



memorandum

TO Christchurch City Council FROM Steve Pearce
DATE 12 February 2025
RE Living Earth Odour Monitoring: 1st January to 31st January 2025 Summary

1.0 Background

Living Earth Limited (Living Earth) operates an organics processing plant and composting facility located at 40 Metro Place, Bromley, Christchurch (the LE Site). Living Earth's air discharges are subject to the conditions attached to air discharge consent CRC080301.1 ("the consent") from Canterbury Regional Council (CRC) to discharge contaminants (odour and dust) to air.

Specifically, Condition 27 of the consent states that:

"The discharges to air shall not cause odour or dust which is offensive or objectionable beyond the boundary of the site on which this consent is exercised."

While Living Earth operates the composting facility, Christchurch City Council (CCC) holds the consent.

Pattle Delamore Partners Limited (PDP) has been providing assistance to CCC and Living Earth regarding the assessment and management of odour effects from the site. This has included regular odour scouting. The objectives of the odour scouting are to:

- ∴ Correlate the intensity and characters of observed odour (where possible) to:
 - Odour sources in the Bromley area.
 - Specific activities and/or sources on the LE Site.
 - Meteorological conditions.
 - Time of day.
- ∴ Undertake FIDOL assessments to determine if offensive or objectionable odours are present beyond the site boundary.
- ∴ Corroborate the content of community (i.e., Smelt-It) complaints.

This letter provides a summary of PDP's observations of off-site odour scouting for the period between the 1st January 2025 and 31st January 2025. The stockpiles of the outdoor material, namely the unscreened compost, oversize stockpiles and screened fines have been cleared from the site since the 12th of January 2024.

2.0 Summary of Methodology

Odour observations are made by PDP odour scouts. To ensure consistency between scouts, PDP ensures the following:

1. Scouts periodically undertake parallel odour assessments with each other in the field.
2. Scouts periodically visit the LE Site and familiarise themselves with the character of the odour from the various onsite sources.
3. Scouts undergo nose calibration via direct dilution olfactometry according to the requirements of AS/NZS 4323.3:2001 Section 9.7.2.

During an assessment, scouts walk at a comfortable pace through the area downwind of the LE Site, making note of odours detected. PDP has defined a series of observation points in the area where the scout makes more detailed observations, shown in **Figure 1**. The exact route and observation points visited in an assessment depend on the meteorological conditions (wind speed and direction) and the odour (if any) detected by the scout on the route.

Sites H and M are immediately downwind of the site, located along Dyers Road with sites G and F. Sites I, J, K, and N are located in the heavy industrial zone. Sites A, C, B, D, P, and R are located in the residential zone around Bayswater Reserve. Sites E, L, O, and Q are located roughly along the residential-industrial boundary. In assessments, Sites E, O, D and Q are in the residential zone, while Site L is in the general industrial zone.



Figure 1: Odour Observation Locations

In key areas where odour is detected, or at known sensitive areas, a full 10-minute odour observation is taken. Where 10-minute observations are taken at a site, a FIDOL assessment is completed by the scout and a determination made as to whether the odour is offensive or objectionable.

Determinations made are necessarily the opinion of the odour scout at that time to the conditions they encounter. They are based upon observations in the field but may also include consideration of wider factors such as meteorological conditions and patterns of site activity when considering the potential for offensive or objectionable odour over longer time periods.

Each scout makes their determination with reference to other determinations made, both within PDP, and more widely amongst the air quality profession.

Summaries for each odour scout are included in Section 3.0. Detailed analysis of specific observations is included, where necessary. Results of all 10-minute odour observations, summarised by observation location, are appended to this memorandum.

This memorandum presents the results of the odour scouting undertaken. This report does not analyse odour trends across time.

Due to a change in meteorological data availability since October 2024, wind speed, wind direction and temperature data from the Bromley AWS is not as readily available post-scouting. Retrospective windspeed and wind direction data will not be reported for this monitoring window.

2.1 FIDOL Analysis

As per Ministry for the Environment's Good Practice Guide for Assessing and Managing Odour (MfE GPG), odours were assessed against the FIDOL factors to determine if they were offensive or objectionable. The FIDOL factors are:

- ∴ Frequency;
- ∴ Intensity;
- ∴ Duration;
- ∴ Offensiveness/Character¹; and
- ∴ Location.

