

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

77/09



The Food and Environment  
Research Agency

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

**INCIDENT NUMBER** 77/09  
**PART OF STUDY** FSGD-050  
**REGIONAL NUMBER** W/09/15  
**OTHER REFERENCES** 29/B0010/06/09  
**SENDER** VLA Aberystwyth  
**LOCATION** Cray Valley, nr. Sennybridge  
Powys  
**GRID REFERENCE** SN8722  
**INCIDENT DATE** 17 April 2009  
**SUSPECTED CAUSE  
OF INCIDENT** bromadiolone  
unspecified  
**DATE OF REPORT** 8 September 2009

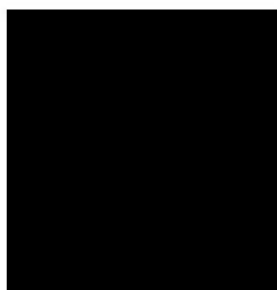
**REPORTING OFFICER** [REDACTED]

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

### NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

**COPIED TO**



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## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
80171	red kite	tissues	4/6/09	29/B0010/06/09 : 1

**Summary of field data**

A dead red kite was found in woodland, about 10m from the nest. It was thought that the red kite had been dead for about 10 days and at least one bird had been seen on the nest. The bird had been rung in June 1993 as a chick in the nest.

**Summary of post mortem report**

An adult, female, red kite in good body condition was submitted for post-mortem. The weight was 1.14kg and there was severe autolysis, with dead maggots through much of the carcass. There were traces of pale hairs found in the gizzard, but otherwise the gizzard was empty. The rest of the gastro-intestinal tract was autolysed preventing useful examination. Other systems were autolysed and there was a single egg follicle. The bird appeared not to have very recently fed, but it had been feeding itself well previously as the kite was in a good body condition. Autolysis and maggot damage to the carcass prevented any further useful interpretation of the carcass, although a selection of appropriate tissues for toxicological testing was collected.

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

80171	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.007	mg/kg
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**Analysis : chloralose-alpha**

80171	kidney	no chloralose-alpha detected	detection limit	0.4	mg/kg
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**Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite**

80171	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.12	mg/kg
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**Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite**

80171	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.22	mg/kg
80171	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.023	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 a residue of bromadiolone and a small amount of difenacoum in the liver of this bird. The post-mortem findings were compromised by the severe autolysis noted in the carcass. However, the amount of rodenticides, particularly bromadiolone, is likely to be significant and may have contributed to the death of this red kite. This incident has been assigned to unspecified use, as the source of the bromadiolone and difenacoum is uncertain at present.