

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

94/15



## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

**INCIDENT NUMBER** 94/15  
**PART OF STUDY** FSGD-208  
**REGIONAL NUMBER** W/16/05  
**OTHER REFERENCES** 28-B0245-02-16  
**SENDER** VLA Carmarthen  
**LOCATION** Rhayader  
Powys  
**GRID REFERENCE** [REDACTED]  
**INCIDENT DATE** 15 February 2016  
**SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT** background residue  
**DATE OF REPORT** 17 May 2016

**REPORTING OFFICER** [REDACTED]

**SIGNED : .....** [REDACTED] .....

### NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard

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## Samples received

## Date received

## Sample identifier

98353	buzzard		4/3/16	APHA: 28-B0245-02-16
98353	buzzard	tissues	4/3/16	APHA: 28-B0245-02-16

## Summary of field data

A member of the public found a dead buzzard on a footpath just behind a visitor centre. The bird had its wings outstretched but there were no obvious injuries apart from one of its talons had been bitten off. The informant delivered this bird to a bird charity whom then passed this to the Welsh Government. It was then stored in the freezer before being passed to APHA for post mortem.

## Summary of post mortem report

A buzzard weighing 1kg with good body condition was submitted for post mortem. The right talon had one toe missing. There was a hole in the skin at the base of the neck and a couple of haemorrhages were seen on the top of the skull. The crop and oesophagus were missing and some earthworms were in their place on the neck. The proventriculus contained a large mass of green substance but it was undistinguishable. There were a large number of blood clots in the peritoneal cavity surrounding the intestines and the back of the oropharynx contained some blood clots. The musculo-skeletal system, cardiovascular system, lymphoreticular system, endocrine system urinary system, reproductive system and nervous system were all unremarkable.

## Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

98353	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.01	mg/kg
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## Analysis : chloralose

98353	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.005	mg/kg
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## Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

98353	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg
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## Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

98353	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0016	mg/kg
98353	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.011	mg/kg
98353	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0003	mg/kg

## Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed residues of brodifacoum, difenacoum and bromadiolone in the liver of this buzzard. Although there were some haemorrhages over the skull area the amount of anticoagulant rodenticides determined are considered to be consistent with background exposure, rather than the cause of death. Therefore, the cause of death of this buzzard remains uncertain.