

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

37/10



The Food and Environment  
Research Agency

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REVISED REPORT

**RESTRICTED**

**INCIDENT NUMBER** 37/10  
**PART OF STUDY** FSGD-100  
**REGIONAL NUMBER** W/10/06  
**OTHER REFERENCES** 29-B0081-04-10  
**SENDER** VLA Aberystwyth  
**LOCATION** Machynlleth  
Montgomeryshire  
**GRID REFERENCE** [REDACTED]  
**INCIDENT DATE** 15 April 2010  
**SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT** carbofuran  
abuse  
**DATE OF REPORT** 15 July 2010

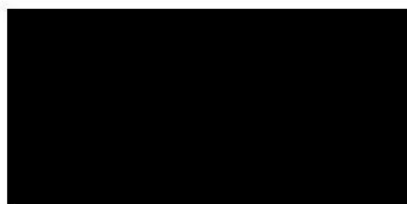
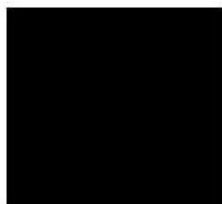
**REPORTING OFFICER** [REDACTED]

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

### NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard  
1 red kite

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
85042	red kite	maggots	15/4/10	29-B0081-04-10
85042	red kite	tissues	15/4/10	29-B0081-04-10
85043	buzzard	tissues	15/4/10	29-B0081-04-10

## Summary of field data

A dead red kite, buzzard and a crow were found within two feet of each other on a nature reserve [REDACTED] [REDACTED] suspects that the crow was a poisoned bait and that the buzzard and red kite died as a result of eating the crow. He thought the birds had been dead about a week. [REDACTED]

## Summary of post mortem report

An adult red kite was submitted for post-mortem, weighing 600g and in a fair body condition with severe autolysis. The eyes were missing. There were maggots in the mouth and in the abdominal cavity. The intestines and kidney were missing. The liver and brain were liquidised. The gizzard contained a leg bone and some black feathers. Otherwise no visible lesions were noted. An adult male buzzard was also submitted weighing 950 g in a fat body condition with severe autolysis. The tissues were friable. The eyes were sunken and dried. There was a hole in the skull and the brain was missing. The back of the mouth and oesophagus were filled with black feathers and tissues. The gizzard contained more black feathers and caseous white soft material. Otherwise no visible lesions were noted.

## Analysis : carbamate (GC) analysis suite

85042	gizzard contents	carbofuran	confirmed	0.16	mg/kg
85043	gizzard	carbofuran	confirmed	1.4	mg/kg

## Analysis : chloralose-alpha analysis suite

85043	kidney	no chloralose-alpha detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
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## Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

85043	gizzard	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.1	mg/kg
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## Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

85042	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.027	mg/kg
85043	liver	no rodenticide detected	detection limit	0.003	mg/kg

## Conclusion

It was suspected that these birds had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for some likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples, but no significant residues from the compound groups tested for were found. However, there was a small residue of brodifacoum noted in the liver of the red kite only and the amount is consistent with exposure rather than the cause of death. Further tests for a range of carbamate compounds will be completed on both birds and a revised report issued if a residue is found. Therefore, at present the cause of death of these birds remains uncertain.

Tests for a range of carbamate compounds has also been completed. They confirmed small residues of carbofuran in the gizzard contents of both birds. Given the decayed condition of these birds, the amounts found are probably significant and are likely to be the cause of their death. Abuse of carbofuran is suspected, but where or how these birds were exposed remains uncertain.

This replaces the earlier report issued on the 15 June 2010.