

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



9/14

The Food & Environment  
Research Agency

INCIDENT NUMBER 9/14  
PART OF STUDY FSGD-195  
REGIONAL NUMBER W/14/02  
OTHER REFERENCES 28/B0358/01/14  
SENDER VLA Carmarthen

LOCATION [REDACTED]  
Powys

GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]

INCIDENT DATE 24 January 2014

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT starvation

DATE OF REPORT 28 April 2014

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : ..... [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED  
2 buzzard

COPIED TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
97370	buzzard	27/2/14	28-B358-01-14 : 1 : A313421
97370	buzzard	27/2/14	28-B358-01-14 : 1 : A313421
97371	buzzard	27/2/14	28-B358-01-14 : A313422
97371	buzzard	27/2/14	28-B358-01-14 : A313422

## Summary of field data

Two dead buzzards have been found near to a crow trap that was in a field. The cage trap had been baited with a dead sheep. The find was reported by a member of the public, who contacted the RSPB and they contacted the Police, who visited the area. The Police located the trap, which was open and the two bird carcasses were collected. The owner of the fields spoke to the Police and confirmed that he knew the trap was there, but he wasn't using it. The Welsh Government collected the bird carcasses from the Police and were shown some photographs. It was decided that the sheep carcass should also be collected and so a visit was arranged and the carcass removed from the trap; the door to the trap was still open. The sheep carcass will be stored at the AHVLA, pending the results of analyses. The trap is on the edge of a field that is bordering a wooded area. There is sheep farming and the field where the trap is located is used as grazing pasture. There are game interests in the area.

## Summary of post mortem report

There were two emaciated buzzards received for post-mortem. Buzzard one was a female, of weight 885g and moderate autolysis. The keel bone was prominent, the eyes were sunken. There was no internal fat present. There were fibrous adhesions attaching the lungs to pleura. The stomach contained dark hair and dark red blood coloured contents. Buzzard two was of unknown sex, weight 719g and severe autolysis. The eyes appeared sunken. The keel bone was very prominent. The bird was very thin with no internal fat. The stomach contents contained a small amount of black hair. No other gross abnormalities detected. There was no obvious external or internal trauma to suggest they had been trapped, or enclosed within a structure and starved, but this could not be ruled out.

## Analysis : organochlorine analysis suite

97370	liver	no organochlorine detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg
97371	liver	no organochlorine detected	detection limit	0.5	mg/kg

## Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

97370	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0008	mg/kg
97371	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.001	mg/kg
97371	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.018	mg/kg

## Conclusion

It was suspected that these buzzards had been poisoned. Given the post-mortem findings, laboratory analysis for some likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. However, no significant residues from the compound groups tested for were found. There were small residues of bromadiolone noted in the liver of one bird and difenacoum and brodifacoum, noted in the liver of the other bird, but these are considered to be consistent with exposure only. The cause of death of these buzzards appears to be from natural causes, possibly starvation given their poor condition.