

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

36/07

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



CENTRAL SCIENCE  
LABORATORY

INCIDENT NUMBER 36/07  
PART OF STUDY PGD-270  
REGIONAL NUMBER W/07/08  
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0162/04/07  
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth  
LOCATION Lampeter  
Cardiganshire  
GRID REFERENCE SN5347  
INCIDENT DATE 15 April 2007  
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT mixture of rodenticides  
unspecified  
DATE OF REPORT 21 June 2007

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : ..... [REDACTED] .....

### NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

### COPIED TO



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**Samples received****Date received****Sample identifier**

68592	red kite	tissues	2/5/07	29/B0162/04/07 : W/07/08-1
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**Summary of field data**

A dead red kite was found on farmland. A pair of red kites built a nest in a tree last year but failed to raise any chicks. Three kites appeared this year and again occupied the same nest site. In April only one of the kites was seen around the area, the next day the kite was seen to be circling an oak tree further away. On investigation a dead red kite was found, lying face down under the tree. A site visit was undertaken and two red kites were observed around the nest with one sitting on the nest. Both kites were seen for a few days after but have since disappeared. This incident occurred in a rural location with permanent pasture. There is sheep and cattle, mostly dairy, farming in the area.

**Summary of post mortem report**

A female red kite was submitted, weighing 835g, in a fair body condition with mild to moderate autolysis. The kite was moderately well muscled. The bird was well feathered with the feathers around the vent being matted with pale green material. There was peritonitis in ventro-posterior body cavity, which was a yellow colouration. There was a small amount of hair in the gizzard. The distal oviduct wall was necrotic and ruptured at two sites, a collapsed and dehydrated egg was present. All other systems were unremarkable. The kite appeared to have been suffering from egg peritonitis, it is possible that organophosphates could impair the function of the musculature of the oviduct.

**Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite**

68592	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.7	mg/kg
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**Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite**

68592	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.13	mg/kg
68592	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.068	mg/kg
68592	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.073	mg/kg

**Conclusion**

It was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned. Although the post-mortem indicated that natural causes may also be involved, some tests have been undertaken on the submitted tissues. These analyses have detected and confirmed residues of bromadiolone and a smaller amount of difenacoum and brodifacoum in the liver of this bird. Haemorrhage was not reported in the post-mortem and the kite also had egg peritonitis. However, the combination of these residues, may also have been a contributory factor in the death of this red kite.