

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



47/14

The Food & Environment
Research Agency

INCIDENT NUMBER 47/14
PART OF STUDY FSGD-195
REGIONAL NUMBER W/14/15
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0216-07-14
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Cyfronydd, nr Welshpool
Powys
GRID REFERENCE SJ1307
INCIDENT DATE 21 July 2014
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue
DATE OF REPORT 25 September 2014

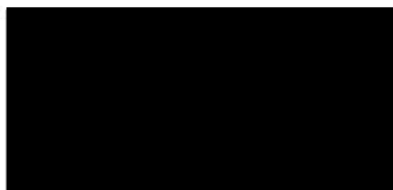
REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 tawny owl

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
97618	tawny owl	1/8/14	Spec ref 1, VLA ref 28-B0216-07-14
97618	tawny owl tissues	1/8/14	Spec ref 1, VLA ref 28-B0216-07-14

Summary of field data

A dead tawny owl was found. The informant noticed a tawny owl sitting on a gate under some trees within the grounds of his house two nights running. In the early hours of the second night he noticed the owl had dropped to the floor, but appeared to be well. However, later that morning he found it dead a few metres from where he had seen it earlier. The informant also reported that he had not seen the usual buzzards and rooks in the area for a few days. The informant does not use rodenticides or other chemicals. The area is surrounded by farmland, with sheep rearing and cattle.

Summary of post mortem report

An emaciated male tawny owl weighing 267g with a moderate degree of autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. There was a very small amount of fibrous content in the gizzard. A few ascarid type worms were seen in the small intestine. There were no other abnormalities. The bird was emaciated and the intestinal worms may have contributed to this. There was no food in the stomach.

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

97618	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.15	mg/kg
97618	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.007	mg/kg
97618	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0004	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this tawny owl had been poisoned. However, a post-mortem revealed that a natural cause, such as starvation, might account for the death of this bird. Therefore, laboratory analysis for a range of anticoagulant rodenticides only has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of difenacoum and some brodifacoum and bromadiolone in the liver of this bird. There was no haemorrhage reported on the post-mortem and so the role that these rodenticides had in the death of this bird is uncertain. However, it does confirm that this tawny owl was exposed to three anticoagulant rodenticides and it was also in emaciated body condition.