

# Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S1352-2310(16)30312-0

DOI: [10.1016/j.atmosenv.2016.04.029](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2016.04.029)

Reference: AEA 14572

To appear in: *Atmospheric Environment*

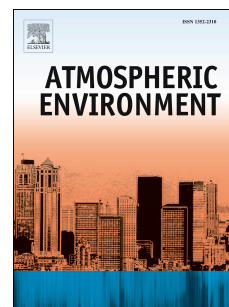
Received Date: 24 January 2016

Revised Date: 19 April 2016

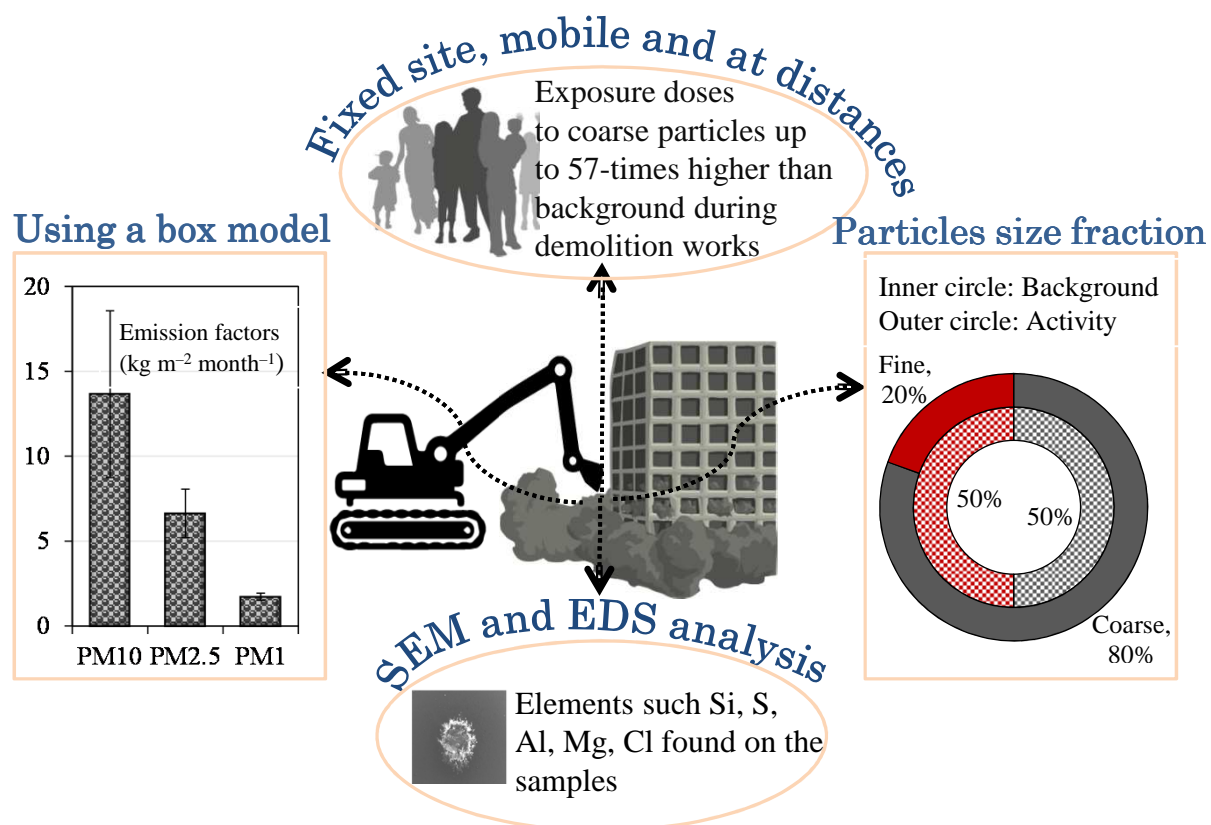
Accepted Date: 21 April 2016

Please cite this article as: Azarmi, F., Kumar, P., Ambient exposure to coarse and fine particle emissions from building demolition, *Atmospheric Environment* (2016), doi: 10.1016/j.atmosenv.2016.04.029.

