

ASIAN HORNET

Report any suspected sighting on
bit.ly/asianhornetreport



INVASIVE SPECIES

**A single nest of Asian
Hornets can eat 12kg of
native pollinators
a year**

Body –velvety
black/dark brown

Head – black
with an orange
/yellow face

Abdomen - black/brown
segments bordered with
a yellow band on the
4th segment

2.5-3cm (twice the
size of a wasp)

Legs - brown upper
segment with yellow
lower segments

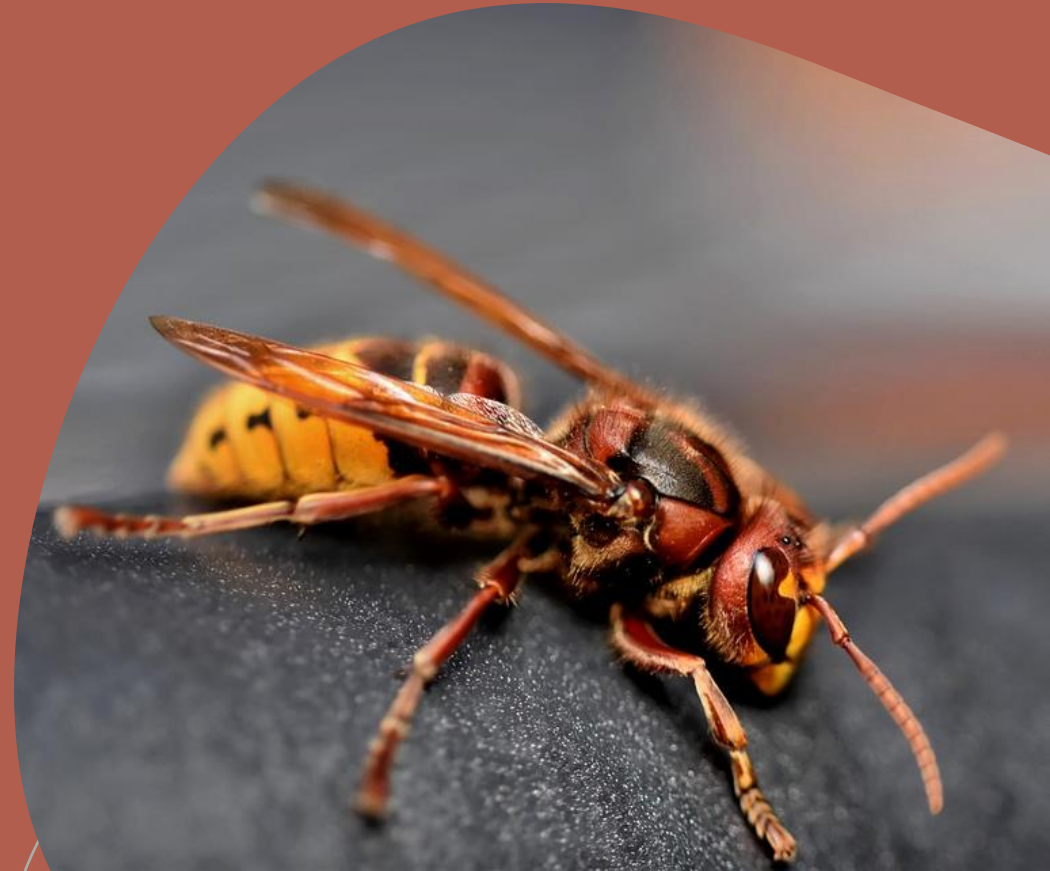
Designed by @miel delucie for @londonbeekeepersassociation

A non-native species,
posing a serious
threat to our native
pollinators.

