

Environmental Health

As the colony dies out, the worker wasps may become aggressive and become more of a pest. This is because their role of building the next and caring for the young is over and they will most likely be feeding on rotting and fermenting fruits, which are abundant at the end of the summer and early autumn.

Important

Wasps and hornets will sting many times when disturbed and/or agitated. Reactions to stings may vary from person to person. Some people may require immediate medical treatment for anaphylactic shock.

For this reason, it is strongly recommended to leave the treatment of nests to professional pest control operators. You may wish to contact a pest control company through your local directory or through Hampshire County Council's, Buy With Confidence Scheme at: <http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk>. Alternatively, contact Hart District Council's Pest Control Contractor. See details overleaf.

What can I do about Bees?

Bees are an invaluable part of our ecosystem, pollinating crops, plants and flowers. It is important that they are protected.

If you suspect you have a Honey Bee swarm visit the British Bee Keepers Association at <https://www.bbka.org.uk> and go to Find a Swarm Collector page or contact a local bee keeper.

Hart District Council's Pest Control Service

The Council's Pest Control Contractor offers a competitive service for the following pests:

- Rats and Mice
- Wasps
- Bedbugs
- Cockroaches
- Fleas

There is a charge for the treatment of these pests in both domestic and commercial premises. A discount may apply for domestic customer who can provide evidence that they receive qualifying benefits.

If you would like to make an appointment for our Pest Control Contractor to visit, please:

Book Online:

<http://www.dialapest.co.uk/council/council.php>

Phone: 03444 828325

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Environmental Health



WASPS, HORNETS AND BEES

How to Spot the Difference

Common Wasp



There are two types of wasps currently present in the UK. They both range in size between 12mm to 20mm long and display black and yellow banding on their abdomens. They have narrow waists and usually have a smooth shiny body.

The German wasp is very similar in appearance to the Common Wasp but slightly bigger. The best way of telling them apart is by looking at the face. There are usually three small black spots (rarely one) and it is never anchor-shaped as it is in case of the Common Wasp. The antennae are black right down at the base. The thoracic stripes usually bulge in the middle and there are four yellow spots at the rear of the thorax.

Both wasp species can be persistent and aggressive in nature and can sting readily and repeatedly. They are attracted to sweet food.

Wasps don't swarm.

German Wasp



Bumble Bee



Some bees are often confused with wasps, however, bees tend to visibly be hairier.

Bumble bees have a larger, more rounded body and have more fur than honey bees. They are dark coloured except for their bright yellow stripes. They tend to move slowly and rarely cause a problem for humans, preferring to move away to avoid contact.

Honey bees are furry and black or brown intermixed with amber colouring. They are gentle natured but can attack when provoked. They can sting only once and die afterwards. They do not hibernate.

The queen hornet measures around 35mm long. Worker hornets are noticeably smaller than the queen measuring between 18mm to 25mm long.

Hornets share a similar appearance to wasps but are distinguishable by the brown and yellow banding on their abdomen. Hornets can also be identified by having slightly reddish coloured

Honey Bee



Hornet



Biology and Habitat

Queen hornets and wasps hibernate over the winter in quiet, sheltered areas. They emerge in the Spring and start to build their nests. Wasps and hornets do not reuse old nests from previous years.

A new nest will start from the size of a golf ball with a few workers, including the queen. Wasps nests have a distinctive papery texture (see below) and can grow up to 30cm across and hornets nests up to 60cm across. They normally reach their maximum size by September.

A wasp's nest at full size may house up to 3,000 workers, whereas hornet's nest peaks at a population of approximately 700. In the autumn, new queens emerge to seek a quiet place to live over

