

1 **Freeze-thaw durability of conventional and a novel permeable pavement replacement**

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5

6 **Abstract**

7 Permeable concrete pavements are becoming more common as a stormwater management system to
8 mitigate urban flooding. However, they have a number of well-defined drawbacks including low
9 permeability, high clogging potential, and low strength and durability, notably in cold climates
10 exposed to freezing and thawing. A new generation of high-strength clogging resistant permeable
11 pavement replacement (CRP) has been developed, through extensive laboratory work, to address
12 these shortcomings and advance the field of permeable pavements. This paper reports on new
13 advances in permeable pavement systems and the performance of a range of conventional permeable
14 concrete and the developed novel CRP of varying porosity exposed to freeze-thaw cycles. This will
15 allow performance evaluations of both systems in a cold climate. The tests involved exposing samples
16 to temperature varying from -20°C to +20°C and measuring changes in mass, area, compressive
17 strength and ultrasonic pulse velocity after each cycle. These new results show that CRP is highly
18 resistant to degradation caused by freeze-thaw cycles compared to conventional permeable concrete,
19 reducing maintenance requirements and improving service-life. This study presents the first high
20 strength clogging resistant permeable pavement replacement that is durable under frost action, these
21 findings will support and enable wider use of permeable pavements in cold regions.

22

23 **Keywords:** Permeable concrete; frost; durability; flooding; clogging resistant; high strength

24

25 **Introduction**

26 In recent years, permeable pavements are extensively promoted as a mitigation strategy for urban
27 flooding. These highly porous materials rapidly drain surface water, enabling storm water to pass
28 through dense infrastructure. However, conventional permeable pavements are inevitably prone to
29 clogging, due to their indirect pore channels that are highly tortuous and heterogenous, degrading
30 their performance and service life (Chopra *et al.*, 2007; Deo *et al.*, 2010; Schaefer & Kevern, 2011;
31 Coughlin *et al.*, 2012; Kayhanian *et al.*, 2012; Mata & Leming, 2012; Yong *et al.*, 2013; Kia *et al.*,
32 2017; Kia *et al.*, 2018; Kia *et al.*, 2019). Clogging is caused by build-up of debris trapped within the
33 pore network, blocking the pavement and reducing its drainage capacity. Further details are presented
34 in Kia *et al.* (2018) and Kia *et al.* (2017). Conventional permeable pavements also have low strength
35 (<30 MPa), owing to their high porosity (15%-35%), and are limited to light applications (Kim &
36 Obla, 2009; Kevern *et al.*, 2010; Lian & Zhuge, 2010; Sumanasooriya & Neithalath, 2011;
37 Sumanasooriya *et al.*, 2012; Sonebi & Bassuoni, 2013). Although the use of permeable concrete
38 pavements is expanding, their application in cold regions has been limited due to concerns of
39 deterioration under frost action (Schaefer *et al.*, 2006).

40

41 A number of studies have found that addition of fine aggregates and polypropylene fibres improves
42 strength and enhances resistance to freeze-thaw (F-T) degradation but it reduces porosity and
43 permeability which are the main contributors to the pavement's overall drainage performance (Yang
44 & Jiang, 2003; Schaefer *et al.*, 2006; Kevern, 2008; Kevern *et al.*, 2008a; Kevern *et al.*, 2008b;
45 Kevern *et al.*, 2010; Yang, 2011; Huang *et al.*, 2012; Amde & Rogge, 2013; Bonicelli *et al.*, 2015;
46 Bilal *et al.*, 2021). Addition of rubber to pervious concrete mixes has been shown to decrease porosity
47 and permeability, but to improve freeze-thaw resistance (Gesoglu *et al.*, 2014; Mondal & Biligiri,
48 2018; Liu *et al.*, 2018a). Adding silica fume (up to 5% wt. cement paste) improves workability and
49 enhances F-T resistance but it reduces porosity (Kevern *et al.*, 2008b; Yang, 2011). However,
50 increasing the replacement rate (>5% wt. cement paste) will lead to a dry mixture that is difficult to

51 compact, resulting in increased porosity and reduced F-T durability (Kevern *et al.*, 2008b). The
52 aggregate type used in permeable concrete was also found to influence F-T deterioration, aggregates
53 with specific gravity >2.5 and absorption <2.5% are more durable (Kevern *et al.*, 2008a; Kevern *et*
54 *al.*, 2008b; Kevern *et al.*, 2010). Increasing compaction improves resistance to F-T degradation and
55 surface ravelling, but this reduces porosity and drainage performance (Schaefer *et al.*, 2006; Kevern
56 *et al.*, 2008a; Kevern *et al.*, 2008b; Henderson & Tighe, 2012; Bilal *et al.*, 2021). Permeable concretes
57 with porosity <15% are durable, but those with porosity >30% exhibit poor F-T resistance (Kevern
58 *et al.*, 2008a; Kevern *et al.*, 2008b; Liu *et al.*, 2018b). Air entrainment is also known to improve F-T
59 resistance of permeable concrete pavements by decreasing the hydraulic pressure that develops during
60 freezing of pore water (Schaefer *et al.*, 2006; Kevern *et al.*, 2008a; Kevern *et al.*, 2008b; Kevern *et*
61 *al.*, 2010; Henderson & Tighe, 2012). However, the presence of entrained air voids can lead to further
62 reductions in compressive strength.

