

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

67/15



WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 67/15
PART OF STUDY FSGD-208
REGIONAL NUMBER W/15/36
OTHER REFERENCES 28/B0183/10/15
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Rhossili, Gower
Glamorgan
GRID REFERENCE SS4487
INCIDENT DATE 28 April 2015
**SUSPECTED CAUSE
OF INCIDENT** brodifacoum
unspecified
DATE OF REPORT 18 December 2015

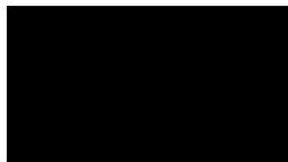
REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 tawny owl

COPIED TO



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

98288	tawny owl		29/10/15	28-B0183-10-15, spec 1
98288	tawny owl	tissues	29/10/15	28-B0183-10-15, spec 1

Summary of field data

A dead tawny owl was found and there were no obvious injuries and so poisoning was suspected.

Summary of post mortem report

A female tawny owl weight 612g with good body condition was submitted for post mortem. The bird had a hole in the skin in the neck that was full of dead adult maggots, the gizzard contained the remains of a small mammal and within the reproductive system the ovary had ova in many different stages of production. The skin and subcutis, musculo-skeletal system, respiratory system, cardiovascular system, lymphoreticular system, endocrine system, urinary system and the nervous system were all unremarkable.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

98288	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
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Analysis : metaldehyde

98288	gizzard contents	no metaldehyde detected	detection limit	0.02	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

98288	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.4	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

98288	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	1.1	mg/kg
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Conclusion

It was suspected that this tawny owl had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of brodifacoum in the liver of this tawny owl. The death of this tawny owl may be attributed to brodifacoum, given that this is a more toxic anticoagulant rodenticide and the amount found is larger than usually encountered by WIIS. However, there was no observed haemorrhage reported on the post-mortem of this carcass, which usually would be expected where rodenticide poisoning has occurred. A rodent control treatment is suspected, but there are no known treatments in the area and so the incident has been attributed to unspecified use at present.