

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

32/09



The Food and Environment  
Research Agency

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

**INCIDENT NUMBER** 32/09  
**PART OF STUDY** FSGD-050  
**REGIONAL NUMBER** W/09/09  
**OTHER REFERENCES** 29/B0012/03/09  
**SENDER** VLA Aberystwyth  
**LOCATION** Raglan  
Monmouthshire  
**GRID REFERENCE** [REDACTED]  
**INCIDENT DATE** 18 February 2009  
**SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT** difenacoum  
unspecified  
**DATE OF REPORT** 14 May 2009

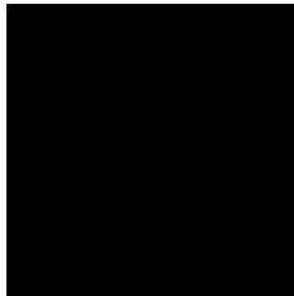
**REPORTING OFFICER** [REDACTED]

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

### NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

2 buzzard  
1 barn owl

**COPIED TO**



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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
79008	buzzard	tissues	4/3/09	29/B0012/03/09 : 1
79015	buzzard	tissues	4/3/09	29/B0012/03/09 : 2
79016	barn owl	tissues	4/3/09	29/B0012/03/09 : 3

## Summary of field data

A dead buzzard was found and collected, as it had no obvious injuries. About a week later and in the same area, another buzzard and a barn owl were found. A poisoning incident was suspected, given that three birds had been found in the same area and with no obvious injury. The incident was reported to a Wildlife Crime Officer, who collected the birds and passed them on to the Welsh Assembly Government.

## Summary of post mortem report

Two buzzards and a barn owl were submitted for post-mortem. Their sex was uncertain and the buzzards were in good condition and the barn owl in poor condition. The barn owl weighed 360g and the buzzards 950g for buzzard (1) and 1.35kg for buzzard (2). In buzzard one, there was a small rodent in the proventriculus and there were no lesions seen. However, due to previous freezing the bird was severely autolysed. In buzzard two, there was a small amount of fur in the proventriculus. The barn owl had very little ingesta in the intestinal tract. No lesions were seen in any of these birds.

### Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

79015	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.06	mg/kg
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### Analysis : chloralose-alpha

79015	kidney	no chloralose-alpha detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
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### Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

79008	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.1	mg/kg
79015	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.1	mg/kg

### Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

79008	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.066	mg/kg
79015	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.15	mg/kg
79016	liver	no rodenticide detected	detection limit	0.007	mg/kg

## Conclusion

It was suspected that these birds had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of difenacoum only in the liver of both buzzards. Therefore, the cause of death of the barn owl remains uncertain. However, exposure to difenacoum may have contributed to the deaths of these buzzards, but there was no haemorrhage reported on post-mortem. It is uncertain if difenacoum has been used in this area and so this incident has been attributed to unspecified use.