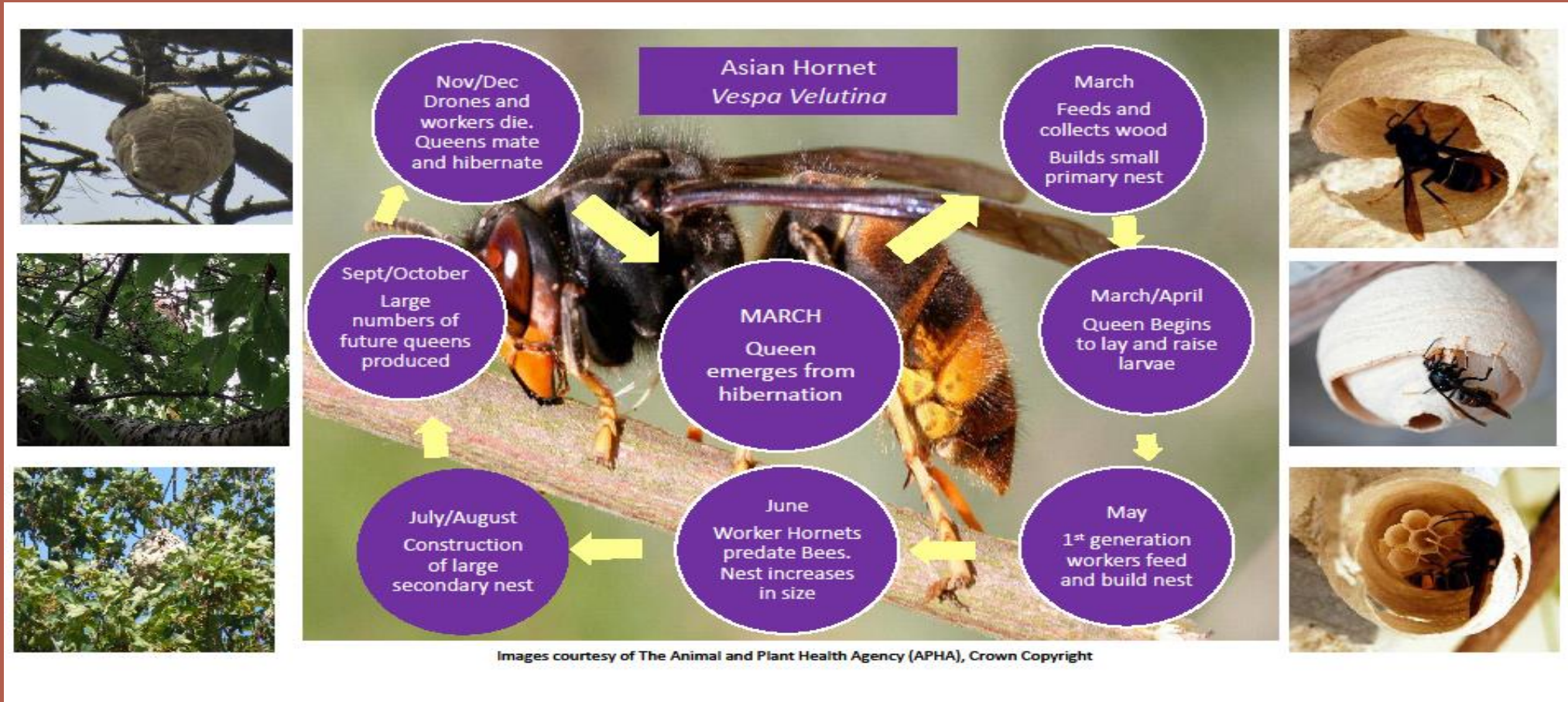


Not to be confused with our native, European Hornet – *Vespa crabro*

- Note the bright, abdominal markings
- Yellow head and face
- Legs brown at the ends
- Yellow antennae
- Queens up to 3.5cm/workers up to 3cm long
- May be active at night

