

A close-up photograph of an Asian Hornet (Vespa velutina nigrathorax) on a sandy surface. The hornet has a dark brown thorax and head, with yellow and black striped abdomen. Its legs are yellow with black joints. The background is a soft-focus sandy ground. The image is framed by a dark, semi-transparent border with colorful, abstract, wavy patterns in shades of orange, red, and teal along the top and bottom edges.

THE ASIAN HORNET

**AKA THE YELLOW-LEGGED
HORNET**

VESPA VELTUTINA NIGRATHORAX

**BY
ALAN BAXTER**

DESCRIPTION

- 25 mm length
- Head black with orange face
- Thorax black & velvety
- Dark abdomen with wide orange stripe on 4th segment
- Yellow tips to legs



OTHER SPECIES



**Asian
Hornet**



European Hornet



Wasp

LOOKALIKES



**Wood
wasp**



**Hornet Mimic
Hoverfly**



**Giant Asian Hornet
aka Murder Hornet**

ASIAN HORNET LIFE CYCLE

Queens hibernating

Queens emerge
Build embryo nest/Primary nest

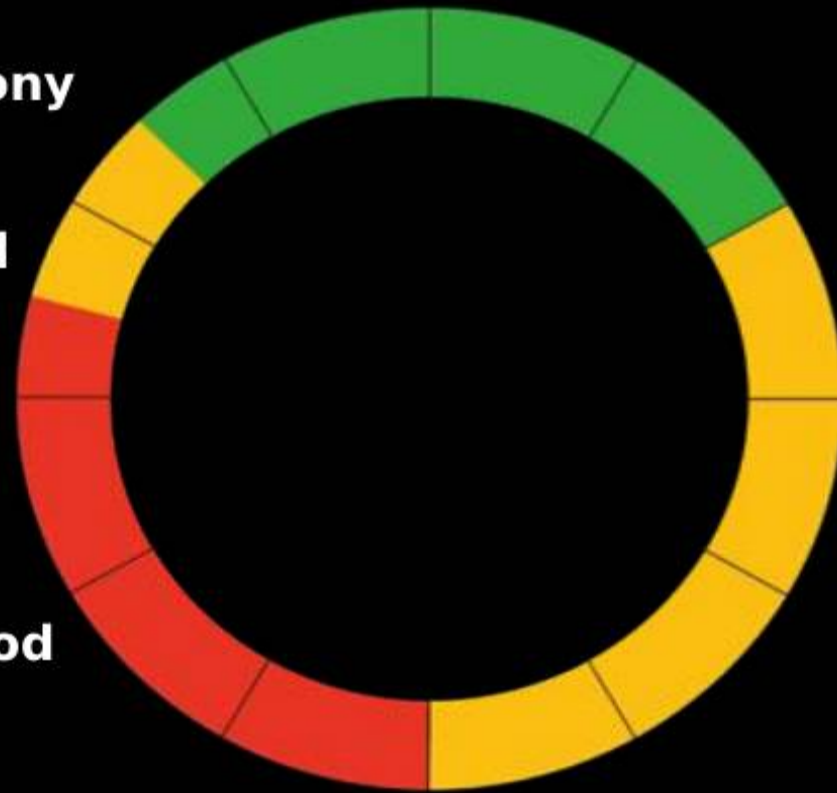
First workers emerge

Rapid colony expansion
Secondary nest built

Predation period

Reproduction period

Death of colony





PRIMARY NEST



**EMBRYO
NEST**

SECONDARY NEST



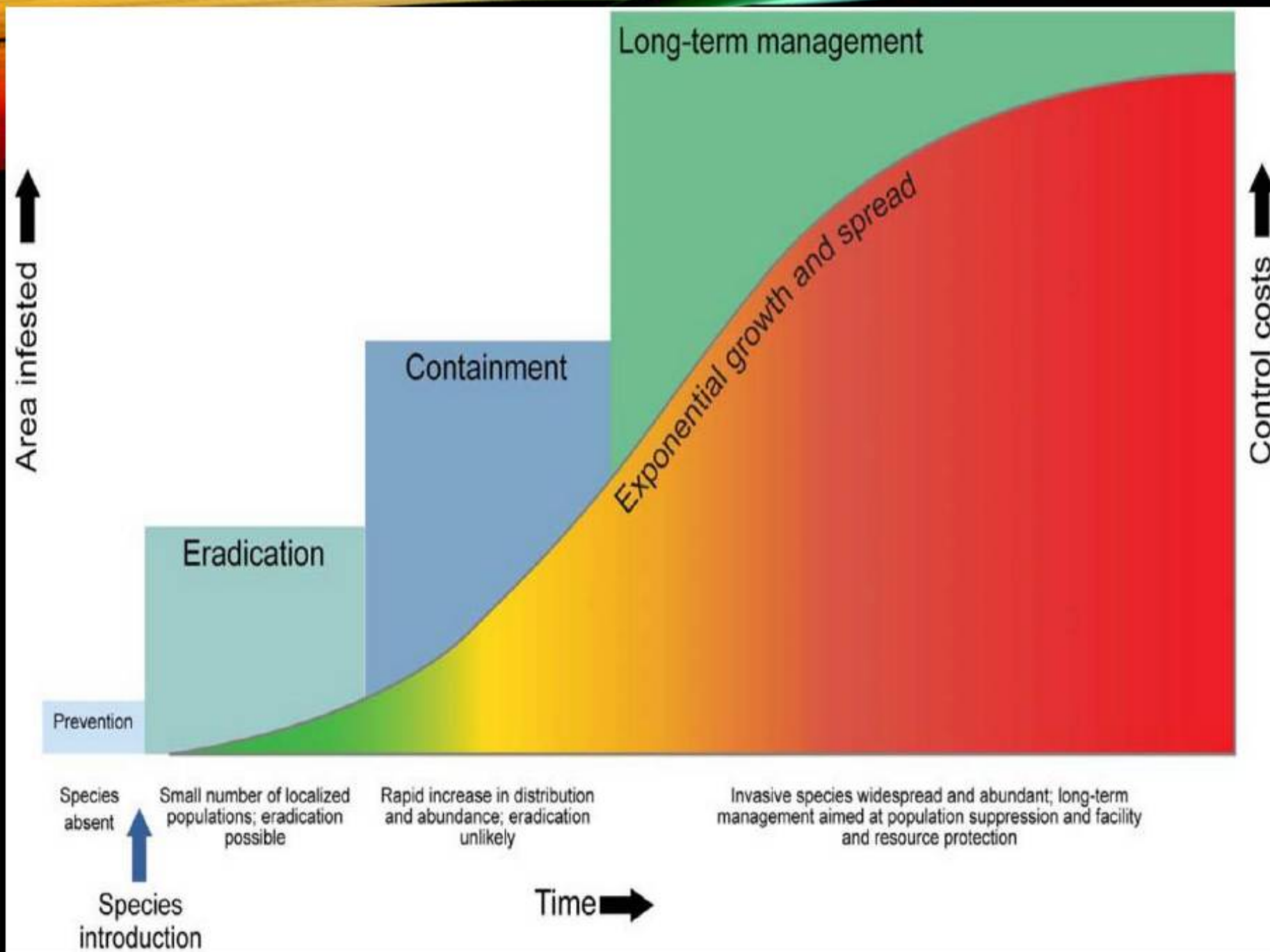






No of hornets in secondary nest 2-3,000 at a time

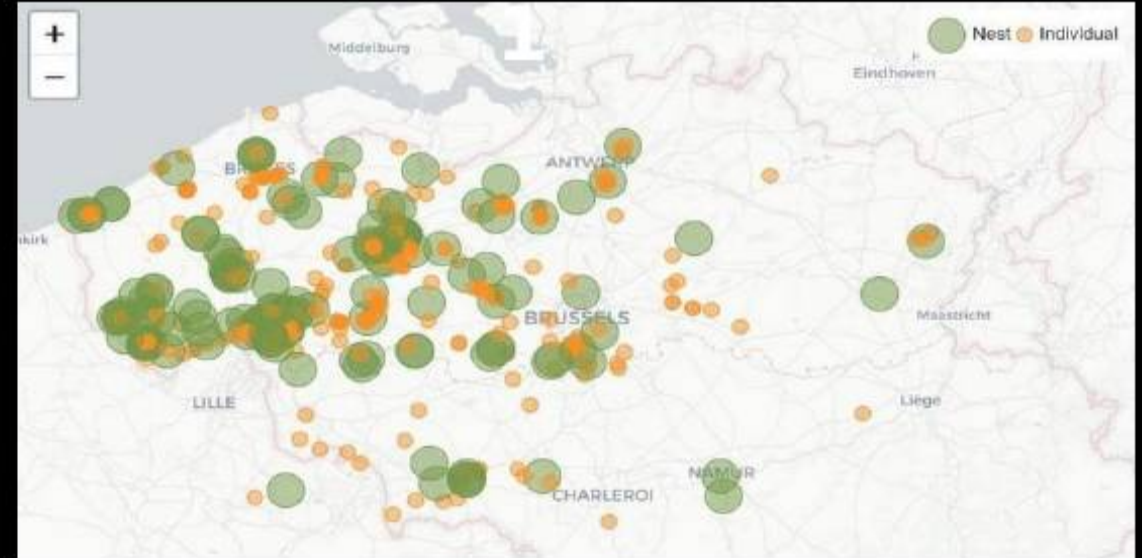
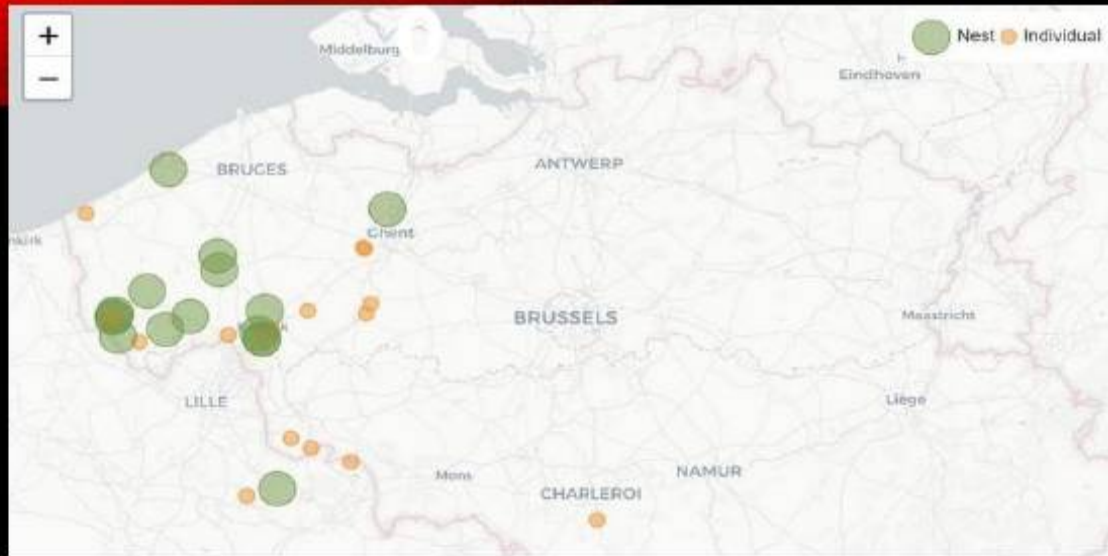
No produced in a year up to 25,000



