



# memorandum

TO Christchurch City Council FROM [REDACTED]  
DATE 16 April 2026  
RE Living Earth Odour Monitoring: 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. The stockpiles of the outdoor material, namely the unscreened compost, oversize stockpiles and screened fines have been cleared from the site since the 12<sup>th</sup> 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/Character<sup>1</sup>; 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.
6. Extremely Strong: The odour causes assessor to feel nauseous or compelled to leave the area.

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<sup>1</sup> "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)

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:

- ∴ 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026;
- ∴ 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026; and
- ∴ 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.

### 3.1 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

██████ was the PDP odour scout. The scout was present for approximately 1.25 hours from 5:30am to attempt to capture the early morning odour conditions. The scout started near Site D and then walked along the boundary of the residential area and then up towards Site H, focussing on the ambient odour in the area. North-easterly winds were forecast on the day. The odour scout route (yellow dots) and key scouting locations are shown in **Figure 2**.



**Figure 2: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - 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, purple denotes locations within an industrial zone.

**Table 1: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - Odour Scouting Summary**

Site	Time	Observations
D	05:30	Very weak (1) odour of an indeterminate character detected.
D-E	05:34	Intermittent, weak (2) compost and indeterminate very weak (1) odour was detected.
E	05:36	Intermittent, weak (2) compost and indeterminate very weak (1) odour was detected.
F	05:40	Very weak (1) indeterminate to weak (2) cut grass odour detected.
G	05:43	Intermittent weak (2) cut grass odour detected.

**Table 1: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - Odour Scouting Summary**

Site	Time	Observations
H	05:44	Very weak (1) odour of an indeterminate character detected.
H	05:49	<p><b>FIDOL assessment completed.</b></p> <p>No odour (0) was detected 39% of the time. Very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character were detected 49% of the time. Weak (2) compost odour was detected 5% of the time. Weak (2) non compost related odour was detected 7% of the time.</p> <p><b>The odour was determined to be neither offensive nor objectionable.</b></p>
F	06:10	<p><b>FIDOL assessment completed.</b></p> <p>No odour (0) was detected 22% of the time. Very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character were detected 53% of the time. Weak (2) compost odour was detected 5% of the time. Weak (2) non-compost related odour was detected 20% of the time.</p> <p><b>The odour was determined to be neither offensive nor objectionable.</b></p>
E-F	06:25	<p><b>FIDOL assessment completed.</b></p> <p>No odour (0) was detected 13% of the time. Very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character were detected 72% of the time. Weak (2) non compost related odour was detected 15% of the time.</p> <p><b>The odour was determined to be neither offensive nor objectionable.</b></p>
E	06:37	No odour (0) detected.

Some weak (2) compost odour was detected in the industrial area at site H. This odour was intermittent, and during a 10-minute observation at site H occurred less only 5% of the time.

Weak (2) intermittent compost odour was also detected at the boundary of the residential area around site E, indicating that the odour can reach the residential area in the mornings.

### 3.1 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026

██████ was the PDP odour scout. The scout was present for approximately 1 hour. The scout started near Site D then walked along the boundary of the industrial area towards Site M, returning via the same route to site D, then back through the industrial area by a clockwise route. 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: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - 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: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - Odour Scouting Summary**

Site	Time	Observations
D	13:46	Weak (2) faecal and solvent odours detected.
E	13:51	Very weak (1) odour of an indeterminate character detected.
F	13:55	Distinct (3) compost odour and weak (2) faeces odour detected.
G	13:58	Weak (2) compost odour detected.
H	14:00	Weak (2) compost odour detected.
Mr Boats	14:03	Distinct (3) negative hedonic or effluent odour detected.

