

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

142/10



The Food and Environment  
Research Agency

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

**RESTRICTED**

INCIDENT NUMBER 142/10  
PART OF STUDY FSGD-100  
REGIONAL NUMBER W/10/23  
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0122/01/11  
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth  
LOCATION Penrice  
Glamorgan  
GRID REFERENCE SS4987  
INCIDENT DATE 7 September 2010  
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT mixture of carbamates  
abuse  
DATE OF REPORT 5 May 2011

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : ..... [REDACTED] .....

### NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 goshawk

COPIED TO



Direct Phone Number 01904 462456

E-mail: [wiis@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:wiis@fera.gsi.gov.uk)

Sand Hutton, York  
YO41 1LZ, UK

Tel +44 (0)1904 462 000  
Fax +44 (0)1904 462 111

E-mail [info@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:info@fera.gsi.gov.uk)  
[www.defra.gov.uk/fera](http://www.defra.gov.uk/fera)



Fera is an Executive Agency of Defra

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

142/10  
RESTRICTED

Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
89327	goshawk	4/2/11	VLA ref 29-B0122-01-11, spec ref 1
89327	goshawk tissues	4/2/11	VLA ref 29-B0122-01-11, spec ref 1

## Summary of field data

A dead goshawk was found and kept frozen until it could be submitted to the VLA. The bird was reported to be in good condition and with a full crop. It was also reported that a pheasant feed sack was washed up on the beach a few weeks ago and it contained a number of dead peregrines and a buzzard. This matter was not pursued, as there was no way of knowing where the birds had come from.

## Summary of post mortem report

A male goshawk, with no other identification and severe autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. It weighed 1.3kgs and both the crop and gizzard were full of ingesta, including feathers. No other lesions were seen in the organs examined, although the endocrine system was not examined.

## Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

89327	gizzard contents	benfuracarb	confirmed	0.02	mg/kg
89327	gizzard contents	carbosulfan	confirmed	0.02	mg/kg
89327	gizzard contents	carbofuran	confirmed	18	mg/kg

## Analysis : chloralose-alpha

89327	kidney	no chloralose-alpha detected	detection limit	2	mg/kg
-------	--------	------------------------------	-----------------	---	-------

## Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

89327	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
-------	------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------	-----	-------

## Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

89327	liver	no rodenticide detected	detection limit	0.001	mg/kg
-------	-------	-------------------------	-----------------	-------	-------

## Conclusion

It was suspected that this goshawk 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 carbofuran and small residues of benfuracarb and carbosulfan in the gizzard content and this is likely to have caused the death of the goshawk. None of these carbamate pesticides have approval for use in the UK and benfuracarb has the most recent final use date of 20th March 2009. Abuse of these pesticides is suspected, given these results and the findings on post-mortem.