

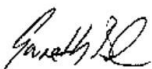


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Report:	Ambient Bioaerosol Monitoring
Client:	Severn Trent Green Power Ltd
Date of Site Work:	31 st July 2023
Areas:	Boundary Monitoring Around Anaerobic Digestion Facility
Prepared for:	Maria Priestley Permits and Accreditation Officer Parc Stormy Stormy Down Porthcawl Bridgend Mid Glamorgan CF33 4RS
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Issued by:	Gareth Brock, MSc
Issue date:	18 th September 2023
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Executive Summary

Maria Priestley of Severn Trent Green Power Ltd requested that Element Materials Technology Environmental UK Limited undertake monitoring of ambient bioaerosols at its Bridgend site. Monitoring was undertaken in accordance with Technical Guidance Note M9 'Environmental Monitoring of Bioaerosols at Regulated Facilities'.

Site work was undertaken by Gareth Brock on 31st July 2023.

The purpose of the bioaerosol monitoring exercise was to establish the amount of bioaerosols being dispersed from the site to the nearest sensitive receptor, as permitted by Natural Resources Wales.

Monitoring Findings:

Sampling Location	Analyte	Permit Limit (CFU/m ³)	Median Concentration of Parallel Samples (CFU/m ³)
Upwind	Total bacteria	1000	<125
	<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>	500	<125
Downwind*	Total bacteria	1000	250
	<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>	500	<125
Downwind Right Hand Fan	Total bacteria	1000	<125
	<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>	500	<125
Downwind Left Hand Fan	Total bacteria	1000	250
	<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>	500	<125

< Less than CFU/m³ Colony Forming Units Per Cubic Metre

Below Permit Limit

Exceeds Permit Limit

1. Introduction

Element Materials Technology Environmental UK Ltd was commissioned by Severn Trent Green Power Ltd to carry out an ambient bioaerosol monitoring exercise around the Anaerobic Digestion Facility at their Bridgend site.

The purpose of the bioaerosol monitoring exercise was to establish the amount of bioaerosols being dispersed from the site to the nearest sensitive receptor, as per permitted by Natural Resources Wales. Monitoring was undertaken in accordance with Technical Guidance Note M9 'Environmental Monitoring of Bioaerosols at Regulated Facilities'. This report details the survey methodology and results on the monitoring of all locations.

Site work was undertaken by Gareth Brock of Element Materials Technology Environmental UK Ltd on 31st July 2023.

2. Measurement Methodology

Measurements were carried out in accordance with parameters specified in Technical Guidance Note M9 'Environmental Monitoring of Bioaerosols at Regulated Facilities'. Of the methods suggested in the protocol, the filter method was utilised in this project.

On site calibration checks were performed on the pumps used and were found to be within the permitted tolerance of the relevant standard. For all measurements the sample head was located 1.5 metres above ground level. Due to access issues both upwind and downwind samples were taken within the site boundaries.

It was previously confirmed that permissions were not in place to enter the adjacent arable fields and there had been no change since the previous visit. During any future monitoring events, it would be preferable to sample outside the boundary on the arable fields, if permissions to access can be arranged. Due to the access road around the perimeter fence was metres being lower than the site embankment it was deemed most appropriate to sample inside the site boundary, on top of the embankment.

The upwind sample was positioned within the fence area adjacent to the site entrance but further in opposite the car park, as again, it was not possible for the site to confirm access permissions to the neighbouring site.

The wind strength was highly variable with significant gusts. Wind direction was generally North Westerly but turbulent and mixed when passing the large silos and downwind past the sampling stations both during the setup and the monitoring periods.

The onsite weather station did not display wind speed or direction, so reference was made to conditions at ground level and online weather for Bridgend area (predominantly a North Westerly wind from 300 degrees).

Downwind and fan sample locations were positioned to maximise capture of bioaerosols although the upper embankment did not provide suitable full coverage based on topography and access.

Triplicate samples were carried out at each selected sampling location; these were approximately 65 to 85 metres from centre of operations (within the site boundaries). Once completed, filters were transferred to the laboratory. The laboratory reported that samples were received on 1st August and deemed to be in suitable condition to culture and proceeded with analysis.

