

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

83/22



Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 83/22
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213
REGIONAL NUMBER W/22/27
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0043-09-22
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog
Denbighshire
GRID REFERENCE SJ1431
INCIDENT DATE 2 September 2022
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT trauma
DATE OF REPORT 7 November 2022

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
100809	red kite	22/9/22	APHA: 28-B0043-09-22
100809	red kite	22/9/22	APHA: 28-B0043-09-22
	tissues		

Summary of field data

A dead red kite was found close to a footpath in the hills above a village. The finder was aware of biosecurity measures and was willing to return to the site to collect the red kite and take photographs of the bird in situ. The find was reported to Welsh Government and the Police Rural Crime Team arranged to collect the carcass. Arrangements were also made to transfer the carcass to the APHA for an examination. There was a previous poisoning incident investigated by WIIS about 4km away in 2021 where a buzzard died and a pheasant bait was laced with bendiocarb (148/21, W/21/25 refers).

Summary of post mortem report

A sample, specimen 1 was received in a sealed outer clear plastic evidence bag ID no. NRW 0050965, and an inner clear police evidence bag sealed with a blue cable tie no. A407270, inside the bird was wrapped inside two black bags. There was a yellow evidence label enclosed with the bird. The red kite was a female, weight not recorded, in good bodily condition and with mild autolysis. There were multiple fly eggs adhered to the feathers over the ventral right wing, and a very large number of fly eggs filling the right eye socket and covering the right side of the face. There was bruising over the surface of the skull, affecting a large proportion of the cranium. There were a few clumps of fly eggs in the oral cavity. The proventriculus was empty. There was one roughly triangular-shaped bone fragment ~1cm x 0.5cm in the gizzard and scant pale green liquid with a few fibrous strands and black specks. There was pink-grey creamy liquid contents along the entire length of the intestines. The lungs were oozing pink-red slightly frothy fluid on the cut surface. Examination of all other organ systems was unremarkable. The endocrine system was not examined.

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100809	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.012	mg/kg
100809	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.018	mg/kg

Conclusion

There is a recent history of illegal pesticide use in the area and given the species affected, a poisoning was suspected. However, the post-mortem found no evidence that the red kite had eaten recently and so laboratory analysis for chloralose and a range of anticoagulant rodenticides only has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of brodifacoum and difenacoum in the liver of this red kite. However, the amounts found are consistent with background levels of exposure and are unlikely to have caused the death of this red kite. Given these results and the findings of bruising over the skull of the red kite, it is possible that a traumatic injury contributed to the death of this red kite.

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