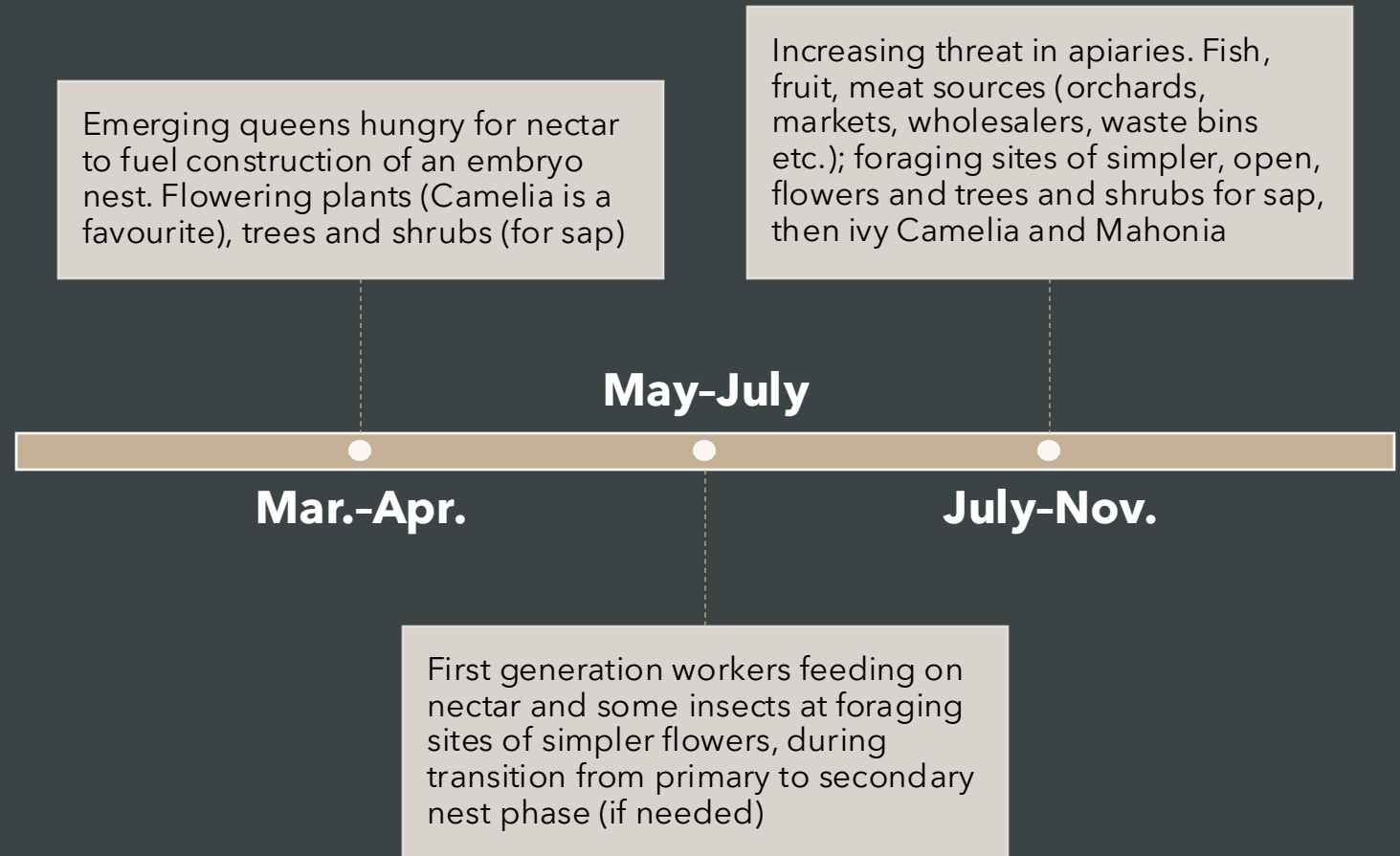


When might I see a Yellow Legged Asian Hornet?



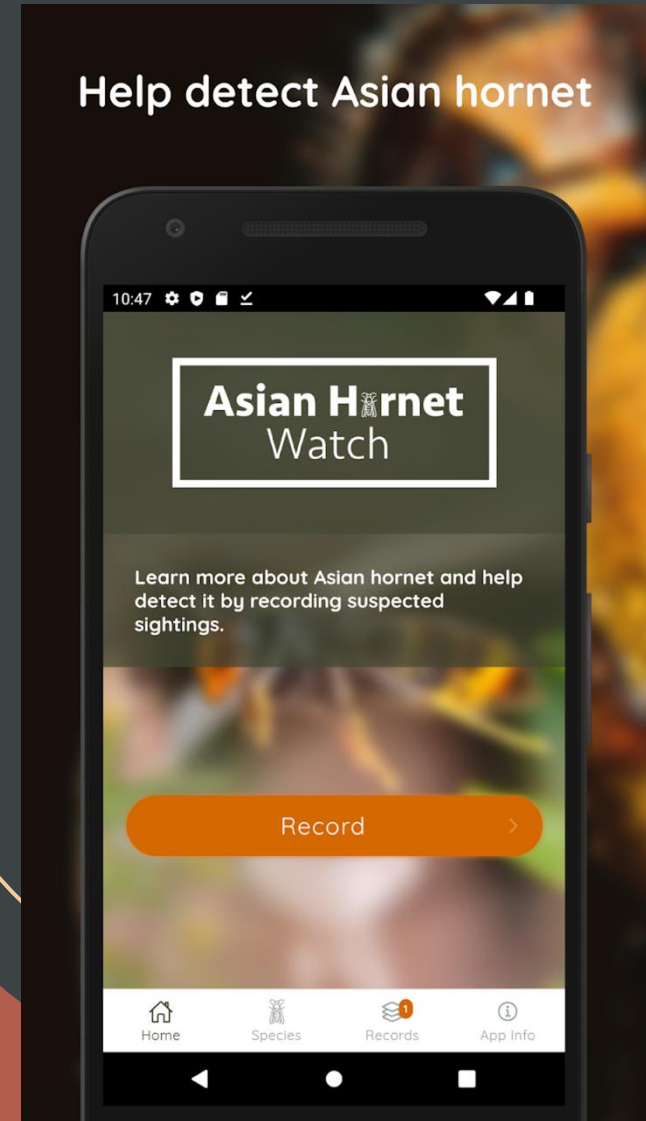
Where might I see a Yellow Legged Asian Hornet?

NB an opportunistic “hitch hiker” by land, sea and air



What should I do if I see one?

