METHOD STATEMENT

Determinand:
Microscopic Examinations

Matrix:
A wide and diverse range of matter may be sent in for analysis.

Principle of Method:
This method describes a general procedure in which ad-hoc particulate matter is either mounted onto a glass slide and examined under a high-powered, phase contrast microscope or placed into a Petri dish and examined under a top-lit binocular 3-dimensional Macroscope. The origin of the sample is either identified by a trained analyst, or its size, shape and appearance is formally described. Photographs may be taken and included in a formal report.

Sampling and Sample Preparation:
Samples should be taken in a clean 500ml wide mouth GEN1 bottle. Any other suitable vessel is accepted. Where sample processing cannot be conducted immediately, every effort should be made to ensure that samples are refrigerated in the dark between 2°C - 8°C. The sample should be presented to the laboratory in the same condition that it was sampled, i.e. if the sample is wet, ensure that it remains moist during transportation to the laboratory. Do not wet a dried sample.

Interferences:
This test is a direct Microscopic examination. The subject matter of these AD-Hoc samples is not routine and therefore the experience of the analyst and their ability to interpret what is observed is paramount to the success of the examination.

Reporting of Results:
Results are reported as Biological examination.

References:
MICRO OP 42 - The use of light and phase contrast microscopes.