch to appoint a coordinator (I am the coordinator for Sevenoaks) to act as a point of contact for Asian Hornet sightings. So far I am a team of one so volunteers are needed to assist with local requests for help. Please let me know if you would be interested in becoming part of the team.

All beekeepers are encouraged to keep an eye out for Asian Hornets in their apiaries. It is important to register on BeeBase and to ensure our contact and apiary details are up to date. There is a facility to record if you are using Asian Hornet monitoring at your apiary. If an email address is included this makes it super easy for individuals to receive alerts from the NBU when Asian Hornets reach our area.

A word on monitoring and trapping: monitoring traps can be used in the Spring. A fact sheet and a YouTube video on how to make an Asian Hornet monitoring trap are available on the Asian Hornet pages of BeeBase. If you are monitoring record your monitoring activity on BeeBase by editing your apiary records. It is illegal to trap and release an Asian Hornet so it is important to check traps very regularly and be in a position to report and respond if one is trapped.

The BBKA are to set up a system similar to that reporting swarms. This will allow the public to search for a local Association to arrange assistance with the identification of a suspect Asian Hornet sighting. Team members from local Associations can follow up leads from members of the public and help them with identification and obtaining a specimen and photograph. These then should be sent to [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk) email address or by using the Asian Hornet Watch app. 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.

If you think you see an Asian Hornet, report it immediately. Email [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk) or use the free Asian Hornet Watch apps on a smartphone.

We cannot stress enough that early sightings are our best line of defence so do call if you are in doubt. Early detection to allow the National Bee Unit to intervene and prevent the establishment of nests on a localised basis is the plan.

All of the local coordinators for Kent will share information and maintain records of sightings and share information within the County and report nationally. All coordinators details are on the BBKA website contained within the Asian Hornet Action Team web pages.

Our best chance is to spot the queens coming out of hibernation so March/April will be a busy month. Please do not hesitate to call if you think you have spotted an Asian Hornet and need a second pair of eyes. Additional volunteers are much needed. I am contactable on 07799 383996 or email [vanessajones@btinternet.com](mailto:vanessajones@btinternet.com)

Vanessa Jones  
07799 383996