

Asian Hornet

SBKS AGM Report

December 2020

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I'd like to thank Jonathan Brookhouse for his work as Surrey's Asian Hornet Team lead over the last few years. I'll do my best to carry on his good work.

Thankfully, as Jonathan pointed out in his last report there was only one confirmed sighting this year on the 8<sup>th</sup> September in Gosport (see the table below for annual numbers). The NBU used Suterra bait to track the hornets and the nest was found and destroyed on Friday 11<sup>th</sup>.

Whether or not the reduction in travel due to the pandemic is the reason for just one sighting we must remain vigilant and be proactive in helping people to know how to identify and act. I'm sure I'm not the only person to be called out to a *guaranteed* sighting of the yellow legged hornet (as I prefer to call it) only to find the European variety.

Whilst numbers in Jersey have fallen, 37 compared to 54 up to September this year, it would appear that an invasion force is building on the French coast with an increase in numbers. So 2021 could be a different scenario.

There is a good article in this September's Bee Craft, page 9, pointing out that work in France estimates the nest destruction and control between 2006 and 2015 cost some €23million. The article also tells the story of an English couple who moved to France and their experiences with Asian Hornets and it is worth a couple of minutes watching a video of their home made trap at [www.tinyurl.com/BC2020-10-10](http://www.tinyurl.com/BC2020-10-10).

We all know that the queens emerge after hibernation in the Spring so divisions should plan to reiterate information about identification and action during March meetings.

In short:

- The 'Asian Hornet Watch' app, available free for both Apple and Android
- Via a web form [Bit.ly/report\\_hornet](http://Bit.ly/report_hornet)
- Emailing [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk)
- Phoning your nearest action team member found here [bit.ly/AH-action-team](http://bit.ly/AH-action-team)

More information here [www.ahat.org.uk](http://www.ahat.org.uk)

	Confirmed sightings	Nests destroyed
2016	3	1
2017	1	1
2018	9	4
2019	5	3
2020	1	1