

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

76/14



## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REVISED REPORT

**INCIDENT NUMBER** 76/14 **RESTRICTED**  
**PART OF STUDY** FSGD-195  
**REGIONAL NUMBER** W/14/24  
**OTHER REFERENCES** 28/B0135/10/14  
**SENDER** VLA Carmarthen, WAG  
**LOCATION** [REDACTED]  
Montgomeryshire  
**GRID REFERENCE** [REDACTED]  
**INCIDENT DATE** 7 October 2014  
**SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT** bendiocarb abuse  
**DATE OF REPORT** 2 November 2015

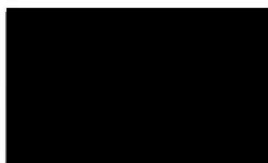
**REPORTING OFFICER** [REDACTED]

**SIGNED :** ..... [REDACTED]

### NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite  
2 buzzard  
3 bird carcass (bait?)  
2 partridge carcass (bait?)  
1 cat  
1 raven

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RESTRICTED**

Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
97713	red kite	22/10/14	28-B0135-10-14 : red kite
97713	red kite	tissues	22/10/14
97714	raven	22/10/14	28-B0135-10-14 : raven
97714	raven	tissues	22/10/14
97715	buzzard	22/10/14	28-B0135-10-14 : mouth cont.
97715	buzzard	tissues	22/10/14
97720	red kite	28/10/14	28-B0135-10-14 : carcass
97721	raven	28/10/14	28-B0135-10-14 : carcass
97722	buzzard	28/10/14	28-B0135-10-14 : A carcass
97723	buzzard	28/10/14	28-B0135-10-14 : B carcass
97859	cat	30/1/15	
98245	partridge carcass (bait?)	8/9/15	LM1 Partridge x 1
98246	partridge carcass (bait?)	8/9/15	JL/1 : 'Headless partridge'
98247	bird carcass (bait?)	8/9/15	'RJC/1' and 'dead bird carcass'
98248	bird carcass (bait?)	8/9/15	RJC/2 dead bird carcass
98249	bird carcass (bait?)	8/9/15	'RJC/3' 'dead bird carcass'

**Summary of field data**

A member of the public contacted the police because [redacted] had found a dead cat, fox and buzzard in an area and was concerned that illegal poisoning was taking place. The Welsh Government were informed and when they contacted the finder, they were told that a dead fox and a buzzard had been seen a few months ago and a cat in a barn, then another buzzard had been recently found. A site visit was made with the informant, who when [redacted] went to collect the buzzard found a second buzzard and a rabbit. Rabbits are not usually found in the locality. During a further search of the area a raven and red kite were found and collected. In total, two buzzards, a red kite, a raven, a cat and a rabbit were collected and stored in a secure freezer. The birds of prey were delivered to APHA for a post-mortem examination. [redacted]

**Summary of post mortem report**

A red kite, raven and two buzzards were submitted for post-mortem examination, they were extensively scavenged and severely autolysed. In the red kite, the carcass had been scavenged and most of the soft tissue was missing. There was some dried autolysed tissue in the chest and abdomen. The gizzard was identified containing some feathers which were collected. No muscle, liver or kidney was identified for sampling. In the raven, the carcass had been scavenged and most of the soft tissues were missing. There was some dried, autolysed black tissue in the abdomen. The gizzard and contents were identified and collected along with a sample of leg muscle. No liver or kidney was identified. In buzzard A, the carcass had been scavenged, exposing the brain. Virtually all the soft tissues were missing, except tissues below the hock joint. No samples were collected. In buzzard B, the mouth contained a few small bones and lower limb of a small animal; this was retained as a sample. Virtually all the soft tissues were missing, except below the hock joint.

**Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite**

97713	gizzard contents	bendiocarb	confirmed	1.7	mg/kg
97714	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.02	mg/kg
97715	bone	bendiocarb	confirmed	0.013	µg
97715	mouth content	bendiocarb	confirmed	0.0047	mg/kg
97859		bendiocarb	confirmed	0.9	µg
98245		no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.003	µg
98246		no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.008	µg
98247		no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.04	µg
98248		no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.04	µg
98249		no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.02	µg

**Analysis : chloralose analysis suite**

97714	muscle	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg
97720		no chloralose detected	detection limit	2	µg
97721		no chloralose detected	detection limit	2	µg
97722		no chloralose detected	detection limit	2	µg
97723		no chloralose detected	detection limit	3	µg

**Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite**

97713	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.5	mg/kg
97714	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.7	mg/kg
97715	bone	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	2	µg
97715	mouth content	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	2	mg/kg

**Conclusion**

It was suspected that these birds had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for chloralose has been undertaken on the available samples, as the involvement of this pesticide was initially suspected. The carcasses were extensively scavenged and so it has only been possible to test the remains, rather than a tissue sample. However, no residues of chloralose were found. Some further tests will be attempted and a revised report issued if a residue is found. Therefore, at present the cause of death of these birds remains uncertain and appropriate tissues for a full analysis of them are not available.

Some further tests were attempted on the red kite, raven and buzzard. There were no residues of organophosphate or carbamate compounds found in the raven. However, there was a small residue of bendiocarb confirmed in the limited mouth content material available from one buzzard, which consisted of bones and tissue that were extracted separately. Bendiocarb was also confirmed in the gizzard content from the red kite. Given these results and the supporting information, it appears likely that the abuse of bendiocarb has occurred in this location and several birds appear to have been poisoned as a result of this action.

An additional sample - a cat - was received several months after the previous report was issued. The cat was mummified and tissues could not be removed. A small residue of bendiocarb was confirmed on the surface of the cat. Given the state of the cat, it is difficult to determine whether the cat was a victim but the fact that a residue was found on the cat indicates that bendiocarb has been used in the area.

There were several dead bird carcasses and some were identified as partridges, following further investigation of this incident. These have been submitted for analysis, but no residue of carbamate pesticides, which includes bendiocarb, has been found.

This replaces the earlier reports issued on the 21 November 2014, the 15 January and 25 March 2015.