The IOM heads containing a polycarbonate filter were used to determine the bioaerosol exposure under the test conditions. Upon arrival at the laboratory the bioaerosols impacted on each filter were recovered in 2 ml maximum recovery diluent. The target micro-organisms were cultured using appropriate dilutions on the following media.

Half-strength nutrient agar (1/2NA) plates were used for total mesophilic bacteria. Malt extract agar (MEA) plates were used for *Aspergillus fumigatus*.

Samples were incubated for two days at 37°C (total mesophilic bacteria), and for two days at 44°C (*Aspergillus fumigatus*).

The laboratory retained information regarding each sample. Dates and times of preparation, incubation times, batch numbers, personnel responsible, storage medium and incubator temperature were all recorded.

3. Site Information

Severn Trent Green Power Ltd operates an anaerobic digestion (AD) facility at their Bridgend site, South Wales, which processes mainly local authority waste and also some commercial solid and liquid food waste (including packaging). The Parc Stormy site is located in Stormy Down, near Porthcawl, and shares the site with Cenin Renewables which operate an incinerated Bottom ash concrete processing plant located on the west portion of the site; further west is a quarry.

The Severn Trent AD Facility has arable fields to the south and the east of the site. The land just north of the access road appears to be a disused quarry now a water reservoir. The nearest residential sensitive receptor is located east and slightly north on the road approaching the A48. Refer to plans in Section 5 for a map of the local area and a map of the sampling locations on the day of the survey.

A permit had been issued to Severn Trent Green Power Ltd by Natural Resources Wales for the emission of bioaerosols implementing the following limits:

Parameter	Threshold limit (CFU/m ³)
Total bacteria (TB)	1000
<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i> (AF)	500

Table 1. Environmental Parameters - Bioaerosol monitoring							Job Number 114543
Site:		Bridgend, S. Wales		Site Operator		Severn Trent Green Power Ltd	
Date:		31/07/2023		Commissioning Laboratory		EMT Environmental	
Estimated Mass of Materials:		50,00 tonnes per year		Types of materials processed on site		Local authority & commercial food waste (solid & liquid)	
Location	Bearing of samplers from boundary of operational area (degrees °)	Mean direction the wind blows to during the sampling period (degrees °)	Difference in bearing between location of samplers from boundary and mean direction wind blows to (degrees °)	Mean wind speed (mph)	Arithmetic mean of air temperature °C	Arithmetic mean of relative humidity (%)	Prevailing weather conditions including cloud cover
Upwind	300	120	180	20	19	85	Turbulent wind with occasional strong gusts, light rain fall during monitoring
Downwind	120	120	0	20	19	85	Turbulent wind with occasional strong gusts, light rain fall during monitoring
Downwind Right Hand Fan	150	120	30	20	19	85	Turbulent wind with occasional strong gusts, light rain fall during monitoring
Downwind Left Hand Fan	90	120	30	20	19	85	Turbulent wind with occasional strong gusts, light rain fall during monitoring

4. Measurement Results

The results for measurements undertaken at all locations are shown within a number of standardised tables on the following pages:

Table 2. Upwind: Bioaerosol monitoring – Estimated Concentrations of Airborne Micro-organisms								Job Number 114543	
Site:		Bridgend, S. Wales			Site Operator:			Severn Trent Green Power Ltd	
Date:		31/07/2023			Commissioning Laboratory:			EMT Environmental	
Activities affecting Bioaerosol Conc ⁿ		None			Types of materials processed on site:			Local authority & commercial food waste (solid & liquid)	
Location	Sample REF	Distance from centre of operational area (m)	Difference in bearing between location of samplers from boundary and mean direction wind blows to (degrees °)	Sampling Times	Sampling duration (mins)	Microbial Type	Calculated concentration of airborne microorganisms (CFU/m ³)*	Median of parallel samples (CFU/m ³)	Comments
Upwind	114543 – 01	75	180	11:55 – 12:55	60	TB	<125	TB: <125	-
	114543 – 02	75	180			TB	<125		
	114543 - 03	75	180			TB	125		
Upwind	114543 – 01	75	180	11:55 – 12:55	60	AF	<125	AF: <125	-
	114543 – 02	75	180			AF	<125		
	114543 – 03	75	180			AF	<125		