63

64 Clogging accelerates F-T degradation of permeable concrete pavements because trapped water
65 expands when it undergoes freezing (Tennis *et al.*, 2004; Yang *et al.*, 2006; Guthrie *et al.*, 2010;
66 Izevbekhai & Akkari, 2011). This causes the thin layer of cement paste in conventional permeable
67 concrete to crack and de-bond from the aggregate particles. Guthrie *et al.* (2010) evaluated the
68 resistance of permeable concrete to F-T degradation at different levels of soil clogging and water
69 saturation. Clogging was performed using poorly graded sand, with 11.7% by mass finer than 75 μm ,
70 collected from site to mimic field conditions and sieved to use the fraction <0.297 mm. It was found
71 that specimens that were clogged and/or fully saturated deteriorated at a faster rate than those that
72 remained unclogged and unsaturated. The average number of F-T cycles to failure was 93 for clogged
73 specimens compared to 180 for unclogged specimens, and 80 for saturated specimens compared to
74 193 for unsaturated specimens. However, strength and stiffness measurements indicated no
75 significant differences between the clogged and unclogged specimens. This was because only the

76 upper 25-50 mm of the 180 mm permeable concrete was filled with soil in clogged locations and the
77 remaining depth was water free.

78

79 New types of permeable pavements have been developed to overcome the previously discussed
80 limitations in conventional permeable pavements. Jones *et al.* (2010) developed concrete beams with
81 drainage holes, 12.5 mm in diameter with 50 mm spacing and porosity of 3.1%. They compared the
82 splitting tensile strength and modulus of rupture of these precast concrete beams, with equivalent
83 beams without drainage holes. It was reported that the strength ratio between the beams with and
84 without drainage holes was approximately 0.71. Jones *et al.* (2010), highlighted a number of issues
85 in preparing these test specimens, including breakage of the vertical dowels.

86

87 A more recent development is high-strength clogging resistant permeable pavement (CRP), which
88 improves upon the strength, drainage performance, and clogging resistance observed in conventional
89 systems. This was achieved by engineering a uniform pore structure of low tortuosity (direct pore
90 channels of 3 mm to 6 mm diameter) in self-compacting mortar. Rigorous lab testing supported by
91 modelling confirmed its superior strength and drainage performance (Kia *et al.*, 2019). The new
92 material has high strength (twice as strong as conventional pervious concrete pavements, >50 MPa)
93 and high permeability (ten times more permeable than conventional pervious concrete pavements,
94 >2 cm/s), yet does not clog despite extensive cyclic exposure to sand and clay. CRP is at least twice
95 as strong and ten times more permeable than conventional permeable pavements of equal porosity,
96 which completely clogged after just a few cycles of sediment exposure (Kia *et al.*, 2018; Kia *et al.*,
97 2019). The superior permeability and clogging resistance of CRP is due to the homogenous pore
98 structure of constant cross-section and tortuosity of 1, allowing the water and sediments to flow
99 through them without being trapped within the pore structure. The challenges of scaling up the
100 innovation for flood prevention were addressed by developing a novel interlocking tile system (Kia
101 *et al.*, 2020) which was recently deployed at scale as cast in-situ slab at the new White City Campus

102 of Imperial College London in United Kingdom (Fig. 1). This system was shown to be easier to
103 construct at scale on site as unlike the conventional systems, it uses self-compacting cementitious
104 material and does not require specialist contractors for placing it to avoid over-compaction or closing
105 off of the surface pores (Kevern *et al.*, 2009; ACI., 2010; Kia *et al.*, 2017; Debnath & Sarkar, 2020).
106 A structural and hydrological design methodology for this system has also been report in Kia *et al.*
107 (2021).

108
109 The overall aim of this study is to: i) compare two different permeable pavement systems
110 (conventional pervious concrete and CRP); ii) evaluate their strength and durability when exposed to
111 cyclic freezing and thawing conditions; and iii) assess the benefits of the new permeable pavement
112 replacement system and their widespread adoption. Experimental variables are aggregate particle size
113 (1.25 mm to 14 mm), effective porosity (2% to 37%), pore diameter (3 mm to 6 mm) and the F-T
114 degradation method used to simulate temperature and moisture gradients experienced in the field.
115 The results are compared against conventional permeable concrete pavement subjected to the same
116 F-T cycles. The data developed in this research will enhance our understanding of the performance
117 of permeable pavements when exposed to cyclic freeze-thaw and enable practitioners to specify their
118 wider use in cold climates.

119

120 **Experimental program**

121 ***Sample preparation***

122 Two sample types were tested: a) conventional permeable concrete and b) high-strength clogging
123 resistant permeable pavement. Seven conventional permeable concrete (PC) mixes were prepared
124 using CEM I 52.5N Portland cement (100% cement with strength class of 52.5N) at water/cement
125 (w/c) ratio of 0.35 and Thames Valley gravel. Thames Valley gravel consists of gravel and shingle
126 with particle size ranging from 1.25 mm to 14 mm, a 24-h absorption of 1.76% and a specific gravity
127 of 2.51. Mix proportions were based on the absolute volume method to achieve a target porosity of

128 16%-37%. In order to calculate the required paste volume, the target porosity was deducted from the
129 packed aggregate void content and a 5% compaction index was added. The required cement and water
130 contents were then calculated from the paste volume and w/c ratio. Finally, coarse aggregate content
131 was calculated from the paste volume and target porosity. Trial mixing and testing found that this
132 approach produced samples with measured void content close to the target porosity. Paste drain down
133 was observed in two mixes and so a viscosity-modifying admixture (VMA) (MasterMatrix SDC) was
134 added to these. In one case, VMA was added to achieve a higher porosity. Table 1 shows the PC mix
135 proportions. Samples were cast in 100 mm cubic steel moulds and compacted in three equal layers
136 for 25 sec each, using a vibrating table of adjustable intensity. This was determined from trials carried
137 out to study the effect of compaction time on void content of packed Thames Valley gravel. In total,
138 42 PC samples were prepared.

