

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

54/06



CENTRAL SCIENCE
LABORATORY

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 54/06
PART OF STUDY PGD-230
REGIONAL NUMBER W/06/12
OTHER REFERENCES 28/B186/03/06
SENDER VLA Carmarthen

LOCATION Tirabad
Brecknockshire

GRID REFERENCE



INCIDENT DATE 10 March 2006

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue

DATE OF REPORT 3 July 2006

REPORTING OFFICER



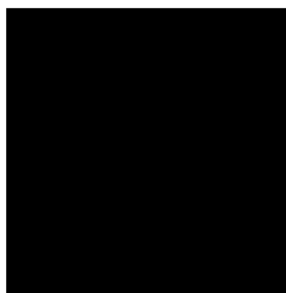
SIGNED :



NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard

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**Samples received****Date received****Sample identifier**

63619	buzzard	tissues	16/3/06	VLA ref.: 28/B186/03/06
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Summary of field data

A dead buzzard was found in woodland. The carcase appeared fresh with no obvious injuries. No other carcasses or suspected bait was seen in the area. There has been another incident reported where a number of dead birds of prey were seen (33/06, W06/10 - unknown) and claims that dead foxes with no obvious signs of injury have been seen in the forest. The area is an upland, remote area with a forest to the north and west and MOD land to the east. There is sheep farming in the area.

Summary of post mortem report

A female buzzard was submitted weighing 669g in a moderate bodily condition. There were remnants of a birds beak in the proventriculus/ gizzard which was otherwise empty. The lower intestine contained dark coloured contents, with much rich material in the cloaca. It is possible that the bony remnants have prevented regurgitation leading to dehydration.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

63619	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

63619	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

63619	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.093	mg/kg
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Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. However, no significant residues from the compound groups tested for were found. There was a small residue of difenacoum only detected and confirmed in the liver of this buzzard. However, this result confirms exposure to the compound, rather than being the cause of death of the bird. It is possible that this buzzard died from the natural causes suggested in the post-mortem, but this cannot be confirmed and so remains uncertain.