



WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 46/18
PART OF STUDY FSGD-209
REGIONAL NUMBER W/17/13
OTHER REFERENCES 28/M0117/11/17
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Bryneglwys, Corwen
Denbighshire
GRID REFERENCE SJ1545
INCIDENT DATE 20 November 2017
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT traffic accident
DATE OF REPORT 30 July 2018

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]
SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED
2 badger

COPIED TO

| | |
|------------|------------|
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

| Samples received | | Date received | Sample identifier |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 99057 | badger | 23/5/18 | 28-M0117-11-17 |
| 99057 | badger tissues | 23/5/18 | 28-M0117-11-17 |

Summary of field data

Two men with spades were seen on the top of a well-known badger sett. The member of the public visited the area the following day and found two dead badgers. The Police were contacted and arrangements were made for them to visit the area and they found the two dead badgers in the sett. The carcasses were collected and stored at the Police station and Welsh Government were contacted. Arrangements were made to collect the carcasses and deliver them to the APHA at Carmarthen for a post-mortem. An email was received from Welsh Government on 7th June 2018 to confirm that testing of tissues was not required.

Summary of post mortem report

Two badger carcasses were received, frozen, for post mortem examination. Carcass one, the sex was not assessed and there was severe autolysis. Carcass two, was an adult female and 79cm nose to rump length, fat body condition and mild autolysis. Carcass one was severely autolysed with hind quarters and all carcass viscera missing, remaining fat was liquefied and muscle tissue was friable. The bones of the face and cranium were mobile, but there were no sharp edges and all face and cranium bones appeared to be intact. There were large numbers of fly pupae present in all orifices and carcass openings. Carcass two was not pregnant and was not lactating and the carcass was mildly autolysed and in fat condition with a large amount of subcutaneous fat. There was one small area of subcutaneous haemorrhage identified on the medial right thigh approximately 3 cm diameter. There was a large blood clot and haemorrhage in the thoracic cavity. There was damage to the lung parenchyma at the level of the tracheal bifurcation with associated haemorrhage. Stomach contents were grey mucus with small fragments of earth worm, which were unremarkable and consistent with a normal diet. All other organ systems examined were unremarkable. Comprehensive examination of carcass one was not possible due to the level of autolysis and the extensive amount of missing tissues that meant unable to collect samples for TB culture and so further testing and examination will not be possible. Carcass two tissues were stored pending the results of TB culture.

Conclusion

This report is for information only. Initially it was suspected that these badgers had been intentionally killed and that poisoning may also be involved. However, a post-mortem has revealed that in one carcass there was no evidence of haemorrhage, bruising to soft tissue, or bone fracture and further evidence on a cause of death was not available due to the condition of the carcass. For badger two, although there was no subcutaneous evidence of trauma or bruising, the haemorrhage in the thoracic cavity was likely to be consistent with a road traffic accident and the thoracic haemorrhage would have been sufficient to cause death. Although tissues were forwarded to the Wildlife Incident Unit from badger two, given these findings testing was not considered to be worthwhile.