

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

99/10

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REVISED REPORT



The Food and Environment  
Research Agency

INCIDENT NUMBER 99/10 **RESTRICTED**

PART OF STUDY FSGD-100

REGIONAL NUMBER W/10/17

OTHER REFERENCES 29-B0045-08-10

SENDER VLA Aberystwyth , WAG

LOCATION Abergavenny  
Monmouthshire

GRID REFERENCE SO2914

INCIDENT DATE 30 July 2010

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT carbofuran  
abuse

DATE OF REPORT 21 December 2010

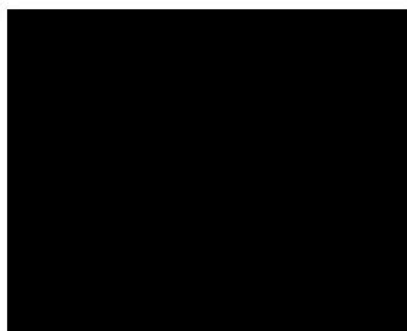
REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

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

### NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

- 1 pheasant carcase (bait?)
- 1 pigeon carcase (bait?)
- 2 peregrine

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
86777	peregrine	17/8/10	29-B0045-08-10 : 1
86777	peregrine tissues	17/8/10	29-B0045-08-10 : 1
86778	peregrine	17/8/10	29-B0045-08-10 : 2
86778	peregrine tissues	17/8/10	29-B0045-08-10 : 2
88260	pigeon carcase (bait?)	5/11/10	Spec. ref. 2
88261	pheasant carcase (bait?)	5/11/10	Spec. no. 1

## Summary of field data

Two peregrines and a pigeon were found dead near each other. The RSPB are involved and it is believed that the pigeon is a bait sample. No further information is available.

## Summary of post mortem report

Two adult peregrine falcons were submitted with severe autolysis. The first was in a good body condition and weighed 1048 g. The second was in a fair body condition and weighed 752 g. Both birds were well feathered with no signs of external trauma. Autolysis was advanced to the point where the feathers were falling out whilst handling the carcasses. There were dead maggots in the mouth and on the skin. Both birds had full stomachs consisting of a large bolus of small feathers, bones and flesh. No internal trauma was noted and the cause of death could not be determined.

## Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

86777	gizzard contents	carbofuran	confirmed	54	mg/kg
86778	gizzard contents	carbofuran	confirmed	29	mg/kg
88260		carbofuran	confirmed	14	mg
88261		aldicarb	confirmed	31	mg

## Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

86777	liver	no rodenticide detected	detection limit	0.01	mg/kg
86778	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.005	mg/kg

## Conclusion

It was suspected that these peregrines had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for some likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of carbofuran in the gizzard content of both of these birds. The amounts found are considered to be significant and exposure to carbofuran is the likely cause of death of these peregrines. There was also a small residue of bromadiolone confirmed in the liver of one bird, which is consistent with exposure to the pesticide. A pigeon has probably been laced with carbofuran, which is an abuse of the pesticide. However, the pigeon carcase was not available for testing at present.

A pigeon and a pheasant carcase were submitted to the Wildlife Incident Unit for testing. The analyses have detected and confirmed carbofuran on the pigeon and so it appears that this has been intentionally laced with this pesticide. However, the pheasant carcase had a confirmed residue of aldicarb only and so this has been laced with another carbamate pesticide. It is not certain where the pheasant carcase was found and so at present this incident remains attributed to carbofuran abuse.

This replaces the earlier report issued on the 23 September 2010.