The British Beekeepers' Association

Yellow legged Asian Hornet - BBKA Trapping and Monitoring guidelines

These guidelines apply to both traps and monitoring stations

Legal Requirements

- **NEVER release a YLAH** once captured.
- **Trojan baiting** (where foragers are tricked into carrying insecticidal bait or powder back to their nest) is a threat to biodiversity and **illegal** in the UK.

Placement for Public Safety

- Do **not** place traps **near opening doors or windows** or where regular foot **traffic** occurs.
- **Avoid** placing traps **on the ground** where children or animals can reach them.
- Place traps **no higher than 1.5m** but out of reach of livestock.
- Discuss trap placement with **landowners**, especially regarding grazing animals.
- Follow the **Countryside Code** and **close gates** behind you.

Trap/ Labelling & Record Keeping

- Unattended traps must have visible **warning labels** (follow link for templates) including:
  - **Purpose** of the trap
  - Request **not to interfere**
  - Trap owner **contact details**
  - Ingredients of **attractant** liquid
  - QR code linking to **NHS sting** guidance
  - Clear instructions for **reporting YLAH** sightings
- Keep clear, up to date **records** of your activity in the system recommended by your coordinator

Bait

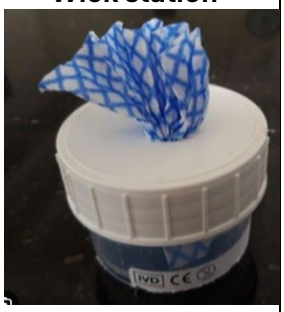
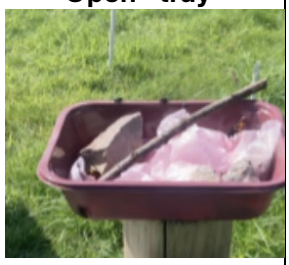
- **NEVER** use **toxic bait**, which is likely to harm birds and insects.
- **Label** any bait containers as **not for human consumption**, with a list of **ingredients**
- Use bait that is:
  - **Attractive to wasps** and hornets (ethyl acetate helps scent dispersion)
  - Unattractive to bees (**alcoholic or fermented** baits)
- Avoid **spilling** attractant liquid, **clean spills** promptly.
- **NEVER leave liquid** (bait, rainwater, condensation) in unattended traps or stations.

Timing of observation / trapping

- **Check** traps/stations regularly, ideally **daily**.
- Observe bait stations for **30–60 minutes** during peak insect activity.
- Focus monitoring on periods of hornet activity; **year-round monitoring is not required** and risks volunteer fatigue.
- Keep up to date records, using your coordinator's preferred system.
- **Check** ceilings of outbuildings, sheds, and porches **for embryo nests** regularly from late March to June.

Minimising Impact on Native Insects

- Ensure **rainproof cover** over any open-top trap or station.
- As per the BBKA's "Strategic Approach to **Spring Trapping of Yellow-Legged Asian Hornet Queens**" document, use **trapping only** in limited circumstances:
  - **Spring or autumn**
  - Within **5 km of nests with mated queens**
  - **When monitoring stations cannot be observed** during flying hours
- Prefer **bait stations** in other situations (preferably closed, wick stations).
- Any traps must be **calibrated** to exclude insects larger than YLAH and allow smaller insects to escape (see some examples below- others are available).
- Only use with **sponge** or **wick pot** inside – **no open liquid bait**.
- Use **shatterproof** materials
- **Open trays** should be used **only for Track & Trace or time-sensitive verification** operations and never left unattended.

Trapping – Selective traps (for sale)			**Monitoring – Bait stations (DIY)**	
VetoPharma	**Asian Hornet Alert**	**Gardapis**	**Wick station**	**Open - tray**
			 **Safest**	 **For track and trace / verification scenarios only**
Only use with sponge or wick pot inside				**Only put out when observing – no open liquid**

Tips for attracting hornets

- Place **near insect routes**: flowering shrubs, ivy in bloom, sunny, well-ventilated spots.
- Maintain adequate **bait levels** at all times.
- **Allow 2 hours** of flying weather for insects to locate the trap/station.

Identifying & Recording

- Aim to **keep** any **worker hornets alive** in any trap or flying back to the bait pot **for tracking** by NBU.
- **Photograph** suspected YLAH, if safe to do so.
- **Report** sightings via:
  - Asian Hornet Watch app
  - Email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk
  - web: UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology - Non-native Species Alert

Monitor safety when releasing By-Catch

- Take **care** - some insects **can sting**. Some may perform reorientation flights and get **tangled in hair**.
- Consider **chilling traps briefly** in the fridge or freezer before opening outdoors.
- **YLAH Queens can be killed by freezing** and kept in the freezer until requested by NBU.

Risk Assessment Checklist for Volunteer Safety

	Yes	No
Do You Have…		
Any known allergy to bees, wasps, hornets, or serious heart, lung, or liver conditions? If yes, do not continue.		
Any injury, illness, or recent surgery restricting lifting or task completion? If yes, do not continue.		
A fully charged mobile phone and charging lead? If no, return to collect before continuing.		
PPE and appropriate safety footwear? If no, return to collect before continuing.		
In-date antihistamines, sting relief pen/cream, and iced water? If no, collect before continuing.		
Spare bait secured in a bag, along with a bag and cloths for storing wiped up any bait spills? If no, collect before continuing.		
A lanyard ID with your name and emergency contact? If no, collect before continuing.		
Food and drink with you?		
Permission from the landowner/tenant to be on the property? If no, do not enter.		
Have You…		
Informed your safety buddy of your location, expected duration, and return time? If no, do so before proceeding.		
Shared your live location via tracking app or provided postcode/What3Words to your safety buddy? If no, do so before proceeding.		
Asked the landowner/tenant about any risks (animals, pets, chemicals, terrain)? If risks present, is it safe to continue?		
Assessed the access route for trip/fall hazards? If no, do not continue or proceed with caution.		
Observed the area for 2 minutes for Asian Hornet presence? If yes, retreat 10 meters and report sighting.		
Remembered the safety protocol if stung? If not, contact your local AHAT before starting.		

Credit: *Checklist by Michelle Elliott*

Recognise the signs of a severe allergic reaction and call 999 immediately if you notice any of the following:

Sudden swelling of lips, mouth, throat, or tongue
Difficulty breathing, wheezing, choking, or gasping for air
Tight throat or trouble swallowing
Skin, tongue, or lips turning blue, grey, or pale (check palms or soles if skin is dark)
Sudden confusion, drowsiness, or dizziness
Fainting and inability to wake
If stung, remain in a safe place for 60 minutes, do not drive, and stay in contact with your safety buddy to monitor for any severe reaction.