

## Have you spotted an Asian hornet? Don't Ignore It, Report It!

Asian hornets (*Vespa velutina nigrithorax*) originate from Southeast Asia and arrived in France in 2014. Since then they have spread throughout Europe and arrived in Jersey in 2016. It is important to control them as they can cause irreparable damage to our island by killing honey bees and other beneficial pollinating insects.

### Nests

In spring, founder queens come out of hibernation and build their primary nests alone. They are found in a protected place such as a garden shed or under the eaves of a house. The embryonic nest resembles a small sphere, 5 to 10cm in diameter with an opening at the bottom. While Asian Hornets are not aggressive and can be approached with due care, they do become more aggressive close to their nest and nests should not be approached any closer than 5 metres without due caution.

### Asian Hornet

After leaving their primary nest, the queen and her worker hornets move on to build a larger secondary nest in early summer. These are mostly in dense canopy shrubs and trees up to 40m high but also amongst bramble and occasionally on buildings and cliffs. The primary nest is small, slightly larger than a tennis ball. The secondary nest is a larger spherical to pear-shaped nest roughly the size of a basketball.

### European Hornet

Hollow trees, chimneys and rarely in the open air. Cylindrical with a wide opening at the bottom. Nest size 30x60cm.

### Common Wasp

On the ground or in confined spaces in buildings. Conical small hidden opening at the lower end. Nest size 30x35cm.

### How to Identify Asian hornets

**Size**  
larger than a honey  
bee or wasp (20mm to  
30mm long)

**Body:** velvety black/  
dark brown mid-body

**Rear: KEY FEATURE**  
dark brown with only the  
4th segment in yellow

**Head:** black head with  
orange/yellow face

**Legs:** brown upper  
part with distinct  
yellow lower leg

**Waist:** fine, bright  
yellow "belt"



### Contact us

[asianhornet@gov.je](mailto:asianhornet@gov.je)  
or 01534 441633

#### App

The Asian Hornet Watch app,  
free to download from  
app stores.

#### Email

[asianhornet@gov.je](mailto:asianhornet@gov.je), including a  
picture of what you have seen  
and location information.

#### Tel

01534 441633 and leave your  
name, contact number, parish  
and brief information on what  
was seen.

# Identification sheet

## Asian Hornets and the possible confusion with similar insects



**The Asian Hornet (17–32mm)** has a mid-body which is a velvety black/dark brown with brown rear body segments bordered with a fine yellow band. The band closest to the tail is almost entirely a yellowy-orange. The legs are brown with yellow ends and the head is black with an orange-yellow face.



**The Hornet Hoverfly (16–22mm)** is harmless as this insect mimics members of the wasp family. It has clear black and yellow bands on the rear body segment and a thick vertical yellow line between its large eyes.



**The Giant Woodwasp (40–45mm)** is a harmless sawfly with few thick yellow and black bands on its body. It has a cylindrical body and entirely yellow antennae. The female can reach 45mm in length.



**The European Hornet (15–35mm)** has a predominantly yellow rear body segment with a couple of black stripes. Its head is yellow from the front and red from above. Its mid-body segment is black and its legs are reddish-brown.



**Wasps (15–20mm)** have some yellow on the mid body segment below the head and more yellow than the Asian Hornet on the rear body segment. Also wasps have yellow legs which differs from the Asian Hornet.

**The Hornet Moth (25–30mm)** is not common and has feathery antennae. Also the body and legs are predominantly yellow and it lacks the thin waist of most in the wasp family.



**The Sand Wasp (15–24mm)** has clear black and yellow markings on the rear body segment and has mostly yellow legs. The eyes are large and yellow and often have a greenish tinge.



Many **flies**, such as the Hornet Robberfly shown left, can resemble wasps or hornets but they differ in having only one pair of wings instead of two.