

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

153/14



WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 153/14
PART OF STUDY FSGD-195
REGIONAL NUMBER W/14/06
OTHER REFERENCES 28/M0074/04/14

SENDER

LOCATION Bodfari
Flintshire

GRID REFERENCE SJ0871

INCIDENT DATE 2 April 2015

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT disease

DATE OF REPORT 21 July 2015

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 badger

COPIED TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Summary of field data

A dead badger was found in woodland. The badger was a female and had been dead for some days and the reporter believed that it had been poisoned. There were rumours that another dead badger had been seen in a nearby outbuilding, but this animal was not available for collection. A visit was arranged and the carcass collected and delivered to AVHLA Aberystwyth. There were no obvious signs of injury, hence poisoning suspected. Two badger setts were active in the area, as there were signs of rooting and a well-used badger track. However, these were not closely inspected during the visit. This is a woodland that is kept as a Nature Reserve.

Summary of post mortem report

A female, non-pregnant badger carcass weighing 3.4kg, 59cms in length and in poor body condition was submitted for post-mortem. The degree of autolysis was severe. Green liquid diarrhoea was apparent round the tail. The left eye was missing and the right eye ruptured. Maggots were on the head and ventral abdomen with loss of skin and hair. The badger was not lactating. The liver was brown and mottled and the hepatic lymph node very enlarged. The stomach contained a small volume of green liquid; the large intestine and rectum also contained green liquid. No lesions were apparent on lymph nodes (retropharyngeal, bronchial or mediastinal). The thymus was enlarged, consisting of pale firm tissue and the spleen was very enlarged, measuring 20cm x 8cm.

Conclusion

This report is for information only. Initially it was suspected that this badger had been poisoned. However, a post-mortem revealed that a natural cause may account for enlargements noted that were thought to be neoplastic, or due to systemic infection. These findings were not considered to be consistent with poisoning. Therefore, no samples were forwarded to the Wildlife Incident Unit for laboratory analyses.