

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

9/06



CENTRAL SCIENCE
LABORATORY

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 9/06
PART OF STUDY PGD-230
REGIONAL NUMBER W/06/03
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0215/01/06
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION [REDACTED]
Anglesey
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]
INCIDENT DATE 26 January 2006
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT unknown
DATE OF REPORT 8 May 2006

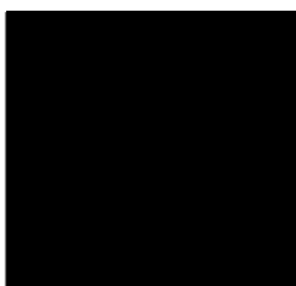
REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard

COPIED TO



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CSL is an Executive Agency of Defra



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Samples received

Date received

Sample identifier

62429	buzzard	tissues	9/2/06	W/06/03 1 : 29/B0215/01/06
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Summary of field data

A buzzard was found dead in the middle of a field of short grassland. The bird had been observed in the field approximately two weeks prior to being found dead.

The incident was reported to Defra and a field visit was conducted.

but said that Defra were welcome to look around any time they liked. The tenant said he had not put any rat poison down recently, and had not noticed anything suspicious in the area. About two weeks prior to this incident a woman apparently saw a buzzard with a broken wing in a nearby field. A search of the area was made following this, but the bird could not be found. Previous incidents have occurred in this area.

The fields in the area are predominantly grassland for beef and sheep.

Summary of post mortem report

A male buzzard was submitted, in good bodily condition, weighing 850g. There were substantial fat deposits and moderate autolysis. There was mud on the beak and feet. The bird was well feathered. There was a small amount of food in the gizzard, probably including plant fibre. It was very well muscled and there was no evidence of trauma or disease. The cause of death was not apparent and therefore poisoning could not be ruled out.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

62429	stomach contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
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Analysis : chloralose-alpha analysis suite

62429	kidney	no chloralose-alpha detected	detection limit	0.4	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

62429	stomach contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.7	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

62429	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.08	mg/kg
62429	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.07	mg/kg

Analysis : strychnine analysis suite

62429	stomach contents	no strychnine detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg
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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 bromadiolone and difenacoum in the liver of this buzzard. The combined residues are close to a level that can be regarded as significant, but there was no haemorrhage reported on the post-mortem of this bird. Therefore, the cause of death of this buzzard remains uncertain.