

**WILDLIFE INCIDENT REVISED REPORT****INCIDENT NUMBER** 96/15 **RESTRICTED****PART OF STUDY** FSGD-208**REGIONAL NUMBER** W/16/07**OTHER REFERENCES** 28/B193/3&26/B965/4/**SENDER** WAG , VLA Carmarthen , VLA  
Shrewsbury**LOCATION** Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant  
Powys**GRID REFERENCE** SJ0926**INCIDENT DATE** 7 March 2016**SUSPECTED CAUSE  
OF INCIDENT** aldicarb  
abuse**DATE OF REPORT** 28 June 2016**REPORTING OFFICER** [REDACTED]**SIGNED :** ..... [REDACTED] .....**NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED**

- 1 badger sett
- 2 pheasant carcass (bait?)
- 1 dog
- 2 raven

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
98354	pheasant carcase (bait?)		15/3/16	
98354	pheasant carcase (bait?)	tissues	15/3/16	
98362	raven		30/3/16	28-B0193-03-16
98362	raven	tissues	30/3/16	28-B0193-03-16
98427	raven		5/5/16	26-B0965-04-16 : 2
98427	raven	tissues	5/5/16	26-B0965-04-16 : 2

### Summary of field data

A dog recovered and at least two dead ravens were found with pheasant carcasses nearby. An informant was walking their dog when it jumped over a fence and into a badger sett, where it was seen eating something. Within about five minutes the dog collapsed, convulsing and was taken to a local vet for immediate treatment, where it is showing signs of recovery. There was an active badger sett nearby where two dead pheasants were found and later a dead raven. The informant claimed the dead pheasants appeared to have been pecked/ eaten by something. These birds were collected by a police officer from the incident location and taken to vets for storage. It was alleged a local gamekeeper had been witnessed placing these pheasants in the area but this can not be confirmed. On the 20th April, another dead raven was found and this was also collected for analysis.

### Summary of post mortem report

A raven in good body condition and weight 1387g was submitted for post-mortem. The stomach contained a small volume of brown liquid and gritty substance. There were large blood clots adjacent to the heart and lungs. Other systems were unremarkable.

A dead raven (98427), weight 1.26g, fair body condition and severe autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. The bird was markedly autolysed with variable decomposition of the skin and the skin was torn over the back, particularly around the right shoulder. There was dirt and mud present on the carcase. The pectoral muscles were well developed. Autolysis was advanced in the abdominal cavity and the liver was brown and soft. No food was present in the oropharynx, oesophagus or crop. The gizzard contained approximately 20ml of dark, sticky contents, including probable hair, feathers, plant material, a few pieces of wheat, some broken pieces of corn and a small amount of pale, pasty material. There was pale brown fluid in the remainder of the intestinal tract, which was severely autolysed. The lungs were severely autolysed, reddened and liquefying. The kidneys were pale and autolysing. The gonads were decomposed and it was not possible to sex the bird. The brain was autolysed and liquefying.

### Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

98354		bendiocarb	confirmed	6.9	mg/kg
98362	gizzard contents	bendiocarb	confirmed	0.02	mg/kg
98427	gizzard contents	bendiocarb	confirmed	0.03	mg/kg

### Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

98354		aldicarb	confirmed	12000	mg/kg
98362	gizzard contents	aldicarb	confirmed	3.8	mg/kg
98427	gizzard contents	aldicarb	confirmed	1.5	mg/kg

### Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

98354		no organophosphate detected	detection limit	3	mg/kg
98362	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.5	mg/kg

### Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

98362	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0018	mg/kg
98427	liver	no rodenticide detected	detection limit	0.0005	mg/kg

## Conclusion

It was suspected that this raven had been poisoned and that the pheasant carcasses were poisoned baits. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. The pheasant carcasses appeared to be relatively fresh, but they were heavily predated and only one had a head. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of aldicarb and a small amount of bendiocarb in granules removed from the carcasses. The gizzard content from one raven also had a residue of aldicarb and a small amount of bendiocarb, detected and confirmed. A small amount of brodifacoum was also detected and confirmed in the liver of the raven, although this is consistent with background exposure only. Therefore, it is likely that the raven has been poisoned following exposure to, mainly aldicarb and that this death is likely linked to the pheasant carcasses laced with aldicarb and the small amount of bendiocarb. This is an abuse of the pesticide and it appears that the aldicarb used by the perpetrator has been contaminated with a bendiocarb product, during storage or preparation of the baits. A further raven carcass was submitted and this will be tested and a revised report issued if residues are found.

Testing on the further raven has been completed and a similar mix of aldicarb and bendiocarb was detected and confirmed in the gizzard content from it. Therefore, this raven has also been poisoned following the abuse of aldicarb, which has again been contaminated with bendiocarb.

This replaces the earlier restricted report issued on the 17 May 2016.