# Investigation launched into shooting of protected red kite in Strathdon



On Monday, February 3, a red kite was discovered in the Glenbuchet area of Strathdon, prompting a police investigation that began on Wednesday, February 26. Initial assessments did not clarify the circumstances surrounding the bird's condition, but subsequent investigations with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) confirmed that the kite had been shot.

The situation has prompted the involvement of the Wildlife Crime Unit, which is now investigating the incident to ascertain the full details surrounding the death of the protected species. Detective Constable Danny Crilley of the unit stated, “Red kites are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and it is illegal to kill any protected species,” underlining the seriousness of the situation.

Crilley further appealed to the public for assistance, asking anyone who may have information related to the incident to come forward. He noted, “Your information could be vital in establishing what has happened.” Police are particularly interested in hearing from anyone who was in the Glenbuchat area on February 3 or February 4 and may have witnessed any suspicious activity or shooting in the vicinity.

The public is encouraged to contact Police Scotland by dialling 101 and quoting incident number 0846 of Thursday, February 27. Alternatively, individuals can provide information anonymously through Crimestoppers at 0800 555 111. Enquiries into the incident are ongoing, with the police collaborating with various partner agencies to fully understand the events leading to the death of the red kite.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://raptorpersecutionuk.org/2025/02/28/red-kite-found-shot-dead-in-strathdon-area-of-cairngorms-national-park-police-scotland-appeals-for-information/> - This URL supports the claim that a red kite was found shot near Strathdon and that Police Scotland is appealing for information regarding the incident.
* <https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2025/february/appeal-for-information-after-bird-of-prey-shot-near-strathdon/> - This URL corroborates the involvement of the Wildlife Crime Unit and Detective Constable Danny Crilley's appeal for public assistance in the investigation.
* <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69> - This URL provides information on the Wildlife and Countryside Act, which protects red kites and makes it illegal to kill them.
* <https://www.rspb.org.uk/> - This URL is the official website of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), which was involved in confirming that the kite had been shot.
* <https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/> - This URL supports the claim that individuals can provide information anonymously through Crimestoppers.