# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 5/23

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

Original thinking... applied

| | |
|---|---|
| **INCIDENT NUMBER** | 5/23 |
| **PART OF STUDY** | WIIS23 |
| **REGIONAL NUMBER** | W/22/31 |
| **OTHER REFERENCES** | 28-M0047-12-22 |
| **SENDER** | APHA Carmarthen VIC |
| **LOCATION** | Holgan<br>Pembrokeshire |
| **GRID REFERENCE** | SN0717 |
| **INCIDENT DATE** | 2 December 2022 |
| **SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT** | starvation |
| **DATE OF REPORT** | 27 April 2023 |

**REPORTING OFFICER** [redacted]

**SIGNED : .....** [redacted]

**NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED**

1 otter

**COPIED TO** [redacted]

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| Samples received | | | Date received | Sample identifier |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 100881 | otter | | 10/2/23 | APHA: 28-M47-12-22 |
| 100881 | otter | tissues | 10/2/23 | APHA: 28-M47-12-22 |

### Summary of field data

An otter was found dead by a member of the public in a field and with no sign of injury. The carcase was collected and bagged by the informant who then gave the carcase to Natural Resource Wales. The carcase was stored frozen at their facilities until arrangements could be made to transport it to the APHA. Poisoning is suspected as there is a coarse fishery nearby. This is a rural area with a mix of farmland and small pockets of woodland.

### Summary of post mortem report

An emaciated female otter of unknown weight with severe autolysis was submitted dead for post-mortem examination. The otter measured 64cm from head to anus, the tail was 40cm long. Swabs were taken for AI testing and no viral RNA was found. Skin was missing from the ventral chin, around the anus and was peeling away from the feet (due to severe autolysis). There were approximately eight ticks of varying sizes loose in the haircoat over the neck and shoulders. No fat visible throughout carcase. Diffuse pinpoint white to yellow lesions scattered over the peritoneum covering the dorso-cranial abdominal cavity on the left side. The stomach had a scant fill of dark red-brown liquid. The small and large intestine contained dark brown-black liquid. There were diffuse pinpoint yellow lesions over visceral peritoneum covering the pancreas. The lungs were pink with dark red mottling throughout; all lobes were soft. There was a small area of the pleural thoracic body wall which was slightly roughened. The serosal surface of the epicardium was slightly roughened. The capsule covering the right kidney had a small area with diffuse pinpoint white lesions. A non-pregnant female and examination of all other organ systems was unremarkable. The endocrine system was not examined.

### Analysis : organochlorine analysis suite

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 100881 | liver | no organochlorine detected | detection limit | 0.2 | mg/kg |

### Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 100881 | liver | bromadiolone | confirmed | 0.0012 | mg/kg |
| 100881 | liver | brodifacoum | confirmed | 0.0065 | mg/kg |

### Conclusion

It was suspected that this otter had been poisoned, although from the examination it appeared to be in an emaciated condition. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of brodifacoum and bromadiolone in the liver of this otter. However, the amounts found are likely consistent with exposure levels only and will not have contributed to death of this otter. Therefore, given these results and the examination findings, starvation likely led to the death of this otter.

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