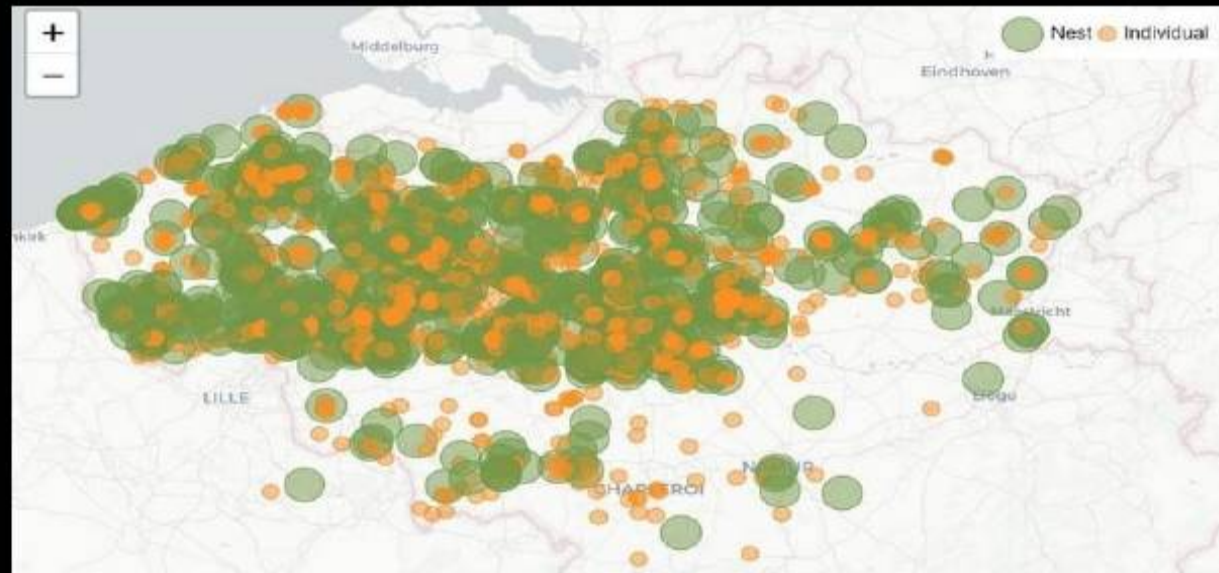
202

IN BELGIUM

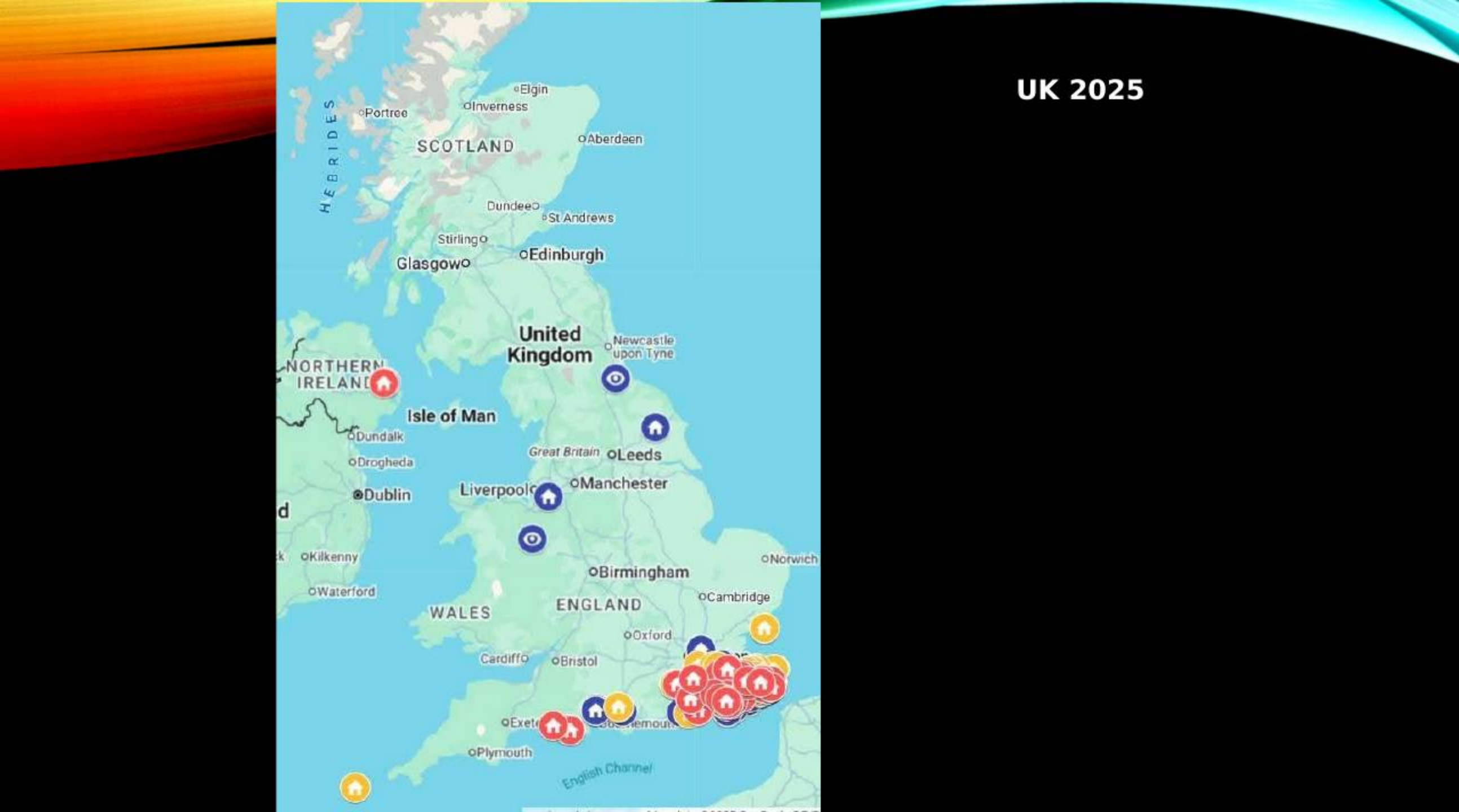
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2022



