

# **INTERNATIONAL BIODETERIORATION RESEARCH GROUP**

## **Treated Articles Group: Annual Report 2025**

**Report No: IBRG/TA26/001**

**Date: April 2026**

The Treated Articles Group met twice in the 2025 period, once online in April and as an in-person / event, in November in Cologne, Germany.

The activities of the Treated Articles (TA) Group remain focussed on articles and materials either treated to provide added functionality (rather than to either preserve their function or extend their service life), such as hygienic properties and the control of odour (beyond that associated with the biodeterioration of the material). Materials that exhibit inherent antimicrobial properties will also fall under the TA Group.

The current activities on methods to measure the antibacterial activity of treated textiles and plastics under intended conditions of use will continue and a series of ring tests are planned. The activities on measuring the control of odour resulting from microbial activity from textiles in service will also continue, with the current focus being on urine and foot odour and the role that biofilms have on odour formation in textiles. A new work area on the effect of the colonisation of textiles on odour formation has been started and will continue through 2026.

Peter D Askew, Chairman of the Treated Articles Group

Alex Cunliffe, Technical Secretary of the Treated Articles Group