

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

114/09



The Food and Environment
Research Agency

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER 114/09
PART OF STUDY FSGD-050
REGIONAL NUMBER W/09/26
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0121/08/09
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION Edwinsford
Carmarthenshire
GRID REFERENCE SN6334
INCIDENT DATE 26 August 2009
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT carbofuran
abuse
DATE OF REPORT 27 October 2009

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED :

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

COPIED TO

Direct Phone Number 01904 462456

E-mail: wiis@fera.gsi.gov.uk

Sand Hutton, York
YO41 1LZ, UK

Tel +44 (0)1904 462 000
Fax +44 (0)1904 462 111

E-mail info@fera.gsi.gov.uk



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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
81659	red kite	tissues	1/9/09	W/09/26/1; 29/B0121/08/09

Summary of field data

A dead red kite was found beside a river. The finder noted that the bird had no obvious injury and so poisoning was suspected. The RSPB were contacted and they advised the Red Kite Trust. The red kite was not far from some overhead power lines.

Summary of post mortem report

An adult, female, red kite in good body condition and 972g was submitted for post-mortem. There was severe autolysis and the carcase was generally green in colour. The eyes were sunken and there were numerous first stage maggots and fly eggs on the ventrum of the carcase. There was reddening of the subcutaneous tissue on the right side of the dorsum in a discrete area close to the wing attachment. The liver was autolysed. There was autolysed ingested pale pink, almost fatty, soft, friable tissues of an unknown source found in the caudal mouth and along the oesophagus. The gizzard contained the remnants of a mole, which were filling the entire gizzard. There were grey liquid intestinal contents found within the autolysed small and large intestines. Other systems were autolysed or not examined.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

81659	gizzard contents	carbofuran	confirmed	35	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

81659	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.03	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

81659	liver	no rodenticide detected	detection limit	0.003	mg/kg
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Conclusion

It was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for some likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of carbofuran in the gizzard contents of this bird. The amount of carbofuran present is significant and is likely to be the cause of its death. Abuse of carbofuran is suspected, as there are no approved uses for this pesticide. However, at present it is not certain what material was laced with carbofuran, or where this suspected bait had been left.