

Cumbria Asian Hornet Team



Yellow-Legged Asian Hornet Volunteers Meeting

(Zoom update 20 January 2026)

Present : Andy Brown, Martin & Julia Pigott, Rob Mc Garvie, Alison Crumble, Helen Cornish, Ian Gregory, Ian Dawson, Stewart Beattie, David Byers, Chris West, Mark Dasey, Kate ??, Charles & Felicity Payne, Jackie O'Reilly (Cumberland Council), Dana Brau (Westmorland & Furness Council), Clare Woowat

Apologies : Margaret Riches, Davd Colborn

This meeting was generated to give the volunteers an update and allow for volunteer questions. The invite to it was accompanied with a newsletter.

Points raised

1. Presentation from Andy Brown on YLAH. 544 sightings & 162 nests removed in UK during 2025 (Latest announced in Wrexham, Wales). Over half a million removed in France annually and about 5000 – 7000 in an area similar to the surrounding areas of Kendal or Carlisle.
2. A request for Standardisation of coordinator approach was requested of the BBKA, and as such monthly meetings have been set up. This was supported nationally at the Annual Delegates Conference.
3. It was proposed that a Charitable standalone body (CIO) or a Non-For-Profit organisation (CIC) be set up to support the volunteers nationally. This would cater better for non-beekeeper volunteers and manage the process as standard nationally. It has been proposed that AHA Catch App organisation, already set up, could absorb this role. It would manage issues like equipment distribution, volunteer reimbursement, funding management, data protection and volunteer-role codes of conduct.
4. BBKA 1st Area coordinator Meeting (Nov 2025) – A great presentation by Jackie Aucott, Dover BKA – AHT made a very positive and upbeat message from the 'frontline'. It was mainly due to successful public education program.
5. BBKA 2nd Area coordinator Meeting (Dec 2025) – Jon Semple presented his new non-for-profit remote monitoring device, Buzzcopper. It is an AI ID autonomous device that would be available from mid-2026 (v2) . Along with the Dutch Robor Nature , see below.
6. Wiltshire Volunteer, a current government advisor, is offering to get future organisation recognised by higher levels of government. BBKA (British Beekeepers Association) would be a stakeholder but not the sole management.
7. Another gamechanger has been Dutch transmitters which were successfully attached to hornets and will continue to be used by NBU (National Bee Unit) decreasing nest location time by at least a third.

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8. DEFRA announcement about no planned spring trapping of AH queens by National Bee Unit inspectors. FERA (Food & Environment Research Agency) analysis of DNA likely to continue and has been expanded to cope with numbers.
9. Time consuming monitoring will be replaced by Buzzcopper. It uses an AI (Artificial Intelligence) monitoring camera. 15 ordered for Cumbria so far, approx. £25 each. Could be deployed at risk areas e.g. ports, truck stops. These will be purchased by CAHT from donations from the three main BKA, for now. Please do not individually attempt to order as this will confuse the system and not be in coordination with the system.
10. What's expected of Volunteers – keep abreast of info, use Cumbria YLH Team WhatsApp, see Cumbrian Asian Hornet Team website at www.kendalbeekeepers.com/caht, and above all EDUCATE the public at every opportunity available. If you wish one of us to do a presentation at some venue, please contact Clare or Andy. The presentation on the webpage is regularly updated but it is best to check with us before using.
11. AH in acrylic available for volunteers, thanks to Julia and Kendal Beekeepers. These are ideal to engage the public. Andy will coordinate with Clare to see if we can get at least one to each volunteer.
12. Also, all info available for the public at www.kendalbeekeepers.com/asian-hornet

Questions

1. Jayne Potts- where can we get Buzzcopper? Not yet available but ordered for Cumbria, via the coordinators. As there is a need to monitor a location, it will be issued to the appropriate volunteer. The mark 2 version will be available around June/July this year.
2. David Byers – coordination with Scotland? Reached out to some areas in Scotland, so far without success. Lorraine Johnstone from Dumfries & Galloway is part of local Scottish government. David will email Andy privately with Contact details.
3. Stewart Beattie: can we identify who are volunteers in Cumbria? AHA Catch should be able to show that. Also seeking any contacts who may have remote holiday cottages. Jayne Potts how do we cover less-densely populated areas.
4. Mark Dasey – Can we demonstrate AHA app? Yes, and role of coordinators to identify nearest beekeepers if a YLAH is sighted. We may know people in remote areas. Demonstrated AHA Catch map, and location of those registered, sightings & nests removed. It is stressed that it is mainly a tool for coordinators to manage volunteers.

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5. Chris West – acronyms are confusing e.g. NBU National Bee Unit; eR2 = membership system. There will be an acronym glossary below.

ACTION Clare to circulate update for Cumbria Bee Times via eR2 to beekeepers in Cumbria Beekeepers Area Association. Please can Ian Dawson share with Sedbergh Beekeepers, Julia/ Andy to share with Kendal beekeepers and Graham Jackson with Furness beekeepers.

There is strong encouragement for all volunteers to join AHA Catch via the app. Registration can be found at <https://catch.asianhornetalert.org.uk/login>

*SEE it. SNAP it. APP it.

Report sightings via the Asian Hornet Watch App or www.nonnativespecies.org/asianhornet

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Glossary

DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
NNSS	Non-Native Species Secretariat
APHA	Animal Plant Health Authority
NBU	National Bee Unit
BKA	Beekeeping Association
CBKA	Cumbria BKA
K&SWBKA	Kendal & South Westmorland BKA
BBKA	British BKA
eR2	BBKA database - membership/swarm/Asian-hornet management
AHA catch	Asian Hornet Alert app system
CAHT	Cumbria Asian Hornet Team
FERA	Food and Environment Research Agency
CIC	Community Interest Company
CIO	Charitable Incorporated Organisation