

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT



WILDLIFE INCIDENT REVISED REPORT

Original thinking... applied

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER 48/20
PART OF STUDY FSGD-211
REGIONAL NUMBER W/20/05
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0054-05-20
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Felindre, Knighton
Powys
GRID REFERENCE SO1582
INCIDENT DATE 25 March 2020
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT diazinon
veterinary use
DATE OF REPORT 21 August 2020

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]
SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED
3 red kite

COPIED TO
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Samples received	Date received	Sample identifier
99902 red kite	29/5/20	28/B0054/05/20 : red kite 1
99902 red kite tissues	29/5/20	28/B0054/05/20 : red kite 1
99903 red kite	29/5/20	28/B0054/05/20 : red kite 2
99903 red kite tissues	29/5/20	28/B0054/05/20 : red kite 2
99904 red kite	29/5/20	28/B0054/05/20 : red kite 3
99904 red kite tissues	29/5/20	28/B0054/05/20 : red kite 3

Summary of field data

Two red kites were found dead in a field, during March 2020 and a further red kite was found in a nearby field in April 2020. The case was initially reported to the Police and they collected the birds and contacted Welsh Government. The RSPB were also involved when the third red kite was found across the road from the earlier mortalities. The carcasses were transferred to the VIC for a post-mortem examination, after storage with the Welsh Government. The Police visited the owner of the field and he had not been aware of the birds in the field, but he had seen dead crows up on the hill. There is a small pheasant shoot nearby. The area where the dead crows had been seen was close to a previous incident that involved diazinon and the death of many corvids and a red kite (115/09 W/09/27- veterinary use of diazinon). Photos of the incident were emailed to Welsh Government by the reporter and both birds were found out in a field and looked suspicious.

Summary of post mortem report

Three red kites were submitted for post-mortem. Red kite 1, was an unknown sex, weight 723g was in severe autolysis and the body condition was not possible to assess. Red kite 2 and 3 were male, weight 831g and 877g, good bodily condition and mild autolysis. Red Kite 1 was received in a signed brown paper evidence bag with a plastic seal A124682. The signed part of the bag has been retained. The bird had wing-tags on both wings with yellow A on both tags. It had a leg ring on the right leg BTONATHISTORY MUSEUM GV34172. The body cavities were open and contained large numbers of maggots. The liver, kidneys, lungs, heart and pectoral muscles were missing and leg muscle was collected for toxicology. The gizzard contained a small amount of fibrous content. Red Kite 2 and 3 were in plastic bags within a brown paper evidence bag sealed with yellow bag seal A135143 and the signed part of the bag has been retained. There were no wing tags or leg rings. The carcasses were intact. The gizzard of each bird contained a small amount of soft brown content. There were no abnormalities of the remaining body systems seen.

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

99902	stomach contents diazinon	confirmed	33	mg/kg
99903	stomach contents diazinon	confirmed	6	mg/kg
99904	stomach contents diazinon	confirmed	20	mg/kg

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

99903	liver	no rodenticide detected	detection limit	0.003	mg/kg
99904	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.00061	mg/kg
99904	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0006	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that these red kites had been poisoned. Given the history in the area, laboratory analysis for a range of organophosphate pesticides has been prioritised on the stomach content of these birds. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of diazinon in all the samples tested and this exposure is likely to be the cause of death of these red kites. There was only some brown vegetation type material and bone in the stomach of red kite 1 and the other two birds had no content and so the stomach lining was tested. This incident has been assigned to veterinary use, as diazinon is usually used as a sheep dip, but an illegal use of it may have occurred in the area. Routine testing for anticoagulant rodenticides will be completed on red kite 2 and 3 and a revised report issued if residues are found.

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Routine testing for a range of anticoagulant rodenticides was completed on red kites 2 and 3. These tests have detected and confirmed small residues of brodifacoum and bromadiolone in the liver of one red kite (3). These are consistent with background residues only.

This replaces the earlier restricted report issued on the 11th June 2020.



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