

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

33/06



CENTRAL SCIENCE
LABORATORY

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 33/06
PART OF STUDY PGD-230
REGIONAL NUMBER W/06/10
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0079/03/06
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION Llandovery
Carmarthenshire
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]
INCIDENT DATE 8 March 2006
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue
DATE OF REPORT 15 June 2006

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED :

[REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard

COPIED TO

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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The Defra logo, consisting of the word 'defra' in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font, with a stylized leaf-like graphic to its right.
Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs
CSL is an Executive Agency of Defra

Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
63163	buzzard	tissues	16/3/06	VLA ref 29/B0079/03/06 spec ref W/06/10 1 senders ref A0009

Summary of field data

A buzzard was found in a horse's water trough, the bird was still alive and rescued. The rescuer tried to feed the bird and keep it warm, but it died later that morning. Over the past ten days, a dead barn owl, red kite and another buzzard have also been seen. The barn owl was found by the stables and thought to be one of a pair that nests every year in a neighbouring oak tree. The bird appeared to be very thin. The red kite was found in a field close to the A483 and there were no obvious signs of any injury. The buzzard was found beside the A483 and so may have been a trauma victim. Two dead foxes were also noticed in a forest 2km away. The barn owl was only skin and bone therefore not submitted and at the time of the site visit the red kite and the other buzzard had disappeared. Following this incident, a dead barn owl has been found 3.5km away (53/06, W/06/11) and a dead buzzard 9km away (54/06, W/06/12). This is an agricultural area with sheep and cattle farming.

Summary of post mortem report

An adult, male buzzard was submitted, weighing 0.58kg, in a fair bodily condition. The bird had some matting of feathers around the neck. The crop was empty and the gizzard only had traces of dark mucoid material. Other systems were unremarkable. The cause of death was not apparent and poisoning could not be ruled out.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

63163	stomach contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
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Analysis : chloralose-alpha

63163	kidney	no chloralose-alpha detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

63163	stomach contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

63163	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.071	mg/kg
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Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. A residue of bromadiolone was detected and confirmed in the liver. However, the levels detected are not considered to be consistent with poisoning, but it does confirm exposure to the compound. The cause of death of the buzzard remains uncertain.