

## **PDBKA Asian Hornet Action Team Procedure**

### **Invocation**

This procedure will be followed when and if a potential sighting of an Asian Hornet has been reported to the Swarm Mobile contact number with a request for assistance in progressing the confirmation of a sighting and /or progressing the location of a potential nest. The Swarm Co-ordinator, who has names and contact numbers, will contact one of the Asian Hornet Action Team (AHAT) Co-ordinators.

### **Initiation**

The AHAT Co-ordinator will contact the person requesting assistance and establish:

- Contact details – name; address; telephone number
- Location – confirming within PDBKA locality
- NNSS advised
- Photograph or specimen available?
- Scope of support required
  - Photograph or specimen
  - Nest location
- Once on-site NBU will take control and AHAT will stand down.
- Landowner of sighting location and access permissions currently in place
- Number of pairs of people that at any one time are allowed access and agree potential half-day time slots during next 3 days when access is allowed.
- Agree communications with contact
- First visit timings based on availability of Contact and AHAT Co-ordinator.

### **Call To Arms**

The AHAT Co-ordinator will advise the other Co-ordinators of Initiation details by email and then phone Co-ordinators to establish who are available. Available Co-ordinators:

- Agree how many members of AHAT will be required to fill 3 day time slots
- Contact AHAT members to fill time slots and allocate AHAT Co-ordinator for each (need not be onsite but contactable).
- Email all AHAT members to advise of Request for Support and need for confidentiality. Request availability of AHAT members for next 2 weeks.
- Advise Contact of AHAT members allocated.

### **Site Visits**

AHAT members:

- On arrival at site confirm attendance with allocated Co-ordinator.
- Follow agreed access conditions
- For safety veils and personal protective equipment are recommended.
- At end of visit report activity to allocated Co-ordinator

### **Allocated Co-ordinator:**

- Emails report of activity to Contact and all AHAT members with confidentiality reminder
- Liaises with other available Co-ordinators and Contact on next step and next time slot after horizon and allocates AHAT members if required.

### **Photograph or Specimen**

- Initial priority
- Bait on a plate may make photography easier
- Deployment and checking of baited traps
- Contact to be provided with photographs or specimen as soon as possible for forwarding to NNSS.

### **Nest Location**

- Once photograph or specimen taken only
- Bait on a plate may assist
- Co-ordinators may allocate AHAT to local public access areas to try and achieve triangulation. Confidentiality is paramount in order to avoid public concern and 'lynch-mob' mentality.
- Suspected nest locations should not be investigated.

### **Stand Down**

Once the NBU is on-site the AHAT Co-ordinators will:

- Advise the AHAT members and Contact that all activity will cease.

### **Monitoring & Communication**

The AHAT Co-ordinators will:

- Attempt to 'keep in the loop' with ongoing NBU activities.
- Offer NBU AHAT resources (unlikely to be taken up)
- Advise AHAT members of NBU progress

### **Assumptions**

1. Swarm Co-ordinator agrees to involvement.
2. AHAT members have equipment to take photograph and/or specimen.
3. PDBKA AHAT members keep abreast of developments and techniques from other AHATs.
4. NNSS responsible for confirming sightings
5. NBU responsible for investigation of confirmed sightings and eradication

### **Clarification Required**

1. 'Right to roam' limitations
2. Pre-requisites of AHAT membership and Confidentiality agreements

### **Abbreviations**

AHAT – Asian Hornet Action Team

NBU – National Bee Unit

NNSS – Non-Native Species Secretariat

PDBKA – Petersfield & District Beekeepers Association

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