* Site permit limits: Total Bacteria (TB) = 1000 CFU/m³

Aspergillus fumigatus (AF) = 500 CFU/m³

Below permit limit	Exceeds permit limit
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Table 3. Downwind: Bioaerosol monitoring – Estimated Concentrations of Airborne Micro-organisms								Job Number 114543	
Site:			Bridgend, S. Wales		Site Operator:			Severn Trent Green Power Ltd	
Date:			31/07/2023		Commissioning Laboratory:			EMT Environmental	
Activities affecting Bioaerosol Conc ⁿ			None		Types of materials processed on site:			Local authority & commercial food waste (solid & liquid)	
Location	Sample REF	Distance from centre of operational area (m)	Difference in bearing between location of samplers from boundary and mean direction wind blows to (degrees °)	Sampling Times	Sampling duration (mins)	Microbial Type	Calculated concentration of airborne microorganisms (CFU/m³)*	Median of parallel samples (CFU/m³)	Comments
Downwind	114543 – 04	75	0	12:45 – 13:45	60	TB	<125	TB: 250	-
	114543 – 05	75	0			TB	250		
	114543 – 06	75	0			TB	<125		
Downwind	114543 – 04	75	0	12:45 – 13:45	60	AF	<125	AF: <125	
	114543 – 05	75	0			AF	<125		
	114543 – 06	75	0			AF	<125		

* Site permit limits: Total Bacteria (TB) = 1000 CFU/m³

Aspergillus fumigatus (AF) = 500 CFU/m³

Below permit limit	Exceeds permit limit
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Table 4. Downwind Right Hand Fan: Bioaerosol monitoring – Estimated Concentrations of Airborne Micro-organisms								Job Number 114543	
Site:		Bridgend, S. Wales			Site Operator:			Severn Trent Green Power Ltd	
Date:		31/07/2023			Commissioning Laboratory:			EMT Environmental	
Activities affecting Bioaerosol Conc ⁿ		None			Types of materials processed on site:			Local authority & commercial food waste (solid & liquid)	
Location	Sample REF	Distance from centre of operational area (m)	Difference in bearing between location of samplers from boundary and mean direction wind blows to (degrees °)	Sampling Times	Sampling duration (mins)	Microbial Type	Calculated concentration of airborne microorganisms (CFU/m ³)*	Median of parallel samples (CFU/m ³)	Comments
Downwind Right Hand Fan	114543– 07	65	30	12:40 – 13:40	60	TB	<125	TB: 125	-
	114543 – 08	65	30			TB	<125		
	114543 – 09	65	30			TB	125		
Downwind Right Hand Fan	114543 – 07	65	30	12:40 – 13:40	60	AF	<125	AF: <125	-
	114543 – 08	65	30			AF	<125		
	114543 – 09	65	30			AF	<125		

* Site permit limits: Total Bacteria (TB) = 1000 CFU/m³

Aspergillus fumigatus (AF) = 500 CFU/m³

Below permit limit	Exceeds permit limit
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Table 5. Downwind Left Hand Fan: Bioaerosol monitoring – Estimated Concentrations of Airborne Micro-organisms								Job Number 114543	
Site:			Bridgend, S. Wales		Site Operator:			Severn Trent Green Power Ltd	
Date:			31/07/2023		Commissioning Laboratory:			EMT Environmental	
Activities affecting Bioaerosol Conc ⁿ			None		Types of materials processed on site:			Local authority & commercial food waste (solid & liquid)	
Location	Sample REF	Distance from centre of operational area (m)	Difference in bearing between location of samplers from boundary and mean direction wind blows to (degrees °)	Sampling Times	Sampling duration (mins)	Microbial Type	Calculated concentration of airborne microorganisms (CFU/m ³)*	Median of parallel samples (CFU/m ³)	Comments
Downwind Left Hand Fan	114543 – 10	85	30	12:50 – 13:50	60	TB	<125	TB: 250	-
	114543 – 11	85	30			TB	<125		
	114543 – 12	85	30			TB	250		
Downwind Left Hand Fan	114543 – 10	85	30	12:50 – 13:50	60	AF	<125	AF: <125	-
	114543 – 11	85	30			AF	<125		
	114543 – 12	85	30			AF	<125		

