Cumbrian YLH Action Team Lead Coordinators Meeting

Tuesday 18th March 2025, 19:00 , via Zoom

Minutes:

1. Attending:

Andrew Brown	– Cumbria County Coordinator (Kendal & South Westmorland BKA)
Margaret Riches	– Chair Cumbria BKA
Julia Hoggard	– Education Officer K&SWBKA (NBU Inspector retired)
Clare Woowat	– YLH Team Coordinator (Cockermouth BKA)
Eleanor Mason	- YLH Team Coordinator (Keswick BKA)

2. Role Clarifications - considering BBKA/NBU Spring Update
   a) AB reflected on the recent BBKA/NBU Spring Update with presentations by Nigel Semmence (NBU) and Mike Smith (BBKA) from which it was clear that there was no change in action requirements by BBKA volunteers. Volunteers have no need to act upon sightings unless requested by the NBU via the BBKA coordination process. No-one should be called by members of the public as reporting goes directly to the Non-Native Species Secretariat (APHA) and they disseminate relevant potential sightings to the NBU.

   b) Volunteer types are :
      - Coordinators Helping NBU manage the volunteers
      - Verifiers Setting up observation traps at specifically requested locations
      - Monitors Operating strategic observation points, confirmed on the BBKA coordinators' map (on the BBKA er2 database)

   c) A given volunteer may conduct any or all of these roles as acknowledged by the BBKA volunteer register.
   d) All are encouraged to educate the public at any opportunity available.

3. Development of Coordination of Volunteers in Cumbria

   Development of the BKA volunteers in the various BKAs in the coming year, assuming no or solitary sightings, should be in the following areas:
   a) Establish stockpile of traps with access to volunteers
   b) Confirm names of coordinators and give them er2 YLH Map App access
   c) Make sure all coordinators have access to the Cumbria YLH webpage for resources.

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

   To help set up a robust team and clarify roles:
   a) Set up localised meetings for volunteers to help them understand their role and seek their support and ideas, as well as build more traps
   b) Encourage Cumbria BKA to have coordinated trap and bait stores and a copy of Sarah Bunker's 'Asian Hornet Handbook' available for volunteers
   c) Look to having quick-access funds for bait and trap set-up costs
   d) Investigate YLH lures (Stuart Beattie)
   e) Make all volunteers aware of the use of the er2 Mapping via the coordinators

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

   There was little to discuss about when multiple sightings and establishment of YLH in Cumbria occur as the situation and roles of the volunteers would most likely change. Until then we remain in the processes of paragraph 4 above.

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6. Funding

Funding was considered from the following sources:

a. **The BKA**s themselves, having an emergency pot for if the member volunteers need cover for a requested verification trap action. This fund would be approved in advance by the respective BKA's committee / membership and be available upon request from the appropriate treasurer. This has already been approved with the K&SWBKA.
b. Cumberland / Westmorland **District Councils** have Environmental Protection & Public Health Team Leaders and Geoff Dorker of W&FDC has agreed to look at the principle of coordinated action and potential support should sightings occur.
c. **Commercial sponsorship** has been used in some counties, e.g. Somerset has received quite generous support from a local food producer. It was noted that some supermarkets have funding to support local biodiversity projects and getting volunteers to investigate these options may prove successful.

7. Next action/meeting

a. distribution of these minutes to all Cumbrian volunteers
b. action meetings, trap-building as soon as possible locally
c. arrange localised volunteer meetings with coordinators to clarify roles face to face
d. make sure all coordinators have access to er2 volunteer and location map
e. follow up with another coordinators' meeting (Zoom) on May 20th 2025.

8. AOB

a) JH stressed the importance of continued to promotion of education of the public, by mentioning it at events, meetings (e.g. County shows, YFC, WI etc) stressing the value of observation and correct reporting. All resources for this are on the CAHT webpage.

Information: https://www.kendalbeekeepers.com/asian-hornet-all

Volunteer Resources: https://www.kendalbeekeepers.com/caht