

## YELLOW LEGGED HORNET VERIFIER GUIDE

Monitoring for the presence of Yellow Legged Hornets (YLH) is essential to maintaining bio-diversity in the environment. Your role as a Verifier is an important tri-age step in reporting cases for Government action.

### Safety

**Always Safety First.** YLH are especially aggressive when provoked.

Take precautions to avoid being stung - as minimum wear a head cover and eye protection. A full bee-suit and eye protection is recommended if investigating a nest. Generally, try to stay 10 metres from a nest (minimum 5 metres) and have a clear escape route if attacked.

Consider using binoculars for identification. Never provoke a YLH or its nest.

If a YLH (or unidentified insect) is caught in a trap, leave it trapped whilst you identify it.

### Identifying YLH

Use the App or NNSS identification Cards (see over-leaf).

Remember, for credible reporting, a photo, video or YLH insect (dead or alive) is required.

Do not release a YLH caught in a trap until advised to do so by the Government (could be DEFRA, NBU or NNSS). This may mean any bi-catch is predated but this is unfortunate.

### General

Always thank the person reporting even if not a YLH. We rely on reporters and especially trap managers to be our eyes on the ground. Their voluntary work is essential to monitoring YLH spread.

YLH trap bait changes from carbohydrate based in spring to protein based around mid-summer; you may be asked to assist trap managers to make the change.

Report Verifier activity to the Area Coordinator(s):

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