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## Graphical abstract



# Ambient exposure to coarse and fine particle emissions from building demolition

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## ABSTRACT

Demolition of buildings produce large quantities of particulate matter (PM) that could be inhaled by on-site workers and people living in the neighbourhood, but studies assessing ambient exposure at the real-world demolition sites are limited. We measured concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> ( $\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$ ), PM<sub>2.5</sub> ( $\leq 2.5 \mu\text{m}$ ) and PM<sub>1</sub> ( $\leq 1 \mu\text{m}$ ) along with local meteorology for 54 working hours over the demolition period. The measurements were carried out at (i) a fixed-site in the downwind of demolished building, (ii) around the site during demolition operation through mobile monitoring, (iii) different distances away from the demolition site through sequential

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monitoring, and (iv) inside an excavator vehicle cabin and on-site temporary office for engineers. Position of the PM instrument was continuously recorded using a Global Positioning System on a second basis during mobile measurements. Fraction of coarse particles ( $PM_{2.5-10}$ ) contributed 89 (with mean particle mass concentration,  $PMC \approx 133 \pm 17 \mu g m^{-3}$ ), 83 ( $100 \pm 29 \mu g m^{-3}$ ), and 70% ( $59 \pm 12 \mu g m^{-3}$ ) of total PMC during the fixed-site, mobile monitoring and sequential measurements, respectively, compared with only 50% (mean  $12 \pm 6 \mu g m^{-3}$ ) during the background measurements. The corresponding values for fine particles ( $PM_{2.5}$ ) were 11, 17 and 30% compared with 50% during background, showing a much greater release of coarse particles during demolition. The openair package in R and map source software (ArcGIS) was used to assess spatial variation of PMCs in downwind and upwind of the demolition site. A modified box model was developed to determine the emission factors, which were 210, 73 and  $24 \mu g m^{-2} s^{-1}$  for  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$ , respectively. The average respiratory deposited doses to coarse (and fine) particles inside the excavator cabin and on-site temporary office increased by 57- (and 5-) and 13- (and 2-) times compared with the local background level, respectively. The monitoring stations in downwind direction illustrated a logarithmic decrease of PM with distance. Energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy and scanning electron microscopy were used to assess physicochemical features of particles. The minerals such as silica were found as a marker of demolition dust and elements such as sulphur coming from construction machinery emissions. Findings of this study highlight a need to limit occupational exposure of individuals to coarse and fine particles by enforcing effective engineering controls.

**Key words:** *Occupational Exposure; Emission factors; Particulate Matter; Building demolition; SEM/EDS; Construction and demolition waste*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Exposure to particulate matter (PM), including  $PM_{10}$  ( $\leq 10 \mu m$ ),  $PM_{2.5}$  ( $\leq 2.5 \mu m$ ) and  $PM_1$  ( $\leq 1 \mu m$ ), is known to have adverse impacts on the human health (Heal et al., 2012). A number of epidemiological studies have shown excess mortality due to PM exposure from sources such as road traffic and industries (Janssen et al., 2013; Kan et al., 2007; Namdeo and Bell, 2005). Furthermore, excessive inhalation of  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$  has been linked to a variety of respiratory diseases, such as lung cancer (Turner et al., 2011; Vineis et al., 2004), asthmatic (Dorevitch et al., 2006; Eggleston et al., 1999), renal (Spencer-Hwang et al., 2011; Weng et al., 2015) and cardiovascular diseases (Brook et al., 2010; Peng et al., 2008), besides depression problems among construction workers (Haynes and Savage, 2007). Numerous studies have reported increased risk of death due to ischemic heart disease among construction plasterers, masons and welders (Cavallari et al., 2007; Sjogren et al., 2002; Stern et al., 2001). Similar adverse health effects have also been observed among *non-smoking* workers at construction sites (Bergdahl et al., 2004; Verma et al., 2003).

There is a reasonable amount of literature on emissions of coarse (hereafter referred to  $PM_{2.5-10}$  fraction), fine ( $PM_{2.5}$ ) and ultrafine ( $PM_{0.1}$ ) particles from sources such as industrial works (Diapouli et al., 2013; Jaecker-Voirol and Pelt, 2000; Rodriguez et al., 2004; Toledo et al., 2008), road works (Fuller and Green, 2004; Ho et al., 2003; Tian et al., 2007; Woskie et al., 2002), road vehicles (Goel and Kumar, 2015; Kean et al., 2000; Kumar et al., 2011a, 2014) and non-vehicular activities (Kumar et al., 2013b, 2014; Saliba et al., 2010). However, there are limited studies that have measured emissions and exposure to PM around operational building demolition sites, which is the focus of this article.