Odour intensity is reported on a scale of (0-6) as per the MfE's GPG Odour. PDP applies the following descriptions to each odour intensity to ensure consistency between scouts:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 0. No Odour: | No odour. |
| 1. Very Weak: | Odour detectable but character not recognisable. |
| 2. Weak: | Odour detectable and barely recognisable. |
| 3. Distinct: | Odour readily recognisable. |
| 4. Strong: | Odour is strong but not causing discomfort to assessor. |
| 5. Very Strong: | The odour causes some discomfort; assessor can remain in area but will consider leaving/altering breathing patterns. |

¹ "It is preferable to refer to the character of an odour, rather than its 'offensiveness' to avoid confusion between the inherent characteristics of an odour (i.e., whether it is pleasant or unpleasant) and whether there is an 'objectionable or offensive' effect occurring as a result of exposure to odour." (MfE GPG Odour)

6. Extremely Strong: The odour causes assessor to feel nauseous or compelled to leave the area.

When determining whether odour is having an offensive or objectionable effect, odour scouts make their determination with respect to the FIDOL factors. No regulatory standard exists for the specific combination of FIDOL factors that do or do not constitute an offensive or objectionable odour. However, as a broad litmus test when making determinations at the Living Earth site, PDP scouts consider intermittently distinct (3) or continuous weak (2) odours of a negative hedonic tone (such as compost) to be offensive or objectionable in a residential zone.

Within a heavy industrial zone, there is a lower expectation of amenity as it pertains to odour.

Based on PDP's understanding, this approach is generally consistent with that used by other air quality professionals.

3.0 Results Summary

Result summaries for each odour scout are reported below. Results of all 10-minute odour observations, summarised by observation location, are appended to this memorandum.

Scouts were present in the Bromley area on the:

- ∴ 7th January 2025;
- ∴ 10th January 2025;
- ∴ 16th January 2025; and
- ∴ 30th January 2025.

3.1 7th January 2025

Fergus Robertson was the PDP odour scout. The scout was present for approximately 45 minutes. The scout started near Site C, and then walked along the boundary of the industrial area towards Site M, before walking through the industrial area and returning to Site C. North-easterly winds were forecast. The objective was to undertake odour monitoring in the area downwind of the LE Site. The odour scout route (yellow dots) and key scouting locations are shown in **Figure 2**.



Figure 2: 7th January 2025 - Odour Scout Route

Results from the odour scout are shown below. Entries within **Table 1** that are highlighted blue denote locations within a residential zone and purple denotes locations within an industrial zone.

Table 1: 7 th January 2025 - Odour Scouting Summary		
Site	Time	Observations
C	13:10	No odour (0) detected.
B	13:11	No odour (0) detected.
D	13:12	No odour (0) detected.
E	13:17	No odour (0) detected.
F	13:21	No odour (0) detected.
G	13:22	No odour (0) detected.
H	13:24	No odour (0) to very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character detected.
H to M		Very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character to weak (2) compost odour detected.
M	13:28	No odour (0) detected.
M to H		Very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character to weak (2) rubbish odour detected.
H	13:31	No odour (0) detected.
I	13:34	No odour (0) detected.
J	13:37	Very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character detected.
K	13:40	No odour (0) detected.
L	13:44	No odour (0) detected.
D	13:46	No odour (0) detected.
O	13:48	No odour (0) detected.
C	13:50	No odour (0) detected.

Weak (2) compost odour was detected in the industrial area, between Sites H and M. No compost odour was detected in the residential area. The compost odour in the industrial area was detected directly opposite the site during the period in which PDP understands compost loading and unloading takes place and was not detected further downwind of the site.

3.2 10th January 2025

Fergus Robertson was the PDP odour scout. The scout was present for approximately 30 minutes. The scout started near Site D, and then walked along the boundary of the industrial area towards Site M, then returning to Site D. North-easterly winds were forecast. The objective was to undertake odour monitoring in the area downwind of the LE Site. The odour scout route (yellow dots) and key scouting locations are shown in **Figure 3**.



Figure 3: 10th January 2025 - Odour Scout Route

Results from the odour scout are shown below. Entries within **Table 2** that are highlighted blue denote locations within a residential zone and purple denotes locations within an industrial zone.

Table 2: 10th January 2025 - Odour Scouting Summary

Site	Time	Observations
D	13:23	No odour (0) to very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character detected.
E	13:26	Very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character detected.
F	13:30	No odour (0) detected.
G	13:31	No odour (0) detected.
H	13:34	No odour (0) detected.
H to M		No odour (0) detected.
M	13:38	No odour (0) detected.
H	13:41	No odour (0) detected.
G	13:43	Very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character detected.
F	13:46	No odour (0) detected.
E	13:50	No odour (0) detected.
D	13:53	No odour (0) detected.

No compost odour was detected in either the residential or the industrial area.

3.3 16th January 2025

Fergus Robertson was the PDP odour scout. The scout was present for approximately 30 minutes. The scout started near Site D, and then walked along the boundary of the industrial area towards Site M, then returning to Site D. North-easterly winds were forecast. The objective was to undertake odour monitoring in the area downwind of the LE Site. The odour scout route (yellow dots) and key scouting locations are shown in **Figure 4**.



