WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 110/09

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

The Food and Environment Research Agency

INCIDENT NUMBER 110/09

PART OF STUDY FSGD-050

REGIONAL NUMBER W/09/25

OTHER REFERENCES 29/B100/08/09

SENDER VLA Aberystwyth

LOCATION Borth
Cardiganshire

GRID REFERENCE [redacted]

INCIDENT DATE 21 August 2009

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue

DATE OF REPORT 17 November 2009

REPORTING OFFICER [redacted]

SIGNED : [redacted]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard

COPIED TO [redacted]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
81520	buzzard	tissues	27/8/09	29/B100/08/09 : W/09/25

Summary of field data

An ill buzzard was found. It was taken to the RSPCA/vet where it later died.

Summary of post mortem report

A young adult buzzard carcase was submitted weighing 391 g and in a poor body condition, with mild autolysis. There was no carcase fat. There was evidence of muscle wastage and the keel was prominent. The gizzard contained a remnant of a small birds gizzard. The small intestine contained a dark brown liquid. The cloaca contained liquid urates only. There was red tinged pericardial fluid within the pericardial sac. The other systems were unremarkable. The bird was in a poor body condition, although there was evidence of the bird having eaten reasonably recently. The cause of weakness resulting in death is therefore uncertain.

Analysis : chloralose-alpha

81520	kidney	no chloralose-alpha detected	detection limit	0.07	mg/kg

Analysis : organochlorine analysis suite

81520	liver	no organochlorine detected	detection limit	0.07	mg/kg

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

81520	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0061	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 small residue of difenacoum in the liver of this buzzard. The amount found confirms exposure to difenacoum and is unlikely to be the cause of death. Therefore, the cause of death of this buzzard remains uncertain.