**Table 2: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - Odour Scouting Summary**

Site	Time	Observations
M	14:05	No odour (0) detected.
Mr Boats	14:08	Weak (2) negative hedonic or effluent odour detected.
H	14:10	Very weak (1) odour of an indeterminate character detected.
G	14:12	Weak (2) compost odour detected.
F	14:14	Intermittent weak (2) compost odour detected.
E	14:18	No odour (0) detected.
D	14:22	No odour (0) detected.
L	14:24	No odour (0) detected.
K-L	14:26	Very weak (1) odour of an indeterminate character detected.
K	14:29	Weak (2) refuse odour detected.
J	14:31	No odour (0) detected.
I	14:35	No odour (0) detected.
I-H	14:37	Distinct (3) solvent odour detected.
H	14:38	Weak (2) compost odour detected.
G	14:40	Intermittent weak (2) compost odour detected.
F	14:42	Very weak (1) odour of an indeterminate character detected.
E	14:46	No odour (0) detected.
D	14:49	No odour (0) detected.

No compost odour was detected in the residential area. Some weak (2) and distinct (3) compost odour was observed in the industrial area at sites F, G and H.

The compost odour detected in the industrial area was not determined to be offensive or objectionable.

Intermittent weak (2) odour of a negative hedonic character was observed to the east of Mr Boats. This odour is separate from the odour associated with the LE site and is separate from the odour associated with the wastewater treatment plant. The odour also occurs in a highly localised area. Based on a review of the CCC wastewater network plans, PDP believes it is likely that the odour is being discharged from a wastewater vent located in the middle of the road next to Mr Boats.

### 3.1 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

██████ was the PDP odour scout. The scout was present for approximately 1.25 hours. The scout started to the south of Bayswater reserve, moving north through the residential area past site C, B, P and D, before walking along the boundary of the industrial area towards Site M, before walking through the industrial area and then returning to Site B. 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: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 - 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: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 - Odour Scouting Summary**

Site	Time	Observations
C	15:30	No odour (0) detected.
B	15:32	Weak (2) cut grass odour detected.
P	15:33	No odour (0) detected.
D	15:35	Very weak (1) odour of an indeterminate character detected.
E	15:39	Very weak (1) odour of an indeterminate character detected.
F	15:43	No odour (0) detected.
G	15:45	Weak (2) compost odour detected.
H	15:51	Weak (2) compost odour detected.
M	15:54	Weak (2) compost odour detected.
H	15:59	Very weak (1) indeterminate to weak (2) compost odour detected.
I	16:02	No odour (0) detected.
J	16:05	Very weak (1) odour of an indeterminate character detected.
Intergroup	16:09	Distinct (3) refuse odour detected.
K	16:10	Intermittent weak (2) refuse odour detected.
K-L	16:12	Intermittent weak (2) compost odour detected.
L	16:16	No odour (0) detected.
D	16:18	No odour (0) detected.
D	16:22	<p><b>FIDOL assessment completed.</b></p> <p>No odour (0) was detected 67% of the time. Very weak (1) odours of an indeterminate character were detected 28% of the time. Weak (2) cut grass odour was detected 2% of the time.</p> <p><b>The odour was determined to be neither offensive nor objectionable.</b></p>
B	16:34	Weak (2) cut grass odour detected.

No compost odour was detected in the residential area. Weak (2) compost odour was detected at sites G, H, M and between K and L. The compost odour in the industrial area was determined to be neither offensive nor objectionable.

#### 4.0 Summary

PDP undertook odour scouting on three occasions between the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2026 and the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2026. This included one early morning scout.

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:

- ∴ 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026
  - Intermittent weak (2) compost odour was detected at the boundary of the residential area, around site E.
  - Some intermittent weak (2) compost odour was detected in the industrial area at site H.
- ∴ 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026
  - No compost odour was detected in the residential area.
  - Weak (2) and some distinct (3) compost odour was observed in the industrial area at sites F, G and H.
- ∴ 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026
  - No compost odour was detected in the residential area.
  - Weak (2) compost odour was detected at sites G, H, M and between K and L in the industrial area.