- Take a photo (if safe to do so)
- Take note of where you saw it (use What3Words for ease)
- Report it via the Asian Hornet Watch App (a location feature is included)
- Or via email at:
alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk



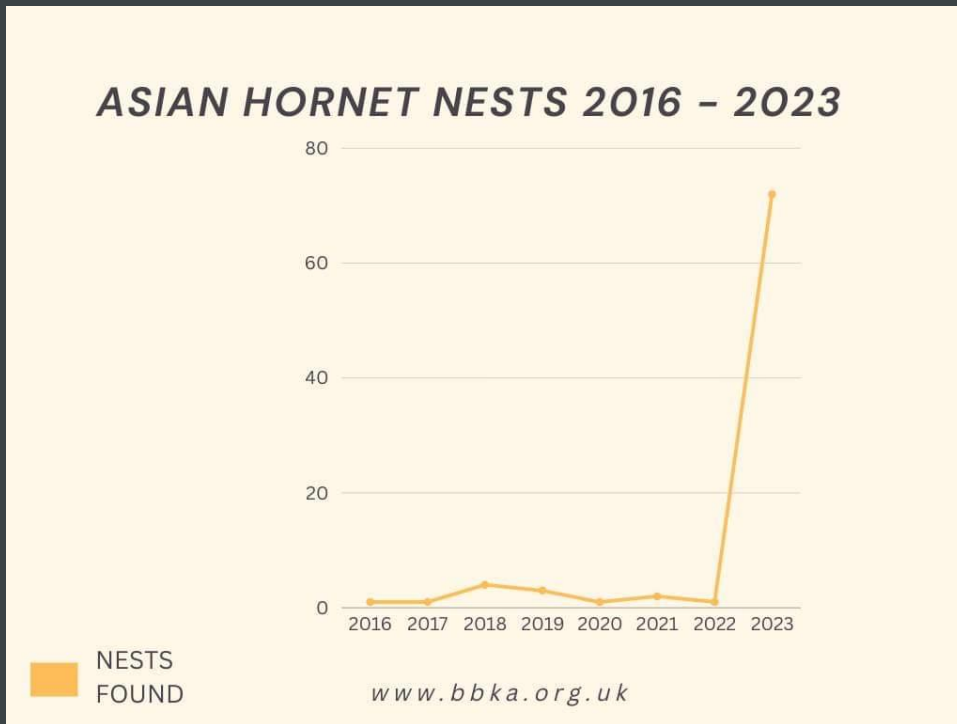
History of the Yellow Legged Asian Hornet in Europe

- Native to SE Asia it was confirmed for the first time in Lot-et-Garonne in the South-West of France in 2004.
- Thought to have been imported in a consignment of pottery from China, it quickly established and spread to many regions of France.
- By December 2022, Asian hornet was established in Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Jersey.
- It has altered the biodiversity in regions of France where it is present and can be a health risk to those who have allergies to hornet or wasp stings.

Photo credit: Angus Deucher



The UK experience



- The first Asian Hornet nest was discovered in the UK in 2016.
- In 2023 more nests were discovered in the UK than in the previous six years combined!
- By 28 August 2025 there was a total of 342 sightings in the UK.



Impact of Asian Hornets

- A single nest can produce about 300 queens. Not all will survive, but enough to create a significant rate of species increase, over a wide area
- A single nest can eat 11/12kg of native pollinators and other insects

Some origins 2016 - 2022



In camping gear
from a trip to France



In a supermarket
distribution centre



In a crate of
cauliflower from
France via
Lincolnshire



On the Poole to
Cherbourg Ferry



On the grille of a
new mini imported
from mainland
Europe



Blow-in across the
Channel after a bad
storm



Found near a port





Asian Hornet nest stages

- **Embryo:** Built by a queen, emerged from hibernation, to raise the first cohort of workers. She chooses a sheltered spot, usually less than 10-metres high
- She is solely responsible for nest construction, egg laying, foraging and nurturing young at this early stage and for some 50 days until the first adult workers emerge from their birth cells to assume all duties other than laying eggs

Asian Hornet nest stages

- **Primary:** The developing colony of workers increases the size of the embryo nest to accommodate more eggs and larvae. With more food provided by more foragers and more workers to keep the nest warm, the time span from egg to adult gets shorter
- The nest is built from various plant materials, mixed with saliva and water. It has a banded appearance, with thin lines of differing colours quite unlike the uniform grey of a wasp's nest
- If the embryo nest site allows sufficient space to grow, the primary nest can see the colony through the whole season, in France some 30% do so





Asian Hornet nest stages

Secondary: begin small, then grow from mid-summer to September. This nest stage has an entrance on the side. Usually within 10m of the primary nest but can be further. Both nests can co-exist for a month or more.

