

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

113/10



The Food and Environment
Research Agency

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 113/10
PART OF STUDY FSGD-100
REGIONAL NUMBER W/10/20
OTHER REFERENCES 29-B0047-09-10
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION Bwlch-Llan
Cardiganshire
GRID REFERENCE SN5758
INCIDENT DATE 7 September 2010
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue
DATE OF REPORT 4 November 2010

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED : ..

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
87137	red kite		8/9/10	VLA ref. 29-B0047-09-10, Ref W-7-10-20
87137	red kite	tissues	8/9/10	VLA ref. 29-B0047-09-10, Ref W-7-10-20

Summary of field data

One dead kite was found in a field. It is suspected that the bird may have flown into power lines.

Summary of post mortem report

One red kite of unknown sex weighing 1.01kg was submitted for post-mortem. The bird was severely autolysed making it difficult to tell the condition of the bird prior to death. It was difficult to do a gross examination of the body due to the degree of autolysis. However, there were no visible injuries in the musculo-skeletal system. The gizzard contained grass and stalky plant material as well as three white oval soft meaty/fatty objects and some maggots. The endocrine and reproductive systems were not examined.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

87137	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.04	mg/kg
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Analysis : chloralose-alpha

87137	kidney	no chloralose-alpha detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

87137	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

87137	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.028	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. However, no significant residues from the compound groups tested for were found. A small residue of difenacoum was detected and confirmed in the liver, but this is considered to be consistent with exposure to the rodenticide and is unlikely to have contributed to the death of the red kite. Therefore, the cause of death of the red kite remains uncertain.