UK 2025

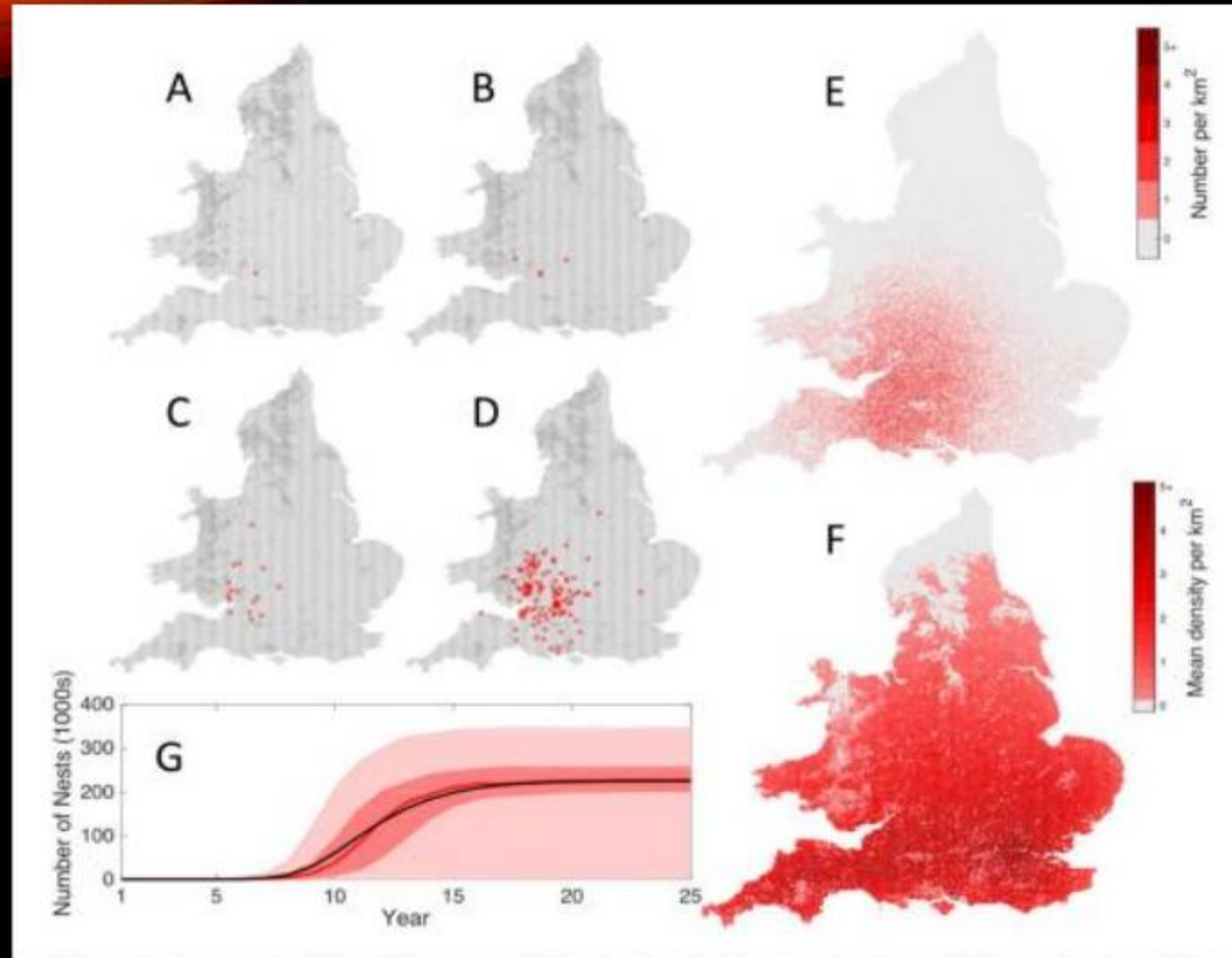


IN ENGLAND 2023

ASIAN HORNET NESTS 2016 - 2023



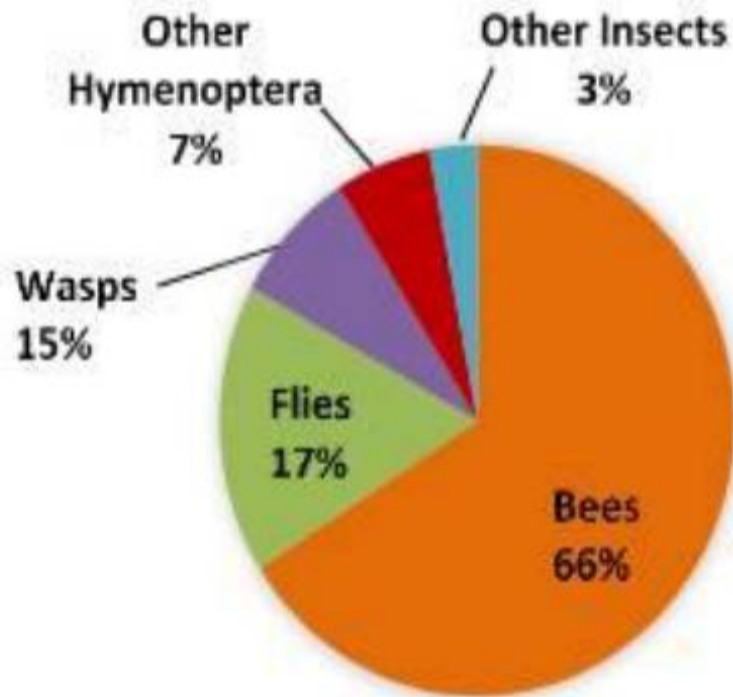
IF WE'D DONE NOTHING



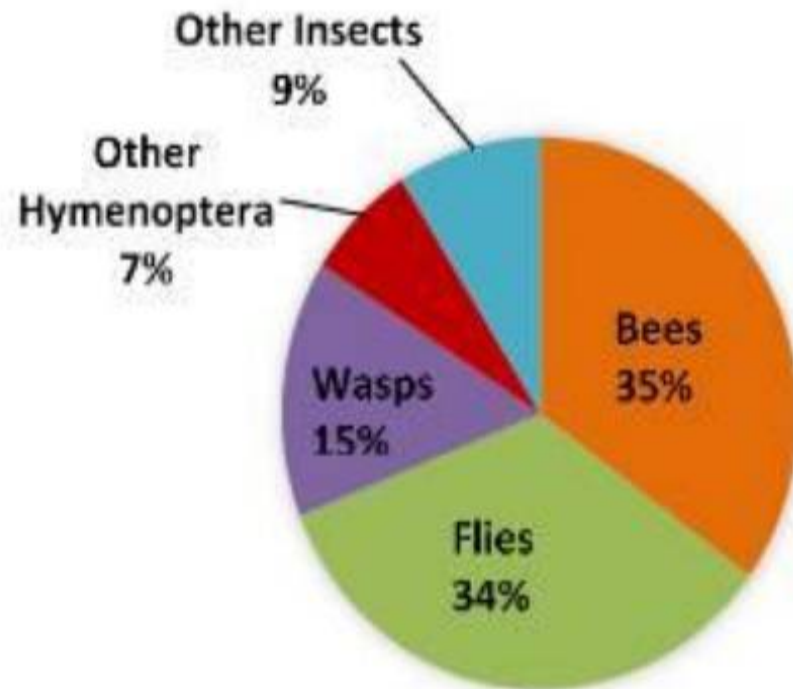
CLIMATE CHANGE

ON THE MENU

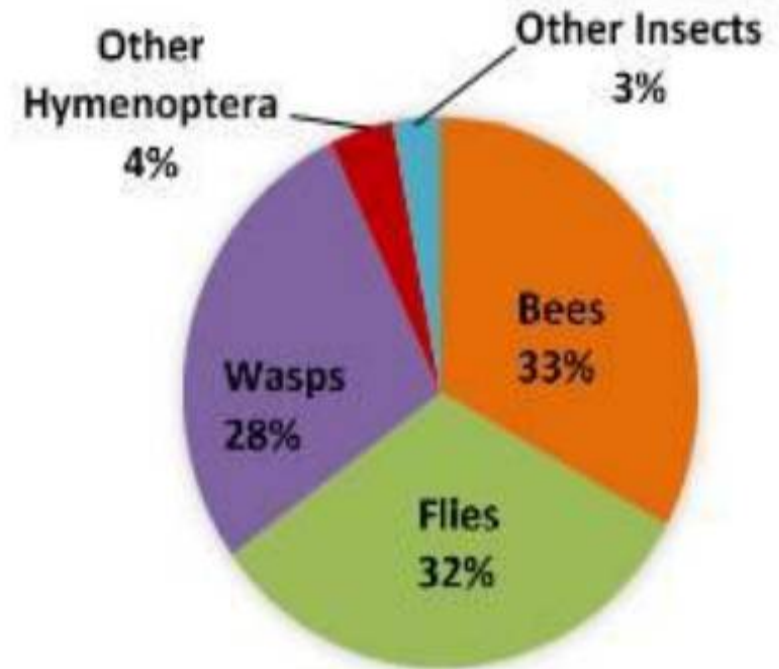
Urban



Rural



Woodland



ASIAN HORNET IS NOT JUST A BEEKEEPER PROBLEM

People

Economy

**Biodiversi
ty**

RISK TO PEOPLE

Stinger 3.0-3.5 mm long

Smooth sting can penetrate multiple times

Trigger serious allergic reaction

Hornets attack in large numbers

Multiple stings - acute kidney injury and renal failure

20 stings or more lead to high risk of death





RISK TO THE ECONOMY

**Agriculture/horticulture/
viticulture**

**Leisure/
tourism**

**Cost of organisations and nest
removal**

RISK TO BIODIVERSITY

Major drivers of biodiversity loss

Prolific, highly efficient apex predator

One nest can consume 11kg of insects in a seas

**Density up to 8-10 nests per sq km
(15 in some urban areas of France)**

Average weight of an insect 3mg

1kg 1,000,000 mg

11kg of insects = 11,000,000/3

=3.666 million insects per nest

**ALREADY 70% DECLINE IN UK INSECT
POPULATION**

DANGER TO HONEY BEES



20 – 30 + HUNTERS IN APIARY AT A TIME

**CATCH BEES ON THE WING USUALLY AS
THEY RETURN TO THE HIVE FLYING SLOWLY
LADEN WITH NECTAR & POLLEN**

**BEES BECOME STRESSED AND STOP
FORAGING FOR FOOD & WATER**

BEES EXHAUSTED DEFENDING HIVE

QUEEN STOPS LAYING

COLONY DWINDLES AND STARVES TO DEATH







WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

National network of Asian Hornet Action Teams (AHATs)

