WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 60/10

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

The Food and Environment Research Agency

INCIDENT NUMBER 60/10

PART OF STUDY FSGD-100

REGIONAL NUMBER W/10/10

OTHER REFERENCES 29-B0111-05-10

SENDER VLA Aberystwyth

LOCATION Bontgoch
Ceredigion

GRID REFERENCE [redacted]

INCIDENT DATE 18 May 2010

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT trauma

DATE OF REPORT 6 July 2010

REPORTING OFFICER [redacted]

SIGNED : ..... [redacted] .....

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED
1 buzzard

COPIED TO [redacted] [redacted]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
85577	buzzard	tissues	26/5/10	VLA ref 29-B0111-05-10, spec ref 1

Summary of field data

A dead buzzard was found on a track. The bird was put down a rabbit hole. The next day another dead buzzard was found in a nearby field (W/10/09, 59 /10 refers). The buzzard had an obvious head injury, but it was in a reasonable condition.

Summary of post mortem report

An adult male buzzard was submitted in a fair body condition, weighing 597 g, with moderate autolysis. The buzzard had sunken eyes. There was a superficial wound covering most of the head from the beak caudally to the crown of the head. There was feather loss, full thickness haemorrhage and necrosis of the skin. There was a superficial wound on the left leg, the skin was missing over the tarsal - metatarsal joint over an area of 1 cm by 1cm. There were small superficial wounds with minor feather derangement on the dorsal aspect of the right wing. There was a patch of red scale on the right hock. There were several live and dead fly like external parasites. There was a bright red worm approximately 1 cm long and less than 1 mm in diameter in the oesophageal mucosa. The brain showed minor sub-menigeal haemorrhage over the cerebellum and the brainstem.

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

85577	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0049	mg/kg

Conclusion

Initially, it was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned. Given the post-mortem findings, laboratory analysis for a range of anticoagulant rodenticides only has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a small residue of difenacoum, which confirms exposure to it only and is unlikely to have been a significant factor in the death of this buzzard. Therefore, a natural cause, possibly a front-on trauma, appears to account for the death of this buzzard.