

Sampling procedure for Rivers and Streams

Equipment Required

1. Six inch (6") map, or equivalent, of area to be sampled
2. Waterproof notebook and record sheets
3. GPS, if available.
4. 2 L HDPE Plastic Sample bottles. The number of bottles determined by the number of sampling points plus some additional spare bottles. For the initial sampling run the sampler should examine the 6" map outlining the proposed development and count the number of sampling points, this should indicate the number of bottles required. For subsequent sampling runs samples should be taken at the same points as in the initial sampling run.
5. Sampling bucket with rope
6. Funnel
7. Disposable gloves
8. Waterproof markers
9. Adequate protective clothing and footwear.
10. Coolbox

Before leaving the work station or laboratory ensure that you:

1. Have sufficient information on location of sampling area to ensure that sample(s) is/are taken from correct watercourses at exact location.
2. Have map of the area to be sampled, of an adequate scale and detail sufficient to ensure easy direction to exact location where water sampling is to be carried out.
3. Request permission of land-owner to enter on to land, inform landowners of your purpose to take samples
4. Have an adequate number of new sampling bottles including some spare bottles.
5. Have enough field sheets to record details of sampling site.
6. Are familiar with safety regulations and procedures dealing with the taking of water samples.

On arrival at the sampling Area

1. Confirm correct location
2. Advise landowner of your presence and request permission to sample.
3. Confirm, with landowner(s), the area of the proposed plantation
4. Advise landowner of approximate time of return

On arrival at the sampling location

1. Observe area of proposed plantation, compare with map and identify sampling locations.
2. Proceed to first sampling location.
3. Record co-ordinates with GPS if available otherwise mark clearly on map.
4. Label sample bottle with the Stream/River name, sample number, location, date and time using a permanent water-resistant marker.
5. Using a plastic bucket (and rope to lower the bucket into the river where necessary) take up a sample. Rinse the bucket with the sample and empty it. Repeat this procedure at least twice, more times when necessary.
6. Facing upstream and in mid-channel where river/stream is shallow (less than 50 cm deep), otherwise at side of stream or off a bridge, lower the bucket into the water and take up a sample of the water. Make sure that water flowing into bucket does not contain sediment from river disturbed by feet. Sample should be taken upstream of point of entry into river.
7. Rinse the (2-litre) sample bottle and funnel thoroughly (three times) with the water from the bucket, then fill the bottle with the water remaining in the bucket. Ensure you fill the bottle leaving only 1 – 2 cm headroom.
8. Rinse the bottle thoroughly and place lid tightly on the bottle. Squeeze the bottle to ensure there are no leaks present.
9. Recheck that the labelling on the bottles is correct.
10. Place the sample bottles into their relevant crates.
11. Each time a water sample is taken a field sheet should be completed (Annex 2). Note the Stream/River name, if any, otherwise mark clearly on map, sample number, location, date and time that the sample was taken.
12. Between sampling and dispatch, all samples must be kept cool and in the dark. Do not leave samples in the car/van where they are liable to become warm. Dispatch samples together with field sheet(s) to laboratory for immediate analysis.

At all times use common sense.

Primarily use a course of action to ensure personal safety.

Be mindful not to contaminate sample by allowing sedimentary or material other than the water flowing in the river into the sampling bucket and the sample bottle. No smoking is allowed on site.

At all times avoid body contact with water intended for analysis.

Alkalinity Testing Laboratories

Dr Rosaleen Dwyer Department of Environmental Resource Management U.C.D. Belfield Dublin 4 Telephone: 01-7167719	Dr Philip O'Dea Coillte Teoranta Research Laboratory Netownmountkennedy Co. Wicklow Tel: 01-2819493
Patricia Brannick National University of Ireland Galway Telephone: 091-750472	Mr Michael Murphy Southern Scientific Services Ltd Dunrine Killarney County Kerry Tel: 064-33922
Mr. Pat O'Sullivan BHP Laboratories Ltd. New Road Thomond Gate Co. Limerick Tel: 061-455399	Dr. Matthew Salzmann TMS Environment 53 Broomhill Drive Tallaght Dublin 24 Tel: 01-4626710
Dr. Mark Jacob Euro Environmental Services South Bank House South Bank Industrial Estate Drogheda Co. Louth Tel: 041-9845440	

