

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

142/09



The Food and Environment
Research Agency

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER 142/09
PART OF STUDY FSGD-050
REGIONAL NUMBER W/09/31
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0139/09/09
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION Red Roses, Whitland
Carmarthenshire
GRID REFERENCE SN2011
INCIDENT DATE 3 September 2009
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT carbofuran
abuse
DATE OF REPORT 12 January 2010

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED :

[REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

COPIED TO

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
82599	red kite	tissues	2/10/09	29/B139/09/09

Summary of field data

A dead red kite was found under some power lines. It did not have any signs of burns, but it might have been injured by a fox. Initially, the death was reported to the Welsh Kite Trust and they later contacted the Welsh Assembly Government. Initially, complete information was not available on this suspected incident. However, it was reported that there are not that many red kites in this area and several dead birds had been reported recently. The carcass was delivered to the VLA for a post-mortem.

Summary of post mortem report

An adult red kite, of unknown sex and 920g and good body condition, was submitted for post-mortem. There was severe autolysis and a ring number GC11857 was noted. There were a large number of maggots observed under each wing on the pectoral muscles. Due to the severe autolysis, no lesions that might be related to the cause of death could be found.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

82599	gizzard contents	carbofuran	confirmed	0.93	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

82599	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.08	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

82599	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0071	mg/kg
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Conclusion

It was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a small residue of carbofuran in the gizzard content and confirmed a residue of bromadiolone in the liver. The amount of carbofuran is smaller than might be expected in an abuse incident, but it may have contributed to the death of this red kite. This red kite has also been exposed to bromadiolone, but this is unlikely to have contributed to the death of this bird. This incident has been attributed to abuse, as approvals for carbofuran products were withdrawn during 2001, but it is uncertain where the red kite was exposed to this pesticide.