139

140 Eight high-strength clogging resistant permeable pavement (CRP) with target porosity ranging from
141 2%-30% (Fig. 2) were prepared by introducing tubes of varying diameter (3 mm to 6 mm) and
142 number into self-compacting mortar. Self-compacting mortar was prepared using CEM I 52.5N
143 (711 kg/m^3) and fine-grained river sand ($<2.5 \text{ mm}$, 1323 kg/m^3) at a w/c ratio of 0.40. The specific
144 gravity of sand was 2.76 and 24-h absorption was 0.7%. A polycarboxylic-ether type superplasticiser
145 (MasterGlenium 315C) was utilised at 0.25% wt. of cement to achieve the desired workability. Mix
146 compositions of CRP are shown in Table 2. The number and size of the plastic tubes were varied in
147 order to achieve different porosities. The CRP samples were cast in 100 mm cubic steel moulds, with
148 the plastic tubes held in place using two steel meshes fixed at the top of the moulds. Overall, 48 CRP
149 samples were prepared.

150

151 All control and F-T exposed CRP and PC samples were cast and cured in accordance with BS ISO
152 1920-3:2019 (British Standards Institution, 2019) covered with wet hessian and polyethylene sheet
153 for the initial 24 hours. The F-T samples were de-moulded, weighed, wrapped in a plastic film (to

154 ensure that they are moisture-tight) and stored in a room at 20°C for 6 days. On the 7th day, the
155 samples were removed from the plastic film, weighed and placed in a water bath (20°C) for 21 days.
156 After 28 days (since casting), the specimens were removed from the water bath, surface dried with a
157 towel and weighed. This value was used as the mass of the sample at cycle 0. The control samples
158 were demoulded and placed in a fog room at 20°C, 95% ± 5% RH until they were tested for
159 compressive strength. The excess protruding plastic tubes on the top surface of CRP samples were
160 trimmed using a grinder in order to produce a flat surface for testing (Fig. 2).

161

162 **Porosity**

163 The porosity (ϕ) of conventional permeable concrete were determined from the mass of saturated-
164 surface dry sample in air and in water as follows:

$$165 \quad \phi = \left[1 - \frac{(W_3 - W_1)}{V \rho_w} \right] \times 100\% \quad (1)$$

166 where W_1 is the sample mass (kg) in water, W_3 is the saturated surface dry sample mass in air (kg), V
167 is the sample volume (m^3) and ρ_w is the density of water ($1000 \text{ kg}/m^3$). Before W_1 was measured, any
168 trapped air was removed by keeping the sample submerged in water for a minimum of 30 minutes,
169 inverting it and tapping it on a regular basis. Six replicate samples per mix were tested and the results
170 averaged.

171

172 Porosity (ϕ) of CRP was calculated from the size and number of straight pores (plastic tubes) in the
173 mix:

$$174 \quad \phi = \left[\frac{V_p \times n}{V_c} \right] \times 100\% \quad (2)$$

175 where V_p is the volume of each pore, n is number of pores and V_c is the sample volume (m^3) (Kia *et*
176 *al.*, 2019). Results were confirmed experimentally by filling the pores with water and dividing its
177 volume by the volume of the sample. Porosity was recorded and averaged on 6 replicates per mix.

178

179 ***Cyclic freeze-thaw (F-T)***

180 The F-T testing was conducted using the conventional testing method to enable comparison between
181 the two permeable pavement systems (conventional permeable concrete and CRP). Samples were
182 subjected to F-T testing in accordance with CEN/TR 15177:2006 (British Standards Institution, 2006)
183 using three replicates per mix. Exposure was conducted under drained condition with one F-T cycle
184 per day. This is considered less extreme compared to freezing under full saturation and more
185 representative of the conditions encountered in the field for permeable concrete pavements (Attigbe,
186 1996; NRMCA, 2004; Schaefer *et al.*, 2006; ACI., 2010). Each cycle consists of freezing at -20°C
187 for 8 hours followed by thawing in a water tank at +20°C for 4 hours. The samples were manually
188 moved between the freezer and the water tank due to the absence of an automated environmental
189 chamber. After thawing, the saturated samples were surface dried with a towel, then weighed, scanned
190 and tested for ultrasonic pulse velocity (UPV). The change in mass and UPV were measured to
191 characterise deterioration rate under freezing and thawing cycles. All sides of the samples were
192 imaged with a flatbed scanner (400 dpi) after every F-T cycle. Using digital image analysis, the
193 scanned surfaces were analysed, using an image processing program (ImageJ), to determine the
194 average area remaining (average taken from 4 sides of every sample, there were 3 replicates per mix)
195 in each sample after each F-T cycle exposure. The area remaining was manually delineated for each
196 cycle (approximately 500 × 500 pixels) and was calculated by dividing the area of the sample in each
197 cycle by the original area determined in cycle 0 (prior to F-T exposure). The samples were exposed
198 to a total of recommended 56 F-T cycles (British Standards Institution, 2006).

199 ***Ultrasonic pulse velocity***

200 Ultrasonic pulse velocity was measured using Proceq Pundit (P-wave transducer, 54 kHz) in
201 accordance with ASTM C597-16 (ASTM International, 2016) on three replicate samples per mix.
202 Direct measurements were taken at five locations on each side of the cube excluding the top and
203 bottom faces (i.e. 10 measurements per cube). Petroleum jelly was used as a coupling agent between
204 the transducer and sample surface in order to achieve a stable UPV reading. Measurements were

205 carried out after every F-T cycle and the mean value was calculated to detect microstructural changes
206 and potential degradation. Deterioration in the form of micro and macro cracking will increase the
207 actual path length for the pulse to travel from transmitter to receiver compared to the assumed straight
208 path. This increases the pulse propagation time, and therefore a causes reduction in the measured
209 velocity.

