

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT



Original thinking... applied

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 73/20  
PART OF STUDY FSGD-211  
REGIONAL NUMBER W/20/11  
OTHER REFERENCES 28/B0059/06/20  
SENDER VLA Carmarthen  
LOCATION Llanddeusant  
Carmarthenshire  
GRID REFERENCE SN7724  
INCIDENT DATE 15 May 2020  
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue  
DATE OF REPORT 4 September 2020

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]  
SIGNED : ..... [REDACTED]

### NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

### COPIED TO

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

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73/20

| Samples received |                  | Date received | Sample identifier |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 99952            | red kite         | 19/6/20       | 28/B0059/06/20    |
| 99952            | red kite tissues | 19/6/20       | 28/B0059/06/20    |

## Summary of field data

A dead red kite was found in a field that was close to some woods. The finder contacted a local falconer and sent photos of the carcass to them. From these photos the carcass appeared to be healthy and there were no obvious signs of trauma to it, as it appeared to be undamaged. The falconer visited the location and collected the carcass and stored it in a freezer. Welsh government were contacted and the case was accepted into WIIS and arrangements made to get the carcass to the APHA for a post-mortem.

## Summary of post mortem report

A frozen, female, red kite carcass was received for post-mortem and it weighed 910g, good body condition and mild autolysis. The gizzard contained a small amount of soft yellow content which was adherent to the koilin layer of the gizzard. The ovaries were small and inactive. There were no abnormalities of the remaining body systems seen.

## Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

|       |                  |                                     |                 |     |       |
|-------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|-------|
| 99952 | stomach contents | no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected | detection limit | 0.8 | mg/kg |
|-------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|-------|

## Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

|       |                  |                             |                 |     |       |
|-------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----|-------|
| 99952 | stomach contents | no organophosphate detected | detection limit | 0.5 | mg/kg |
|-------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----|-------|

## Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

|       |       |             |           |      |       |
|-------|-------|-------------|-----------|------|-------|
| 99952 | liver | brodifacoum | confirmed | 0.07 | mg/kg |
|-------|-------|-------------|-----------|------|-------|

## Conclusion

It was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. However, no significant residues from the compound groups tested for were found. There was a small residue of brodifacoum detected and confirmed in the liver of this red kite, but the amount found is consistent with background exposure only. Therefore, the cause of death of this red kite remains uncertain.

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