Construction and demolition waste contribute up to about 33% of the total waste from all the streams; about half of which is demolition waste (Balaras et al., 2007). Construction and demolition of structures generate in excess of 450 million tonnes of waste each year in Europe, with about 53 million tonnes per year in the UK alone (Lawson et al., 2001; Rao et al., 2007). However, the number of buildings demolished each year is expected to increase by 4-fold by 2016 in the UK from the levels of about 20,000 per year in 2008 (ECI, 2005; Roberts, 2008). This increased rate of building demolition could be linked to growing population of the urban areas and the need for improvements to meet new urban design guidelines and adopt building technologies (Balaras et al., 2007; Kumar et al., 2015). For example, the global urban population is expected to increase by about 60% in 2035 from the 2013 levels (Großmann et al., 2013; Kumar et al., 2013a).

Building demolition can be accomplished through either implosion or mechanical means (e.g. excavator and wrecking ball). Demolition by both mechanical disruption (Dorevitch et al., 2006) and implosion (Beck et al., 2003) produce significant amount of PM, but the impact of implosion demolition on surrounding areas air quality is generally short-lived and severe (Beck et al., 2003).

Recent studies have shown that workers in construction industry dealing directly with concrete and cement products are exposed to notable PM emissions (Azarmi et al., 2014; Croteau et al., 2002; Flanagan et al., 2006; Kumar et al., 2012b) compared with those working in metal and wood industries (Fischer et al., 2005; Lim et al., 2010). There are sufficient evidences that activities such as demolition, earthmoving and building renovation are important sources of PM and degrade the surrounding air quality (Azarmi et al., 2015a; Beck et al., 2003; Font et al.,

2014; Hansen et al., 2008; Joseph et al., 2009; Muleski et al., 2005). In addition, PM pollution from demolition activity can adversely impact the health of people living close to demolition sites, especially when the measures to restrict particles released from sites are inadequate (Kumar et al., 2012a). Therefore, assessment of PM exposure becomes even more important when such sites are situated within the densely built residential areas or sensitive areas such as schools and hospitals.

Understanding the chemical constituents, morphology (i.e. size, shape) and surface properties of particles released from building demolition are important for determining their toxicity and health effects (Lo et al., 2000; Senlin et al., 2008). There are techniques such as scanning electron microscopy (SEM) for analysing morphology and energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy technique (EDS) to find elemental composition, which are used by numerous environmental studies (Kupiainen et al., 2003; Mouzourides et al., 2015; Paoletti et al., 2002). For example, Mouzourides et al. (2015) assessed the characteristics of bulk PM samples collected on Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) filters at an urban air pollution monitoring station in Nicosia (Cyprus) using SEM and EDS techniques. The results showed presence of elements such as calcium (Ca), nitrogen (N) and lead (Pb) on the samples. Likewise, Paoletti et al. (2002) studied the physicochemical characteristics and composition and of particles in an urban area of Rome (Italy). They observed elements such as carbon (C) and N, mainly originated from vehicular sources. Currently, limited studies have reported physicochemical properties of particles released from the building demolition and therefore this is taken up for investigation in this study.

Health concerns related to dust inhalation have led to a number of dust control and reduction initiatives in demolition industry. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)

have provided specific emission factors for different operations such as demolition, construction and mineral operations to control PM emissions (EPA, 2011). In addition, the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) developed a good practice guideline to limit exposure to hazardous substances at the demolition sites (HSE, 2006, 2011). Furthermore, at local level, “Best Practice Guidance” is produced by London Councils in partnership with the Greater London Authority in the UK, which contains a number of practical methods to control dust and emissions from demolition activities (Authority and Councils, 2006). However, demolition sites can be situated within extremely busy places where meeting regulatory expectations, or strictly following associated guidelines, are often challenging.

In order to fill the existing research gaps in the literature, this study investigates the release of  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  and associated exposure around a real-world building demolition site. The aims were to: (i) quantify the emission and exposure rates of particles and their dispersion in the downwind of demolished building, (ii) assess the horizontal decay of the PM emissions, (iii) understand the physical and chemical properties, (iv) computation of particle mass emission factors (PMEFs), and (v) determining the occupational exposure to on-site workers and people in the close vicinity of the demolition site.

## **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **2.1 Sampling set up and site description**

PMCs were measured at the fixed-sites in the downwind of demolition site, around the demolished building through the mobile monitoring as well as at different distances (10, 20, 40 and 80 m) from the demolition site through sequential measurements. Monitoring was also carried out inside the cabin of an excavator vehicle and in on-site temporary office for engineers.



