WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 30/15

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER	30/15
PART OF STUDY	FSGD-208
REGIONAL NUMBER	W/15/17
OTHER REFERENCES	28-B0077-05-15
SENDER	VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION	Trearddur Bay Anglesey
GRID REFERENCE	SH2578
INCIDENT DATE	14 April 2015
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT	background residue
DATE OF REPORT	17 August 2015

REPORTING OFFICER [redacted]

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

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 sparrowhawk

COPIED TO [redacted] [redacted]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
98032	sparrowhawk		19/5/15	APHA: 28-B0077-05-15, exhibit ref DRE/1
98032	sparrowhawk	tissues	19/5/15	APHA: 28-B0077-05-15, exhibit ref DRE/1

Summary of field data

A dead bird suspected as being a peregrine was found at the bottom of a garden. There were power lines near the garden so it was suspected the bird had flown into these. The bird was collected by the Welsh Government and labelled as a kestrel on the evidence label before being passed to APHA for post mortem. During post mortem examination the bird was identified as a sparrowhawk.

Summary of post mortem report

A male sparrowhawk weight 0.217 kgs with fair body condition and a moderate degree of autolysis was submitted for post mortem. There was a dark red line of discolouration on muscles either side of the breastbone and fly eggs were present in the mouth. The crop contained a small amount of white material and the proventriculus and gizzard contained a dark red/black ball of material. Gross examination of the rest of the carcass did not reveal any significant abnormality, but the endocrine and genital systems were not examined.

Analysis : organochlorine analysis suite

98032	liver	DDE-pp	confirmed	9	mg/kg

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

98032	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0092	mg/kg
98032	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0029	mg/kg
98032	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.002	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this sparrowhawk had been poisoned. Laboratory analyses for a range of anticoagulant rodenticides and organochlorine compounds was undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed some residues in the liver of this bird, which include; DDE, difenacoum, brodifacoum and bromadiolone. The amount of DDE is small and in the range normally considered to be background levels for this species, the anticoagulant rodenticides are also at a level consistent with exposure only. Therefore, the cause of death of this sparrowhawk remains uncertain, although there were some lesions in the muscles consistent with electrocution.