

Biodet

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Our Ref: GBEDS/15/Q1

Date: 11th March 2015

BIOAEROSOL MONITORING REPORT

Log No. 419

BIOAEROSOL MONITORING REPORT FROM GROWING BEDS, RAVENS DEN Sampling performed 5 March 2015

The composing site at **Growing Beds, Ravensden** was visited on 5th March 2015.

Sampling for the enumeration of airborne micro-organisms was undertaken by Richard Smith of Biodet following so far as reasonably practicable, the Standardised Protocol for the Monitoring of Bioaerosols at Open Composting Facilities (Association for Organic Recycling (AfOR), 2009).

All sampling was carried out on a normal working day whilst operational activities were taking place, which are detailed in Appendix 1: Site data during sampling. The prevailing weather conditions (wind direction, wind speed, temperature and humidity) were recorded at the time of sampling.

On-site activity (turning, screening etc.) was recorded.

Sampling Points

Sampling points were chosen to correspond with the criteria of the AfOR Protocol (see page 3: Plan of Site, for further details on the positions):

1. Upwind of the composting activities at approximately 50 metres from the operational boundary, south-south-west (220° from north) of the centre of the site operations.
2. Downwind of composting activities at approximately 225 metres from the operational boundary, north-north-east (40° from north) of the site operations.

3. Nearest Receptor* at approximately 290 metres from the operational boundary, south-south-west (193° from north) of the shredding operation.

* *A sensitive receptor is defined as ‘any building, structure or installation in which at least one person normally lives or works, other than a building, structure or installation within the same ownership or control as the operator / owner of the composting facility.’ - Standardised Protocol for the Sampling and Enumeration of Airborne Microorganisms at Composting Facilities: [The Composting Association]*

In the case of Growing Beds, the nearest sensitive receptor was determined to be the cottages and farm to the south-west of the site.

The sample points are indicated on the site map (page 3).

Samples were taken at a height of 1.5 metre, using SKC IOM bioaerosol sampling heads at 2.0 litres per minute.

The recovered membranes were tested for mesophilic bacteria and for *Aspergillus fumigatus*. Nutrient agar (NA) was used to culture mesophilic bacteria and the plates were incubated for 7 days at 37 C.

Malt extract agar (MEA) was used to culture *Aspergillus fumigatus* and the plates were incubated for 2 days at 41 C.

Tests were performed in triplicate at each sampling point.

Identification of *Aspergillus fumigatus* was performed by microscopy.

Results:

Site	Growing Beds, Ravensden
Date of visit:	5-March-2015
Operator:	R. Smith
Wind Direction:	South-south-westerly
Wind Speed:	8-12 mph
Operation:	Wood shredding & site operations

Weather:

- Dry and cool.
- Temperature ranged from 7.1 C to 12.3 C, the average was 9.1 C.
- Relative humidity ranged from 56.0 % to 70.4 %, the average was 63.1%.
- Wind speed ranged from 8 mph to 12 mph, the average was 10 mph.
- Wind direction was on average from the south-south-west (220° from north).

Growing Beds Plan: 5 March 2015



Microbiological Results:

Site: Growing Beds, Ravensden		Site Operator: Mark Evans						
Date: 5 March 2015		Commissioning Lab: Biodet, University of Hertfordshire						
Materials processed on site: Green waste								
Location	Sample ref no.	Distance from site operation (m)	Sampling times (hh:min:ss)	Sampling volume (litres)	Microbial type	Calculated concentration of airborne micro organisms (CFU/m ³)	Arithmetic mean of parallel samples (CFU/m ³)	Comments relating to activities
Upwind	U1	102	09:55-10:40	90	MB	170	111	Shredding & site operations.
Upwind	U2	102	09:55-10:40	90	MB	<200		
Upwind	U3	102	09:55-10:40	90	MB	170		
Upwind	U1	102	09:55-10:40	90	AF	170	56	Shredding & site operations.
Upwind	U2	102	09:55-10:40	90	AF	<200		
Upwind	U3	102	09:55-10:40	90	AF	<200		
Downwind	D1	337	10:55-11:40	90	MB	500	389	Shredding & site operations.
Downwind	D2	337	10:55-11:40	90	MB	500		
Downwind	D3	337	10:55-11:40	90	MB	170		

