

Customer Testimonial

Steve Walker

Leicester Royal Infirmary

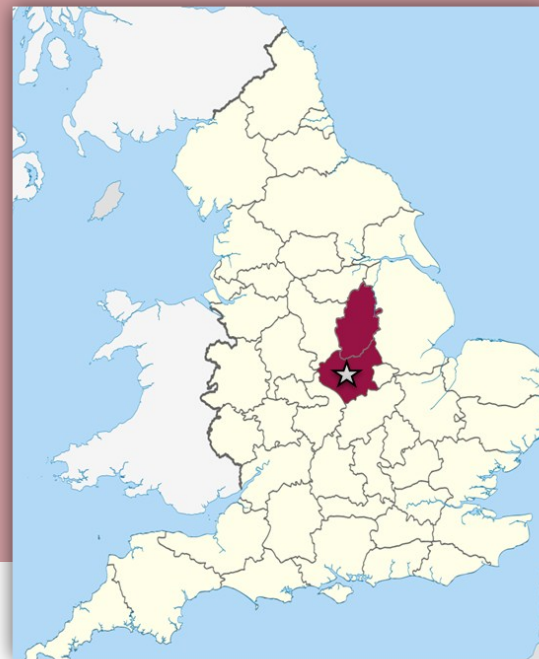
Leicester, UK

“Optilite is what I want from a special protein system.”



Leicester Royal Infirmary (LRI) is the principal hospital in Leicestershire, a county in the English Midlands. As well as covering testing for all of Leicestershire, a recent re-structure resulted in them taking on all work from a neighbouring county, Nottinghamshire. As a result there was a sharp increase in workload and they now run over 10,000 **Freelite**[®] samples per year, serving a population of over 3 million.

Steve Walker is an Advanced Specialist Biomedical Scientist in LRI's Immunology department with nearly 30 years experience in clinical diagnostics. Here Steve reviews what he looks for in a special protein solution and how Optilite meets all his needs.



*The Rise and Rise of **Freelite** at Leicester Royal Infirmary*

We have been processing serum free light chain (sFLC) orders at Leicester for over 15 years now and have seen the demand increase exponentially in that time. Initially samples were sent out to the Royal Free Hospital, London, but as the numbers increased we decided to move the testing in-house and, in 2001, began running Binding Site's **Freelite** assays on our Siemens BNTMII in 2001.

Eventually our workload increased to the point that it would take the BNTMII all day to complete this testing, so we looked to move the **Freelite** assays onto an alternative platform and in 2011 we installed a Binding Site SPAPLUS[®] system to perform our **Freelite** and IgG subclass work.

Since then we went through a pathology merger with Nottingham University Hospitals, and in 2013 began receiving their referral work on top of our usual workload. Looking forward we realised we would need a new, more efficient special protein system to cope with this, so we set out to find the right one.



Time for Something New

Based on my previous experience I determined our new special protein system should meet certain key criteria:

- Ability to cope with our current and future workload, to provide a long-term solution
- Improved workflow and productivity, with continuous loading/unloading of samples, reagents and consumables
- Minimal maintenance to ensure maximum operating time during the day
- Analytical performance equivocal or better than our current system
- Easy to use, with limited user intervention
- Single-use cuvettes, as I prefer not to have wash systems

We heard that Binding Site was releasing a new special protein system that they said would meet our requirements, so arranged to have an early look and became one of the first in the world to use Optilite.



Experiencing Optilite

Having spent a couple of months evaluating Optilite in our lab we found that the performance was very good and the system is very simple to use.

Optilite has very minimal maintenance and within five minutes of switching on the system you're running QC. Once Optilite is running there is very little to do; if it needs something then it tells you graphically and since it is continuous loading you can just add it on.

Our workload goes through with considerable ease; 60 **Freelite** samples will take Optilite approximately 90 minutes, the SPAPLUS all afternoon and the BN™II all day. Like the BN™II, Optilite will always run until it obtains a final result, so there are no manual dilutions.



Making an Impact

Having fully evaluated Optilite we confirmed that it met all of our requirements for a new special protein system. Optilite can easily handle our current workload and has the capacity to manage our increasing future workload. We get maximum operating time as the start and shut down procedures are so quick, and the continuous loading/unloading of samples, reagents and consumables allows the system to run continuously throughout the day.

We have been using Optilite routinely now for nine months and I would certainly recommend to labs with a big workload and a good mix of work that it's worth the investment.





Optilite®

OPTIMISED PROTEIN SYSTEM



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Head Office:
The Binding Site Group Ltd
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)121 456 9500
info@bindingsite.co.uk

Spain, Portugal:
The Binding Site Spain
Spain
Tel: +34 934676539
info@bindingsite.es

USA, Canada, Latin America:
The Binding Site Inc.
USA
Toll Free: 800 633 4484
info@thebindingsite.com

Czech Republic, Slovak Republic:
The Binding Site s.r.o.
Czech Republic
Tel: +420 223 013 988-9
info@bindingsite.cz

Germany, Austria, Switzerland:
The Binding Site GmbH
Germany
Tel: +49 (0)6202 9262 0
office@bindingsite.de

Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg:
The Binding Site SPRL/BVBA
Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)3 242 88 21
info@bindingsite.be

France:
The Binding Site France
France
Tel: +33 (0)04.38.02.19.19
info@bindingsite.fr

Italy:
The Binding Site Italy
Italy
Tel. +39 035 0951500
info@bindingsite.it