

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

116/12



The Food and Environment
Research Agency

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER 116/12
PART OF STUDY FSGD-170
REGIONAL NUMBER W/12/17
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0045/10/12
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION Sennybridge
Powys
GRID REFERENCE SN9427
INCIDENT DATE 10 October 2012
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT bendiocarb
abuse
DATE OF REPORT 21 December 2012

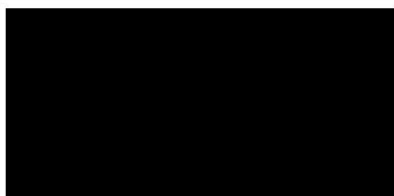
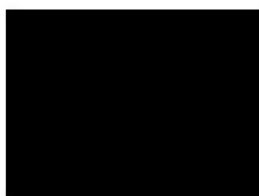
REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

COPIED TO



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| Samples received | | | Date received | Sample identifier |
|------------------|----------|---------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 96213 | red kite | | 25/10/12 | VLA ref.: 29-B0045-10-12 |
| 96213 | red kite | tissues | 25/10/12 | VLA ref.: 29-B0045-10-12 |

Summary of field data

A red kite was found dead on the edge of an area of common land. There were no signs of injury and the bird appeared to the finder to be healthy. The carcase was transferred to the AHVLA for a post-mortem.

Summary of post mortem report

A red kite of unknown sex and body condition and weight 850g, was submitted for post-mortem. There was no evidence of injury, but severe autolysis was noted. The gizzard lining was brown coloured. The gizzard contained fibrous material, possibly straw, and 3 small bones 2-3 cm long. The skin and subcutis, abdominal cavity and musculo-skeletal, respiratory, cardiovascular, lymphoreticular, endocrine, urinary system, reproductive and nervous systems were either unremarkable or could not be assessed due to severe autolysis. Examination was impeded by the advanced autolysis, but there was no evidence of physical injury. The cause of death was not apparent and poisoning cannot therefore be ruled out.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

| | | | | | |
|-------|------------------|------------|-----------|-----|-------|
| 96213 | gizzard contents | bendiocarb | confirmed | 9.6 | mg/kg |
|-------|------------------|------------|-----------|-----|-------|

Analysis : chloralose analysis suite

| | | | | | |
|-------|--------|------------------------|-----------------|-----|-------|
| 96213 | kidney | no chloralose detected | detection limit | 0.5 | mg/kg |
|-------|--------|------------------------|-----------------|-----|-------|

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

| | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------------|-----------|-------|-------|
| 96213 | liver | difenacoum | confirmed | 0.093 | mg/kg |
| 96213 | liver | brodifacoum | confirmed | 0.13 | mg/kg |

Conclusion

It was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of bendiocarb in the gizzard content of this red kite, which is likely to be the cause of it's death. There were also residues of brodifacoum and difenacoum confirmed in the liver and these are consistent with exposure, but also in combination they are around a level that can be regarded as significant. It appears that the abuse of bendiocarb has occurred in this area, although the bait material used is uncertain.