210

211 ***Mass loss and durability factor***

212 The percentage mass loss was calculated after every F-T cycle and this was used to determine the
213 durability factor (DF) at mass loss of 2%, 3%, 4%, 5%, 6%, 8%, 10%, 12%, 15%, 18%, 20% and
214 25%. The DF is defined as (Wu *et al.*, 2016):

$$215 \quad DF = \frac{P \times N}{M} \quad (3)$$

216 where P is the mass remaining (%) at the above specified mass losses. N is the cycle at which mass
217 loss reaches the above specified values and M is the cycle at which the F-T exposure is to be
218 terminated (56 cycles in this case).

219

220 ***Compressive strength***

221 Compressive strength was measured in accordance with BS EN 12390-3:2009 (British Standards
222 Institution, 2009) on 100 mm cubes at the end of freezing and thawing exposure (56 cycles) at three
223 replicates per mix. An additional three replicates per mix were tested after curing (without exposure
224 to F-T cycles) to act as control references. Samples were placed between two 100 × 100 × 25 mm
225 metal plates and loaded at a rate of 0.3 MPa/s to ultimate failure.

226

227 **Results and discussion**

228 ***Mass and area loss***

229 Fig. 3a shows the normalised sample mass (mass in each cycle divided by the initial mass) as a
230 function of F-T cycles for conventional permeable concrete (PC) samples. In the first 10 cycles, only

231 a slight mass loss occurred. Subsequently, a significant drop in mass occurred as the surface and the
232 edges of the samples deteriorated. Cracking of the cement paste coating lead to debonding of the
233 aggregate particles from the matrix and spalling of the sample (Fig. 4). PC samples with higher
234 porosity showed greater amount of deterioration. The 36% and 37% porosity PC samples deteriorated
235 rapidly until only about 50% of the specimen remained by the end of the F-T exposure (Fig. 3a
236 and 4b). This is due to the pore structure of conventional permeable pavements with higher porosities
237 achieved through a thinner paste layer coating the aggregates, resulting in a lower matrix strength and
238 F-T resistance.

239

240 Similarly, a significant loss in surface area was observed beyond the first 10 cycles (Fig. 5a).
241 However, the area loss at each cycle was more significant than the mass loss. Fig. 5b shows the
242 correlation between mass and area remaining at every F-T cycle. The mass and area remaining
243 correlate very well up to cycle 12. However, increasing the number of F-T cycles resulted in more
244 area than mass loss. This is due to PC samples deteriorating from the surface in the form of aggregates
245 loosening and de-bonding from the cement paste before complete spalling.

246

247 Fig. 6 presents the durability factor (DF) for a range of mass loss (2%-25%). The DF results clearly
248 showed that at a certain mass loss (e.g. 2%), PC samples of lower porosity provided better F-T
249 durability. This is consistent with the mass loss (Fig. 3a) and area loss (Fig. 5a) data. This is similar
250 to the findings reported by Wu *et al.* (2016), who observed a strong correlation between porosity and
251 durability factor with mixes that have lower porosity showing better F-T durability performance. Liu
252 *et al.* (2018b) have also reported that samples with higher porosity had lower F-T durability.

253

254 Unlike PC samples, very little mass loss was observed in CRP samples of different porosity when
255 exposed to F-T cycles (Fig. 3b). Furthermore, the mass loss observed in CRP samples of different
256 porosity (2%-30%) was very similar to the self-compacting mortar samples of 0% porosity. The

257 durability factor (DF) for all CRP samples were consistently greater than 94%. This is due to the pore
258 structure of CRP that has been engineered to have high permeability, whilst still achieving high
259 strength and F-T durability performance. CRP sample of 30% porosity showed a 6% drop in mass at
260 cycle 56. This was due to spalling of a section of mortar at the boundary between the straight tubes
261 and this was only observed in one of the three replicates. As no deterioration was observed in CRPs
262 of different porosity (Fig. 7), it was decided not to conduct area loss analyses on these samples.

263

264 ***Ultrasonic pulse velocity (UPV)***

265 The freeze-thaw tests were evaluated from the change in mass and area (see 'Mass and area loss'
266 section), and the reduction in ultrasonic pulse velocity (UPV), during F-T exposure. When internal
267 damages start to form within the PC samples, the UPV values decreased (Fig. 8a). This is because
268 the deterioration in PC samples results in an increase in the true path length of the ultrasonic pulse,
269 thus reducing the UPV values with increase in F-T cycles. Samples with higher porosity showed
270 lower UPV values. As no UPV values were detectable from cycle 10 for PC samples of 27%-37%
271 porosity and cycle 17 for PC samples of 16% and 23% porosity, the test was terminated at these
272 cycles.

273

274 In contrast, no significant reduction in UPV was observed in the CRP samples of different porosity.
275 As it can be seen in Fig. 8b, the mean UPV value (determined from three replicates; for each replicate
276 UPV is measured at five locations on each side of the cubic sample) of CRP samples of different
277 porosity did not decrease with increase in F-T cycles (on average the % difference in between F-T
278 cycles was less than 1%). The UPV values for CRP samples of 2%-30% porosity were very similar
279 to that in the self-compacting mortar samples of 0% porosity. This highlights the effectiveness of
280 CRP in resisting F-T deterioration, which is attributed to the use of high-strength self-compacting
281 mortar and the engineered vertical pore structure with tortuosity of 1 and no constrictions.

