

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT



40/14

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REVISED REPORT

The Food & Environment
Research Agency

INCIDENT NUMBER 40/14
PART OF STUDY FSGD-195
REGIONAL NUMBER W/14/10
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0109-06-14
SENDER VLA Carmarthen

RESTRICTED

LOCATION Llanfairfechan
Caernarfonshire

GRID REFERENCE SH6975

INCIDENT DATE 5 June 2014

SUSPECTED CAUSE chloralose
OF INCIDENT abuse

DATE OF REPORT 14 August 2014

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED :

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 peregrine

COPIED TO

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
97512	peregrine	24/6/14	Spec ref: 1, VLA: 28-B0109-06-14
97512	peregrine tissues	24/6/14	Spec ref: 1, VLA: 28-B0109-06-14

Summary of field data

One peregrine was found on a path along the edge of a quarry. No other carcasses were found. The carcass was stored in a police freezer before being taken to the AHVLA for post mortem. The incident occurred near to a previous positive incident (77/12, W/12/12, bendiocarb, abuse refers). This incident occurred at the edge of a quarry.

Summary of post mortem report

One female peregrine falcon weighing 1110g and in good bodily condition was submitted for post mortem. The carcass had undergone a moderate degree of autolysis. External examination of the bird revealed that there were small maggots on the skin and of the skin of the ventral head and neck thorax and around cloaca (vent). There were also maggots around both eyes. In the alimentary system the crop contained a large amount of red meat. The gizzard contained feathers and partially digested meat. In the reproductive system the ovary was not active. No other abnormalities were seen.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

97512	crop contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
97512	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg

Analysis : chloralose

97512	kidney	chloralose	confirmed	12	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

97512	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.006	mg/kg
97512	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.01	mg/kg

Analysis : strychnine

97512	crop contents	no strychnine detected	detection limit	0.0002	mg/kg
97512	gizzard contents	no strychnine detected	detection limit	0.0003	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this peregrine had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of carbamate pesticides has been completed as a priority, but no residues were found. The cause of death of this peregrine remains uncertain. Some further tests will be completed and a revised report issued if residues are found.

The further tests have been completed and residues were detected. A residue of chloralose was detected and confirmed in the kidney of this peregrine and given the amount found, this is likely to be the cause of death of the bird. There were also small residues of brodifacoum and bromadiolone noted in the liver of the peregrine, which are consistent with exposure to these compounds. Given the circumstances and location of the incident the abuse of chloralose is suspected, but the bait material used is uncertain.

This replaces the earlier report issued on the 3 July 2014.