WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 52/09

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

The Food and Environment Research Agency

INCIDENT NUMBER 52/09

PART OF STUDY FSGD-050

REGIONAL NUMBER W/09/10

OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0006/04/09

SENDER VLA Aberystwyth

LOCATION Llansamlet, nr Swansea
Glamorgan

GRID REFERENCE [redacted]

INCIDENT DATE 4 March 2009

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT trauma

DATE OF REPORT 17 July 2009

REPORTING OFFICER [redacted]

SIGNED : [redacted]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED
1 red kite

COPIED TO [redacted]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
79557	red kite	tissues	3/4/09	29/B0006/04/09

Summary of field data

A juvenile red kite was found dead in an urban area. The bird had no external injuries. There have also been foxes found with no obvious cause of death. There are many pigeon keepers in the local area. The find was reported to the local Police and the Welsh Assembly Government were contacted and the bird was taken to the VLA.

Summary of post mortem report

A juvenile, male, red kite of 750g was submitted for post-mortem. There was severe autolysis and fair body condition, with no tags or identification rings. There was bruising of the musculature dorsal to the sacrum. Light clots were adherent to the liver. There was no ingesta present in the proventriculus, gizzard, small or large intestine. Blood clots were present in the air sacs, particularly on the left hand side and were adherent to the pericardium. There were no other lesions. Although there was evidence of haemorrhage, there was little external evidence of trauma.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

79557	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg

Analysis : chloralose-alpha analysis suite

79557	kidney	no chloralose-alpha detected	detection limit	0.4	mg/kg

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

79557	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.1	mg/kg

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

79557	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.023	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a small residue of difenacoum in the liver of this bird, but this might not account for the haemorrhagic findings noted on post-mortem. Therefore, despite little external evidence of trauma, a traumatic injury might have contributed to the death of this red kite.