282

283 ***Visual observation of cracking***

284 The PC and CRP samples were scanned after each F-T cycle in order to study the extent of F-T
285 damage. PC samples were found to deteriorate by debonding of aggregate particles due to cracking
286 of the cement paste. The rate of deterioration increased with increase in porosity. In PC samples with
287 porosity greater than 23%, the rate of deterioration at the end of 56 cycles (in the form of loss of
288 aggregate particles and spalling) was so high that it was not possible to carry out further testing (e.g.
289 compressive strength) on the sample (Fig. 4b).

290

291 Conversely, the CRP samples of different porosity showed no signs of visible cracking or spalling
292 (Fig. 7). This is attributed to higher cement paste content, the modified pore distribution and the lack
293 of coarse aggregate in CRP. However, there is a possibility that micro cracks are present which are
294 not visible to naked eye. Hence, it would be beneficial to conduct microstructural analysis on future
295 CRP samples. However, as the properties of CRP are unaltered after exposure to 56 F-T cycles, it is
296 believed that these microcracks if exist do not impact the overall durability performance of CRP.

297

298 ***Compressive strength***

299 Porosity and strength are two fundamental properties that closely relate to the durability of permeable
300 concrete pavements. The compressive strength of permeable concrete is influenced by a range of
301 factors including porosity, cement content, w/c ratio, compaction during placement and the
302 characteristics of the aggregate. Fig. 9 presents compressive strength plotted against porosity for all
303 PC and CRP samples. For PC Control samples not exposed to F-T, the compressive strength ranged
304 from 4 MPa to 25 MPa for porosities of 16%-36%. In contrast, the compressive strength of PC
305 samples exposed to F-T cycles (PC F-T) ranged from 0.2 MPa to 7 MPa for porosities of 16%-36%.
306 As expected, strength was inversely proportional to porosity ($R^2 > 0.9$) and on average decreased by
307 about 8% for every 1% increase in porosity. The compressive strength for samples exposed to F-T
308 was 75%-96% lower than the control samples. A strong relationship was observed between

309 compressive strength and F-T durability. Samples with higher compressive strength (e.g. 16%
310 porosity sample in Fig. 9) exhibited better F-T durability (see Fig. 6), which is consistent with the
311 findings of Wu *et al.* (2016).

312
313 The compressive strength for CRP ranged from 12 MPa to 60 MPa for porosities of 2%-30% for both
314 CRP Control and CRP F-T. As expected, compressive strength reduced with increase in porosity for
315 both control and F-T exposed CRP samples. However, it is worth noting that the compressive strength
316 of the control samples was comparable to those samples exposed to 56 F-T cycles. In some cases, the
317 compressive strength of F-T exposed CRP (e.g. 16%, 25%) samples was higher than the CRP Control
318 samples, which indicates that the F-T cycles had no impact on the mechanical properties of CRP.
319 Furthermore, the compressive strength of CRP was substantially higher than the conventional
320 permeable concretes. In fact, at similar porosity, the compressive strength of CRP is about twice that
321 of PC. This is attributed to the difference in pore structure with CRP having a modified pore
322 distribution with higher cement paste content.

323

324 **Conclusions**

325 The freeze-thaw (F-T) durability of conventional permeable concrete (PC) and high-strength clogging
326 resistant permeable concrete pavement replacement (CRP) was tested and compared. Conventional
327 test methods were used on both permeable pavement systems to compare and determine the F-T
328 durability performance. Some of the key test variables were aggregate particle size (1.25 mm to
329 14 mm), effective porosity (2% to 37%), pore diameter (3 mm to 6 mm) and freeze-thaw degradation
330 method used to simulate extreme temperature and moisture gradients experienced in the field. The
331 main findings are:

332

- 333 • PC samples of different porosity experienced a significant mass and area loss when exposed
334 to F-T cycles. A significant deterioration of PC samples was observed after 10 cycles in the

335 form of aggregate loosening due to de-bonding from the cement paste followed by major
336 spalling. This is due to the pore structure of PC consisting of a thin cement paste layer coating
337 the aggregates in order to achieve the required porosity and permeability.

- 338 • CRP samples of 2%-30% porosity were more durable to F-T cycles such that no mass loss
339 was observed over the 56 F-T cycles. CRP samples (<30% porosity) showed no signs of
340 cracking or spalling due to their engineered uniform pore structure of low tortuosity.
- 341 • The ultrasonic pulse velocity (UPV) values reduced with increase in F-T cycles for PC
342 samples. This was due to deterioration in PC samples resulting in an increase in the ultrasonic
343 pulse path length.
- 344 • CRP samples showed superior durability performance when exposed to 56 F-T cycles such
345 that no reduction in UPV values were observed for CRP samples of different porosity.
- 346 • Compressive strength decreased by 75%-96% when the PC samples were exposed to F-T. In
347 contrast, the CRP samples showed no signs of deterioration or strength loss when exposed to
348 F-T cycles.

349

350 CRP is the first permeable pavement replacement to have high strength, permeability and clogging
351 resistance, whilst being less susceptible to degradation caused by extreme temperature and moisture
352 gradients during freeze-thaw cycles as compared to conventional alternatives. As such, CRP is well
353 suited to address the problems associated with durability of permeable concrete pavements exposed
354 to extreme weather, reducing maintenance requirements and improving sustainability and service-
355 life. A new interlocking tile delivery method, that addresses the challenges of scaling up, has already
356 been developed for CRP and deployed at the new White City Campus of Imperial College London in
357 United Kingdom. Long-term performance monitoring is currently underway and will be reported in
358 due course.

359

360 **Data availability statement**

361 All experimental and analytical test data used in this study appear in the submitted article.

362

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368

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489 **Tables**

490

491 **Table 1.** Mix proportions of conventional permeable concrete (PC) prepared in the laboratory.

