



**Asiantaeth
Iechyd Anifeiliaid
a Phlanhigion**



**Animal &
Plant Health
Agency**

Animal and Plant Health Agency Carmarthen
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Please click on the following link to access our on line
Submission service:
<https://www.animal-disease-testing.service.gov.uk>

28/SG

APHA Ref. No. 28-80062-08-20

Date Received 13/08/2020

**Submission details as supplied by the
customer**

Sender's Ref. W/20/18

Welsh Government (Aberystwyth)
Wildlife Management Unit
Rhodfa Padarn
Llanbadarn Fawr
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 3UR
Email: Wildlife@gov.wales
CC: [REDACTED]

Previous Ref Not Given

Owner Not Given

CPHH Not Given

Date of Sampling 06/08/2020

Case Vet [REDACTED]

Species / Breed Eagle/ Golden Eagle

Sex/ Age Female/ Unknown

Samples Animal Presented Dead x 1

Sub. Reason Project (VLA or Other)

REPORT 1 (PRELIMINARY)

The test result applies to the sample as received. A sub-sample of the item may have been tested where appropriate.

POST MORTEM EXAMINATION

HISTORY

The golden eagle was reported dead by a walker north of the village of Abergwesyn near Llanwrtyd Wells in Powys (map ref SN862560) on 06/08/20. The eagle was picked up and frozen on 07/08/20. It was a captive bird that escaped at 3-months-old and has been living in the wild for 12-15 years. The bird was frozen until 13/08/20 when it was submitted to APHA Carmarthen for postmortem examination. The eagle has been subject to filming over the past year as part of a series about the Cambrian Mountains.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The golden eagle was 82cm long from head to tail tip. Wingspan was approximately 2m. It had a blue ring on the right leg (number 466582A) and a silver ring on the left leg (TWZ 07-36Y).

It had a very prominent keel bone and very little muscle on the legs.

Identification	Sex	Weight (kgs)	Body Condition	Degree of Autolysis	Submitted Live/Dead/Frozen
466582A	F	3.1	Emaciated	Moderate	Frozen

No charges applied

t - Test subcontracted; opinions given and interpretations of the result are outside the scope of UKAS accreditation.
f - Not UKAS accredited; opinions given and interpretations of the result are outside the scope of UKAS accreditation.
§ - Accredited under Flexible Scope.
For further details of the test methods used, and other terms and conditions, please refer to the APHA Website.

NECROPSY FINDINGS

Skin and subcutis:

No subcutaneous fat.

Musculo-skeletal system:

Very little muscle mass

Abdominal Cavity:

Multiple white plaques throughout the peritoneum, firm, circular 1-3mm diameter, some coalescing. There was a 1.5cm walled off cavity adjacent to the right abdominal airsac, thick walled containing a white firm mass of caseous material.

Alimentary system:

There was a mat of fibre in the crop, mostly grass, small fragments of leaf and a fragment of possible bracken.

Proventriculous and gizzard were a firm mass adhered to the body wall and encased in white proliferative layers. There was a mass of firm white caseous material in the gizzard.

Small intestinal contents were green and pasty. Large intestinal contents were scant and green.

Respiratory system:

The lungs and airsacs contained multiple white circular nodules throughout.

Urinary system:

There was scattered small white circular plaques in the right kidney.

Reproductive system:

The ovary was very small.

All other organ systems examined were unremarkable.

LABORATORY FINDINGS

Sample	Microscopic examination
GOLDEN EAGLE Caecum (Slide)	No Eggs or Oocysts Seen.
GOLDEN EAGLE Duodenum (Slide)	No Eggs or Oocysts Seen.
GOLDEN EAGLE Mid intestine (Slide)	No Eggs or Oocysts Seen.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Tissue Lead x 1, Fungal Culture x 4, Primary bacterial culture and presumptive identification x 4

COMMENT

This adult female golden eagle was emaciated with no visible fat in the carcass and very little muscle mass. The only identifiable material in the upper digestive tract was fibre, mostly grass, in the crop. The white caseous material in the gizzard could have been associated with the white plaques and abscesses throughout the bird and may not have been food material. It is therefore unlikely this bird had recently fed.

The white plaques throughout the respiratory system, peritoneum, proventriculus, gizzard and right kidney are likely fungal in origin and cultures of a number of sites are underway. Aspergillosis is the most common systemic mycosis in birds and associated with immunocompromising factors.

No eggs or oocysts were identified on parasitology but the results may have been affected by the process of freezing. Tissue lead levels will be tested. A range of tissues have been placed in fixative but again the freezing process and degree of carcass autolysis may impact on interpretation.

The rings and a sample of blood have also been retained as requested.

Please confirm if the carcass and tissues retained should be sent for toxicology.

[REDACTED]
21/08/2020

Awdurdodwyd ar gyfer e-bost a copi caled a lofnodwyd wedi'i gadw gan APHA.

Authorised for e-mail - signed hard copy retained by the APHA.

Free carcass collection service, for pre agreed Post Mortem items that are of Surveillance value, is available in England & Wales - to check if this service is available in your area please go to:
<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/postcode/pme.asp>

Tell us what you think of APHA's laboratory testing and post mortem services and take part in our customer satisfaction survey. The survey is available in English and Welsh here:
https://defragroup.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cuqSVwY8ektZqzb