

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



Original thinking... applied

INCIDENT NUMBER 46/21  
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213  
REGIONAL NUMBER W/21/09  
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0059-03-21  
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC  
LOCATION Rhydyfelin, Pontypool  
Glamorgan  
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]  
INCIDENT DATE 3 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



Direct Phone Number 01904 462456

E-mail: [wiis@fera.co.uk](mailto:wiis@fera.co.uk)

Fera Science Ltd.

York Biotech Campus,  
Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

[www.fera.co.uk](http://www.fera.co.uk)

T: +44 (0)300 100 0321  
E: [sales@fera.co.uk](mailto:sales@fera.co.uk)

Original thinking... applied

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



Original thinking... applied

46/21

Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
100289	buzzard	23/3/21	28/B0059/03/21
100289	buzzard	23/3/21	28/B0059/03/21
	tissues		

## Summary of field data

A buzzard was found dead in a garden one evening. The RSPB were initially contacted that evening, but they did not get an answer until the following morning. By this time the home-owner had picked the buzzard up using a spade and dumped it down a bank away from his property. However, they were able to retrieve the buzzard for testing and following referral of the case to Welsh Government, instructions were given to them to double bag the sample. Arrangements were made to deliver the carcass to the APHA for an examination. Note that initially this bird was reported to be a red kite, but it is now confirmed to be a buzzard. This is a semi-rural area with farmland surrounding the area. The RSPB stated that they have records of a case of anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning in the area.

## Summary of post mortem report

Specimen 1 was received by courier, in a cardboard box labelled with a barcode no. A547586. The bird was wrapped in a carrier bag and 2 clear plastic bags sealed with sellotape. On examination the species was determined to be a common buzzard and not a red kite. It was unknown sex and weight 577g in the bags, it was in an emaciated body condition with a moderate degree of autolysis. The eyes were collapsed and sunken into the sockets. There was poor pectoral musculing on external palpation. There was dried faeces on the feathers around the vent. The pectoral musculature was poor (wasted). There was a small piece of a dark haired animal in the gizzard. The rest of the alimentary tract contained little content. No abnormalities of the remaining body systems were seen.

## Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

100289	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.1	mg/kg
--------	------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------	-----	-------

## Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100289	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.18	mg/kg
100289	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.006	mg/kg
100289	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.013	mg/kg

## Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned, although it was in an emaciated body condition and had part of an animal in its stomach. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of brodifacoum and small residues of difenacoum and bromadiolone in the liver from this buzzard. There were no haemorrhagic signs reported on post-mortem, but given the size of the brodifacoum residue it is possible that this contributed to the death of this buzzard. However, the difenacoum and bromadiolone are consistent with background exposure only. The source of the brodifacoum is uncertain at present and so the case has been attributed to unspecified use.

Fera Science Ltd.

York Biotech Campus,  
Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

[www.fera.co.uk](http://www.fera.co.uk)

T: +44 (0)300 100 0321  
E: [sales@fera.co.uk](mailto:sales@fera.co.uk)

Original thinking... applied