

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



9/13

The Food & Environment  
Research Agency

INCIDENT NUMBER 9/13  
PART OF STUDY FSGD-190  
REGIONAL NUMBER W/13/03  
OTHER REFERENCES 29-B0073-02-13  
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth  
LOCATION Tywyn  
Gwynedd  
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]  
INCIDENT DATE 11 February 2013  
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue  
DATE OF REPORT 30 April 2013

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : ..... [REDACTED]

### NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

2 buzzard

COPIED TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Fera is an Executive Agency of Defra

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
96590	buzzard	19/2/13	29/B0073/02/13 : GE1 : Spec. 2
96590	buzzard	19/2/13	29/B0073/02/13 : GE1 : Spec. 2
96591	buzzard	19/2/13	29/B0073/02/13 : GE2 : Spec. 2
96591	buzzard	19/2/13	29/B0073/02/13 : GE2 : Spec. 2

## Summary of field data

Two dead red kites were reportedly found close to each other. There were no obvious marks on the birds and poisoning was thought to have contributed to the death of these birds. The carcasses were collected by the Police and stored in a freezer at the Police station. It was reported that the birds were near to a power line. It was also reported that an unwell buzzard had been seen in the area.

## Summary of post mortem report

On receipt of two carcasses at the AHVLA they appeared to be buzzards rather than red kites. Two male buzzards weighing 0.90 and 0.63 kg were submitted for post mortem. Both birds were in poor condition and had undergone severe autolysis. Both birds were well feathered though on one bird (GE1) the feathers were wet and bedraggled. In the musculoskeletal systems both birds were poorly muscled with prominent breast bones. In the alimentary system of one bird (GE1) the crop contained a large volume of unidentifiable food material and the gizzard contained a large aggregate of material that had not fully thawed at the time of the post mortem examination. In the alimentary system of the other bird (GE2) the crop was empty and there was only a small amount of unidentifiable fibrous material in the gizzard. The abdominal cavity and respiratory, cardiovascular, lymphoreticular, endocrine, urinary reproductive and nervous systems of both birds were unremarkable. There was no gross evidence of trauma or disease; therefore cause of death could not be determined by post mortem examination.

## Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

96590	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
96591	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.1	mg/kg

## Analysis : chloralose

96590	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.1	mg/kg
96591	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg

## Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

96590	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.84	mg/kg
96591	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.43	mg/kg

## Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

96590	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0076	mg/kg
96590	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0077	mg/kg
96591	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.00035	mg/kg
96591	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0017	mg/kg

## Conclusion

It was suspected that these buzzards had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed residues of brodifacoum and difenacoum in the liver of these buzzards. The amounts found are considered to be consistent with exposure to the compounds only and so the cause of death of these buzzards remains uncertain.