

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

64/23



Original thinking... applied

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 64/23  
PART OF STUDY WIIS23  
REGIONAL NUMBER W/23/11  
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0072-06-23  
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC  
LOCATION Bodorgan  
Anglesey  
GRID REFERENCE SH4071  
INCIDENT DATE 7 June 2023  
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT starvation  
DATE OF REPORT 18 September 2023

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED [REDACTED]

### NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

### COPIED TO

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Direct Phone Number 01904 462456

E-mail: [wiiis@fera.co.uk](mailto:wiiis@fera.co.uk)

Fera Science Ltd.

[www.fera.co.uk](http://www.fera.co.uk)

York Biotech Campus,  
Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

T: +44 (0)300 100 0321  
E: [sales@fera.co.uk](mailto:sales@fera.co.uk)

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
101060	red kite	13/7/23	APHA ref 28-B0072-06-23
101060	red kite	13/7/23	APHA ref 28-B0072-06-23
	tissues		

## Summary of field data

A red kite was seen alive on the bank of a small lake by a member of the public. The member of public approached it, but it flew to a fence a few metres away. Within an hour it had returned to the bank and died. The bird was buried by the informant but later recovered by the North Wales Rural Crime Team. The carcass was then stored in the freezer of the local Rural Crime Team, before being sent to the APHA for post-mortem. This is a rural area surrounded by farmland and small pockets of woodland. Some residential properties in the area as well as possible farm buildings.

## Summary of post mortem report

A red kite of unknown sex in poor body condition with moderate autolysis was submitted dead for post-mortem examination. Oropharyngeal and Cloacal swabs were taken for AI testing, no viral RNA was detected. The skin and feathers were covered with dirt and the skin was coming away from the subcutaneous tissue over the dorsum. The keel was very prominent and there was minimal pectoral musculature. In the abdominal cavity, the liver was black and all the viscera a dark grey/green colour. In the alimentary system there were small maggots in the oropharynx and the crop was empty. There was a firm dry mass of grass like fibre in the proventriculus and gizzard. There were multiple (20+) worms throughout the small intestine 4-8cm in length. Other organ systems examined were unremarkable. The endocrine and genital system were not examined. The red kite was in very poor condition and only appeared to have eaten grass prior to death. There were multiple worms throughout the intestines, that parasitology identified *Parrocaëum*. *Parrocaëum* is an ascarid, one of the more common nematodes occurring in raptors. In small numbers, these parasites are generally not overtly pathogenic and usually cause only occasional unthriftiness and slight weight loss. However, in large numbers, ascarids may produce obvious clinical disease and death. Other post-mortem findings were due to autolysis. It is likely that this bird died due to starvation.

## Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

101060	difenacoum	confirmed	0.016	mg/kg
101060	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.049	mg/kg
101060	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.53	mg/kg

## Conclusion

It was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned. Post-mortem examination indicated that the red kite was in poor condition and concluded starvation as likely cause of death. Parasitology identified the nematode *Parrocaëum* in the intestines of this red kite, which may also have contributed to its poor condition. Laboratory analysis for chloralose and a range of anticoagulant rodenticides only was undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed residues of brodifacoum, difenacoum and bromadiolone in the liver of this red kite. The difenacoum and bromadiolone are at background exposure levels. The brodifacoum is at a level that is often associated with rodenticide poisoning, but the post-mortem did not indicate signs of haemorrhaging normally seen with this concentration of rodenticide in the liver. However, the post-mortem examination concluded starvation as the likely cause of death of this red kite.

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York Biotech Campus,  
Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

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