Analysis	Matrix	Date of Sampling to receipt and instruction	Storage	Sample Container	Ref	Notes
Acid Neutralisation Capacity	S	13 days	None	P or G	C	
Alkalinity, Carbonate, Bicarbonate	W	9 days	1-8 ◦C	P or G	A	
Ammonia/Ammonium/Ammoniacal Nitrogen	W	72 hrs	1-8 ◦C	P or G	A	Minimal Headspace. Laboratory preserves on receipt using H_2SO_4. Preservation effective up to 72 hours from sampling.
Ammonia/Ammonium/Ammoniacal Nitrogen	S	21 days	None	P or G	B	Minimal headspace
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	W	24 hrs	1-8 ◦C	P or G	A/ I	BOD bottles, minimal headspace. Recommended to arrive in the laboratory within 24h of sampling.
Bromate	S/W	18 days	None (S) 1-8 ◦C (W)	P or G	J	
Bromide	S/W	18 days	None (S) 1-8 ◦C (W)	P or G	A/J/K/L	
Carbonate	S	14 days	None	P or G	B	
Chemical Oxygen Demand	W	9 days	1-8 ◦C	AG	C	
Chloride	S/ W	18 days	None (S) 1-8 ◦C (W)	P or G	A/B/K	
Chlorine	W	5 minutes	1-8 ◦C	P or G	A	Tested as soon as possible on receipt
Chromium (III/VI)	S	18 days	None	P or G	B/K	
Chromium (III/VI)	W	5 days	1-8 ◦C	P or G	C	
Colour	W	5 days	1-8 ◦C	P or G	B	
Cyanides	W	5 days	None	P or G	C	
Cyanides	S	9 days	None	P or G	B/K	
Dissolved Carbon Dioxide	W	7 days	1-8 ◦C	P or G	A	
Dissolved Gases by Headspace	W	5 days	Cool < 4 °C	AG	A	Minimal headspace
Electrical Conductivity	W	3 days	1-8 ◦C	P or G	C	Preferably on site. Recommended to arrive in the laboratory withing 24h of sampling.
Electrical Conductivity	S	14 days	None	P or G	B	
Extractable Matter	S/W	7 days	None	G	B	
Fluoride	W	18 days	1-8 ◦C	P or G	A/B	
Fluoride	S	18 days	None	P or G	B	
Iron (II), Iron (III)	W	48 hours	1-8 ◦C	P or G	C	
Loss on Ignition	S	21 days	None	P or G	K	
Metals including Mercury, Boron	W	7 days	1-8 ◦C	P or G	B/C	
Metals including Mercury, Boron (inc. water soluble), Sulphate	S	21 days	None	P or G	B/I/K	
Nitrite	W	3 days	1-8 ◦C	P or G	C	Recommended to arrive in the laboratory withing 24h of sampling.
Nitrate	W	9 days	1-8 ◦C	P or G	C	
Nitrite/Nitrate	S	14 days	None	P or G	B	
Nitrogen (TKN)	S/W	14 days	None	P or G	B	

Key: S=Soil, W = Water, L = Leachate

Analysis	Matrix	Date of Sampling to receipt and instruction	Storage	Sample Container	Ref	Notes
Organic Carbon	S	21 days	None	P or G	K	
Organic Carbon	W	7 days	1-8 ◦C	P or G	B	
PCBs	W	7 days	1-8 ◦C	AG	B	
PCBs	S	21 days	None	AG	B/K	
PFOS/PFOA/PFAS	S	14 days	None	P, G or PP50	E	
PFOS/PFOA/PFAS	W	14 days	None	PP50	E	
pH	W	3 days	1-8 ◦C	P or G	C, J	Recommended to arrive in the laboratory withing 24h of sampling.
pH / Acid Neutralisation Capacity	S	13 days	None	P or G	C	
Phenols (monohydric and speciated)	W	11 days	1-8 ◦C	AG	C	
Phenols (monohydric and speciated)	S	9 days	None	AG	B	
Phosphate (Ortho)	W	9 days	1-8 ◦C	P or G	C	
Solids (suspended, settleable etc)	W	3 days	1-8 ◦C	P or G	C	
Sulphate	W	18 days	1-8 ◦C	P or G	B	
Sulphur (Total/ Elemental)	S	21 days	None	P or G	B	
Sulphide	S	5 days	Cool < 4 °C	P or G	C	Minimal headspace
Sulphide	W	48 hours	1-8 ◦C	P or G	A	Minimal headspace
SVOC, PAH, TPH etc	W	9 days	1-8 ◦C	AG	J	Minimal headspace
SVOC, PAH, TPH etc	S	9 days	None	AG	B/K	Minimal headspace
Thiocyanate	S/W	7 days	None	P or G	B	
Total Dissolved Solids (by EC probe)	W	3 days	1-8 ◦C	P or G	C	Preferably on site. Recommended to arrive in the laboratory withing 24h of sampling.
Total Oxidised Nitrogen	W	9 days	1-8 ◦C	P or G	C	
Total Oxidised Nitrogen	S	14 days	None	P or G	B	
Turbidity	W	48 hours	1-8 ◦C	P or G	B	
Volatile Organics	S	9 days	Cool < 8°C	AG	K	Minimal headspace
Volatile Organics	W	5 days	Cool < 8 °C	AG	B	Minimal headspace

Key : (S) = Soil, (W) = Water, P= Plastic, G = Glass, AG = Amber Glass, PP50= 50ml Polypropylene tube

Please note ideally samples should arrive to the laboratory with instructions within 24h of sampling. The above holding times are from sampling to start of analysis, please allow sufficient time for the laboratory to prepare, extract and run the samples. Samples will be preserved as nescessary once they arrive to the laboratory.
Where samples are received outside the holding times we will assume clients would still like to proceed with the analysis unless informed otherwise within 24h.
Information relating to waters also applies to laboratory prepared leachates, from the date and time of preparation of the leachate.

References

A = BS5667-3 (2024); B = USEPA SW846 (2020, online version), C = In House Stability Trial, D = MCERTS Water BN4 (temperature only), E= Other, F= BS ISO 18400-5 (2017), G= USEPA ASB LOQAM (2018) , H = USEPA TO15, I = BS 18512:2007; J = SCA 261 (2018), K=NEPM (2013), L = APHA 1060