

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



99/14

The Food & Environment  
Research Agency

INCIDENT NUMBER 99/14  
PART OF STUDY FSGD-195  
REGIONAL NUMBER W/14/28  
OTHER REFERENCES 26/B0607/12/14  
SENDER VLA Shrewsbury

LOCATION Connahs Quay  
Flintshire

GRID REFERENCE SJ3069

INCIDENT DATE 10 December 2014

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue

DATE OF REPORT 2 March 2015

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

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

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED  
1 peregrine

COPIED TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
97820	peregrine	6/1/15	AHVLA ref: 26-B067-12-14, spec no. 1
97820	peregrine tissues	6/1/15	AHVLA ref: 26-B067-12-14, spec no. 1

## Summary of field data

A dead peregrine was found. The peregrine was found dead on the floor below the cooling towers of a gas power station. The carcass was collected and kept in a fridge by staff, until it could be collected by the police. Two peregrines were found at the same site in July (49/14, W/14/13), these had been dead sometime and there was not sufficient tissue for analysis. The possibility that the peregrine had died from carbon monoxide/dioxide poisoning was suggested, as the station is generating power in a different way compared to 12 months ago. Peregrines roost in the cooling towers at this site.

## Summary of post mortem report

A peregrine in good body condition, weight 1kg, and moderate to severe autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. The bird had been well feathered. The feathers overlying the right pectoral muscle were partially stained brown-red surrounding an area of feather loss approximately 5cm in diameter. The bird had been well muscled and there was generalised darkening of the tissues associated with autolysis. There was marked blackening of the tissues lining the oropharynx with the tongue and roof of the oropharynx having a blackened charred appearance. The crop was full of approximately 100ml of food material consisting mostly of small feathers and soft tissue. The gizzard was full of a similar material with a few small pieces of bones. The remainder of the intestinal tract was relatively autolysed and there was a small amount of urates in the rectum. The lungs were dark grey and autolysed. The heart was dark and autolysed. The spleen was not located. The kidneys were dark and autolysed. The gonads were not located. The brain was pink, soft and autolysed.

## Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

97820	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.1	mg/kg
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## Analysis : chloralose

97820	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.7	mg/kg
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## Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

97820	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.8	mg/kg
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## Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

97820	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0095	mg/kg
97820	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0002	mg/kg

## Conclusion

It was suspected that this peregrine had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. However, no residues from the compound groups tested for were found, although there were small residues of brodifacoum and bromadiolone detected and confirmed in the liver of this peregrine. The amounts found are considered to be consistent with background exposure, rather than the cause of death of the peregrine. Therefore, the cause of death of this peregrine remains uncertain.