

NBU	NBU Comment
A more inclusive attitude from NBU would make us all feel a bit more valued	We greatly value all the work that the BBKA do, particularly in raising awareness for Asian hornet and monitoring for sightings. As we move into next season the NBU is looking at ways, we can utilise the expertise of the BBKA AHTs in the response more actively.
An NBU/BBKA Track and trace training video for BKAs to play and discuss at local meetings	The NBU is not looking to utilise beekeepers in track and trace. If this changes, please be assured that suitable training will be provided to those that wish to be involved.
Associations want more clarity when a sighting or nest is confirmed.	Updates were disseminated to BHAF members biweekly via email, and a dedicated rolling news page on BeeBase was created where they were published — this is a departure from the previous practice of waiting for official lab confirmation before publication. This has been adopted to increase the speed that the information is announced. In instances where the NBU requires assistance, AHT members may be informed of a sighting before public disclosure.
Can BBKA liaise with NBU to organise T & Trace training/shadowing alongside bee inspectors or live call outs?	The NBU is obligated under the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999 to assess and mitigate risks across health, safety, and well-being—an obligation that does not extend to volunteers at present. If AHTs carry out track and trace separately it may interfere with the work of the NBU and possibly lead to nests not being found. In these circumstances, the NBU may ask AHTs to halt their own track and trace operations.
NBU did not contact us even when an AH nest was found in our area!	Due to the increased volume of nests found in the south-east, the NBU opted for national alerts, as opposed to regional ones, for Asian hornet nests. This decision aimed to prevent an influx of repetitive emails. As the season progressed, the NBU offered a map of nest locations on BeeBase through rolling updates. This feature allowed beekeepers to identify potential nests in their local area.
Please can we have clarification of how all the agencies involved are being co-ordinated and working together to manage this situation. E.g NNSS, NBU, APHA	The NBU and GB INNSS – both integral components of the broader APHA, participated in weekly meetings hosted by Defra Bee Health Policy who were the lead government department throughout the 2023 outbreak. In these gatherings, coordinated actions were devised and agreed upon to enhance the response to the Asian hornet.
Please can we have clarification of the role of the NNSS.	<p>The NNSS is a small team of 3.6 GB staff that helps coordinate action on behalf of the UK Programme Board and GB Committee on non-native species. Specifically relating to Asian hornet, the NNSS helps raise awareness with a wide range of stakeholders, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing updates sent to the Bee Health Advisory Forum on our website and with an agreed list of stakeholders</li> <li>• Providing Asian hornet alert posters and ID sheets (over 14,000 posters and 24,000 ID sheets sent out this year)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness of Asian hornet throughout the year through an annual Invasive Species Week, talks and other comms initiatives.</li> </ul> <p>In August we wrote to the following to ask them to display Asian hornet posters at their sites in Kent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post Office – couldn't do this but advised locals to give posters to individual branches</li> <li>• Kent Council (local libraries, parks etc) – sent posters for them to display in local libraries</li> <li>• Kent Wildlife Trust</li> <li>• National Trust - shared information on their social media and asked their sites in Kent to display posters.</li> <li>• RHS - displayed Asian hornet alert posters in their gardens near Kent and wrote to all RHS partner gardens in Kent to ask them to display posters (they don't usually contact partner gardens in this way).</li> </ul> <p>We also help to oversee aspects of the alert mechanism used for a range of non-native species in GB, including the Asian hornet.</p>
<p>Why the secrecy when hornets have been spotted? Make more use of volunteers to Track and Trace - many willing at own expense! Notify all beekeepers within 3km</p>	<p>Publicly divulging exact locations could potentially contravene GDPR regulations, lead to the identification of the person who reported the sighting, attract unwarranted attention, and divert focus from NBU operations. Going forward we have agreed to provide more specific locations details where possible and once a site has been closed.</p>
<p>Will the App continue to be human checked, or will a bot be used? Increased sightings -&gt; overwhelming situation</p>	<p>There are no plans to replace human triaging with AI. However, this is something that DEFRA and UKCEH will keep a close watch on in the future as the technology develops.</p>
<p>Will there be any central funding of baits/traps?</p>	<p>There will not be central funding for baits or traps. Funding is instead focused on maintaining and enhancing the operational capability of the NBU.</p>
<p>How do FERA/NBU want beekeepers to do to support them. E.g. lobbying for resources?</p>	<p>Keep up the commendable efforts in raising awareness about the Asian hornet and actively monitoring for any sightings. The vigilance in monitoring serves as our early warning system for potential sightings, ultimately aiding in pinpointing the location of nests. Equally vital is the documentation of areas under surveillance where no Asian hornet is detected, enabling the NBU to direct their efforts to regions where they are needed most.</p>
<p>What about foulbrood inspections?</p>	<p>While a significant amount of NBU resource has been directed towards responding to Asian hornet incidents, the NBU has still carried out 3675 inspections this year, a</p>

	decrease of around 31% percent compared to 2022 Defra and the NBU will monitor if this has had an effect on the incidence of foul brood next season so that action can be taken.
Standardise naming Yellow legged hornet vs Asian Hornet	We appreciate that using different terms for Asian hornet can lead to confusion, and we will make sure that we use standardised wording in future.