

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

67/21



Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 67/21
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213
REGIONAL NUMBER W/21/12
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0050-04-21
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Llanbedr, Crickhowell
Powys
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]
INCIDENT DATE 11 April 2021
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue
DATE OF REPORT 29 September 2021

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard

COPIED TO



Direct Phone Number 01904 462456

E-mail: wiis@fera.co.uk

Fera Science Ltd.

www.fera.co.uk

York Biotech Campus,
Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

T: +44 (0)300 100 0321
E: sales@fera.co.uk

Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



Original thinking... applied

67/21

Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
100325	buzzard	22/4/21	28/B50/04/21 : ONE
100325	buzzard	22/4/21	28/B50/04/21 : ONE
	tissues		

Summary of field data

A wildlife advisor from Welsh government was walking in an area and adjacent to the track is a small strip of woodland with a badger sett within it. The sett was inspected and it was noticed that there was a dead buzzard next to the sett entrance. The buzzard was face down and appeared to be intact, although there were at least two holes in the chest cavity about the size of a one penny piece. One talon was curled up, which was considered to be a possible sign of poisoning. There was also some broken eggshell a few metres away and amongst the sett entrances. This location had been observed four days previously and the buzzard and shell were not present then. The buzzard and eggshell were recovered later the same day, when suitable equipment was retrieved to do this. The buzzard and eggshell were stored in the boot of a car overnight and the carcass was x-rayed at a private vet, where no pellets were found. Arrangements were made to transfer the samples to the APHA. This is a narrow strip of woodland that is adjacent to a track that is a public right of way.

Summary of post mortem report

The buzzard was unknown sex and weighed 550g in the bag and was in emaciated condition and severe autolysis. There was a deep hole in the skin and deeper tissues caudal to the ventral neck and approximately 1 cm diameter just cranial to thoracic inlet containing large maggots. Hole in ventral abdominal wall. Also holes in skin of left thorax with maggots. The pectorals were wasted. The liver was severely autolysed and there were maggots in the abdomen. The stomach was empty. The kidneys were very autolysed. The left kidney had been eaten by maggots. The sex was not determined. No abnormalities of the remaining body system were seen.

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100325	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0016	mg/kg
--------	-------	--------------	-----------	--------	-------

Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned. However, the buzzard was emaciated and had not eaten recently and so laboratory analysis for a range of anticoagulant rodenticides and chloralose only has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a small residue of bromadiolone only in the liver of this buzzard, but the amount found is small and consistent with background exposure only. Given the condition of the carcass, starvation may have contributed to the death of this buzzard, but the actual cause of death of it remains uncertain.

Fera Science Ltd.
York Biotech Campus,
Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

www.fera.co.uk
T: +44 (0)300 100 0321
E: sales@fera.co.uk

Original thinking... applied

Fera Science Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales (registered number 9413107) whose registered address is at 65 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7NQ

©2021 Fera Science Limited. Confidential and proprietary information.