Volunteer beekeepers

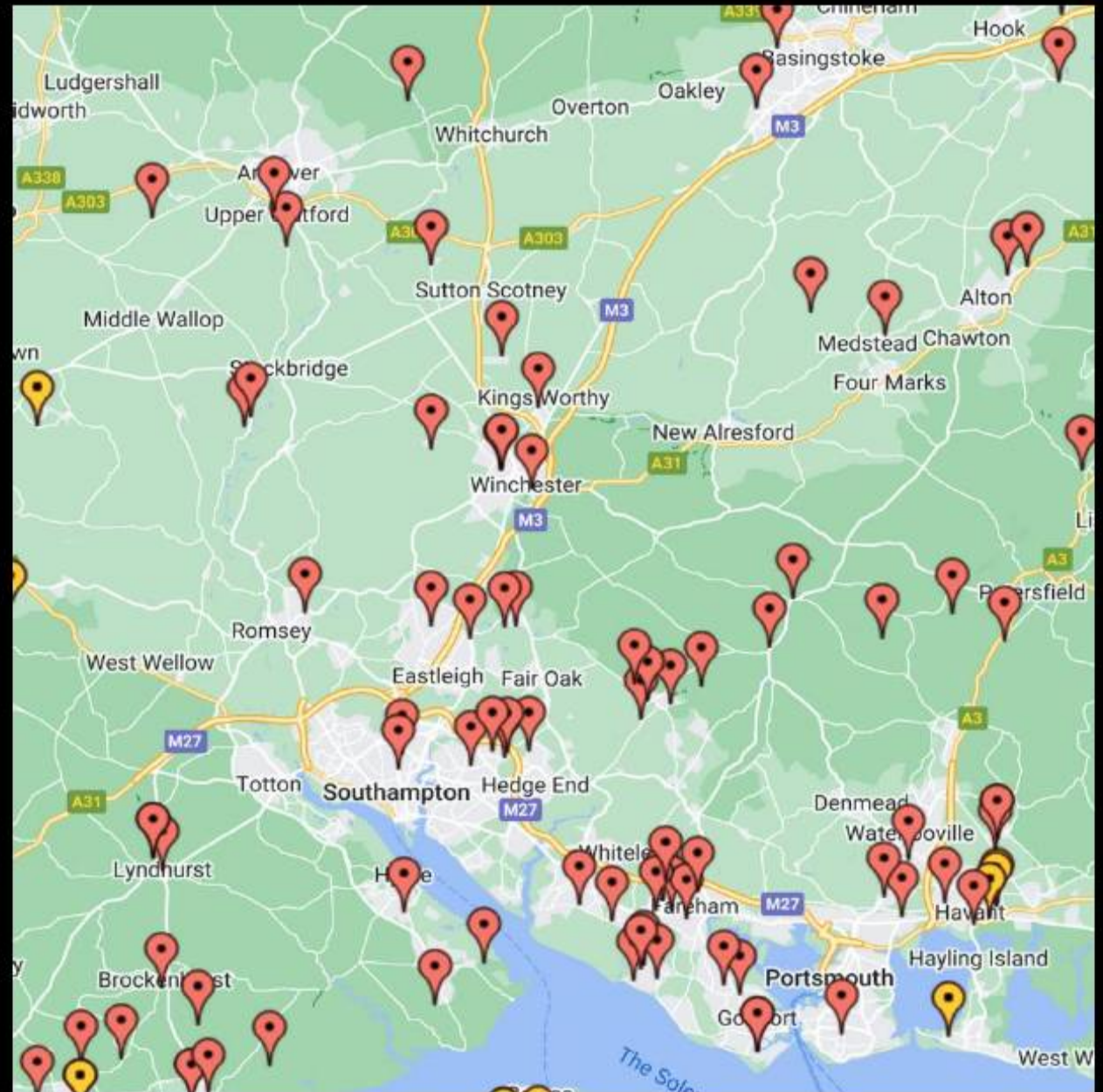
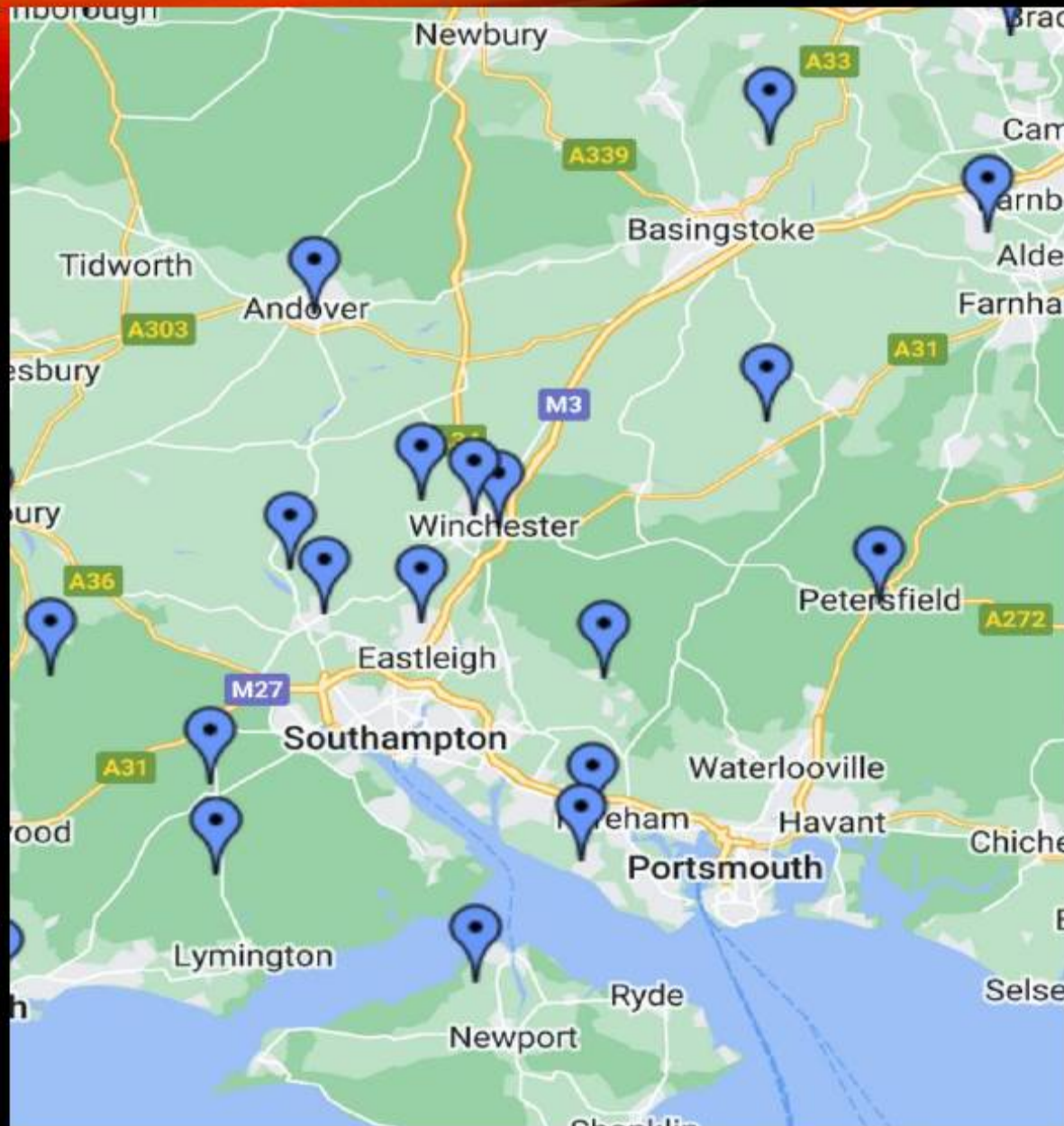
In support of the National Bee Unit (NBU)

