

Opportunity to Join a Bulk Order of Asian Hornet Traps - Register Your Interest

Dear Member,

I trust this message finds you well, and that your bees are ready for the long winter ahead. I am writing to inform you of an opportunity to protect your colonies from Asian Hornets, through joining our bulk order of Asian Hornet specific traps.

As you will be aware, if Asian Hornets (*Vespa velutina*) are allowed to establish, it would have devastating consequences for our honeybees, but also to all native pollinators and beneficial insects. This poses a significant threat to the pollination of our crops, our beekeeping and all UK wildlife in the food chain, that feed upon our native insects. This is not just a beekeeping issue, but also an **environmental issue**, that could result in the extinction of some already threatened native species.

Please read on for further information, but if you are interested in being part of this bulk order, please fill out this **Google Form**:

<https://forms.gle/Md2DJ6je8qFTVqmY8>.

The purpose of this order

To address this issue and minimise the risk Asian Hornets pose to our hives, we are considering a bulk order of Asian Hornet traps to reduce costs to members. This would work in a similar way to the association fondant and glass jar bulk orders.

Asian Hornet specific traps enable you to:

- Prepare and remain adaptable, avoiding supply chain delays in case of an urgent need for traps, due to Asian Hornets spreading.
- Utilise traps as a monitoring system in less accessible apiaries. If you spot an Asian Hornet in your trap during a weekly visit, you can notify the NBU.
- Deploy traps between February and April (before most native insects are active), to capture queens from 2023 nests that are emerging from hibernation.
- Deploy traps from September onwards, to catch newly mated queens seeking hibernation sites.

The trapping of workers mid-season (April-August) can lessen their impact on your colonies, but it will not destroy nests, which should always be our key aim. This is where monitoring, to track and trace workers back to their nests, which can then be destroyed by the NBU once located, is key. These traps can be used in tandem with this approach, and tackling the Asian Hornet will require a multi-pronged strategy. Traps are therefore **NOT** a replacement for track and trace monitoring. Please read the HBA Asian Hornet strategy for further information, on how Asian Hornets are tackled regionally.

Details on the supplier and Asian Hornet trap

We are currently evaluating all the suppliers on the market, but Gard Apis have offered us a substantial saving, bringing the price to £18 including VAT on orders over 100 units, although we will endeavour to negotiate the lowest price possible. Currently 30+ associations within Hampshire, Wiltshire, Somerset, Berkshire, West Sussex, Dorset and Surrey have already started taking orders, as part of this bulk order, and we hope environmental groups will also join us. As the price is dependent on order volume, you will be contacted once the final price is agreed. You can then choose to proceed with the order or pull out.

Importantly, these traps are Asian Hornet specific, with no by-catch, meaning **ONLY** Asian Hornets will be caught by them. This is a significant environmental advantage, compared to homemade and standard wasp and beer traps, which are proven to mostly kill native beneficial insects. If all beekeepers use these 'catch all' traps, the collective environmental damage could be huge; this trap alleviates any risk of that, protecting the environment and preserving the reputation of beekeepers.

Native insects that are typically viewed as pests by beekeepers, and could be impacted by these 'catch all' traps, such as Wasps and European Hornets, perform vital roles within the ecosystem. Like bees, they are important pollinators, but they also predate flies, caterpillars, midges and mosquitoes, helping to maintain an ecological balance. **Please refrain from trapping any native insects.**

These traps are also extremely durable, and have proven very successful at tackling Asian Hornets in France over the last 4 years, but also more recently in Kent during DEFRA operations, when compared to cheaper alternatives. You may have seen them at the recent National Honey Show, where they were being sold by Thorne and Bees1st, and recommended by Richard Noel (French-based bee farmer and youtuber) and Nigel Semmence (NBU), during their Asian Hornet talks.

They are ideal for beekeepers that can't regularly monitor apiaries for Asian Hornets, and may therefore be unaware of Asian Hornets in their apiaries. This trap can be set and left for long periods, operating throughout the day, effectively acting as a constant monitoring station. If an Asian Hornet is captured, a photograph can be taken and sent to the NBU, triggering track and trace monitoring, which will locate and destroy the nest you may have otherwise missed. Destroying nests ASAP is imperative, to stop any release of Asian Hornet queens, which would trigger an exponential growth in nests.

Ultimately, given they are tried and tested, recommended by DEFRA and other experts and produced in the UK, we are inclined to use these Asian Hornet specific traps.

Registering your interest

If you are interested in being part of this bulk order, please fill out this **Google Form**:

<https://forms.gle/Md2DJ6je8qFTVqmY8>.

By filling this out you have not confirmed you will buy a trap, but we will use your details to keep you updated with the order. We will re-confirm everything with you via email, upon receiving the final agreed price and delivery information from Gard Apis, before an order is officially placed. We hope to finalise the order before Christmas, so the traps can be used by you to trap any emerging queens February- April.

Thank you for your valuable co-operation, in this fight against the Asian Hornet and the potentially devastating threat it poses. Should you have any questions or require further information, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Many thanks,

Joe Murphy

A fellow beekeeper and member of both Southampton and Romsey Associations

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Useful links:

Google Form

<https://forms.gle/Md2DJ6je8qFTVqmY8>

Gard Apis Trap

[Asian Hornet Trap Complete Kit | Gard'Apis Asian Hornet Trap | – Gwenyn Gruffydd](#)

Trap instructions

<https://bee1st.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/GardApis-instructions.pdf>

Further information

[Gard'Apis – All about preventing predation by the Asiatic Hornet \(gardapis.co.uk\)](http://gardapis.co.uk)