Figure 4: 16th January 2025 - Odour Scout Route

Results from the odour scout are shown below. Entries within **Table 3** that are highlighted blue denote locations within a residential zone and purple denotes locations within an industrial zone.

Table 3: 16th January 2025 - Odour Scouting Summary

Site	Time	Observations
D	13:15	No odour (0) to intermittent very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character detected.
E	13:18	No odour (0) to intermittent very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character detected.
F	13:22	No odour (0) to very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character detected.
G	13:25	No odour (0) detected.
H	13:27	No odour (0) detected.
H to M		No odour (0) to very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character detected.
M	13:30	No odour (0) detected.
M to H		No odour (0) to intermittent distinct (3) compost odour (directly opposite the LE site).
H	13:33	No odour (0) detected.
G	13:35	No odour (0) detected.
F	13:37	No odour (0) detected.
F to E		Intermittent weak (2) compost odour detected from passing compost truck.
E	13:41	Intermittent weak (2) solvent to no odour (0) detected.
D	13:44	No odour (0) detected.

Distinct (3) compost odour was intermittently detected in the industrial area, between Sites H and M, as well as between Sites E and F while a compost truck drove past the scout. No compost odour was detected in the residential area. The compost odour in the industrial area was detected directly opposite the site during the loading and unloading of compost material from the site and was not detected further downwind of the site.

3.4 30th January 2025

Fergus Robertson was the PDP odour scout. The scout was present for approximately 30 minutes. The scout started near Site D, and then walked along the boundary of the industrial area towards Site M, before walking through the industrial area and returning to Site D. North-easterly winds were forecast. The objective was to undertake odour monitoring in the area downwind of the LE Site. The odour scout route (yellow dots) and key scouting locations are shown in **Figure 5**.



Figure 5: 30th January 2025 - Odour Scout Route

Results from the odour scout are shown below. Entries within **Table 4** that are highlighted blue denote locations within a residential zone and purple denotes locations within an industrial zone.

Table 4: 30th January 2025 - Odour Scouting Summary

Site	Time	Observations
D	12:48	No odour (0) detected.
E	12:52	Very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character to weak (2) marine odour detected.
F	12:56	No odour (0) to very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character detected.
G	12:57	No odour (0) detected.
H	12:59	Weak (2) compost odour detected.
H to M		Weak (2) compost odour to no odour (0) detected.
M	13:03	No odour (0) detected.
M to H		No odour (0) to intermittent distinct (3) compost odour detected.
H	13:07	Weak (2) compost and weak (2) solvent odours detected.
I	13:10	No odour (0) detected.
J	13:13	No odour (0) detected.
J to K		Very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character detected.
K	13:17	No odour (0) detected.
L	13:20	Very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character detected.
D	13:23	Very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character detected.

Distinct (3) compost odour was intermittently detected in the industrial area, between Sites H and M. No compost odour was detected in the residential area. The compost odour in the industrial area was detected directly opposite the site during the loading and unloading of compost material from the site and was not detected further downwind of the site.

4.0 Summary

PDP undertook odour scouting on four occasions between the 1st of January 2025 and the 31st of January 2025.

Typically, PDP considers that intermittent distinct (3) or continuous weak (2) odours of a negative hedonic tone (such as compost) are offensive or objectionable in a residential zone.

Based on PDP's observations:

7th January 2025

- ∴ Weak (2) compost odour was detected in the industrial area, between Sites H and M.

10th January 2025

- ∴ No compost odour was detected in either the residential or the industrial area.

16th January 2025

- ∴ Distinct (3) compost odour was detected in the industrial area, between Sites H and M, as well as weak (2) compost between Sites E and F while a compost truck drove past the scout.

30th January 2025

- ∴ Distinct (3) compost odour was intermittently detected in the industrial area, between Sites H and M.

Excluding the odour from the truck, all instances of compost odour were detected directly opposite the Living Earth site, during the period in which PDP understands compost loading and unloading takes place. Compost was not detected further downwind in the industrial or residential areas.

5.0 Limitations

This memorandum has been prepared by Pattle Delamore Partners Limited (PDP) on the basis of information provided by Christchurch City Council and Living Earth. PDP has not independently verified the provided information and has relied upon it being accurate and sufficient for use by PDP in preparing the memorandum. PDP accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions in, or the currency or sufficiency of, the provided information.

This memorandum has been prepared by PDP on the specific instructions of Christchurch City Council for the limited purposes described in the memorandum. PDP accepts no liability if the memorandum is used for a different purpose or if it is used or relied on by any other person. Any such use or reliance will be solely at their own risk.

© 2025 Pattle Delamore Partners Limited

Prepared by



Fergus Robertson

Air Quality Scientist

Reviewed by



Katherine Gray

Air Quality Engineer

Approved by



Steve Pearce

Group Director