

# Sustainable use of the subsurface

Explore activities that occur beneath the ground and how they interact using the Sustainable use of the subsurface viewer.

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## Form: Active farmer certificate – 2017

*Updated:* Page unarchived

### **Details**

This is the certificate that some farmers may need to send to the Rural Payments Agency to confirm their active farmer status.

There is also the latest guidance for accountants about how to fill in the form, which includes an annex that sets out some of the processes they need to follow.

Farmers need to take the form, the guidance and any relevant financial documents to their accountant.

For more information about the 'active farmer rule', read the latest Basic Payment Scheme rules.

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## News story: Asian hornet outbreak contained in Devon

A recent outbreak of Asian hornets has been successfully contained by bee inspectors who promptly tracked down and destroyed their nest in Devon.

The hornets were first discovered in the Woolacombe area in September, but the National Bee Unit moved swiftly to find the nest and remove it.

No further live Asian hornets have been seen since the nest was treated with pesticide and removed earlier this month.

Nicola Spence, Defra Deputy Director for Plant and Bee Health, said:

I am pleased our well-established protocol to contain Asian hornets has worked so effectively in Devon.

We remain vigilant, however, and will continue to monitor the situation and encourage people to look out for any Asian hornet nests.

Members of the public are a vital tool in spotting Asian hornets and we urge people to report any potential sightings through the Asian hornet app or online.

This included a two mile surveillance zone in Devon, with bee inspectors scouring the area to track the hornets and the nest. The Animal and Plant Health Agency also opened a local control centre to coordinate the response between the various agencies and teams involved.

Asian hornets pose no greater risk to human health than a bee, though they are a threat to honey bee colonies.

The hornet prey on honeybees, disrupting the ecological role which they provide and damaging commercial beekeeping activities. This is why Defra takes quick action to identify and destroy their nests.

The species arrived in France in 2004 and is now common across large areas of Europe. It was discovered for the first time in the British Isles in Jersey, Alderney and Gloucestershire last summer.

Asian hornets can be confused with their larger native European hornet counterparts; the Asian hornet abdomen is almost entirely dark while the European hornet's abdomen is largely yellow.

It is possible Asian hornets could reappear in the UK and members of the public alongside the nation's beekeepers are urged to report any suspected sightings.

- The 'Asian hornet watch' app is available to download from the Apple and Android app stores.
- Members of the public can also report sightings by email to [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk) with a photo or on the Non-native Species Secretariat website.
- Details on the appearance of an Asian hornet can be found on the Bee Base guide or the non-native species identification guide.

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## **Press release: A new era for marine**

# science: green light for new Cefas headquarters in Lowestoft

A new era of marine science is set to become a reality, with planning permission granted to the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) to redevelop its headquarters site in Lowestoft. The proposals will invest £16 million to create a leading centre for applied science by building a new and modern office facility and by refurbishing existing laboratory facilities.

The project will provide Cefas and Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) with significant running cost savings, greatly enhanced scientific collaboration and innovation workspace and improved environmental performance.

Refurbishment work is planned to start in November 2017 and the new office building is planned to commence in January 2018, once final partnership funding is in place. Morgan Sindall have been appointed contractors to lead the project works which are planned to complete by March 2019.

Fisheries Minister, George Eustice said:

Cefas has always been at the forefront of marine research and innovation, and I'm pleased this new centre is one step closer to reality. Once complete it will help bolster our research and understanding of sea life – solidifying our position as a world leader in marine science and a champion of sustainable fishing.

Tom Karsten, Cefas Chief Executive said:

Since 1902, Cefas has been providing UK Government with scientific evidence and advice to support the fishing industry and to ensure the sustainable use of the marine environment. I thank Defra, local Councillors and Planners for their commitment to these exciting proposals for our new Lowestoft Headquarters. This project represents a vital step in realising our vision for Cefas; to deliver world class science for the marine and freshwater environment.

Notes:

1. The Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) supports governments, businesses and society in the UK and internationally to ensure that seas and rivers are healthy and

productive, thereby enabling food security and sustainable development. Cefas is the UK's most diverse centre for applied marine and freshwater science. Starting as a small fisheries laboratory in Lowestoft in 1902, Cefas now employs 550 staff between the sites in Lowestoft and Weymouth, and our offices in English ports, Kuwait and Oman.

2. Cefas is an executive agency of the Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) within the UK government. It provides ministers and government officials in the UK with impartial expert advice and evidence relating to marine and closely related environments and is a provider of UK statutory monitoring and inspection services, including national emergency response capabilities.
3. For more information contact: [estates2020@cefas.co.uk](mailto:estates2020@cefas.co.uk) or visit the [Cefas Estates webpage](#).

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## **Notice: LE7 4PF, Biffa Leicester Limited: environmental permit application advertisement**

The Environment Agency consults the public on certain applications for waste operations, mining waste operations, installations, water discharge and groundwater activities. The arrangements are explained in its [Public Participation Statement](#)

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- how you can view the application documents
- when you need to comment by

The Environment Agency will decide:

- whether to grant or refuse the application
- what conditions to include in the permit (if granted)