

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT
WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



12/14
**The Food & Environment
Research Agency**

INCIDENT NUMBER 12/14
PART OF STUDY FSGD-195
REGIONAL NUMBER W/14/03
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0129-03-14
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Lampeter
Cardiganshire
GRID REFERENCE SN6254
INCIDENT DATE 6 March 2014
**SUSPECTED CAUSE
OF INCIDENT** background residue
DATE OF REPORT 19 June 2014

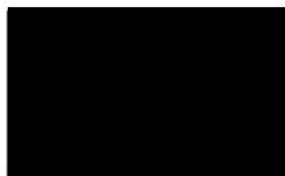
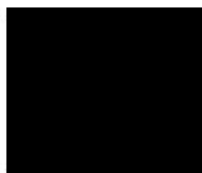
REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite
1 lamb suspected bait

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
97395	red kite	tissues	19/3/14	28/B129/03/14 : 1
97395	red kite		19/3/14	28/B129/03/14 : 1
97404	lamb suspected bait		28/3/14	28/S342/03/14 : 2

Summary of field data

One red kite was found dead under a tree in a garden. The following day a member of staff from the Welsh Government (WG) collected the kite and delivered it to the AHVLA for post mortem examination. A site visit was conducted by WG and enquiries at nearby beef and sheep farms revealed that neither farm was using rodenticides at the time of the incident. Sheep had not been treated for scab. One farmer reported that a pair of kites was nesting on the farmland; at least one of these had been spotted alive nearly two weeks after the incident was first reported. There were sheep and lambs in the fields nearby. A dead lamb was found 100m from where the kite was found. Although there were signs that this lamb had been predated, it was relatively intact the remains of this lamb were collected. The remains of an ewe were also found nearby, but most of this carcass had been scavenged. No other casualties were seen. The incident occurred in a rural area with sheep and cattle farming nearby.

Summary of post mortem report

One female red kite weighing 1070g was submitted for post mortem. The bird had been in good bodily condition and had undergone a moderate degree of autolysis. In the alimentary system the crop was empty and there was a small amount of green-brown pasty content in the proventriculus and gizzard. No other abnormalities were seen. The cause of death of this bird has not been established on gross examination and poisoning cannot be ruled out.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

97395	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.5	mg/kg
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Analysis : chloralose

97395	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.6	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

97395	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	4	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

97395	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.008	mg/kg
97395	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0008	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 difenacoum and brodifacoum only in the liver of this bird. These residues confirm that this buzzard has been exposed to several anticoagulant rodenticides, but this is unlikely to be the cause of its death. The cause of death remains uncertain.