

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



23/13

The Food & Environment
Research Agency

INCIDENT NUMBER 23/13
PART OF STUDY FSGD-190
REGIONAL NUMBER W/13/07
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0149/03/13
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth

LOCATION [REDACTED] Llanrhystud
Cardiganshire

GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]

INCIDENT DATE 27 March 2013

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue

DATE OF REPORT 17 June 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

Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
96744	buzzard	10/4/13	Spec no 1, VLA no 29-B0149-03-13
96744	buzzard	10/4/13	Spec no 1, VLA no 29-B0149-03-13

Summary of field data

Two dead buzzards were found in a woodland and it was reported that another two dead birds have been found in the area within the last month. One carcase was near an access track and looked freshly dead and in perfect condition. The other carcase had been heavily predated and may possibly have been killed by a goshawk. There are buzzards still in the area and a pair of red kites nest in the wood.

Summary of post mortem report

A young, adult female buzzard in fair body condition, weight 438g and moderate autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. There were no identification rings. There was poor musculature over the keel bone and the lower legs had been removed by a scavenger. There was food present in the proventriculus, but not in the rest of the gastrointestinal tract. There were no other lesions seen in other organs, but the endocrine system was not examined.

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

96744	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.9	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

96744	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.018	mg/kg
96744	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.041	mg/kg
96744	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.012	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that the buzzard available for testing 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 brodifacoum, difenacoum and bromadiolone in the liver of this buzzard, but this is considered to be consistent with exposure rather than the cause of death of it. Some further tests will be undertaken and a revised report will be issued if residues are found. Therefore, at present the cause of death of this buzzard remains uncertain.