* Site permit limits: Total Bacteria (TB) = 1000 CFU/m³

Aspergillus fumigatus (AF) = 500 CFU/m³

Below permit limit	Exceeds permit limit
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Table 6. Controls and Filter Counts - Bioaerosol monitoring				Job Number: 114543
Site: Bridgend, S. Wales		Date: 31/07/2023	Site Operator : Severn Trent Green Power Ltd	Commissioning Laboratory : EMT Environmental
Types of materials processed on site :		Local authority & commercial food waste (solid & liquid)		
Location	Sample Ref Number	Microbial Type	Average Count of microorganisms (CFU/filter)	Comments
Upwind	114543 – 01	TB	0,0	None received
		AF	0,0	
Upwind	114543 – 02	TB	0,0	None received
		AF	0,0	
Upwind	114543 – 03	TB	1,0	None received
		AF	0,0	
Downwind	114543 – 04	TB	0,0	None recieved
		AF	0,0	
Downwind	114543 – 05	TB	2,0	None received
		AF	0,0	
Downwind	114543 – 06	TB	0,0	None recieved
		AF	0,0	
Downwind Right Hand Fan	114543 – 07	TB	0,0	None received
		AF	0,0	
Downwind Right Hand Fan	114543 – 08	TB	1,0	None received
		AF	0,0	
Downwind Right Hand Fan	114543 – 09	TB	1,0	None received
		AF	0,0	
Downwind Left Hand Fan	114543 – 10	TB	0,0	None received
		AF	0,0	
Downwind Left Hand Fan	114543 – 11	TB	0,0	None received
		AF	0,0	
Downwind Left Hand Fan	114543 – 12	TB	1,1	None received
		AF	0,0	

5. Plan

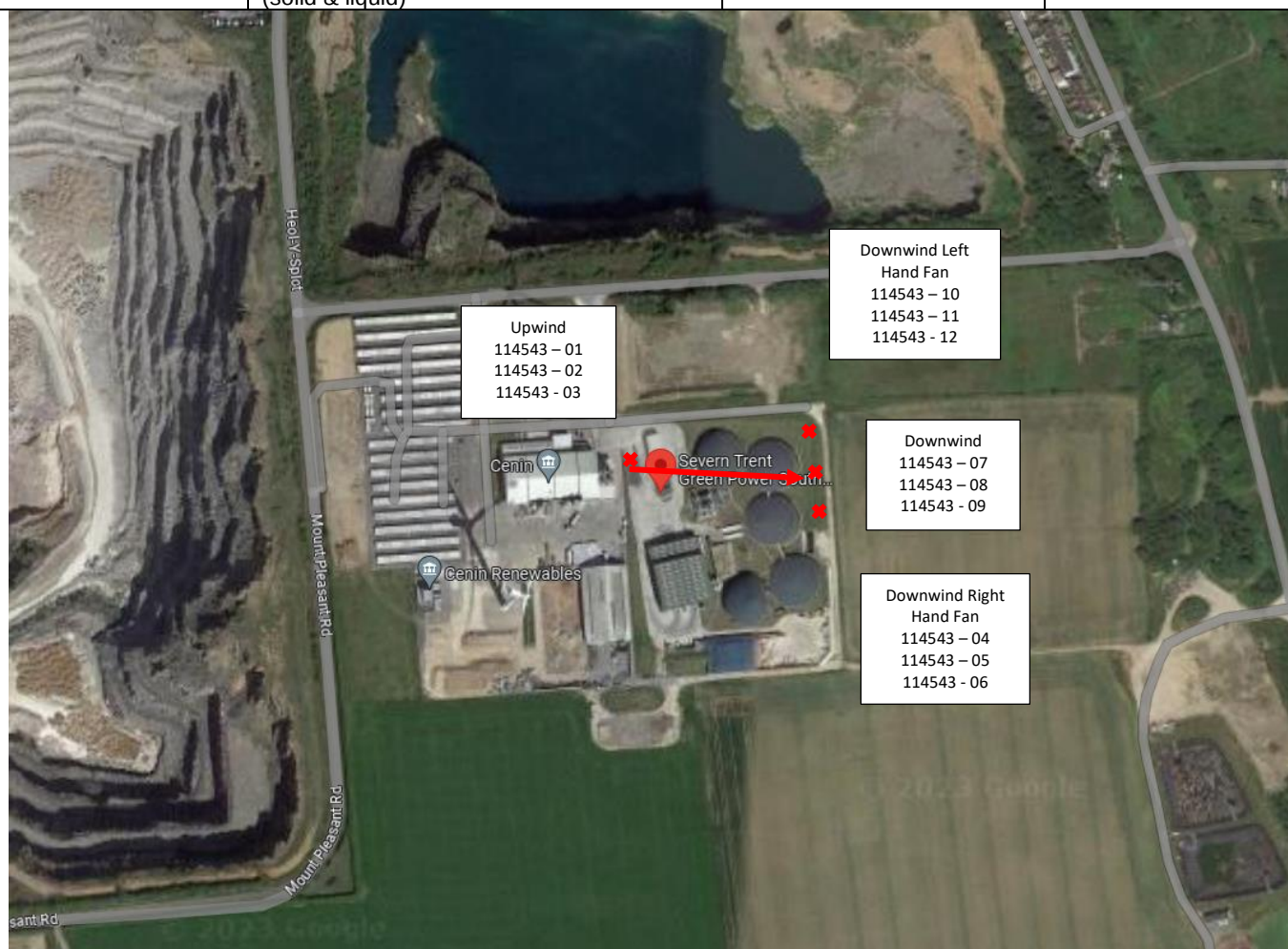
A standard map is shown on the next page. The operational boundary of the site is shown in red and the sample points are shown and labelled.

