



Asian Hornet Week 2020

For immediate release

The British Beekeepers Association is asking everyone to look out for Asian Hornets in Asian Hornet Week 2020 from the 7th to 13th of September.



Two Asian Hornets marked for tracking to nest in Jersey

The hornet's Latin name is *Vespa velutina* and it's an alien species that could decimate our pollinators if it gets established in this country. Honeybees are a particular favourite of the Asian Hornet.

Autumn is the time for trapping hornets as they are building their secondary nests and have a lot of larvae to feed, particularly the new potential queens. Honeybees are their





favourite source of food. The hornets hang around hives of honeybees waiting for foragers to come out.

In Asian Hornet Week we ask beekeepers to put an hour aside every day to check their hives for hornets hanging in the air around the entrance - a behaviour known as hawking.

We want members of the public to keep their eyes open for them too. See it! Snap it! Send it! So use your mobile to take a photo and download the Asian Hornet Watch app to help you identify what you've seen and to report it to the Non-native Species authority..

Our chair, Anne Rowberry, said: "We need you to look very carefully. Asian Hornet nests can be found almost anywhere, at the top of a tall tree or in the eaves of a house, but have also been found in hedges. Do not approach a nest if you find one, stay at least 20 metres away. Just take a picture of the nest and area where you found it and send it in on the Asian Hornet app. Individual hornets may be found sharing the blooms on a bush with other pollinators. They will not mind you photographing them, but don't annoy them by getting too close, like all insects they do not like the thing they are standing on to vibrate and we have a very clear demonstration of that in one of the videos we will be releasing in Asian Hornet Week."

Covid-19 effects

We have been running the week since 2017 when the first Asian Hornets were found in this country. This year, we have had no sightings which could just be because Covid-19 has meant that fewer people are out and about to spot them and their nests or there has been less traffic from France.

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During the week, we will be releasing on YouTube a guide to how to use the app, several informative videos and an infographic about them.

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For further information please contact BBKA press officer, Diane Roberts: 07841625797