Mix	Cement (kg/m ³)	Gravel (kg/m ³)	Water (kg/m ³)	VMA** (%, kg/m ³)	w/c	Paste vol. (%)	Actual porosity (%)
PC-16%	315	1481	110	-	0.35	21	16
PC-23%	255	1581	89	-	0.35	17	23
PC-27%	255	1581	89	0.3, 0.8	0.35	17	27
PC-29%	255	1581	89	0.2, 0.5	0.35	17	29
PC-29%*	180	1581	63	-	0.35	12	29
PC-36%	105	1581	37	-	0.35	7	36
PC-37%	180	1581	63	0.2, 0.5	0.35	12	37

492 *Mixes of similar porosity are differentiated by an asterisk.

493 **VMA refers to viscosity-modifying admixture.

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497 **Table 2.** Mix compositions of high strength clogging resistant permeable pavement (CRP).

Mix	No of tubes × diameter of tubes (mm) per 100 mm cube sample	Cement (kg/m ³)	Sand (kg/m ³)	Water (kg/m ³)	SP (%)	w/c	Actual porosity (%)
CRP-2%	28 × 3	697	1297	278	0.25	0.4	2
CRP-2%*	8 × 6	697	1297	278	0.25	0.4	2
CRP-4%	56 × 3	683	1270	273	0.25	0.4	4
CRP-4%*	15 × 6	683	1270	273	0.25	0.4	4
CRP-8%	42 × 5	654	1217	261	0.25	0.4	8
CRP-16%	56 × 6	597	1111	239	0.25	0.4	16
CRP-25%	88 × 6	533	992	213	0.25	0.4	25
CRP-30%	105 × 6	498	926	199	0.25	0.4	30

498 *Mixes of similar porosity are differentiated by an asterisk.

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507 **Fig. 1.** Large-scale delivery of CRP at Imperial College London's White City Campus.
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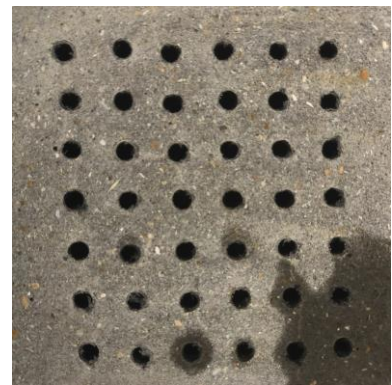
20 mm



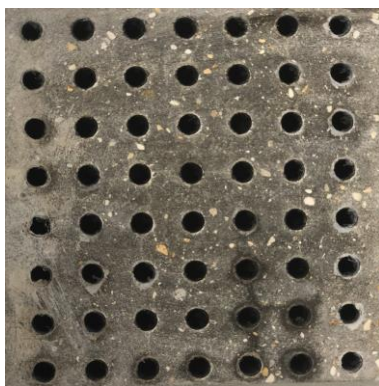
(a) CRP-2%



(b) CRP-4%



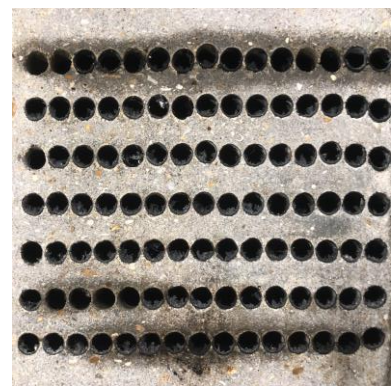
(c) CRP-8%



(d) CRP-16%



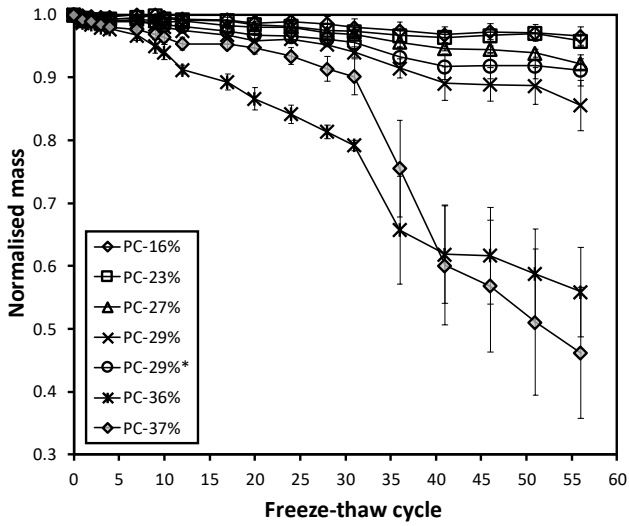
(e) CRP-25%



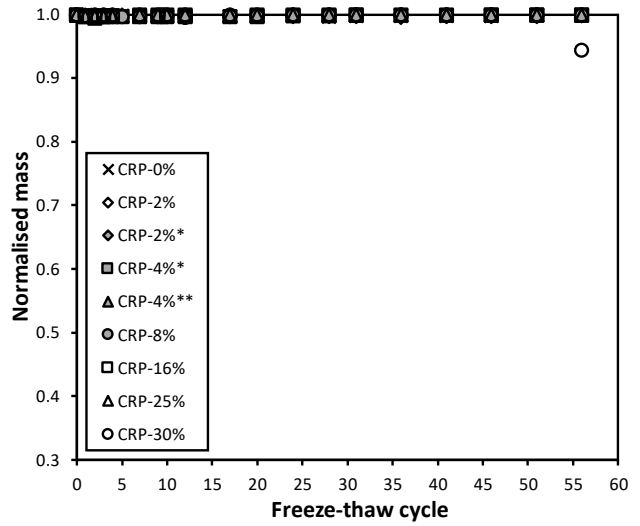
(f) CRP-30%

511 **Fig. 2.** Cross-sections of 100 mm high strength clogging resistant permeable pavement (CRP) containing
512 straight pores of varying size and number in self-compacting mortar to achieve porosity of 2 to 30%.