Downwind	D1	337	10:55-11:40	90	AF	<200	0	Shredding & site operations.
Downwind	D2	337	10:55-11:40	90	AF	<200		
Downwind	D3	337	10:55-11:40	90	AF	<200		
S. receptor	S1	340	11:45-12:30	90	MB	170	333	Shredding & site operations.
S. receptor	S2	340	11:45-12:30	90	MB	330		
S. receptor	S3	340	11:45-12:30	90	MB	500		
S. receptor	S1	340	11:45-12:30	90	AF	<200	0	Shredding & site operations.
S. receptor	S2	340	11:45-12:30	90	AF	<200		
S. receptor	S3	340	11:45-12:30	90	AF	<200		

MB = Mesophilic bacteria, AF = *Aspergillus fumigatus*

Controls:

Site: Growing Beds, Ravensden Date: 5 March 2015				Site Operator: Mark Evans Commissioning Lab: Biodet, University of Hertfordshire Materials processed on site: Green waste			
Location	Sample ref no.	Distance from shredding operation (m)	Sampling times (hh:min:ss)	Sampling volume (litres)	Microbial type	Calculated concentration of airborne micro organisms (CFU/membrane)	Comments relating to activities
Control 1	C1	n/a	n/a	n/a	MB	<15	Membrane loaded on-site but no air passed through
Control 1	C1	n/a	n/a	n/a	AF	<15	Membrane loaded on-site but no air passed through

Environmental conditions:

Site: Growing Beds, Ravensden		Site Operator: Mark Evans	
Date: 5 Mar 2015		Commissioning Lab: Biodet, University of Hertfordshire	
Materials processed on site: Green waste			
Time	Temperature C	Relative humidity %	Wind speed mph
09:50	7.5	66.5	8-12
09:55	7.4	66.8	8-12
10:00	7.2	67.1	8-12
10:05	7.1	68.2	8-12
10:10	7.1	68.4	8-12
10:15	7.1	68.6	8-12
10:20	7.2	70.9	8-12
10:25	7.6	68.9	8-12
10:30	8.0	68.7	8-12
10:35	8.1	67.9	8-12
10:40	8.1	65.3	8-12
10:45	8.6	65.1	8-12
10:50	9.1	63.0	8-12
10:55	9.5	62.6	8-12
11:00	9.6	62.8	8-12
11:05	10.8	61.8	8-12
11:10	10.7	56.2	8-12
11:15	10.9	56.0	8-12
11:20	11.3	57.1	8-12
11:25	11.1	57.4	8-12
11:30	11.2	58.5	8-12
11:35	10.9	58.6	8-12
11:40	10.7	59.5	8-12
11:45	10.6	60.1	8-12

11:50	9.1	61.8	8-12
11:55	9.7	62.8	8-12
12:00	9.3	61.4	8-12
12:05	9.4	61.2	8-12
12:10	9.2	60.8	8-12
12:15	9.6	59.8	8-12

Comments:

Bacteria and fungi occur naturally and are commonly present in the air. Concentrations are highly variable, but background levels of micro-organisms do not normally exceed 1000 cfu/m³ (colony forming units per cubic metre).

Environment Agency guidance levels of 1000 cfu/m³ for bacteria and 500 cfu/m³ for fungi have been used within this report, when assessing the concentrations of bioaerosols.

Upwind position

A. fumigatus spp were detected in low numbers at the upwind position (56 cfu/m³).

Mesophilic bacteria were isolated in low numbers from the upwind position during the sampling period (111 cfu/m³); and concentrations were therefore below the 1000 cfu/m³ EA reference level.

Downwind

A. fumigatus spp were not detected at the downwind position.

Mesophilic bacteria were isolated in low numbers from the downwind position (389 cfu/m³) and results are low in comparison to the 1,000 cfu/m³ EA reference level.

Nearest Receptor

A. fumigatus spp were not detected at the sensitive receptor position.

Mesophilic bacteria results were low at the nearest receptor position (333 cfu/m³) and were below the 1,000 cfu/m³ EA reference level.



R. SMITH

DIRECTOR OF BIODET

11th March 2015

DATE