

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

73/23



Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 73/23
PART OF STUDY WIIS23
REGIONAL NUMBER W/23/16
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0053-08-23
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Gaerwen
Anglesey
GRID REFERENCE SH4871
INCIDENT DATE 18 July 2023
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT trauma
DATE OF REPORT 13 November 2023

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 kestrel

COPIED TO

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Direct Phone Number 01904 462456

Fera Science Ltd.

York Biotech Campus,
Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

E-mail: wiiis@fera.co.uk

www.fera.co.uk

T: +44 (0)300 100 0321

E: sales@fera.co.uk

Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

73/23



Original thinking... applied

Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
101103	kestrel	22/8/23	APHA Ref: 28-B0053-08-23
101103	kestrel	22/8/23	APHA Ref: 28-B0053-08-23
	tissues		

Summary of field data

A juvenile kestrel was found dead on a footpath by a member of the public. Two juvenile kestrels had been seen flying in the area in the days leading up to the discovery of the dead kestrel. The informant thought the carcass to be in good condition if slightly skinny. The incident was reported to the rural crime team. An officer collected the carcass from the informant's home and stored it in the rural crime team freezer, before being sent to the APHA for post-mortem. This is a rural area surrounded by farmland. There are several residential properties and farms in the area, with a village nearby. There is a road near to where the kestrel was found.

Summary of post mortem report

One juvenile kestrel of unknown sex and weight in emaciated condition with moderate autolysis was submitted dead for post-mortem. There was blood on the feathers over the left side of the head. Oro-pharyngeal and cloacal swabs were taken for AI testing, no Influenza A viral RNA was detected. In the musculo-skeletal system there was very poor pectoral musculing. There was a complete fracture of the caudal aspect of the skull with blood clots, small fragments of bone, and haemorrhage of the bone adjacent to the fracture site. In the alimentary system, the proventriculus was empty, the gizzard contained scant dark red-black material and the intestinal contents were dark red-black liquid to pale brown liquid. In the nervous system, the brain was very soft. The right eye appeared abnormal, being large and more prominent than expected. On closer inspection, a fake 'googly' eye had been pushed into the eye socket on top of the actual eye and coloured in with black biro to appear dark. Examination of all other organ systems was unremarkable. The endocrine, lymphoreticular and genital systems were not examined. The kestrel was emaciated with scant to empty stomachs indicating it had not eaten recently. This juvenile kestrel had a large fracture of the back of the skull, with associated haemorrhage indicating that this likely occurred prior to or around the time of death. This significant trauma would have resulted in death of the bird.

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

101103	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.023	mg/kg
101103	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0021	mg/kg
101103	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.44	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this kestrel had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for chloralose and a range of rodenticides was undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of bromadiolone, and also small residues of brodifacoum and difenacoum in the liver of this bird. The bromadiolone residue is at a level normally considered to be contributory to cause of death, and although there was some haemorrhage noted on post-mortem, this was associated with trauma. Therefore, the cause of death of this juvenile kestrel is likely due to trauma.

Fera Science Ltd.
York Biotech Campus,
Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

www.fera.co.uk
T: +44 (0)300 100 0321
E: sales@fera.co.uk

Original thinking... applied

Fera Science Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales (registered number 9413107) whose registered address is at 65 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7NQ

©2023 Fera Science Limited. Confidential and proprietary information.