

# Cumbrian YLH Action Team Lead Coordinators Meeting



Tuesday 20th October 2025, 20:00, via [Zoom](#)

## Minutes:

### 1. a. Attending:

Andrew Brown	– Cumbria County Coordinator (Kendal & South Westmorland BKA)
Clare Woowat	– YLH County Coordinator (Cockermouth BKA)
Julia Hoggard	– Education Officer K&SWBKA (NBU Inspector - retired)
Margaret Riches	– Chair Cumbria BKAA (background)
Stewart Beattie	- YLH Assoc. Representative (CBKA – liaison for Furness BKA)
Mark Dasey	- YLH Assoc. Representative (Penrith BKA)
Robert McGarvie	- YLH Assoc. Representative (Keswick BKA)
Martin Hoggard	- YLH Volunteer (Chair K&SWBKA)
Dana Bratu*	- Environmental Protection Regulatory & Compliance Officer Westmorland & Furness Council

\* only briefly due technical error – AB to follow up

### b. Apologies

Geoff Dowker	- Environmental Protection & Public Health Team Leader (W&FDC)
Eleanor Mason	- YLH Team Representative (Keswick BKA)
David Byers	- YLH Team Representative (Carlisle BKA)

2. Minutes of meeting 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025 were agreed as a representation of the meeting.

### 3. Development of Coordination of Volunteers in Cumbria

a. **Volunteer Listing.** As volunteers are no longer necessarily on the BBKA eR2 listing (being extended to non-BBKA beekeepers and other non-beekeeping members) It is important to make sure the coordinators (see 7a below) (AB & CW) have a clear, up-to-date list of the volunteers in the county. **CW** to forward volunteer names to AB, for consolidation with WhatsApp members.

b. Volunteer Communications – All volunteers to remind others of the WhatsApp group for Cumbria YLH Team. For those not on WhatsApp then email and text will have to suffice for now.

c. **AHA CATCH v BBKA eR2** – There is a strong feeling that the BBKA eR2 application, as good as it is, has the limitation that it can only be used by eR2 authorised members of BBKA. Thus, there is strong encouragement for all volunteers to join the AHA Catch app as soon as possible as it is for all volunteers.

d. **Non-Beekeepers** (BBKA) – We're encouraged to seek out volunteers that are of an outdoor organisation, like wildlife trust rangers, orchard group members, RSPB volunteers etc. that can join the team.

e. **Furness and Sedbergh:** AB to give talk to Furness BKA at their AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> October. AB to reach out more to Sedbergh BKA as well.

### 4. Process pre-YLH Appearance in Cumbria (or neighbouring counties)

a. Preparation of volunteers. Bait station and bait recipe **training** to be done at any opportunity at meetings and track and trace information updated as technology moves on.

b. **Education and Public Engagement.** – Our best asset against the YLH is the public. As per lessons learned from the French experience, a few volunteers and government inspectors alone don't stand much of a chance. If we can simply get as many people as possible to understand the threat, recognise the YLH and report via Asian Hornet Watch

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app on their mobiles, then we have a reasonable chance of containment. We ask all volunteers to spread this message far and wide at every opportunity. There was a move to seek an audience with those involved in goods transport at Carnforth and Penrith to make them aware of their potential cargo stowaways and request they report any sightings as such. Garden centres were also considered targets as they often import from The Netherlands which is now badly infested. JH asked if a business card for giving to potential volunteers would be a good idea. All agreed it would. It was also suggested that we keep a central log of those groups and companies that have been contacted.

c. **Resources and Storage** – The main resources for now are traps/bait open boxes and bait itself. It was considered that no central storage is required for this. All volunteers can have a trap and a bait recipe – If Trappit® commercial bait is required then we will look at a couple of convenient locations for volunteer pick up points. **CW** offered to find bait recipes for posting on CAHT webpage and sharing with volunteers.

d. **Volunteer Code of Conduct**. It was felt important that there was a clarified 'code of conduct' established so that volunteers had no doubt as to what was expected of them. A draft version of this is attached.

e. **Insurance and Risk Assessment** There is BBKA insurance coverage and RA for the BBKA volunteers. At BBKA coordinators' meetings (see 7a below) clarification will be sought as to what is to be done about non-BBKA volunteer coverage.

## 5. Action post YLH Appearance in Cumbria (or neighbouring counties)

- a. Seek clarification of any changes in volunteer roles from BBKA/NBU.
- b. Any further role changes would require greater levels of risk assessment and insurance review.

## 6. Funding and Local Government Coordination

a. **Independent Body for CAHT** – A structure in the form of a non-registered charity or community group is deemed the best way of CAHT being able to transparently manage costs for volunteers. For this a constitution is required (draft attached) and at least 5 managing member (volunteers) needed to form the group. This way a bank account can be opened and managed. Needed are a Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and two other managing members. **MR** offered to contact Cumbria Voluntary Services to see if someone with bank/building society experience is seeking a role in volunteering.

b. **Reimbursement** – It has been agreed that volunteers should only be giving their time. One of the clarifications for the new body will inform members about what is reimbursed and how to claim.

c. **District Councils** – Westmorland & Furness DC shall be kept in close liaison with CAHT and its activities. Discussions as to what support the W&F and Cumberland DCs can afford the group.

d. We will all be keeping an ear out for **other funding** sources. BBKA – can offer a wealth of administrative support, but no more for now. Commercial – sources of funding should be explored by all members. SB kindly offered to discuss this with his BAE Barrow contacts.

## 7. AOB

a. CW drew attention to the **new Area/County coordinators' meetings** now scheduled, the first of which is on 11<sup>th</sup> November. AB noted that the term coordinator should, to avoid confusion within BKAs refer to the Area/County coordinators, and so as not to cause confusion, suggested that the individual BKA AHT 'coordinators' be referred to as association representatives.

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b. **BBKA ADM resolution(s)** Two will be presented to the BBKA on 10 Jan 2026, essentially requesting standardisation across BBKA areas.

### 8. Next action/meeting

- a. See action items with attendee's emboldened initials in above paragraphs
- b Next meeting 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026, on Zoom at 2000.