

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

74/21



Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 74/21
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213
REGIONAL NUMBER W/21/15
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0104-04-21
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Mawr, Felindre, Swansea
Glamorgan
GRID REFERENCE SN6507
INCIDENT DATE 16 April 2021
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT wind turbine
DATE OF REPORT 29 September 2021

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]
SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED
1 red kite

COPIED TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
100339	red kite	28/4/21	28/B0104/04/21
100339	red kite	28/4/21	28/B0104/04/21
	tissues		

Summary of field data

Someone was conducting a routine monitoring operation of a wind farm and they found a freshly dead red kite with the wings intact. There have been previous incidents that have involved badgers and birds of prey close to this wind farm and so the red kite carcass was collected and stored frozen in facilities at the wind farm site. The mortality was reported to Welsh Government as the finder was not certain that the red kite had suffered trauma due to a wind farm strike and arrangements were made to deliver the carcass to the APHA.

Summary of post mortem report

The bird arrived in a clear box sealed inside a black plastic bag and labelled W21/15. The red kite was a male, of weight 831g, fair body condition and a severe degree of autolysis. The cranium was reddened subcutaneously. There was a comminuted fracture of the ulna, mid-shaft in the right wing. The distal radius and ulna were fractured in the left wing. The neck was disarticulated at the base of the skull. There were fractures of the ribs dorsally on the right hand side. The peritoneal cavity was open with intestines protruding out. The liver was macerated. The gizzard contents were pasty and grey and plentiful. Only the proximal intestines were present. There were multiple worms up to 6cm long in the duodenum. The lungs were severely autolysed, reddened and friable. All other organ systems examined were unremarkable.

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100339	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.024	mg/kg
100339	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0017	mg/kg
100339	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.08	mg/kg

Conclusion

Initially it was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned, although the post-mortem found signs consistent with trauma. Therefore, laboratory analysis for chloralose and a range of anticoagulant rodenticides only has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed residues of brodifacoum, difenacoum and bromadiolone in the liver of this red kite and these are likely consistent with background levels only. The post-mortem found signs of trauma, with fractured wings and neck disarticulation and so the cause of death of this red kite is likely due to collision with a wind turbine.

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