BBKA NATIONAL AH ORGANISATION

271 Coordinators
2201 Verifiers



HAMPSHIRE AHAT





THE HAMPSHIRE AH CONTINGENCY PLAN

- **A community-wide response**
- **Multi-sector involvement (including LRF)**
- **Close collaboration with APHA**
- **‘Civilian’ volunteers**
- **Education and training**
- **Licensing**
- **Public engagement**
- **Resources**
- **Budgets**



HAMPSHIRE BEEKEEPERS

1 x COUNTY AH COORDINATOR

14 X LOCAL AH COORDINATORS

14 X LOCAL AH TEAMS (AHATs)

**SUPPORTING NBU
INSPECTORS**

COUNTY AH COORDINATOR



Hampshire AH Contingency Plan

Form and maintain local AHATs

Liaise with local authorities including the LRF in Hants and neighbouring counties

**Liaise with the National Bee Unit
(APHA)**

Communications and PR

Adviser to BBKA

License to catch and release



ROLE OF LOCAL AH COORDINATOR

Liaising with the County AH Coordinator

Liaising with the NBU Bee Inspectors during operations

Maintaining a system of AH Team communication

Risk Assessment

Training

H & S Safeguardin

Reporting^g & mapping

ROLE OF AHATs



**INVESTIGATE AND VERIFY
REPORTS
MONITORING AND
SURVEILLANCE
TRAPPING**

TRACK AND TRACE OPERATIONS

**INFORM AND
EDUCATE**

ROLE OF AH TEAMS (AHATs)



