



The British Beekeepers' Association

Protocol for setting out Asian hornet bait stations and traps version 2024-02-29

This protocol should be read in conjunction with the British Beekeepers' Risk Assessment: Asian Hornet Monitoring, Spring Trapping of Foundress Queens and Trapping & Releasing of Asian Hornets version 4.

Why put out Asian Hornet Bait Stations/Traps?

The Asian hornet (AH) is an invasive, non-native species which poses a significant threat to native pollinators and in particular honey bees. The British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA) is working in conjunction with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), to establish the location of Asian hornet nests so they can be destroyed. The first step is to find hornets.

When they receive details of an unconfirmed/potential sighting of AH from a member of the public, the National Bee Unit (part of APHA) may request assistance from the local AHAT team. An email is sent either from the NBU or the BBKA office to the nearest Asian Hornet Action Team (AHAT) coordinator requesting the local AH team to respond.

Bait station: insects are free to come and go, e.g. shallow dish with bait (attractant) absorbed onto paper or cloth; wick-pot. Bait stations are used to track hornets to their nests.

Trap: Once it has entered, an AH cannot escape. Walls/ceiling of trap are either made from some kind of mesh (mesh trap, e.g. Jabeprode, Gard'Apis, Andermatt orange, or home-made equivalent), or are provided with escape holes for by-catch escape (e.g. modified Veto-Pharma trap.) Escape holes are not very effective and solid-walled traps heat up and later form condensation, so mesh traps are recommended. Avoid using plastic bottle traps.

Beekeepers are encouraged to put out and monitor AH bait stations or traps in their apiaries and areas of potential AH activity as follows:

RED ZONE Within a 5-km radius from where a nest or hornet has been found in the last year, and any port or place deemed at high risk. Use **traps** 1 per square km throughout March-November. To avoid attracting hornets to your apiary, only trap there if predation occurs. Release bycatch daily.

AMBER ZONE Within a 5- to 10-km radius from where a nest has been found in the previous year. Use **bait stations** 1 per square km throughout March-November. Place where easy to observe. **Traps** can be used if checked regularly and bycatch released.

GREEN ZONE Where no hornets or nests have been found within 10 km in the last year. Use **bait stations** throughout March-November. Place where easy to observe. Adjust apiary management to improve protection and promote healthy bees.

What can I use as an attractant (bait)?

If using commercial attractants, ensure they are licensed for sale to the general public (eg Suterra's Trappit Wasp Bait) and wear any personal protective equipment recommended by the manufacturer.

Home-made attractants should only include food stuffs eg fruit juices, brewers' yeast, ales, sugar.

Placement of bait stations/traps

Do not place bait stations near open doors or windows of buildings and avoid 'corridors of pedestrian traffic'.

Do not place bait stations/traps on the ground where they are easily accessible to children and animals who also may be attracted to the sweet attractant.

Due consideration should be given to the fact that grazing animals may be moved between fields. Place the traps beyond their reach.

A record should be kept of where bait stations/traps have been left (eg What 3 Words or Google MyMaps).

A warning label or sign must be left with unattended traps informing the public:

- the purpose of the bait station/trap
- advising not to interfere with the bait station/trap
- contact details of the bait station/trap owner.
- the contents of the attractant liquid
- a QR code should be added to link to the NHS guidelines on stings. (The QR code is available on the BBKA website: <https://www.bbka.org.uk/other-asian-hornet-resources>)



Permission of the Landowner

Whenever possible, but always when entering land or property where permission is required, obtain the landowner's permission before entering the site.

In a remote area eg side of a main road where the landowner is not identifiable, place traps with due care and attention for public safety.

Respect the countryside code and close gates behind you.

How long do I leave the bait station/trap in position?

The AH does not fly at night so, if possible, traps should not be left overnight.

Bait stations and traps need to be in place for at least 2 hours to give enough time for vapour from the attractant to dissipate into the air to attract nearby hornets.

Have the Asian Hornet Watch app downloaded ready on your mobile to take a photo.

By-catch in bait stations/traps

To avoid by-catch completely, use a bait station which is either an open tray with a fabric or paper cloth soaked in the attractant solution or a wick pot.

If you are using a trap, ideally use a mesh-type (walls made from a grid, not a sheet of plastic). Plastic bottle/cup/dome/jar traps should be avoided. If you have to use a plastic cup type trap, make sure that it has plenty of 6- or 7-mm escape holes for by-catch, or slots as high as possible in the trap (insects tend to climb towards the light), bait is absorbed onto cloth or sponge and by-catch is released at least once a day.

Take care when releasing insects(by-catch) from traps: some may have stings. Some insects will carry out a re-orientation flight when released and could become entangled in your hair .

Personal safety

Assess any site that is unfamiliar before entering and observe any safety procedures and instructions required by the site.

Suitable footwear and appropriate PPE should be worn for the conditions.

Any safety equipment provided by the site must be used as directed.

Be aware of vehicle movements at all times.

Carry a fully charged mobile phone should emergency services need to be called and check there is a mobile signal in the area.

Do not climb up onto objects. Traps do not need to be placed above 1.5m high (but talk to the farmer to ensure traps are beyond the reach of any livestock).

Consider carrying over the counter anti-histamines for your own use. People who have been prescribed adrenalin auto-injectors should carry these on their person at all times and let others know you are carrying one.

Always ensure someone knows where you are if working alone.

Avoid spillage of attractant liquid on clothing or on the ground.

Asian hornets are very defensive when close to their nests so do not intentionally go closer than 10m.

Reporting findings back to the NBU

Have the Asian Hornet Watch app downloaded ready on your mobile to take a photo.

When a potential sighting has been investigated by the AHAT team but AH has not been detected, the AHAT coordinator should reply to the NBU's original email to confirm the findings so that the report can be closed.

If an AH is observed at a bait station, this should be replaced with a closed trap in order to capture an AH to report to the NBU.

If an AH is captured report this to the NBU, a photograph should be sent:

- Asian Hornet Watch app on mobile phones
- Online: www.nonnative species.org/alerts/asianhornet
- Email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk
- If known, copy in the local seasonal bee inspector.