

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



Original thinking... applied

INCIDENT NUMBER 47/21
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213
REGIONAL NUMBER W/21/07
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0060-03-21
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Prestatyn
Flintshire
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]
INCIDENT DATE 4 March 2021
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT brodifacoum
unspecified
DATE OF REPORT 15 June 2021

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED :

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard

COPIED TO



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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
100290	buzzard	23/3/21	28/B0060/03/21
100290	buzzard	23/3/21	28/B0060/03/21
	tissues		

Summary of field data

A visitor to a reserve found a dead buzzard in some woodland and they reported it to a Warden. The warden examined the bird and as they found no signs of external injury, they contacted Welsh Government. The bird carcass was placed deeper into the woodland and out of sight of visitors using the footpath. The carcass was later secured and double bagged and arrangements were made for an RSPB Raptor Officer to store the bird frozen until it could be collected and transferred to the APHA. This is a National nature reserve with woodland.

Summary of post mortem report

The sample was received in a cardboard box labelled with a barcode no. A538178. The box also contained specimen W21/06 (red kite) in a separate bag. The buzzard was double bagged in a black plastic bag labelled WIIS 21/07, and a clear outer plastic bag. The bird was received frozen. On examination the species was confirmed to be a common buzzard of weight 637g in emaciated body condition and severe autolysis. The eyes were collapsed and sunken into sockets. There was poor, reduced, pectoral musculing on external palpation. There was dried faeces adhered to the feathers around the vent. The talons were clasped, there was some dried grass contained within the clasped right foot. There was a small amount of dark liquid in stomachs. The ovary was not active. No abnormalities of the remaining body systems were seen.

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

100290	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100290	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.82	mg/kg
100290	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.002	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned, although it had not eaten recently and was in an emaciated body condition with severe autolysis. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a large residue of brodifacoum and a small residue of bromadiolone in the liver from this buzzard. There were no haemorrhagic signs reported on post-mortem, but autolysis may have obscured changes and given the size of the brodifacoum residue it is likely that this exposure contributed to the death of this buzzard. The source of the brodifacoum is uncertain at present and so the case has been attributed to unspecified use.

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