



## Summary annual report 2022

### Asian Hornet Strategy: annual review 2022 - the status of the Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) on Guernsey, and neighbouring islands

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#### “Spring queening” – strategic trapping of emergent/invading queens

Island wide trapping with 260 traps in Guernsey, spaced every 500m was implemented across the Bailiwick for a fourth year running during April-May 2022. Across all of the participating islands a combined total of 20 queen hornets were caught: Guernsey – 9, Sark – 1, Herm – 1, and Alderney – 9.

Two primary nests were reported and quickly destroyed, one in Torteval (May 23<sup>rd</sup>) and the other in St Peter Port (June 6<sup>th</sup>); (*in Jersey, 55 queens and 44 primary nests were found*).

#### Track don’t trample – leading to discovery of secondary nests

The “Track Don’t Trample” campaign was aimed at encouraging the public to photograph and report suspected sightings of Asian hornets. The success of the Strategy relies on the public’s willingness to engage with the campaign and send in reports.

- During 2022 there were 262 reported sightings checked by the Asian Hornet Team, of which 15 were positively identified as invasive hornets. 16% of the total reports were hornet mimic hoverflies, these clever mimics are most commonly mistaken for Asian hornets.
- Earliest hornet sighting - April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Last hornet sighting - Aug 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### Secondary nests found and destroyed

##### Confirmed sightings of Asian hornets, trapped queens, and nest destruction

Guernsey	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Possible sightings reported by the public	258	303	271	192	392	262
Confirmed as positive - Asian hornets	20	62	15	6	29	15
Queens caught	0	4	10	3	8	9
Primary nests	0	0	1	0	2	2
Secondary nests	2	8	2	0	3	2
<b>Total nests destroyed</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>

After spring queening no more hornets were seen until mid-July when the first secondary nest was tracked down and located in a large sycamore tree just inland from the Imperial Hotel, Torteval.

At the end of August, a second nest was discovered in the roof cavity of a bungalow on Belmont Road, St Peter Port. On Alderney, three secondary nests were destroyed, but none were found on Sark or Herm; (*Jersey reported finding 174 nests over the year*).

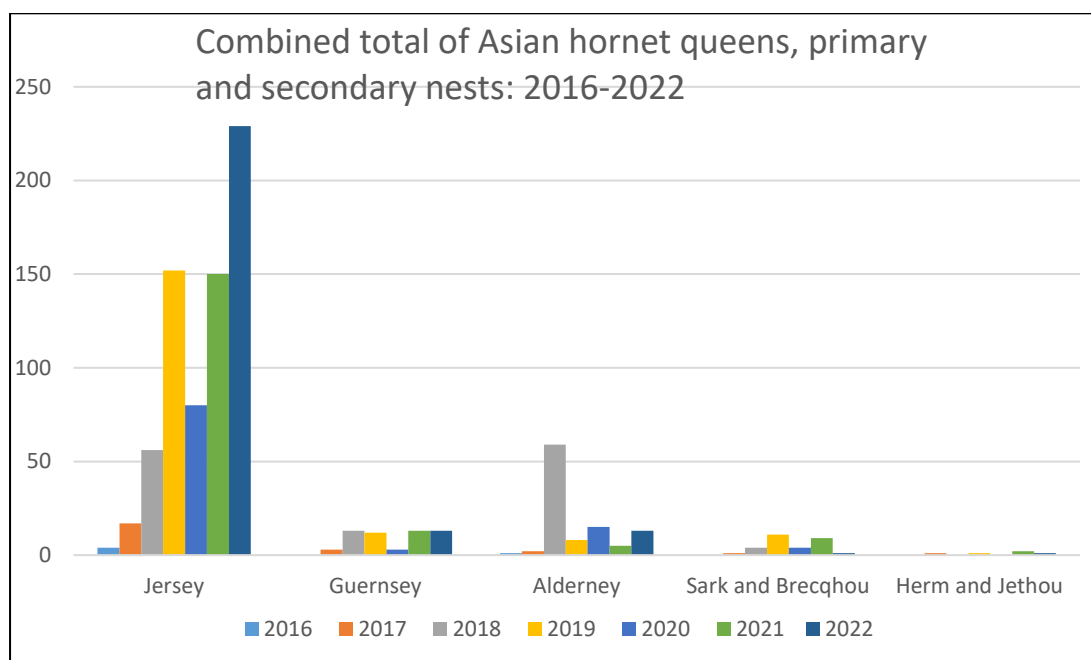
### Conclusion – reflecting on the year and looking ahead

2022 was definitely a ‘wasp year’ and looking further afield throughout Europe all the signs indicate that it was also very favourable for hornets. We are therefore relieved to report that we appear to be holding our Asian hornet population at very low levels. Finding and destroying every nest that we can in the summer/autumn period ensures that minimal numbers of new queens survive to hibernate. This goal of annual eradication is a vital aspect of our hornet control strategy as it means we only have to contend with the recurring arrival of queens making their way across the water from France each spring. From the past four years of data, we have shown that spring trapping accounts for around 75% of the combined total number of queens that we control annually which keeps the number of secondary nests we have to find to around 2-3 a year.

The graph below highlights the trend for Asian hornet populations across the Channel Islands for the period 2016-22. Guernsey’s integrated management approach of trapping queens in the spring followed by prompt and effective control of secondary nests has prevented the establishment of Asian hornets to date.

However, there can be no room for complacency as these invasive pests will continue to threaten our islands. We rely on the continued vigilance and support of the general public in spotting and reporting hornets.

**Thank you to everyone who supported us this year in this important work.**



Primary nest inside chiminea (06/06/22)



Secondary nest safely removed (30/08/22)