



WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 5/17
PART OF STUDY FSGD-209
REGIONAL NUMBER W/17/03
OTHER REFERENCES 28/M0143/02/17

SENDER

LOCATION Middletown, Welshpool
Montgomeryshire

GRID REFERENCE SJ2911

INCIDENT DATE 9 February 2017

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT starvation

DATE OF REPORT 20 March 2017

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]
SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

- 1 badger
- 1 fox

COPIED TO

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Summary of field data

The death of a fox and badger and some other evidence has created suspicions of poisoning in an area. Initially, a dead fox was found away from a road and it had not been shot. A dead badger was also found away from a road and showed no shot wounds either. A fox was filmed by remote camera equipment and it appeared to be unstable on its feet. There was also an absence of buzzards from the area, which are usually conspicuous and common in the area. The informant was suspicious of these incidents, as pheasants are being intensively reared in the area for the first time in many years and it was suggested that there could be a connection. A site visit was conducted on the area. One of the informants showed the investigator the camera footage which showed two foxes near a badger entrance displaying strange behaviour. The fox was found on a public right of way and appeared to be in reasonable condition, as was the badger. Both of these carcasses were collected and taken for storage until being referred to the APHA for a post-mortem. It was also alleged that a shoot consisting of local farmers had recently started up in the area.

Summary of post mortem report

Two animal carcasses were submitted for a post-mortem. A male fox, weight 7.5kgs with poor body condition and a mild degree of autolysis. The fox had a skin wound over the left scrotum with the left testes protruding. The wound was healing. Many of its incisor and molar teeth were missing. The stomach contained a small amount of brown liquid and the rectum contained firm faeces. A male badger, weight 5.5kgs with emaciated body condition and a moderate degree of autolysis. There was hair loss over the flanks and dorsal neck. No bite wounds were visible. There was a large mass consisting of caseous material in the region of the iliac lymph nodes and caseous adhesions in the caudal abdomen. There was little wear of the incisor teeth and the stomach contained a small amount of brown liquid. No abnormalities of the remaining body systems were seen in either of the carcasses.

Conclusion

This report is for information only. Initially it was suspected that there was a motivation for poisoning in this area, which might account for the death of the badger and fox. However, a post-mortem of these carcasses has revealed that natural causes likely account for their death. The fox was in very poor condition and the badger had likely died from emaciation, given lesions that were consistent with tuberculosis. Therefore, no samples were forwarded to the Wildlife Incident Unit for laboratory tests.