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(a)



(b)

516 **Fig. 3.** Normalised mass (mass in each cycle divided by the initial mass) against freeze-thaw cycles for a)
 517 conventional permeable concrete (PC) and (b) high-strength clogging resistant permeable pavement (CRP).

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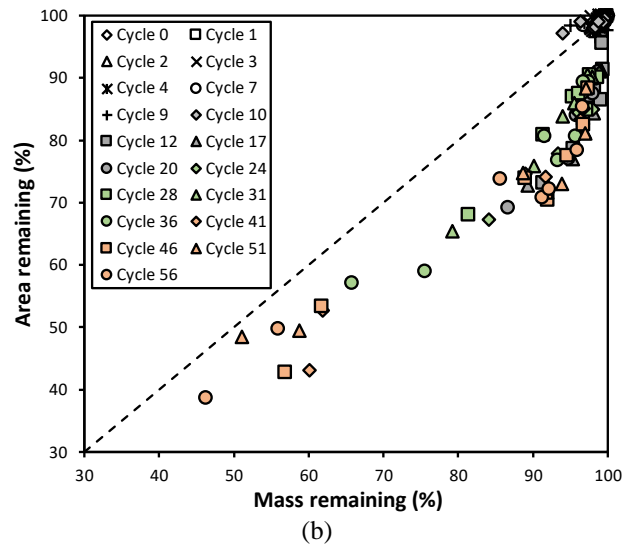
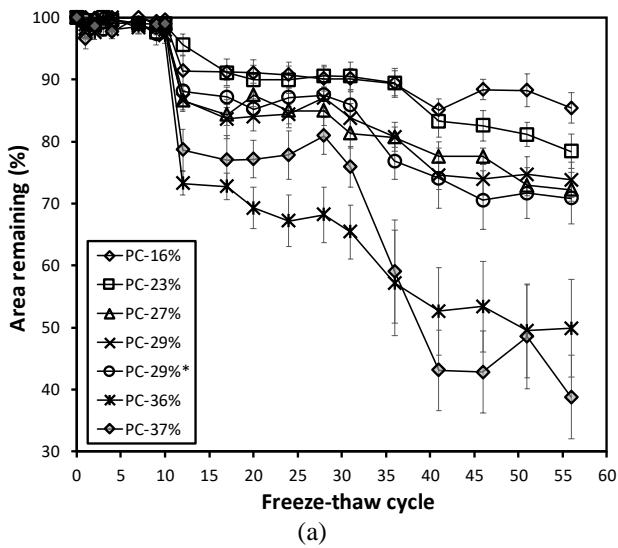
(a) PC-16%



(b) PC-37%

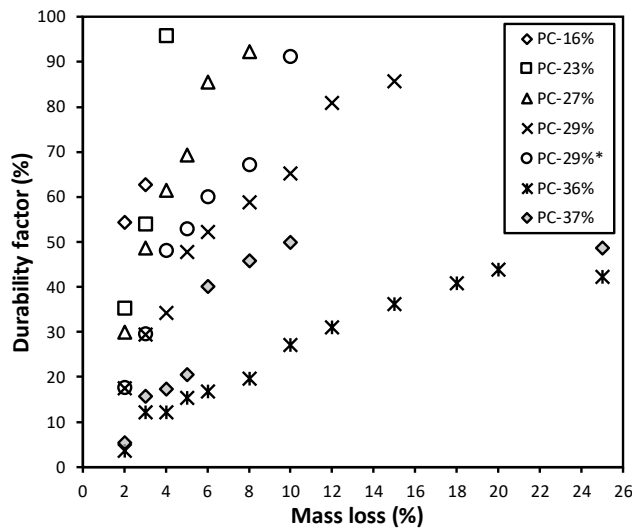
520 **Fig. 4.** Conventional permeable concrete (PC) at (a) 16% porosity and (b) 37% porosity, shown before and
 521 after exposure to 56 F-T cycles, indicating the extent of deterioration.

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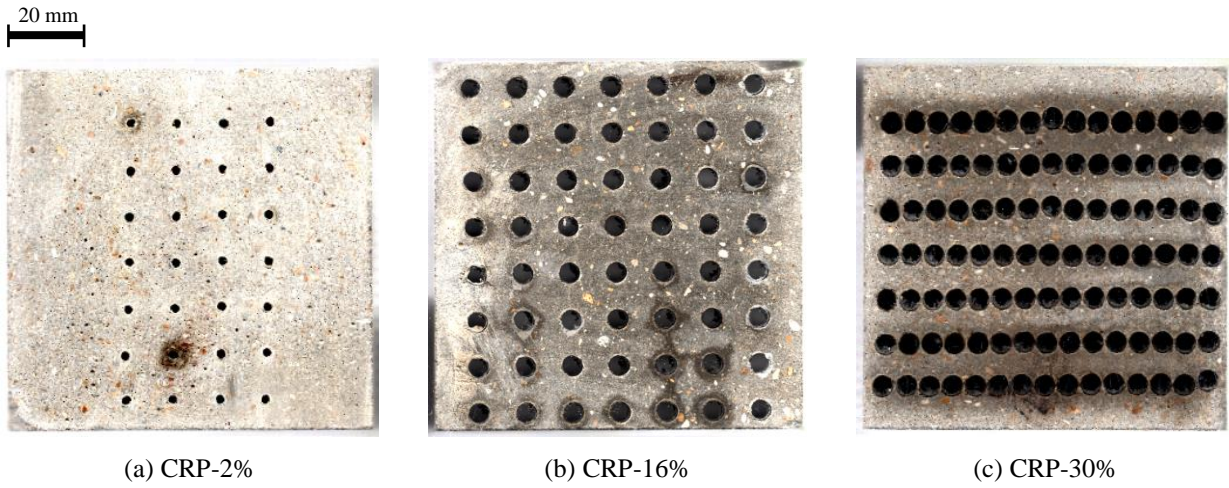
528 **Fig. 5.** Area remaining against (a) freeze-thaw cycles and (b) mass remaining for conventional permeable
 529 concrete (PC) pavement from cycle 0 to 56. A significant drop in area is observed at cycles 12, 36 and 56.

