

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

90/08



CENTRAL SCIENCE
LABORATORY

INCIDENT NUMBER 90/08
PART OF STUDY PGD-310
REGIONAL NUMBER W/08/26
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0069/07/08
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION Llanfyrnach, Crymych
Pembrokeshire
GRID REFERENCE SN2231
INCIDENT DATE 6 July 2008
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT mixture of rodenticides
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
74803	red kite	tissues	16/7/08	29/B0069/07/08

Summary of field data

A dead red kite was found close to the nest. The bird had been ringed in the nest on the 26 June 2008. There was no other background information at this stage.

Summary of post mortem report

An immature, female, red kite in good body condition and 882g was submitted for post-mortem. There was a leg ring number AJ62112. There were many small maggots in the bag and on the carcass, with some green to grey discoloration of the skin. There was a small area of subcutaneous haemorrhage over the dorsal pelvis/sacral area at the mid-line. There was extensive hemorrhage with clotted blood over the entire dorsal surface of the peritoneal cavity extending from the vent to the lungs. The liver was soft, consistent with some autolysis. The crop was empty with only traces of brown fluid. The gizzard contained brown fluid and traces of fibrinous debris. There were haemorrhage, with blood clots over the caudal half of the lungs with patches cranially into the cranial air sack on the left. The haemorrhage in the peritoneal cavity covered the ventral surfaces of both kidneys. Other systems were not examined or unremarkable. There was extensive haemorrhage into the peritoneal cavity and this also extended into the thorax and some air sacs. These findings could have been traumatic in origin, but there was limited evidence of external trauma to account for this.

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

74803	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.22	mg/kg
74803	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.56	mg/kg

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 brodifacoum and difenacoum in the liver of this bird. Given this result and the findings on post-mortem, it is considered likely that exposure to brodifacoum and 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. However, the presence of brodifacoum suggests that label conditions and advice for responsible use have not been followed.