

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



Original thinking... applied

INCIDENT NUMBER 49/20
PART OF STUDY FSGD-211
REGIONAL NUMBER W/20/09
OTHER REFERENCES 28/B0056/05/20
SENDER VLA Carmarthen

LOCATION Newtown
Powys

GRID REFERENCE

INCIDENT DATE 22 April 2020

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue

DATE OF REPORT 21 August 2020

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED :

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard

COPIED TO

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Samples received

Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
99905	buzzard		29/5/20	28/B0056/05/20
99905	buzzard	tissues	29/5/20	28/B0056/05/20

Summary of field data

The initial report was that a dead red kite had been found on a rugby pitch. The find was initially reported to the RSPB, who contacted Welsh Government. The RSPB went to the site to collect the red kite and they identified the bird as a buzzard. Photographs of the bird carcass and the location were emailed to Welsh Government and the case was accepted into WIIS. It was reported that the buzzard might have been perching on a light and then fell off and there was also a suggestion that it might have been shot. Arrangements were made for an x-ray at a veterinary practice to rule out shooting and the carcass was later delivered to the APHA.

Summary of post mortem report

A male buzzard was received, frozen, for examination in a bag with seal A110929. It was a male of weight 780g in the black bag and it was in poor condition and moderate autolysis. Overall the body condition was considered poor with some pectoral musculature remaining. The gizzard contained fibrous content only. No abnormalities of the remaining body systems were seen.

Analysis : chloralose analysis suite

99905	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.1	mg/kg
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Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

99905	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.03	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

99905	stomach contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

99905	liver	bromadiolone		confirmed	0.001	mg/kg
99905	liver	brodifacoum		confirmed	0.032	mg/kg

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. These tests have detected and confirmed very small residues of brodifacoum and bromadiolone in the liver of this buzzard. However, the amounts found are consistent with exposure only and are unlikely to be the cause of death of this buzzard. Therefore, the cause of death of this buzzard remains uncertain at present.

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