More likely on natural structures (trees/bushes/hedges) than primary nests and often 10m high or more. Nests are not re-used from year to year, but nest sites can be, and several nests can be found in proximity

Asian Hornet Quiz

- Which of these is an Asian Hornet?
- A at the top
- B at the bottom



How many
Asian
Hornets
can you see
here?





Which is the head of an Asian Hornet?

A: Top right?

B: Bottom right?

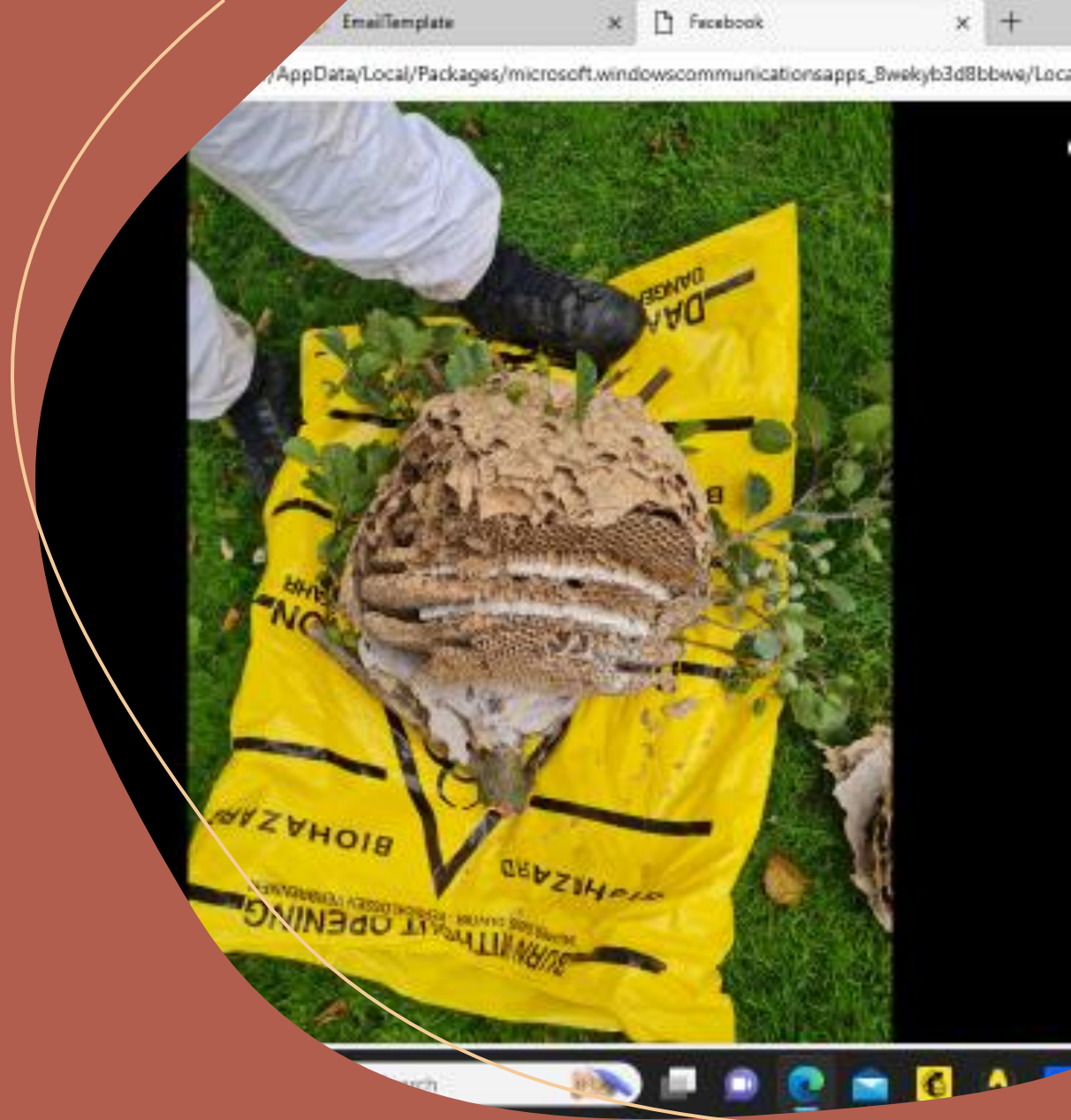


Which of the following statements are true?

