

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

89/08



CENTRAL SCIENCE
LABORATORY

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 89/08
PART OF STUDY PGD-310
REGIONAL NUMBER W/08/25
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0050/07/08
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION Llanafan, Aberystwyth
Cardiganshire
GRID REFERENCE SN6872
INCIDENT DATE 7 July 2008
**SUSPECTED CAUSE
OF INCIDENT** difenacoum
unspecified
DATE OF REPORT 25 September 2008

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED :

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

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**Samples received****Date received****Sample identifier**

74801	red kite	tissues	16/7/08	29/B0050/07/08
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Summary of field data

A recently fledged red kite was found dead on private land, underneath a nest. There were no additional suspicious circumstances at this stage.

Summary of post mortem report

An immature, female, red kite in good body condition and 983g was submitted for post-mortem. There was some mild bruising of the left dorso-lateral thorax. There was a large blood clot in the caudal abdominal cavity. There were traces of brown fluid in the crop and traces of mucoid brown fluid only in the gizzard. There was a large amount of haemorrhage around the caudal pole of the right lung and along the caudal half of the left lung, with further haemorrhage dorsal to the lung over the seventh and ninth rib. Other systems were unremarkable or not examined. There was peri-renal haemorrhage dorsal to the cranial pole of the right kidney. The gross findings are of significant haemorrhage and this may be due to trauma, but there were no extensive external lesions to account for this findings.

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

74801	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.47	mg/kg
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Conclusion

Given the post-mortem findings, exposure to an anticoagulant rodenticide was suspected. Laboratory analysis for a range of these pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of difenacoum in the liver of this bird. Given this result and the findings on post-mortem, it is considered likely that exposure to difenacoum has caused the death of this immature red kite. The products used for rodent control in this area are not certain and so this incident has been attributed to unspecified use.