Bioaerosol Monitoring – Estimated Concentrations of Airborne Micro Organisms		Job Number 114543	
Site	Bridgend, South Wales	Site Operator	Severn Trent Green Power Ltd
Date	31/07/2023	Commissioning Laboratory	EMT Environmental
Types of materials processed on site	Local authority & commercial food waste (solid & liquid)		

Site boundary marked in as orange



Bioaerosol Monitoring – Estimated Concentrations of Airborne Micro Organisms		Job Number: 114543	
Site	Bridgend, South Wales	Site Operator	Severn Trent Green Power Ltd
Date	31/07/2023	Commissioning Laboratory	EMT Environmental
Types of materials processed on site	Local authority & commercial food waste (solid & liquid)		



6. Discussion

Samples for this monitoring were collected using the filter option of the guidance document M9.

As previously reported, if access permissions to surrounding arable land can be arranged during future site monitoring, this would be preferable to sampling within the boundary of the site allowing full capture of the operation and reduce impact from turbulent airflow to the downstream samples.

Weather conditions were heavily overcast and there was some rain fall during the monitoring which may have affected the results. Future testing should be confirmed for dry periods.

Whilst it is possible to replicate the sampling points, many other variables will have changed such as temperature, wind speed and wind direction. As such this monitoring is only a snapshot of the situation on site, not a complete picture. The sampling should be carried out at least quarterly to build up an idea of the characteristics of the site.

All results for *Aspergillus fumigatus* (AF) were below the site permit limits.
All of the results were below the site permit limit for total bacteria.

7. Conclusions

Element Materials Technology Environmental UK Limited was commissioned by Severn Trent Green Power Ltd to carry out a bioaerosol monitoring exercise at the Anaerobic Digestion Facility in Bridgend, South Wales.

Measurements were carried out in accordance with parameters specified in Technical Guidance Note M9 'Environmental monitoring of bioaerosols at regulated facilities'. Of the methods suggested in the protocol, the filter method was utilised in this project.

The data results during this exercise show that median results for total bacteria were within the permit limits.

The data results show that median results for *Aspergillus fumigatus* were below the site permit values.

The site is due to be re-assessed in October 2023.

