

SHEA BULLETIN



KEY POINTS:

- There has been a potential sighting of an Asian Hornet this year already
- They are a significant predator of bees
- Suspected sightings should be reported immediately

An Inspector from the Animal and Plant Health Agency's (APHA), National Bee Unit has responded to a sighting (unconfirmed) of a lone Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina*) in Westfield, Hastings, East Sussex on 19th January 2024 following a report by a member of the public. The National Bee Unit encourages beekeepers and the public to remain vigilant this spring after 72 nests were found and killed in England during 2023.

The Asian Hornet is an invasive non-native hornet originally from Asia. It is a highly aggressive predator of native insects and poses a significant threat to honeybees and other pollinators. In 2004 it was accidentally introduced to France where it has spread rapidly and into neighbouring countries. Since 2016 a number of sightings have been recorded in the UK, and they are on the increase.

Unlike common European Hornets, Asian Hornets have bright yellow tipped legs with a dark abdomen where the 4th segment is yellow/orange.

Different Abdomens



The Asian hornet's abdomen is almost entirely dark, except for 4th abdominal segment.



What to do if you identify an Asian Hornet

Do not disturb an active nest or attempt to touch a Hornet as they can sting but do take a photo if it's safe.

How to report sightings

- Download the free Asian Hornet Watch app on the Apple or Google Play store.
- Complete the [non-native species alert form](#)
- Visit the [GB Non-native species secretariat website](#)

For further support and guidance contact the [SHEA team](#) immediately.

Kind regards,

Chris Grimes

Head of Environment

If you have any feedback about this bulletin, please contact:
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