## 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.

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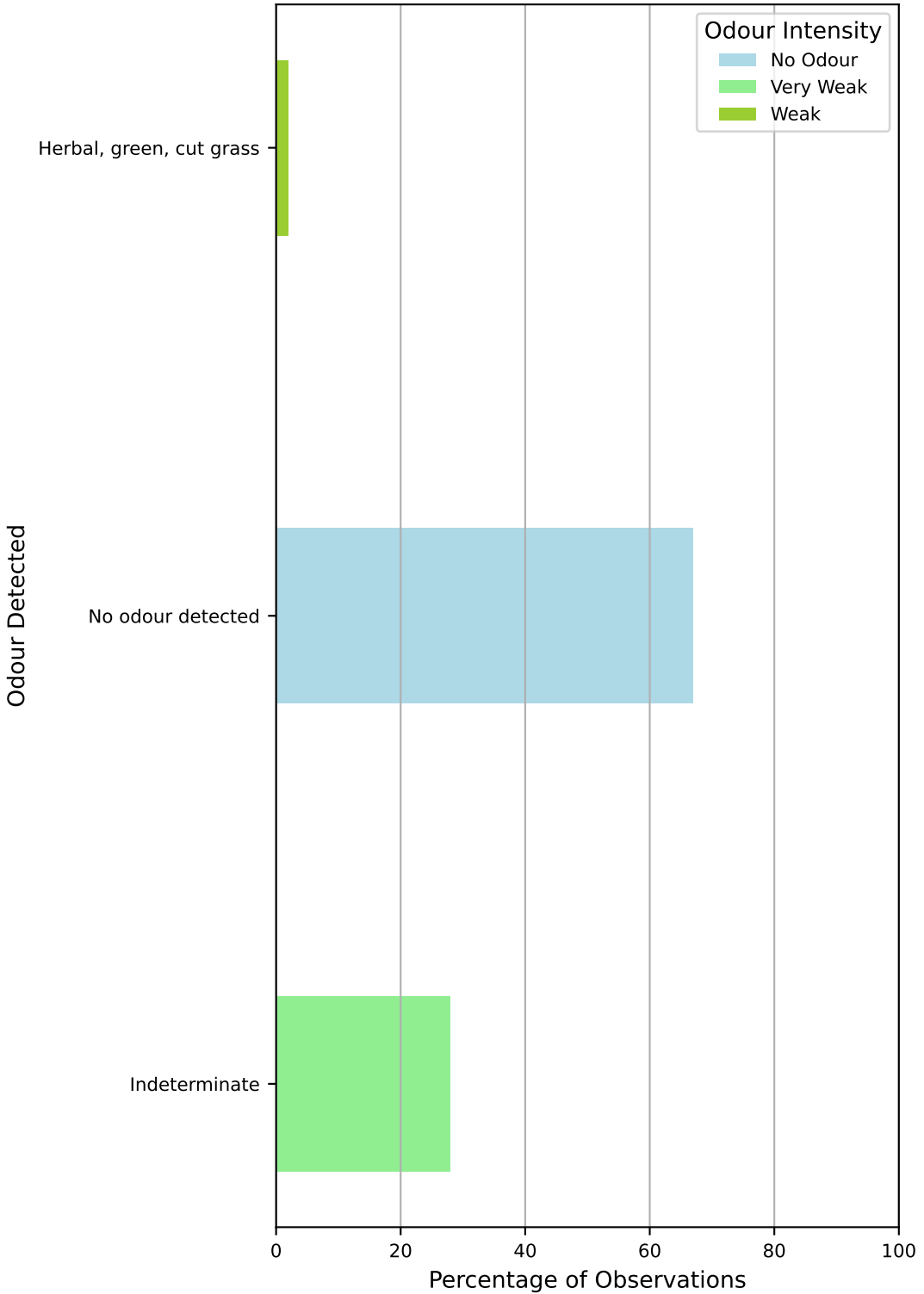
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Approved by

