



Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann  
Norlin Airlan Environment Agency

# ASIAN HORNET RESPONSE IN BELFAST, OCTOBER 2025

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An Agency within the  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**  
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Gníomhaireacht de chuid na  
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

An Agency wi'in the Depairtment o  
**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**

# PREPARATIONS

- Visit to Jersey 2018
- NI Asian Hornet Contingency Plan 2020
- Regular vetting of 'Asian hornet' reports
- Sharing knowledge – GB and Cork
- Equipment procurement

# INITIAL REPORT

- Friday 10 October, after hours
- Informed member of the public
- Reported via Asian Hornet Watch app
- Photograph plus specimen







0 0.07 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Kilometers



# DUNDONALD (1)

- Saturday 11 October - Initial survey of the area
- Visual survey for live hornets and suitable trap locations
- Possible pathways of introduction
- Safety considerations
- Monday 13 October - monitoring trap network set up
- Visual monitoring in parallel

# DUNDONALD (2)

- No further hornets noted until Wednesday 15 October, when there was a further report from a householder who had seen recent media reports.
- Hornets visiting a bush on the very edge of the original search area.
- Further hornets confirmed that evening, close to where first reported.
- Thursday 16 October – nest located.





# TREATMENT

17 October – nest treated with insecticide at dusk.

18 October – nest removed and delivered to the Agri-Foods and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) for analysis.



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# NEST ANALYSIS

- Currently ongoing
- Damaged on take-down
- Approx 30cm high
- 33cm in diameter
- 6 – 7 combs
- Nest in decline?



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# LEARNING POINTS

- Real-life learning beats a training exercise!
- Equipment choices worked well, consumables can be refined
- Dead hornets scattered over a wide area
- High (initial) media interest and continuing political interest
- Inform review of AH Contingency Plan