Figure 1 shows the sampling locations around the demolition site, which was situated ~10 m away from a busy road that was closed during the demolition activity (i.e. sampling period). The demolished building was 30×15×8 m (length × breadth × height) and was located in Haywards Heath in West Sussex, United Kingdom (Figure 1). Construction material of building floors, stairs and supporting columns was reinforced concrete while the walls were made of brick.

The data were collected for a total of 54 working hours between 08:00 and 18:00 h (local time) over a period of 7 days; of which, one day was without any activity that enabled us to evaluate the local background levels. Table 1 presents the detailed summary of sampling durations. The background measurements were made at 15 m from the demolition site. Fixed site measurements were made at a distance of ~10 m in the downwind of the demolition site (Figure 1) while mobile measurements were made in loops of ~100 m (route A) and ~ 600 m (route B) around the demolition site (Figure 1). We intentionally changed our mobile routes to capture the exposure of on-site workers around the demolition site (route A) and the people in nearby vicinity of the site (route B). A total of 24 runs were made at routes A and B during the demolition works; the runs were spread equally between morning and afternoon hours (Table 1).

## 2.2 Instrumentation

A GRIMM particle spectrometer (model 1.107 E) was used to measure the mass distribution of particles per unit volume of air in 15 different channels covering the 0.3–20 µm in size range (Goyal and Kumar, 2013). The sensitivity of the instrument is 1 µg m<sup>-3</sup>, and instrument reproducibility of size-resolved PMC is ±2% over the total measuring range. Optical signals pass through a multichannel size classifier to a pulse height analyser that classifies the signals based on size into appropriate channels. Ambient air was drawn into the unit every 6

second via an internal volume-controlled pump at a rate of  $1.2 \text{ lit min}^{-1}$  (Goyal and Kumar, 2013; Grimm and Eatough, 2009).

Two cross validation approaches were used to ensure the quality of the collected data. Firstly, the instrument was calibrated in a three-step process by the manufacturer prior to the on-site measurements, including verification of laser optics, gravimetric correlation verification and optical calibration against the known size-resolved distribution, density and refractive index of known reference particles. This calibration used the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) certified polystyrene latex sphere (PSL) particles, which is a worldwide accepted standard method, giving a difference between standard instrument and our unit as  $\sim 5\%$  (Supplementary Information, SI, Table S1). Secondly, we carried out on-site calibration by weighing ( $\mu\text{g}$ ) the PTFE filters that collected particle mass during the on-site measurements and compared these mass with the data of PM mass produced by the instrument (see Table 2). The data of the PM mass (in  $\mu\text{g}$ ) from the instrument was obtained by multiplying the total mass concentration ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) with the sampling flow rate ( $2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) of the instrument and the total duration (s) of measured activity (SI Section S1). Results of this comparison are presented in SI Table S1, which shows an average difference of about 6% between the filter-based mass and the mass given by the instrument. Both these approaches provided a difference of  $\leq 6\%$  between the standard and our instruments unit, which was assumed to be acceptable and no correction factor was applied to the data.

A weather station (KESTREL 4500) was used to measure meteorological data (i.e. relative humidity, barometric pressure and ambient temperature) at the sampling sites at every 10 s during all the experimental campaigns. Since wind speed and direction at the sampling locations

will not be representative of the synoptic wind conditions due to being within the turbulent urban canopy layer (Kumar et al., 2011b), wind speed and direction data was acquired from the UK Met Office's weather station that was situated ~20 km away from the demolition site. The ambient average wind speed during the sampling period varied in the 0–6 m s<sup>-1</sup> range, with an average wind speed of 3.0±1.5 m s<sup>-1</sup> (Figure 2). The ambient temperature and relative humidity varied in the 22±2 °C and 51±6 % range, respectively (SI Table S2). Since the variation in average temperature and relative humidity was modest, their effects on measured concentration were overlooked during the analysis.

A Global Positioning System (GPS) device (model: Garmin Oregon 350) was used to record sampling locations during the mobile measurements on a second basis (1 Hz). The data collected from the GPS in .gpx format was converted to Microsoft Excel through the map source software. Arcmap version 10.1 was used to plot spatial variations of PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>1</sub> during the different runs (Goel and Kumar, 2015).

### **2.3 Collection of PM mass on PTFE filters for SEM and EDS analysis**

Five different samples (1-5) were collected on PTFE filters that had a diameter of 47 mm and a nominal thickness of ~1000 µg cm<sup>-2</sup> (Table 2). Filter sample 1 was treated as a “blank” while mass on sample 2 was collected during the background period (pre-demolition; day 1). Mass on filter samples 3, 4 and 5 were collected during fixed-site (days 2 and 3), mobile (days 4 and 5) and sequential measurements (days 6 and 7), respectively (Section 2.1). Further details on the sampling duration and mass collected on the sampled filters are provided in Table 2.

