

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

15/22



Original thinking... applied

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 15/22  
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213  
REGIONAL NUMBER W/22/03  
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0010-02-22  
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC  
LOCATION Rhyd-y-felin, Aberystwyth  
Cardiganshire  
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]  
INCIDENT DATE 30 January 2022  
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue  
DATE OF REPORT 17 May 2022

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : ..... [REDACTED]

### NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard

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Direct Phone Number 01904 462456

E-mail: [wiis@fera.co.uk](mailto:wiis@fera.co.uk)

Fera Science Ltd.

[www.fera.co.uk](http://www.fera.co.uk)

York Biotech Campus,  
Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

T: +44 (0)300 100 0321  
E: [sales@fera.co.uk](mailto:sales@fera.co.uk)

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
100629	buzzard	11/2/22	28/B0010/02/22
100629	buzzard tissues	11/2/22	28/B0010/02/22

## Summary of field data

A dead buzzard was found in the middle of a field and underneath some power lines. However, there appeared to be no obvious signs of injury to the carcase and it appeared to be otherwise in good bodily condition.

## Summary of post mortem report

A common buzzard was received in a cardboard box. The buzzard was single-bagged inside the cardboard box and was sealed with cable ties and labelled 'WIIS W/22/03 1 buzzard 30/1/22'. The weight and sex of the bird were unknown. The carcase was in fair body condition and with moderate autolysis. The buzzard appeared to be a juvenile from the feathering (47cm long). The right talons were clasped. There was a small laceration in the rostral part of the tongue. When inspected the upper layer of the tongue was easily peeling off (autolysis). The crop contained dark pink thick liquid with multiple large, segmented worms which appeared to be earthworms. The gizzard contained a good fill of dark brown thick liquid with a few fibrous strands and lumps of thicker material within the content. The small and large intestines contained brown liquid. There was one long thin parasite in the small intestines. The reproductive system was unidentifiable. Examination of all other organ systems was unremarkable. The endocrine system was not examined.

## Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

100629	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.06	mg/kg
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## Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

100629	stomach contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
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## Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100629	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.03	mg/kg
100629	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.015	mg/kg

## Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard 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 difenacoum and brodifacoum in the liver of this buzzard. The buzzard had some intestinal parasitism due to *Porrocaecum* sp., which is a roundworm commonly affecting buzzards and the residues found are consistent with background exposure only. Therefore, the cause of death of this buzzard remains uncertain at present.

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York Biotech Campus,  
Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

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