

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

70/21



Original thinking... applied

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

**RESTRICTED**

**INCIDENT NUMBER** 70/21  
**PART OF STUDY** FSGD-213  
**REGIONAL NUMBER** W/21/14  
**OTHER REFERENCES** 26-B0091-04-21  
**SENDER** APHA Shrewsbury VIC

**LOCATION** Eglwys Fach, Machynlleth  
Cardiganshire

**GRID REFERENCE** SN6896

**INCIDENT DATE** 13 April 2021

**SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT** fenthion  
veterinary use

**DATE OF REPORT** 29 September 2021

**REPORTING OFFICER** [REDACTED]

**SIGNED :** [REDACTED]

### NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

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

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
100332	red kite	27/4/21	26/B91/4/21
100332	red kite	27/4/21	26/B91/4/21
	tissues		

### Summary of field data

A red kite was found underneath a rhododendron bush in the garden of a Hotel. Initially, the carcass was sent to the APHA as part of the Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Surveillance Scheme, but it was later reported to Welsh Government as a possible poisoning incident as there were no obvious signs of injury.

### Summary of post mortem report

An adult, female, red kite, of weight 1.05kg and fair to good body condition with moderate to severe autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. There were many live maggots in the mouth and oesophagus and in the cloaca and rectum. The remains of a small mammal, mostly fur and bones, were present in the gizzard and proventriculus. The cloaca was much expanded with thick urate crusting on the mucosa and two large uroliths in the lumen. The lungs were very dark/congested. There was no specific pathology identified in the other body systems.

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

100332	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.06	mg/kg
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### Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

100332	stomach contents	fenthion	confirmed	70	mg/kg
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### Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100332	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.042	mg/kg
100332	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.045	mg/kg
100332	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.006	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. These tests have detected and confirmed a large residue of fenthion in the gizzard contents of the red kite and this appeared to consist of a dark brown, fibrous mass and lots of bones and the remains of a rodent. Exposure to fenthion is the likely cause of death of this red kite. There were also residues of bromadiolone, difenacoum and brodifacoum confirmed in the liver from this red kite, but these are considered to be consistent with background exposure levels only. The source of the fenthion is uncertain at present and a fenthion case has not been reported by WIIS since 2016 (98/16, W/16/06). This incident has been assigned to veterinary use given the historical use of this compound as a sheep dip, but this is likely to be from an illegal use of fenthion.

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