

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

84/22



Original thinking... applied

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 84/22  
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213  
REGIONAL NUMBER W/22/04  
OTHER REFERENCES 28-M0141-01-22  
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC  
LOCATION Penparcau  
Cardiganshire  
GRID REFERENCE SN5879  
INCIDENT DATE 31 January 2022  
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT trauma  
DATE OF REPORT 16 December 2022

REPORTING OFFICER



SIGNED : .....

### NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 badger

COPIED TO



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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
100781	badger	8/8/22	28/M0141/01/22
100781	badger tissues	8/8/22	28/M0141/01/22

## Summary of field data

A dead badger was found close to a footpath. It was found on its stomach with legs stretched out in front and behind. This is the third dead or dying badger to be reported to the Police from this location over a weekend. There had been a badger in difficulties at the same location about three days ago and it is understood that a local vet practice located the badger. They reported that it was suffering neurological problems and poisoning was suspected. The badger later died and the vet may be carrying out an examination, but this is uncertain. The following day another badger was found dead. However, this carcass could not be found and the police are trying to establish what happened to it. Due to the number of deaths and reported neurological symptoms the Welsh Government were contacted. The Police visited the location and found the recent badger carcass and it was photographed in-situ and then retrieved and bagged. It was reported that the badger might have bruising under rear hind leg and an injury below the lower jaw. The Police located the badger sett, which is a well established and extensive sett, with no signs of disturbance, snares, or any other unusual items noted.

## Summary of post mortem report

A badger carcass was received in two layers of brown paper sack. This was a female badger, length 63 cm, good body condition and mild autolysis. There was subcutaneous bruising of the left hind leg seen ventrally. There was mud over the face and jaw and the upper lip on both left and right were damaged, appearance was of a cut with some associated hair loss. There was no associated haemorrhage or inflammation. The muscles of the left hind limb were haemorrhagic with associated haematoma between muscle bodies. The liver was firm and had a mild nutmeg pattern. There was scant brown mucus and liquid stomach contents and scant intestinal contents. There were three small distensions of the uterine horns that were palpated and indicative of early pregnancy. Examination of all other organ systems was unremarkable. The endocrine system was not examined.

## Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

100781	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.004	mg/kg
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## Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

100781	stomach contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	2	mg/kg
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## Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100781	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.01	mg/kg
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## Conclusion

Initially, it was suspected that this badger had been poisoned, as there had been several recent mortalities that involved this species. Therefore, laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of difenacoum in the liver of this badger, but the amount found is consistent with background exposure levels only. On examination of the carcass there were some traumatic injuries and these may have contributed to the death of the animal as there has been nothing else of significance found.

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