Appendix 1. Analysis Certificates

ELE/23/14
Issue no.1**University of
Hertfordshire**
Hatfield Herts
AL10 9AB**Biodet**Direct line 01707 284545
Laboratory 01707 284522
Fax 01707 285046Gareth Brock
Element Materials Technology,
Lawton Square,
Delph,
Oldham,
OL3 5DT

Our Ref: ELE/23/14

Date: 14th August 2023**BIOAEROSOL EXPOSURE REPORT**Log No. 2750
Sample date. 31st July 2023
Engineer: Gareth Brock
Job no.: 114543Fourteen IOM bioaerosol exposure heads were received on 1st August 2023.
Occupational exposure events were monitored:

Sample no.	Sample ID	Date	Volume (litres)
Bio1	UW 01	31/07/2023	120
Bio2	UW 02	31/07/2023	120
Bio3	UW 03	31/07/2023	120
Bio4	DW RHF 01	31/07/2023	120
Bio5	DW RHF 02	31/07/2023	120
Bio6	DW RHF 03	31/07/2023	120
Bio7	DW 01	31/07/2023	120
Bio8	DW 02	31/07/2023	120
Bio9	DW 03	31/07/2023	120
Bio10	DW LHF 01	31/07/2023	120
Bio11	DW LHF 02	31/07/2023	120
Bio12	DW LHF 03	31/07/2023	120
Bio13	Blank 01	31/07/2023	N/A
Bio14	Blank 02	31/07/2023	N/A

The IOM heads containing a polycarbonate filter were used to determine the bioaerosol exposure under the test conditions. Upon arrival at the laboratory the bioaerosols impacted on each filter were recovered in 3 ml maximum recovery diluent. The target micro-organisms were cultured using appropriate dilutions on the following media.

Nutrient agar (NA) agar plates were used for total bacteria.
Malt extract agar (MEA) agar plates were used for *Aspergillus fumigatus*.


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The samples were incubated for 2 days at 37C (total bacteria) and for 2 days at 44C (*Aspergillus fumigatus*).

Results:

Site 114543
Date 31st July 2023
Comments: All polycarbonate filters and filter heads were in good condition.

Table 1. Microbiological Culture Plate Data:

Sample no.	Sample ID	Volume (litres)	Total Bacteria (cfu per plate)	Total <i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i> (cfu per plate)
Bio1	UW 01	120	0, 0	0, 0
Bio2	UW 02	120	0, 0	0, 0
Bio3	UW 03	120	1, 0	0, 0
Bio4	DW RHF 01	120	0, 0	0, 0
Bio5	DW RHF 02	120	0, 0	0, 0
Bio6	DW RHF 03	120	1, 0	0, 0
Bio7	DW 01	120	0, 0	0, 0
Bio8	DW 02	120	2, 0	0, 0
Bio9	DW 03	120	0, 0	0, 0
Bio10	DW LHF 01	120	0, 0	0, 0
Bio11	DW LHF 02	120	0, 0	0, 0
Bio12	DW LHF 03	120	1, 1	0, 0
Bio13	Blank 01	N/A	0, 0	0, 0
Bio14	Blank 02	N/A	0, 0	0, 0


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Table 2. Microbiological Results:

Sample no.	Sample ID	Volume (litres)	Total Bacteria (cfu per m ³)	Total <i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i> (cfu per m ³)
Bio1	UW 01	120	<125	<125
Bio2	UW 02	120	<125	<125
Bio3	UW 03	120	125	<125
Bio4	DW RHF 01	120	<125	<125
Bio5	DW RHF 02	120	<125	<125
Bio6	DW RHF 03	120	125	<125
Bio7	DW 01	120	<125	<125
Bio8	DW 02	120	250	<125
Bio9	DW 03	120	<125	<125
Bio10	DW LHF 01	120	<125	<125
Bio11	DW LHF 02	120	<125	<125
Bio12	DW LHF 03	120	250	<125
Bio13	Blank 01	N/A	<15 per membrane	<15 per membrane
Bio14	Blank 02	N/A	<15 per membrane	<15 per membrane

Exposure results are expressed as total micro-organisms per cubic metre collected during the exposure time.



14th August 2023

Richard Smith
DIRECTOR OF BIODET