

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

2/09



The Food and Environment  
Research Agency

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 2/09

RESTRICTED

PART OF STUDY FSGD-050

REGIONAL NUMBER W/09/01

OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0081/01/09

SENDER VLA Aberystwyth

LOCATION Rhymney, nr Merthyr Tydfil  
Monmouthshire

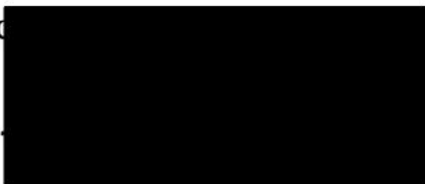
GRID REFERENCE SO1305

INCIDENT DATE 11 January 2009

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT mevinphos  
abuse

DATE OF REPORT 29 April 2009

REPORTING OFFICER

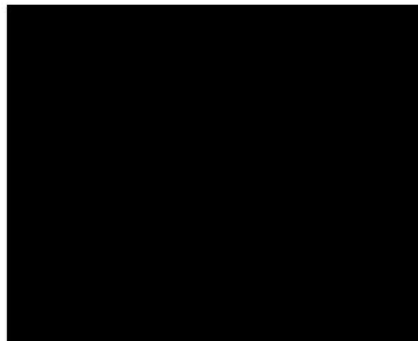


SIGNED : .....

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

COPIED TO



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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
78394	red kite	tissues	21/1/09	29/B081/01/09 : Specimen 1

**Summary of field data**

A dead red kite was found and taken to a private veterinary practice. There were no obvious signs of injury or disease and the carcass appeared in very good condition. Therefore, poisoning was suspected to be involved and the Welsh Assembly Government were contacted and arrangements were made to collect the carcass.

**Summary of post mortem report**

An adult, male, red kite in good body condition and weight 806 g was submitted for post-mortem. There were no eyes remaining, probably due to scavenger damage. There was a strong smelling chemical odour from the feathers. The gizzard contents consisted of remnants of a small mammal, possibly a mouse or vole and a small clump of black feathers and small particles of a white caseous like material. Two ascarid-type worms were found. There were no significant findings on examination of other systems.

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

78394	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.04	mg/kg
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**Analysis : chloralose-alpha**

78394	kidney	no chloralose-alpha detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg
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**Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite**

78394	gizzard contents	mevinphos	confirmed	3	mg/kg
78394	gizzard contents	diazinon	confirmed	0.11	mg/kg

**Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite**

78394	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.043	mg/kg
78394	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.06	mg/kg

**Conclusion**

It was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides was undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests detected and confirmed residues of mevinphos and diazinon in the gizzard contents, and bromadiolone and difenacoum in the liver of this bird. Exposure to mevinphos is likely to have been the cause of death of this bird, but these results confirm that the red kite was also exposed to diazinon and anticoagulant rodenticides. The levels of rodenticides found are unlikely to have caused the death of the bird. The significance of the small diazinon residue is unknown. Abuse of mevinphos is the suspected cause of this incident. It is not certain what bait material was used.