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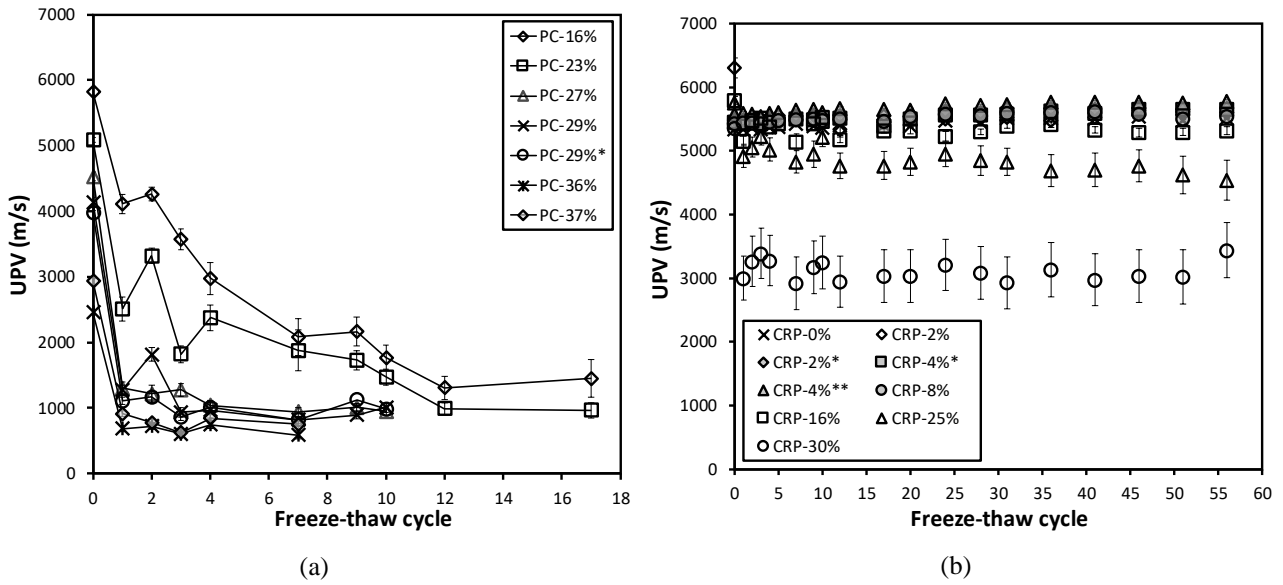
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 533 **Fig. 6.** Durability factor (DF) against varying mass loss for conventional permeable concrete (PC) showing
 534 that at a certain mass loss (e.g. 2%), samples with lower porosity have better durability performance.

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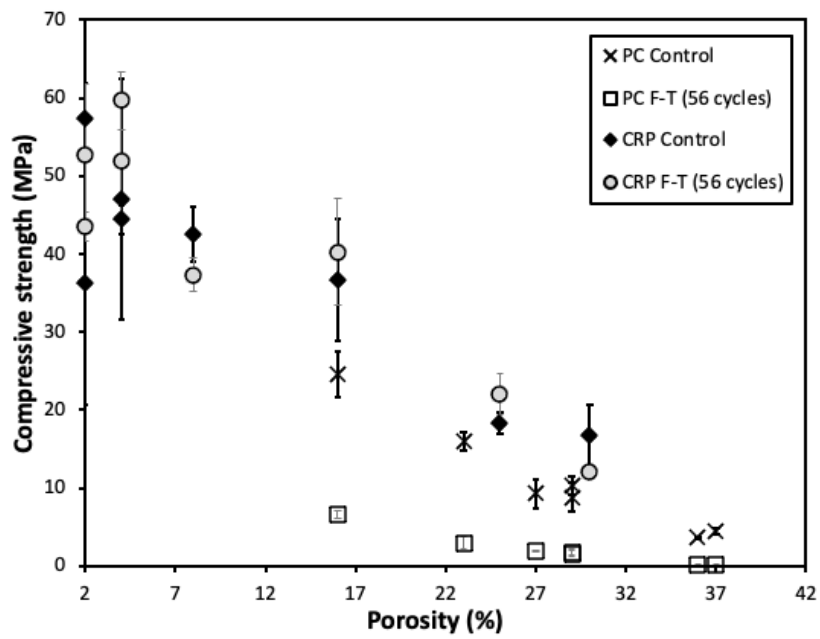
540 **Fig. 7.** Clogging resistant permeable pavements (CRP) after exposure to 56 F-T cycles, showing no sign of
 541 extensive deterioration.

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544 **Fig. 8.** Ultrasonic pulse velocity (UPV) against freeze-thaw cycles for (a) conventional permeable concrete
 545 (PC) and (b) high-strength clogging resistant permeable pavement (CRP).

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Fig. 9. Correlation between compressive strength and porosity for control samples (PC and CRP) and samples exposed to 56 freeze-thaw cycles (PC F-T and CRP F-T). Conventional permeable concrete (PC) samples show a large drop in compressive strength when exposed to freeze-thaw cycles compared to the CRP samples.