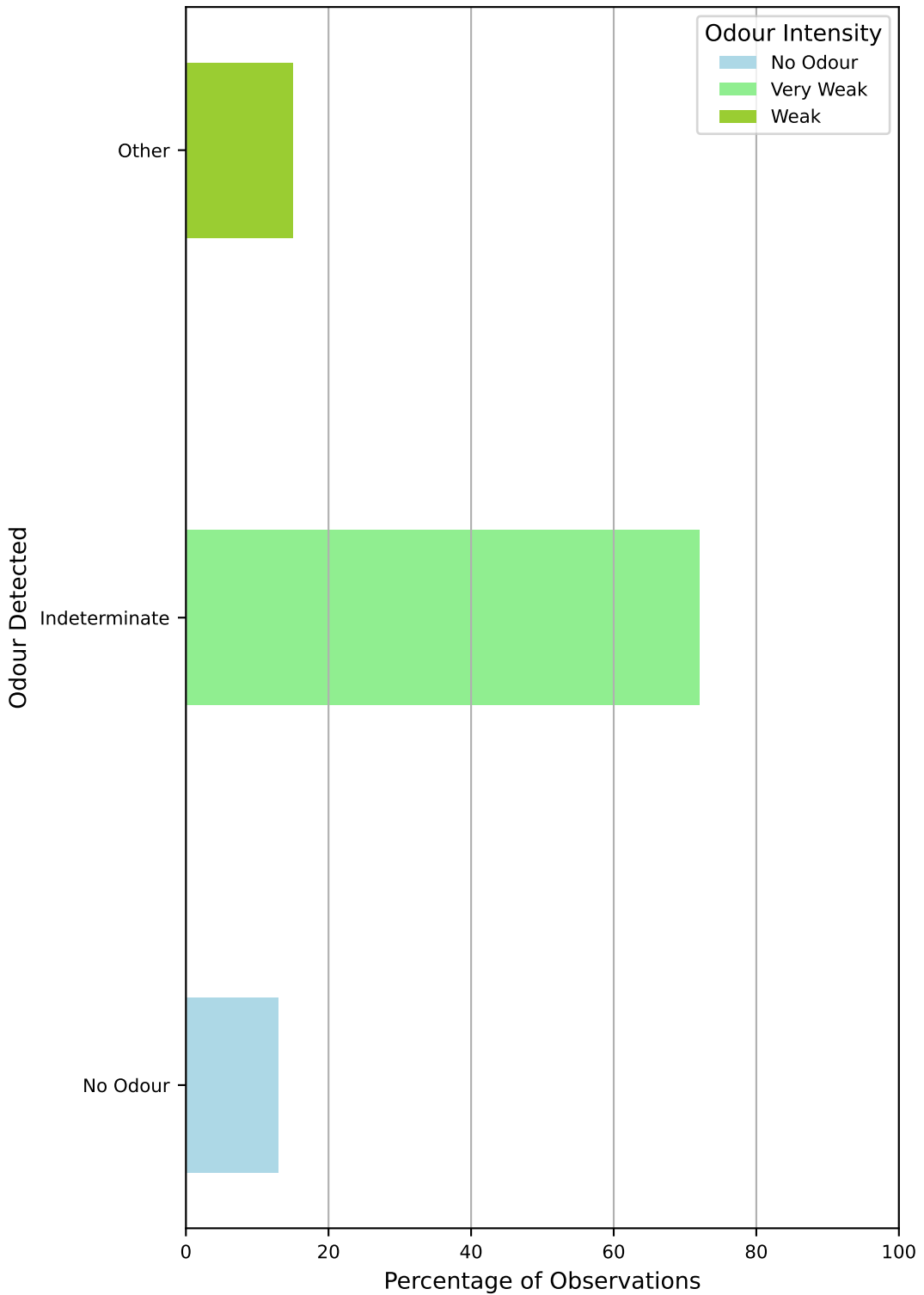


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