

ASIAN HORNET - *Vespa velutina*

What is an Asian hornet?

An invasive non-native hornet, originally from Asia. It is a highly aggressive predator of our native insects, especially honey bees and other pollinators. Since 2016 a number of nests have been discovered and destroyed in GB and in May 2021 the first confirmed report of a single specimen in the wild in Ireland was recorded in the Dublin area.

We wish to take steps to avoid it having a chance to establish in Northern Ireland/Ireland, so the cooperation of members of the public to report possible sightings is vital.

What does an Asian hornet look like?



Key features are the almost entirely dark abdomen, except for the 4th segment which is totally yellow (see images above) and the bright yellow leg tips. Size ranges from 17 to 35mm.

Where might I see it?

It may be seen in and around flowers, soil, timber and fruit, especially those of foreign import, as they may hide amongst them. It will actively seek out bee hives and may be seen in suburban areas or anywhere populations of bees are present.

For further ID guidance & information check out the Invasive Species NI website - www.invasivespeciesni.co.uk

Makes very large distinctive nests, secondary ones often in tall trees (image below right) but primary can be found in eaves of buildings (image below left) .



What can you do? Report it immediately by options 1, 2 or 3

If you suspect that you have seen one,
try to take a clear photo to submit along
with your record

1 Contact NIEA:
invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk
028 9056 9558



2



Download the
Asian Hornet Watch
App at major App
Stores.

3

Submit a record via CEDaR online recording:
www2.habitas.org.uk/records/ISI