- AH workers can be found in apiaries in early spring: T/F
- AHs always have both a primary nest then a secondary nest: T/F
- AHs are most aggressive near their nest: T/F
- AH queens are slightly larger than queens of the EH: T/F
- If I find an AH in a trap it's ok to release it after taking a photo to report the sighting T/F
- Asian Hornet Watch app is the most reliable reporting tool: T/F
- AH nests are always at height, to avoid disturbance: T/F
- Beekeepers have spotted and reported all the AHs found in the UK to date: T/F
- Asian Hornets will fly at night in warm weather: T/F
- AH adults are carnivores: T/F
- The entrance to a secondary nest is on the side: T/F

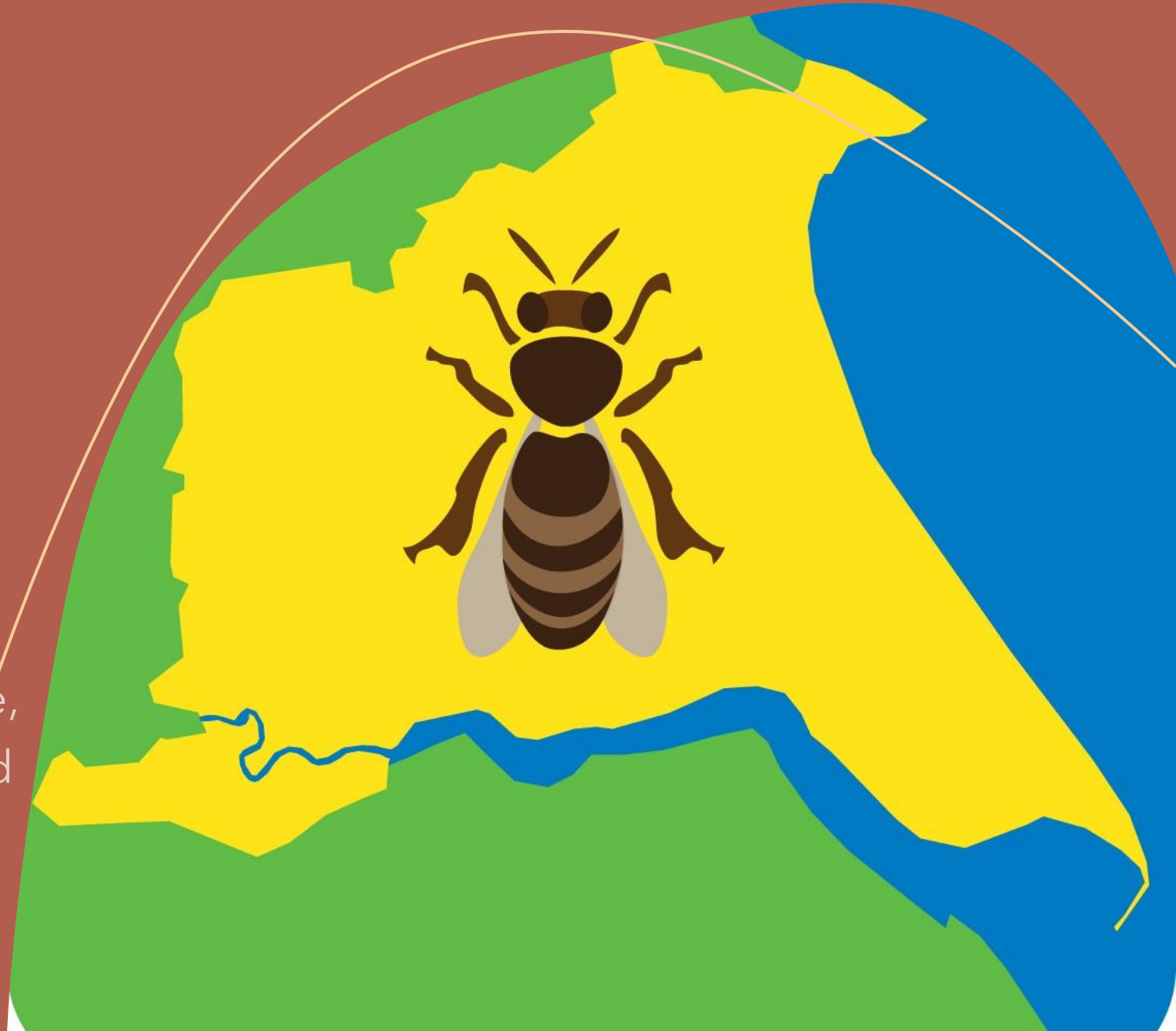
Closer to home: the Asian Hornet in Yorkshire

- 2018 Hull, Yorkshire: 9 September – single dead hornet
- 2023 Hull, Yorkshire: 15 September – 2 nests destroyed
- 2023 Yarm, North Yorkshire: 25 September – nest destroyed (see picture)



