

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

44/10



The Food and Environment
Research Agency

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 44/10
PART OF STUDY FSGD-100
REGIONAL NUMBER W/10/07
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0143/04/10
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION Llanilid, nr Llanharan
Glamorgan
GRID REFERENCE SS9981
INCIDENT DATE 21 April 2010
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue
DATE OF REPORT 21 June 2010

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED : ..

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
85087	red kite	tissues	26/4/10	VLA No: 29/B0143/04/10

Summary of field data

An adult male red kite was found near some ponds on an opencast site that has been restored. Initially, it was thought that the bird had been shot, as there was a hole in the head. However, there were no other signs of injury and no other casualties were noted in the area. The incident was reported to the PWCO and the WAG were contacted. The site appeared to have a rich variety of wildlife and no livestock in the immediate vicinity.

Summary of post mortem report

One adult male red kite weighing 850g was submitted for post mortem. The bird was in fair condition, but was severely autolysed. The right eye was missing and there was very little gizzard content. The respiratory, urinary, genital, alimentary, musculo-skeletal systems were all unremarkable. The bird had a metal tag on the right leg - GC28379. No apparent cause of death was established from gross post-mortem.

Analysis : chloralose-alpha

85087	kidney	no chloralose-alpha detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

85087	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.1	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

85087	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0062	mg/kg
85087	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.031	mg/kg
85087	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.028	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of brodifacoum, bromadiolone and difenacoum, in the liver of this red kite. This bird has been exposed to several anticoagulant rodenticides and it is of concern that this includes brodifacoum, which is restricted to use inside buildings. However, the carcass was severely autolysed and so the significance of these residues is uncertain.