



The British Beekeepers' Association

Yellow-legged Asian Hornet Teams

BBKA volunteer- led Yellow-legged Asian Hornet Teams play a vital role in the collective effort to protect the UK from the growing threat of the Yellow-legged Asian Hornet working closely with the National Bee Unit (NBU).

Role of Yellow-legged Asian Hornet Teams:

Promote Low Bycatch Monitoring:

Teams should promote selective, non-lethal monitoring methods that minimise harm to other insects as outlined in [NBU Monitoring Factsheet](#).

Variation by season

- Selective traps in spring
- Monitoring stations with bait from summer onwards.

Traps should be checked regularly for non-target invertebrates (bycatch) and set up in a way that allows them to escape, or to enable easy release. Always record traps/monitoring use.

Lethal traps kill beneficial insects and we do not recommend their use.

Follow up on potential sightings:

The NBU can only follow up on specific well-evidenced sightings. Yellow-legged Asian Hornet Teams may be asked to:

- Respond to requests for help with identification and reporting.
- Support the public in reporting and sending photos via the 'Asian Hornet Watch' app ([Android](#) or [IOS](#)), or via the [Online Notification Form](#)
- If a sighting is credible ensure a report is made, raise awareness in the local area and ask people to monitor responsibly.
- If required, provide support to send physical samples to the NBU following instructions on NBU website: the [So you think you've seen a yellow-legged hornet?](#)

Support contingency response:

When a contingency response is initiated, alerts will be sent out via, the Bee Health Advisory Forum, BeeBase News and Defra's confirmed sightings page.

Speedy notifications can be provided by following the BBKA's Yellow-legged Asian Hornet WhatsApp Channel: <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaoaspDKGGG9La9JUB3J>

During a response situation, Yellow-legged Asian Hornet Teams, via the local BBKA Co-ordinators, can support the work of the NBU in a number of ways by working with the Regional/Seasonal Bee Inspector (RBI/SBI) to:

- Offer reliable, consistent support but respect boundaries the NBU may have in active operations.
- Monitor and set up selective traps or monitoring stations, as appropriate, locally where they can be checked regularly.
- Monitoring can include observing local forage for up to an hour for Yellow-legged Asian Hornet activity.
- Support beekeepers and members of the public who request help to monitor.
- Record the use of selective traps and monitoring stations.
- Organise local volunteers/teams to set up monitoring stations and selective traps in areas of high risk.
- Co-ordinate feedback (if required) from monitoring activities, to ensure results are reported.
- Attend meetings with the RBI/SBI in areas where Yellow-legged Asian Hornets have been located to agree next steps.

Support following a contingency response:

Once a Yellow-legged Asian Hornet nest is destroyed, continued surveillance is needed to ensure no further nests are present. Surveillance includes the use of monitoring traps near forage and the sites of nests that have been removed.

Yellow-legged Asian Hornet Teams can extend NBU's surveillance by monitoring a wider area for longer.

Further information:

1. NBU '[Role of Yellow-legged Asian Hornet Teams](#)'
2. [BBKA Learning Online](#): Yellow-legged Asian Hornet

Summary of Specific Team Roles:

Yellow-legged Asian Hornet Co-ordinator:

- To act as a publicly available point of contact in the local area when a reported sighting of Yellow-legged Asian Hornet is made
 - To pass the reported sighting onto one of their team of local verifiers
 - To be the local point of contact between government agencies and local verifiers in the case of a confirmed sighting
 - To report back the results of their investigations
 - To organise any assistance that the NBU may request
 - To be able to talk with knowledge about Yellow-legged Asian Hornets, keeping abreast of new and relevant issues
 - To train members and/or volunteers locally as required
 - To work with the team locally to help spread the message about Yellow-legged Asian Hornet and increase public awareness
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- Co-ordinators should be recorded on eR2 as officers.
 - Maximum of three co-ordinators per association plus an additional one at branch level if necessary.
 - The pin location should be for the middle of the area a co-ordinator covers rather than their home postcode.
 - A co-ordinator is a link person so it is essential that they are contactable and willing to share their email address on the publicly available map.
 - Contact details on eR2 to be kept up to date

Yellow-legged Asian Hornet Verifier:

- A person who has expressed an interest in assisting locally in the investigation of reported sightings of a Yellow-legged Asian Hornet
 - To be prepared to provide assistance in trapping or monitoring as the local Yellow-legged Asian Hornet Co-ordinator may deem necessary
 - To provide any assistance that the NBU may request. Such requests will be arranged through the local Yellow-legged Asian Hornet Co-ordinator
 - To be able to talk with knowledge about Yellow-legged Asian Hornets, keeping abreast of new and relevant issues
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- Verifiers can be recorded on eR2 using an additional code if necessary:
 1. Beekeeper willing to be a verifier
 2. Non-beekeeper will to be a verifier
 3. Authorised under a licence to release YLAH
 4. Members of an approved Pest Control Association
 - Details for verifiers will not appear on the publicly available map but be restricted to local maps.
 - Co-ordinators will contact verifiers locally for help as required.
 - Contact details on eR2 to be kept up to date