**Helping to raise awareness with the Public
and Beekeepers
Monitoring for Asian Hornets**

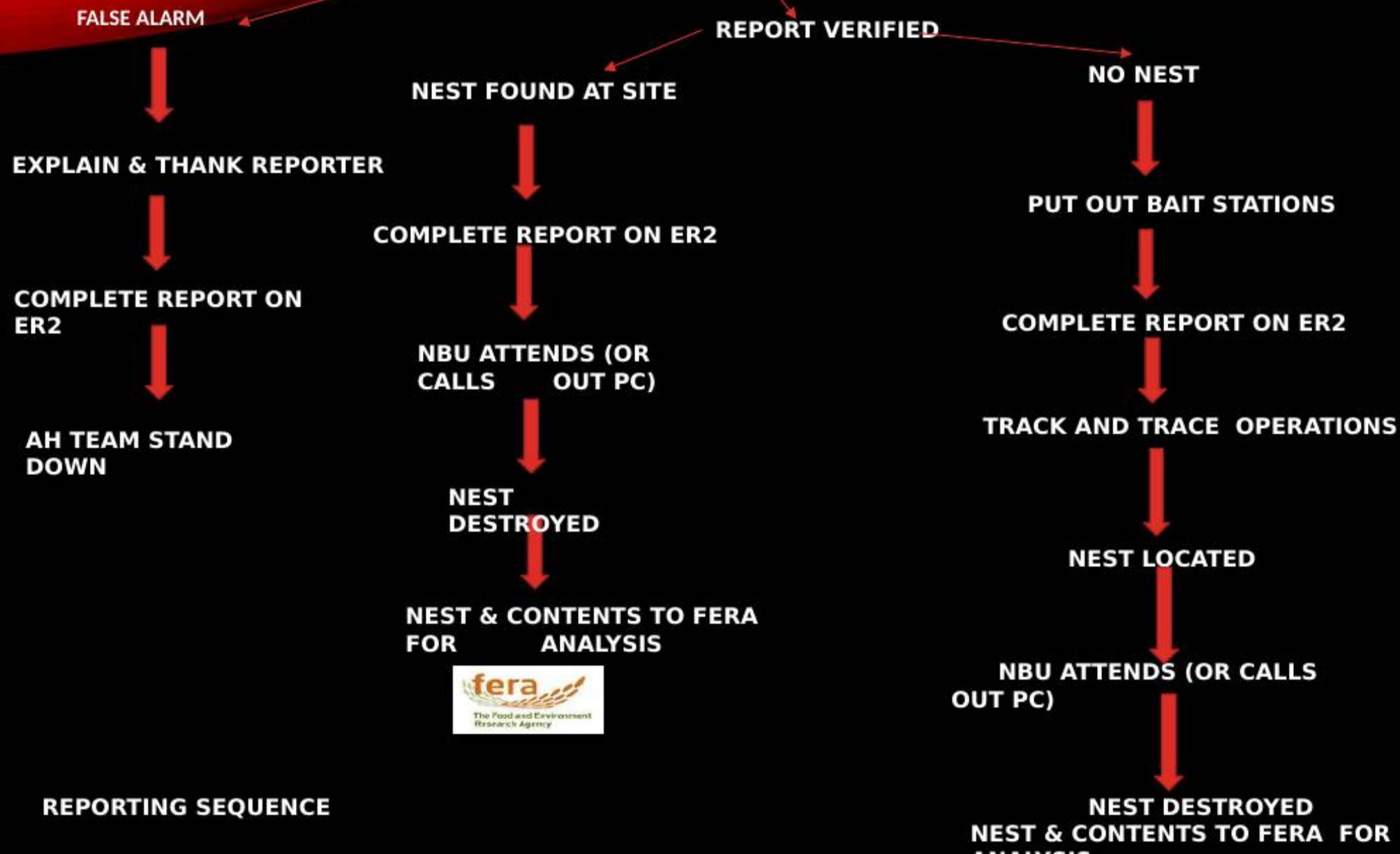
Trapping when appropriate

Following up Leads

**During an Asian Hornet Contingency
Response
Post Contingency Response**

**IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL
BEE UNIT**

REPORTING SEQUENCE





**TRACK & TRACE
NESTS
NEST REMOVAL**

NBU/PCs

NEST ANALYSIS

FERA

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

LEARN

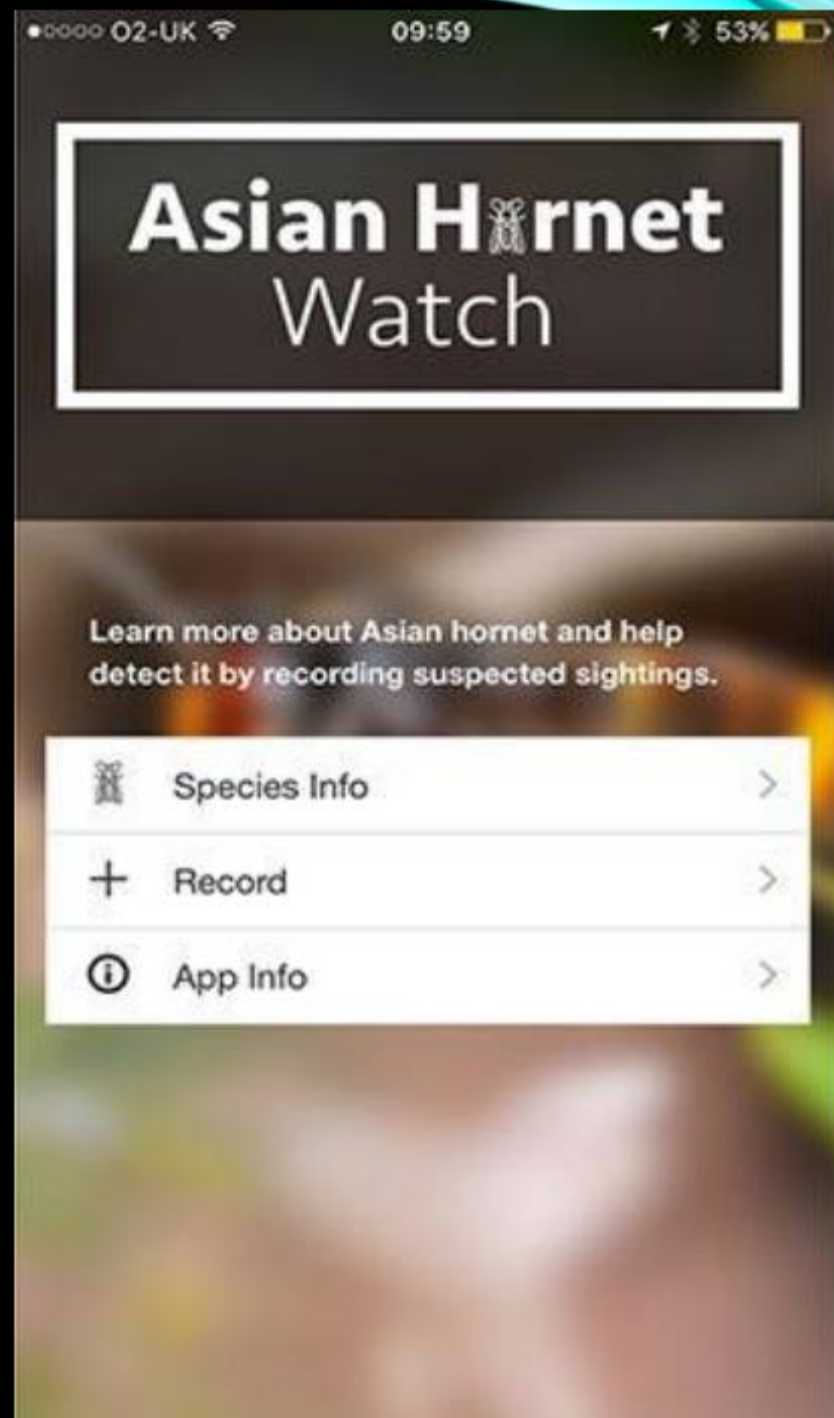
BE PREPARED

KEEP YOUR EYES SKINNED

**DOWNLOAD THE FREE AH WATCH
APP**

SPREAD THE WORD

WHAT CAN YOU DO?





RESOURCES

<https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/diseases-and-pests/asian-hornet/>

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/pages/category/asian-hornet-resources>

SUMMARY

The Asian Hornet is a dangerous invasive species

Likely to become established in England soon

Poses a serious threat to:

- **public health and safety**
- **the economy**
- **biodiversity**

Not just a beekeeper problem

Need to plan for multi-agency response

Public engagement vital



QUESTIONS



Trustee

Asian Hornet Coordinator

Hampshire Beekeepers Association

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