Beverley BKA district

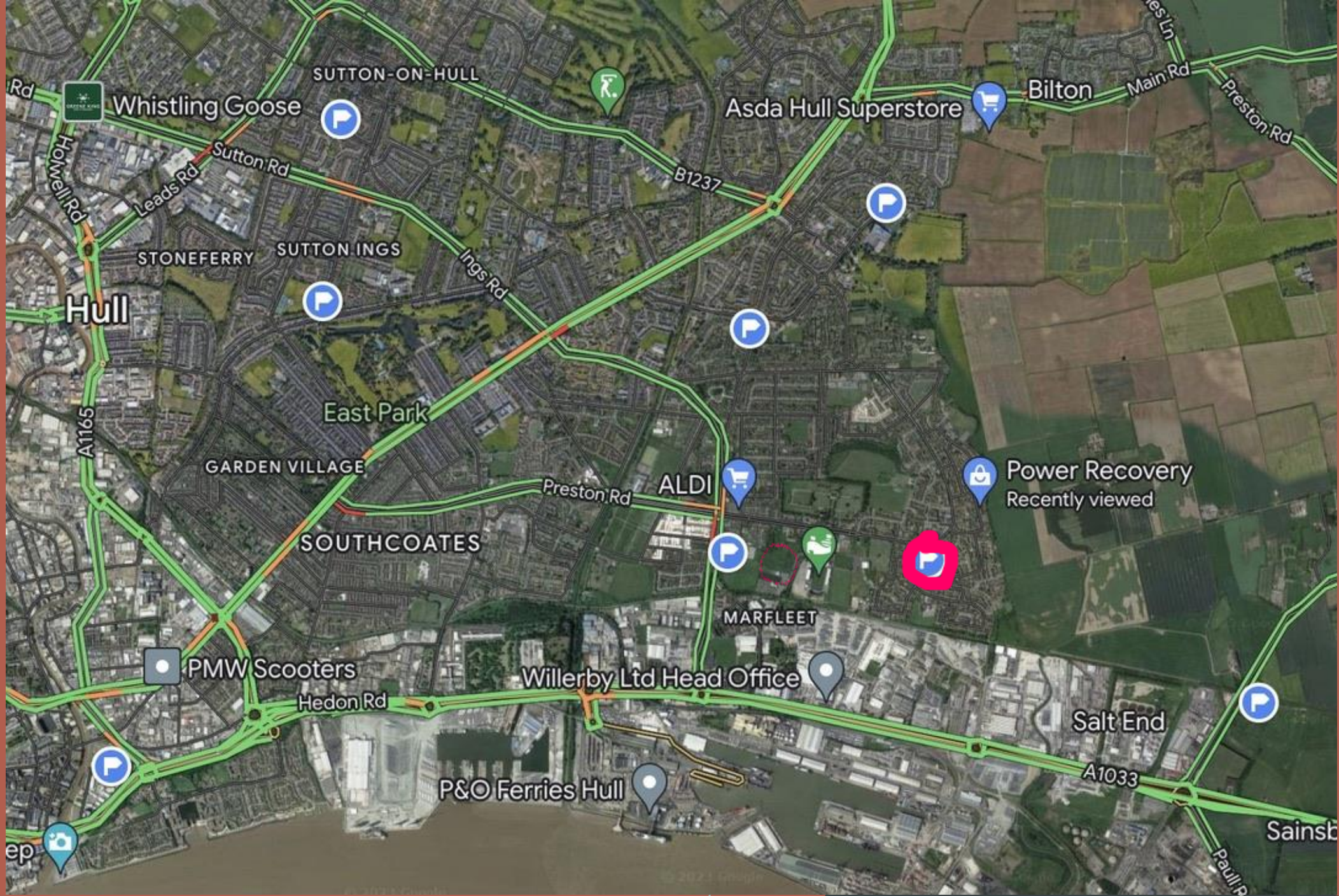
A large area comprising coastline, industry, docks, rural districts, and urban dwellings



