

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

1/22



Original thinking... applied

INCIDENT NUMBER 1/22
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213
REGIONAL NUMBER W/21/31
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0081-12-21
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION [REDACTED]
Denbighshire
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]
INCIDENT DATE 12 December 2021
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT unknown
DATE OF REPORT 21 February 2022

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard

COPIED TO



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Original thinking... applied

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
100606	buzzard	5/1/22	28/B81/12/21
100606	buzzard	5/1/22	28/B81/12/21
	tissues		

Summary of field data

A dead buzzard was found by dog walker on a bridleway. It was suspected that the carcass had been there for one or two days before being found and the Police visited the area and seized the sample. They noted that it was starting to decompose, but overall it was still in a good state and so they arranged for an x-ray at a private veterinary practice. It was initially thought that there was a hole in the chest cavity of the bird, but on the x-ray there were no signs of any shotgun pellets. The case was reported to Welsh Government and arrangements were made to transfer the carcass to the APHA. The bird was found in an area that is currently under review owing to avian influenza and a search of the surrounding area found no further dead birds or animals. There have been four similar incidents over the last year, although the two scenes are approximately eight miles apart and the land is not owned by the same shoot.

Summary of post mortem report

A buzzard of unidentifiable sex, which was not weighed was submitted for post-mortem in an evidence bag number R00662799 and Court exhibit no. C1J1. The carcass was triple bagged inside the evidence bag and the third bag was sealed with tag A251412 (the second bag was not sealed, but tag A251413 was loose inside the bag). It was in good body condition and with severe autolysis. The skin was missing over the head and parts of the left-hand side of the body. There were a large number of maggots present on the outside and inside of the carcass, particularly on the left hand side. The crop, proventriculus, gizzard and intestinal tract were all empty. The kidneys appeared enlarged. The reproductive system was unidentifiable. The left eye was missing. Examination of all other organ systems was unremarkable. The endocrine system was not examined.

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100606	liver	no rodenticide & chloralose detected	detection limit	0.06	mg/kg
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Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for chloralose and anticoagulant rodenticides only has been undertaken on the submitted samples, as the bird had not eaten prior to death. However, no residues from the compound groups tested for were found. The cause of death of this buzzard remains uncertain.

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