

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

9/15



WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 9/15
PART OF STUDY FSGD-208
REGIONAL NUMBER W/15/12
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0119-04-15
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Llanybydder
Carmarthenshire
GRID REFERENCE SN5245
INCIDENT DATE 31 March 2015
**SUSPECTED CAUSE
OF INCIDENT** background residue
DATE OF REPORT 27 July 2015

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED : ..

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

COPIED TO

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
97971	red kite		23/4/15	28-B0119-04-15 : specimen no '1'
97971	red kite	tissues	23/4/15	28-B0119-04-15 : specimen no '1'

Summary of field data

A dead red kite was found in a fox cage trap. It appeared as if the kite had been put in the trap as bait rather than having found its way into the trap and died. The bird was found in woodland.

Summary of post mortem report

An adult male red kite, weight 0.796kgs with poor body condition and a severe degree of autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. Faeces were found plastered around the vent area and there was a skin wound on the underside of the left wing. There was no haemorrhage or inflammation associated with this wound. There was only a small amount of pectoral muscle present and the stomach contained hair material. Gross examination of the rest of the carcass did not reveal any significant abnormality, but the endocrine and genital systems were not examined. The bird was in poor condition and severely autolysed and there was no obvious cause of death from the gross post mortem examination. It is possible that the skin wound described occurred after death.

Analysis : chloralose

97971	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.1	mg/kg
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Analysis : organochlorine analysis suite

97971	gizzard contents	no organochlorine detected	detection limit	0.06	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

97971	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	1	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

97971	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.12	mg/kg
97971	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.05	mg/kg
97971	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.007	mg/kg
97971	liver	difethialone	confirmed	0.0049	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed residues of difenacoum, brodifacoum, bromadiolone and difethialone in the liver of this red kite. There were no haemorrhagic signs reported on post-mortem, but the combined amounts present are at a level that may have contributed to death, although these findings might have been compromised by severe autolysis. Therefore, the cause of death of this red kite remains uncertain.