Toolbox Talk - Environment





Queens ~ 30mm, workers ~ 25mm. Slightly smaller & much darker than the native hornet with a distinctive yellow band on the abdomen.



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dark except for 4th abdominal segment.

What?

- Asian hornet, Vespa velutina, first identified in UK in September 2016;
- Makes very large nests usually high in trees and man-made structures, but sometimes closer to the ground;
- Usually seen between April and November, and is particularly active in August and September;
- Likely introduction into the UK in imported soil or plants, or in untreated timber.

Why?

- A highly aggressive predator of native insects and poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators;
- Not notably aggressive towards humans and while their sting is painful, it's probably not as painful as one from a native hornet.

<u>D0</u>

- In the unlikely event of being stung by this hornet, call NHS111 or seek medical advice if you have a serious allergic reaction
- Report findings on EcoReporter or PhotoReporter and send images to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

<u>DON'T</u>

X Disturb an active nest

For further information please contact a member of the Environment Team

Title: Asian hornet		
Given By:	Date:	
Site:		

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Briefing questions and discussion points

- 1. What are the distinguishing features of the Asian hornet compared with native hornets and wasps?
- 2. Where might we encounter these hornets on our worksite
- 3. What do you do if you see, or suspect, an Asian hornet?
- 4. What do you do if you are stung (by any insect)

Name	Company	Signature