

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



75/14

The Food & Environment
Research Agency

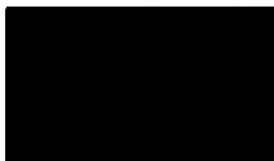
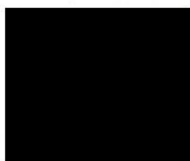
INCIDENT NUMBER 75/14
PART OF STUDY FSGD-195
REGIONAL NUMBER W/14/23
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0136-10-14
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Ffynnongroyw
Flintshire
GRID REFERENCE SJ1382
INCIDENT DATE 7 September 2014
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT starvation
DATE OF REPORT 22 December 2014

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED
1 sparrowhawk

COPIED TO



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Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Samples received

			Date received	Sample identifier
97712	sparrowhawk		22/10/14	28-B0136-10-14 : 1
97712	sparrowhawk	tissues	22/10/14	28-B0136-10-14 : 1

Summary of field data

A dead sparrowhawk was found in a back garden. There was no obvious sign of injury and so poisoning was suspected. The incident was initially reported to the Police, who collected the bird and contacted Welsh Government. Arrangements were made to collect the carcass.

Summary of post mortem report

A female, sparrowhawk, weight 148g and in emaciated condition with a moderate degree of autolysis was submitted for post mortem. The keel of the sternum was very prominent and the surrounding muscles wasted. In the alimentary system, the stomach was empty. There were no other abnormalities seen.

Analysis : neonicotinoid analysis suite

97712	liver	no neonicotinoid detected	detection limit	0.002	mg/kg
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Analysis : organochlorine analysis suite

97712	liver	DDE-pp	confirmed	0.8	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

97712	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.001	mg/kg
97712	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0021	mg/kg

Conclusion

Initially, it was suspected that this sparrowhawk had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. No significant residues from the compound groups tested for were found, although small residues of difenacoum, bromadiolone and DDE were confirmed in the liver. These residues are consistent with background exposure only. Given the findings from the post mortem report, it seems likely that natural causes, probably starvation, accounted for the death of this sparrowhawk.