

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

145/09



The Food and Environment
Research Agency

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 145/09
PART OF STUDY FSGD-050
REGIONAL NUMBER W/09/34
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0039/10/09
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth

LOCATION [REDACTED]
Montgomeryshire

GRID REFERENCE SH8904
INCIDENT DATE 8 October 2009

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT diazinon
veterinary use

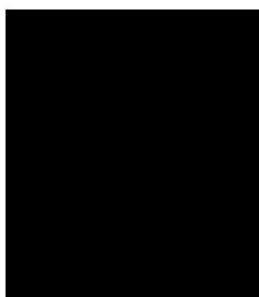
DATE OF REPORT 25 January 2010

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
82603	red kite	tissues	13/10/09	VLA ref 29/B0039/10/09

Summary of field data

A dead red kite was found. It appeared to be quite well muscled and not thin, although there was a green stain at the rear end of the bird. The red kite was found a couple of km from a dead red kite chick that was found on the nest earlier in the year. This is farmland in an upland area.

Summary of post mortem report

A male, red kite in good bodily condition, weight 975 kg and mild to moderate autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. There was a leg ring with AJ 59881 and a wing tag with a "V" and white, purple and black. The bird was very well muscled. There were multiple pale foci, of approximately 1mm diameter, throughout the liver. There was an aggregate of fibre in the oesophagus and a little plant fibre in the stomach. The other systems were unremarkable and no bacterial growth has been isolated.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

82603	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.01	mg/kg
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Analysis : chloralose-alpha

82603	kidney	no chloralose-alpha detected	detection limit	0.1	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

82603	gizzard contents	diazinon	confirmed	110	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

82603	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0024	mg/kg
82603	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.026	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 diazinon in the gizzard contents of this bird. The amount found is significant and is likely to be the cause of its death. There were also small residues of bromadiolone and difenacoum confirmed in the liver of this red kite and so exposure to these pesticides has also occurred. This incident has been assigned to veterinary use as it may be linked to a sheep dipping operation, but this is uncertain at present.