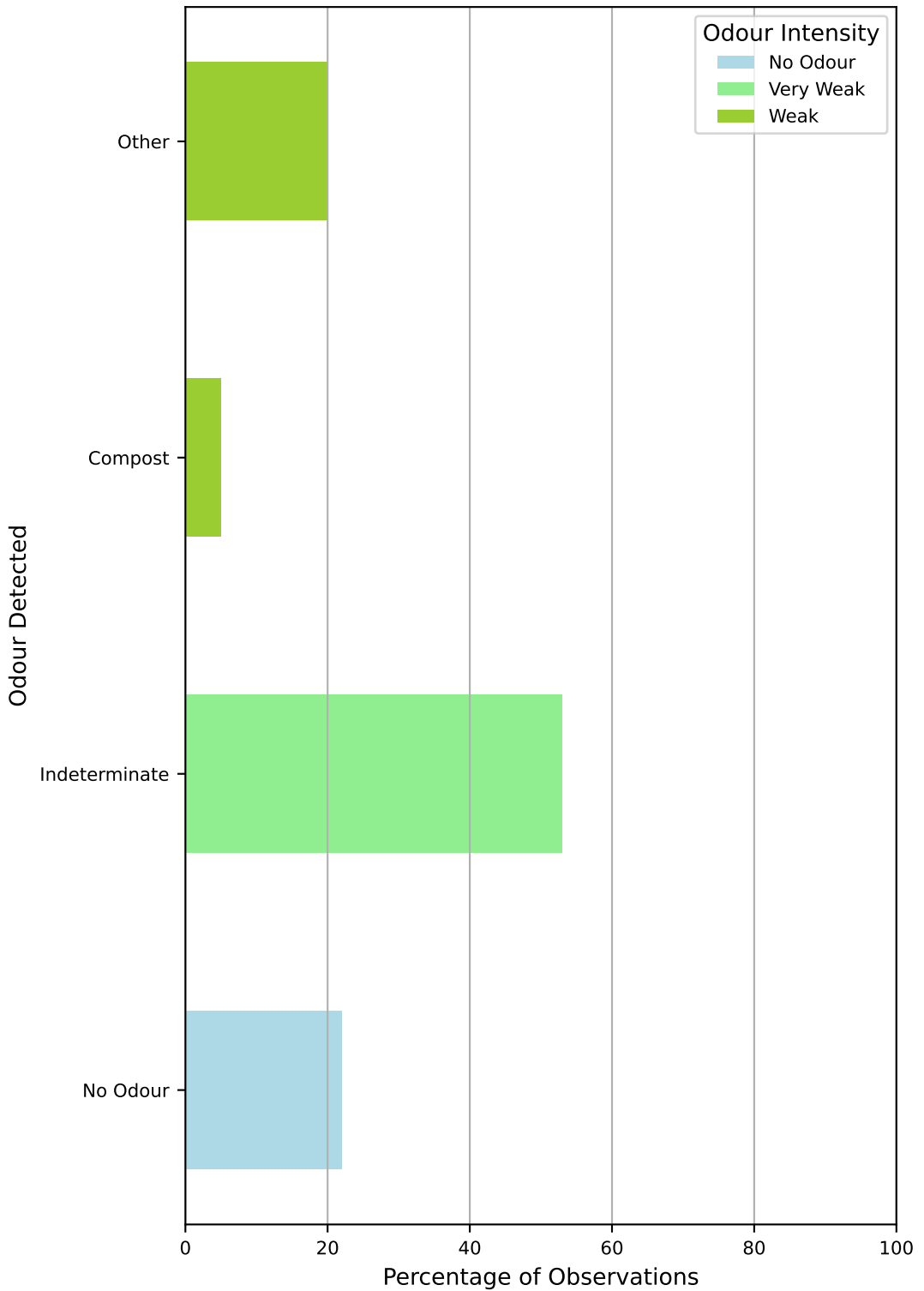
# Site D



# Site E/F



# Site F



# Site H