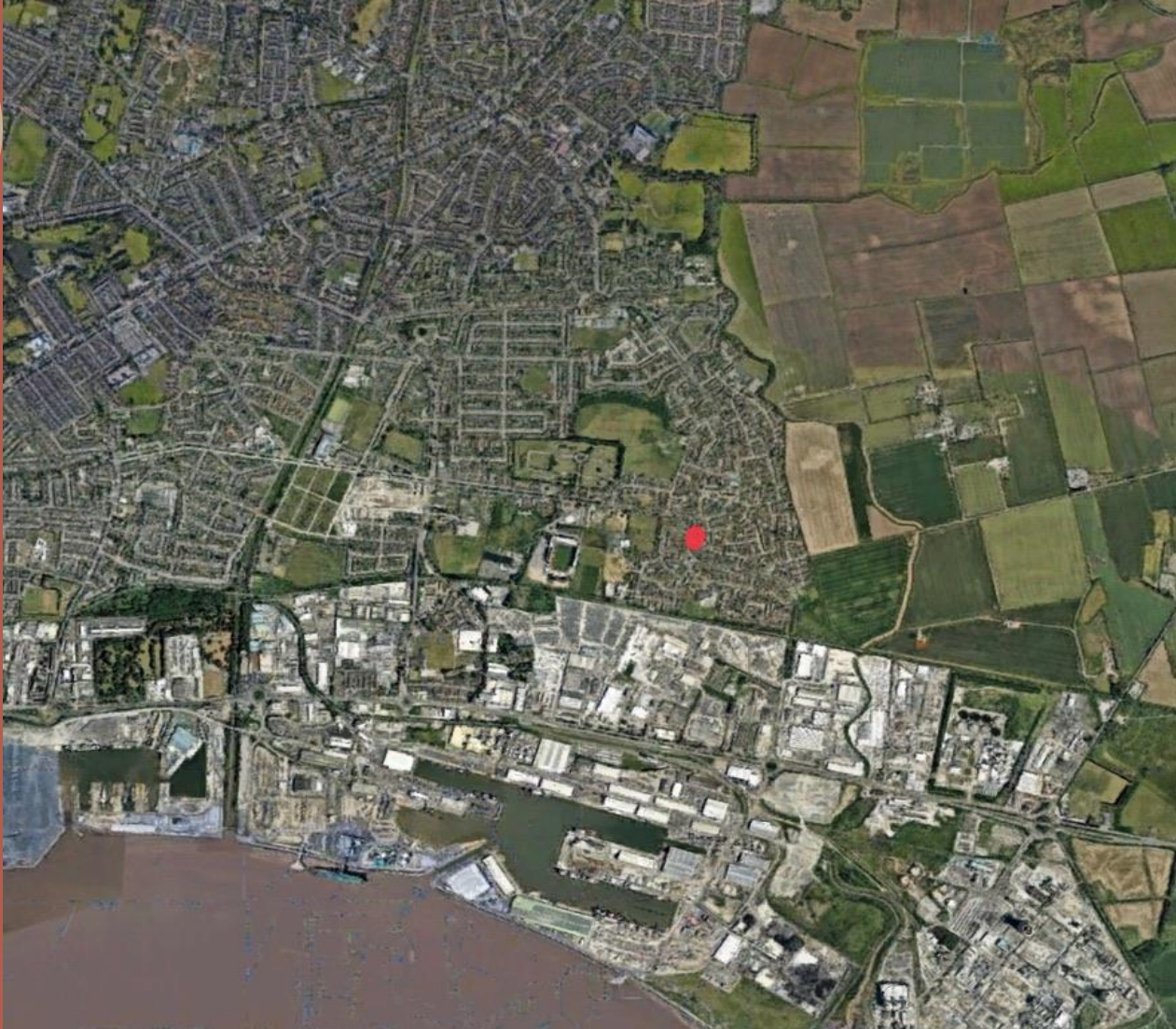
Location of one nest

Postcode district HU9









Awareness of local issues

Easier access:

Urban and Rural

Light industry

Good for monitoring sites



Difficult access:

Heavy industry / Docks

Security issues

26 August 2025
Langton near
Malton North Yorks

A member of the public spotted a YL/AH on a snowberry shrub, took a photo and sent it in via the Asian Hornet Watch App for verification. A nest was found in a tall lime tree and will be destroyed





Action needed in our area

Spring monitoring from mid/late March (to trap foundress queens emerging from hibernation and creating embryo nests). Various traps available but differ in ability to avoid by-catch

Raise public awareness of the AH risk

- What to look for – more accuracy reduces time wasted
- How to report a sighting – photo/location/use the App!
- Distribute posters/leaflets/postcards (shops, garden centres, libraries, outdoor activity clubs, schools, workplaces etc)
- Mention in talks given to groups and “general conversation”
- Local press/social media



How to offer your support

- We will need many more volunteer verifiers to cover the Airedale area - to spread the word/set up monitoring traps - these don't have to be beekeepers
- If you feel you can help, please contact
ABKA YL/AH Team Co-ordinator (Linda Schofield:
gorluvaduck@gmail.co.uk)

Just in case you
haven't already,
please download
the app now!

Asian Hornet Watch - Android



Asian Hornet Watch - iphone



A macro photograph of a bee, focusing on its head and the upper part of its thorax. The bee's head is dark, almost black, with large, oval, textured compound eyes. The thorax is a vibrant reddish-brown color, covered in fine, light-colored hairs. The legs are visible, showing segments of yellow and black. The background is blurred, showing hints of a natural environment.

Thanks for
watching!