

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT



Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER 34/21
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213
REGIONAL NUMBER W/21/06
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0061-03-21
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Wrexham
Denbighshire
GRID REFERENCE SJ1635
INCIDENT DATE 27 February 2021
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT bendiocarb abuse
DATE OF REPORT 25 June 2021

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]
SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED
1 red kite

COPIED TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Direct Phone Number 01904 462456 E-mail: wiiis@fera.co.uk

Fera Science Ltd.
York Biotech Campus,
Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

www.fera.co.uk
T: +44 (0)300 100 0321
E: sales@fera.co.uk

Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



Original thinking... applied

34/21 RESTRICTED

Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
100235	red kite	12/3/21	28/B61/03/21
100235	red kite tissues	12/3/21	28/B61/03/21

Summary of field data

The RSPB were initially contacted with a report of a dead red kite which had been found the previous day. An RSPB officer visited the area a couple of days later and the carcass appeared to be in relatively good condition, with a good weight and clenched talons. The carcass was retrieved, with seal number 1234069 and it was noted to be ventral side up, although had originally been reported as being found face down. The bird was taken for an x-ray and this revealed no evidence of shot. The RSPB database flags several persecution issues in the area in the past, with both poisoning cases and shootings. There was evidence of game bird rearing as well as considerable grazing operations. There are three photographs of the carcass taken when recovered and the bird was stored frozen. Welsh Government were contacted and arrangements were made to deliver the carcass to the APHA.

Summary of post mortem report

The red kite was received in a cardboard box labelled with a barcode no. A538178. The box contained 2 clear plastic bags - 1 x red kite with card within outer bag RSPB-1234069 retained (W/21/06) and a buzzard (separate submission W/21/07). The red kite was a female, weight 1.06kg, in fair body condition and moderate autolysis. There was meat (muscle) in its mouth. The proventriculus and gizzard were full of meat and small bones. The large intestine contained dark content. The lungs appeared congested. The ovary was not active. No abnormalities of the remaining body systems were seen.

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

100235	stomach contents	bendiocarb	confirmed	4.3	mg/kg
--------	------------------	------------	-----------	-----	-------

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

100235	stomach contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg
--------	------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------	-----	-------

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100235	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.59	mg/kg
100235	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.012	mg/kg
100235	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.01	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned, particularly as it had clearly just eaten meat and bones and had some meat in its mouth when it died. Laboratory analysis for some likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples and these tests have detected and confirmed a residue of bendiocarb in the stomach content of the red kite, which appeared to consist of dark brown stringy meat and bones. There was also a large residue of brodifacoum and small residues of bromadiolone and difenacoum in the liver of the red kite. The brodifacoum is at a level that may have contributed to the death of the red kite, but there was no haemorrhage noted on post-mortem and the amounts of the other rodenticides are consistent with background exposure only. However, it is likely that the exposure to bendiocarb has caused the death of the red kite, given these results and the supporting information and abuse of the pesticide is suspected. The bait material used is uncertain at present, but it was likely to be an animal bait as there were bones and meat ingested before death.

Fera Science Ltd.
York Biotech Campus,
Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

www.fera.co.uk
T: +44 (0)300 100 0321
E: sales@fera.co.uk

Original thinking... applied