

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

62/15



WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 62/15

RESTRICTED

PART OF STUDY FSGD-208

REGIONAL NUMBER W/15/34

OTHER REFERENCES

SENDER WAG

LOCATION Corwen
Denbighshire

GRID REFERENCE SJ0643

INCIDENT DATE 25 September 2015

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT carbofuran
abuse

DATE OF REPORT 24 November 2015

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 hare carcase (bait?)

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Samples received	Date received	Sample identifier
98258 hare carcase (bait?)	30/9/15	1
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Summary of field data

An informant found a dead rabbit tied to a fence on an Estate. On close inspection, the rabbit had been gutted and a blue substance placed inside the carcase. There were also a number of dead flies noted on the carcase. The rabbit was collected by a member of the police and passed to the Welsh Government. A similar incident had occurred on the same Estate in 2010 (145/10, W/10/21 refers), when a dead pheasant had been found split open, with blue crystals on the carcase and dead flies. Laboratory analysis showed this carcase to be positive for aldicarb.

Summary of post mortem report

There were no mortalities associated with this suspected bait.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

98258	granules	carbofuran	confirmed	26000	mg/kg
98258	granules	carbaryl	confirmed	0.031	mg/kg
98258	granules	isofenphos	confirmed	1.3	mg/kg
98258	granules	methomyl	confirmed	0.15	mg/kg
98258	surface wash	carbofuran	confirmed	21000	µg
98258	surface wash	carbaryl	confirmed	0.024	µg
98258	surface wash	isofenphos	confirmed	0.5	µg
98258	surface wash	methomyl	confirmed	0.094	µg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this rabbit/hare bait had been laced with a pesticide. Laboratory analysis for a range of carbamate pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted sample. The sample consisted of a complete carcase, which appeared to be a hare and it was covered in some seeds that were possibly from the bag that it had been stored in. There were blue granules, dead flies, maggots and vegetation noted and a cut along the abdomen, with a piece of string tied to the back, left foot. These tests have detected and confirmed mainly a residue of carbofuran from a surface wash of the carcase and from some blue granules/crystals removed from the carcase. There were also very small additional residues confirmed in both of these samples and these were, carbaryl, isofenphos and methomyl. There is a formulation of carbofuran and isofenphos which is not approved in the UK, but the use of it has been linked to several abuse incidents reported by WIS, mainly in the Yorkshire area (51/10, 101/911; 101/11, 102/491; 60/12, 102/761; 121/13, 103/433; 127/14, 103/910 refer). The other additional residues are possibly from cross-contamination during storage of the product, or during the illegal use of it and these results might help to identify the source and or/perpetrator. Therefore, a pesticide abuse incident, mainly involving carbofuran, has occurred at this location.