

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

77/12



The Food and Environment  
Research Agency

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REVISED REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 77/12 **RESTRICTED**

PART OF STUDY FSGD-170

REGIONAL NUMBER W/12/12

OTHER REFERENCES 29-B1,50&69-07-12

SENDER VLA Aberystwyth , WAG

LOCATION Llanfairfechan  
Caernarfonshire

GRID REFERENCE SH6975

INCIDENT DATE 2 July 2012

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT bendiocarb  
abuse

DATE OF REPORT 11 February 2013

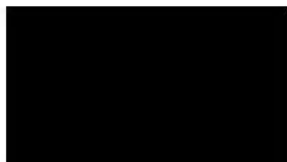
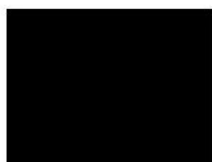
REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : ..... [REDACTED] .....

### NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 pigeon carcase (bait?)  
1 eggs  
3 peregrine  
1 gloves sample

COPIED TO



Direct Phone Number 01904 462456

E-mail: [wiis@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:info@fera.gsi.gov.uk)  
[www.defra.gov.uk/fera](http://www.defra.gov.uk/fera)



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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
95748	pigeon carcase (bait?)	5/7/12	Spec ref 1 : 29-B0001-07-12
95749	gloves sample	5/7/12	Spec ref 2
95815	peregrine	24/7/12	29-B0069-07-12 : W/12/12 : 2 collected 19/7/12
95815	peregrine	24/7/12	29-B0069-07-12 : W/12/12 : 2 collected 19/7/12
95898	eggs	2/8/12	WAG no: W/12/12
96212	peregrine	25/10/12	VLA ref.: 29-B0050-07-12
96212	peregrine	25/10/12	VLA ref.: 29-B0050-07-12

## Summary of field data

A live tethered pigeon was found near an old peregrine nest near a quarry. The incident was reported to the RSPB, who also reported it to the police. The RSPB officer collected the pigeon, accompanied by [REDACTED]. On collecting the pigeon it was noted that something had been smeared on the back of the pigeon. The remains of another pigeon was noted below the live one and approximately 20 yards away pigeon feathers and a peregrine feather were spotted. While at the site, a peregrine was noted catching something in the sea, which it brought back to the area, presumably to feed chicks. The informant reported that a year prior to this incident a female peregrine was reported dead on the nest, but when the site was investigated the dead bird could not be found and a pair of peregrines was spotted flying overhead. There are some possible suspects and previous incidents with pigeon baits have occurred in this area; 121/02, W/02/33 and 54/03, W/03/13, both alphachloralose refer. The incident occurred in a quarry near the coast.

A further peregrine carcase has been found near to the location of this incident.

On 12th July 2012, another dead peregrine was found at this location. It was found on the scree slope below the ledge where a pigeon had been tethered. Some pigeon remains with white cord was noted and the cord was collected. There was also some green cord further down the slope that was collected.

## Summary of post mortem report

One female pigeon in good condition weighing 0.46 kg was submitted live. No actual post mortem was performed, but a clinical examination was done before the bird was euthanased with chloroform. The bird was bright and alert and had string, approximately 60 cm long attached to the left leg. There were abrasions of the skin above the right claw and some blood stains on adjacent feathers. There was a light brown material of greasy consistency contaminating the feathers of the dorsum behind its neck and back, covering an area of approximately 2.5 cm. A sample of skin and feathers with the material was dissected from the back and submitted for toxicological examination.

The peregrine had evidence of advanced post mortem deterioration, unknown sex, 325g and very severe autolysis. The right wing was detached from the body and the right leg was absent. The left leg was absent below the femoro-tibial joint. Very little skeletal muscle remained and the body cavity contained macerated remains of viscera and dead maggots, the organs were not identifiable. A little macerated brain tissue remained in the skull.

A peregrine of unknown sex, no markings and good body condition was submitted for post-mortem. There was severe autolysis. There was a wound in the skin adjacent to the right leg and large numbers of maggots were found. There were blood clots in the air sacs on the right hand side and in the right lung. There were no other lesions noted.

## Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

95748		bendiocarb	confirmed	330000	mg/kg
95815	pooled tissues	bendiocarb	confirmed	1.9	mg/kg
95898		no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.07	mg/kg
96212	gizzard contents	bendiocarb	confirmed	81	mg/kg

## Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

95748	Sand Hutton, York YO41 1LZ, UK	Tel: +44 (0)1904 462 000 Fax: +44 (0)1904 462 111	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	10	mg/kg
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**Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite**

96212	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.002	mg/kg
96212	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.023	mg/kg

**Conclusion**

It was suspected that this pigeon carcass was a poisoned bait. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted sample. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of bendiocarb from a brown, lumpy paste removed from the submitted sample of skin and feathers. It appears that a pigeon has been laced with bendiocarb, possibly to target peregrines in the area and this is an abuse of the pesticide.

The macerated viscera remains from the peregrine carcass were analysed for a range of carbamate pesticides. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of bendiocarb, which is likely to be the cause of death of the peregrine. Tests on the egg sample also submitted are ongoing and a revised report will be issued if a residue is found.

A further peregrine carcass was received for this incident and has been analysed for a range of carbamate pesticides. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of bendiocarb, which is likely to be the cause of death of the bird. Further tests for anticoagulant rodenticides will be completed and a revised report issued if a residue is found.

The tests for anticoagulant rodenticides have been completed and small residues of bromadiolone and brodifacoum were detected and confirmed in the liver.

This replaces the earlier restricted reports issued on the 19th July, 18th September and 18th December 2012.