

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



139/13

The Food & Environment
Research Agency

INCIDENT NUMBER 139/13
PART OF STUDY FSGD-190
REGIONAL NUMBER W/13/09
OTHER REFERENCES 28/M0074/04/13

SENDER

LOCATION Margam Park, Port Talbot
Glamorgan

GRID REFERENCE SS8086

INCIDENT DATE 2 April 2013

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT starvation

DATE OF REPORT 19 February 2014

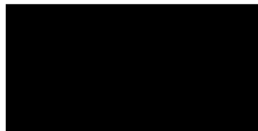
REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 badger

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Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Summary of field data

It was reported that there had been four dead badgers found within an area. Although two of these had been found along the A48, there was one adult within a park and one within a garden area. The latest carcase to be found was collected and stored in a freezer and arrangements were made to deliver it to the AHVLA for a post-mortem.

Summary of post mortem report

A female badger, of weight 4.4kg, body length 55cms was submitted for post-mortem. The body condition was emaciated and there was moderate autolysis. There was no subcutaneous fat. The badger was not lactating. The incisor teeth were all worn to gum level and the lower canine teeth and left upper canine were broken. The stomach contained light brown liquid only and the rectum was empty. There was no fat in the coronary groove of the heart. The retropharyngeal, bronchial, mediastinal and hepatic lymph nodes were examined and no lesions seen. There was no fat over the kidneys. The badger was not pregnant and no fat was seen in the carcase. No abnormalities in the remaining body systems were seen and no lesions suggestive of tuberculosis were seen and no injuries were seen.

Conclusion

This report is for information only. Initially it was suspected that this badger had been poisoned. However, following a post-mortem, it appeared that this badger had died from a natural cause probably starvation. The badger was emaciated and had no food in its stomach, apart from possible ingestion of soil and water or dirty water. The incisor teeth were worn to gum level and the broken canine teeth would have made it more difficult for the badger to feed. Therefore, no samples were forwarded to the Wildlife Incident Unit for laboratory tests.