Each of these five filter samples were analysed using a JEOL SEM (model: JSM-7100F) with a spatial resolution of 1.2 nm at 30 kV, equipped with energy dispersive X-ray spectrometer

(EDS), to obtain information on the surface morphology and composition of the particles collected on filters. The analyses were performed at The Microstructural Studies Unit of the University of Surrey (UK). The sample surface was scanned with a high-energy ( $\sim 3.0$  kV) beam of electrons in a raster pattern. The scanned area was between  $6 \times 6$  and  $200 \times 200 \mu\text{m}^2$  in accordance with the magnification applied (JEOL, 2015).

## 2.4 Estimation of PMEFs

The PMEFs are defined as the mass of emitted particles per unit area of demolition per second ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ). These were estimated for  $\text{PM}_{10}$ ,  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  and  $\text{PM}_1$  fractions separately using the data collected during the fixed-site measurements in the downwind of the demolished building (Section 2.1). A box model was initially developed, and then modified to take into account the horizontal decay of PM fractions, using the mass balance concept for the assessment of demolition-related PMEFs (Figure 3). Similar modelling approach to estimate the PMEFs has been used by previous studies (Font et al., 2014; Jamriska and Morawska, 2001; Kumar et al., 2011a).

It has been assumed that the box has a width, length and the maximum height where the pollutants mix as  $L$ ,  $W$  and  $H_m$ , respectively. Formulation of the box model assumes that the demolition site acts as a control volume (box), and that the air in the box is well mixed with uniform ( $U_x$  in  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) and exchange ( $U_z$  in  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) wind velocities in the x- and z-directions, respectively. The model also assumes that there is no change in PMCs through transformation processes in the box (Kumar et al., 2011a). The removal of PM due to deposition and gravitational settling are assumed to be negligible.

On a dimensional basis, it is assumed that the mass flow rate ( $\mu\text{g s}^{-1}$ ) due to the emissions from

the demolition site is equal to the product of PMEFs ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) and the surface area ( $\text{m}^2$ ) (Font et al., 2014).

$$\text{Mass flow rate} = \text{PMEF} \times L \times W \quad (1)$$

Further, consideration of the conservation of mass for PM gives their mass flow rate in the box as: Net mass flow rate due to demolition activity = mass flow entering and leaving the box through horizontal advection ( $f_x$ ) + mass flow through vertical exchange ( $f_z$ ). Eq. (1) can then be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PMEF} \times L \times W = & [(\text{PM}_{\text{activity}} \times U_x \times H_m \times L) - (\text{PM}_{\text{background}} \times U_x \times H_m \times L)] + [(\text{PM}_{\text{activity}} \times U_z \\ & \times W \times L) - (\text{PM}_{\text{background}} \times U_z \times W \times L)] \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Vertical exchange wind velocity is assumed to be negligible, and thus the calculation for mass flow entering and leaving the box through vertical advection was overlooked from the calculations of the particle emissions rates. With this assumption, Eq. (2) becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PMEF}_i \times L \times W = & [(\text{PM}_{i,\text{activity}} \times U_x \times H_m \times L) - (\text{PM}_{i,\text{background}} \times U_x \times H_m \times L)] \quad \text{or} \\ \text{PMEF}_i \times W = & \Delta\text{PM}_i [U_x \times H_m] \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where  $\Delta\text{PM}_i$  ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) is the subtraction of the PMC during the “background” period from the total PMCs measured during the “activity” period (i.e.  $\Delta\text{PM}_i = \text{PM}(\text{activity, downwind}) - \text{PM}(\text{background})$ ); subscript  $i$  of PM and PMEF refers to size fractions of PM (i.e.  $\text{PM}_{10}$ ,  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  and  $\text{PM}_1$ ).

Since the measurements were taken at ~10 m away from the site, there will be a *dilution* between the source (i.e. demolition site) and the monitoring station. Hence the emission factors using these measured concentrations at a distance away from the source will underestimate the PMEFs.

Therefore, the horizontal decay profiles (Eq. 4) were developed through our sequential measurements in Section 3.4 to account for the dilution between the emission source and sampling location, and back-calculate  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  concentrations closest (~0.1 m away from demolition site) to the emission source before putting them in Eq. (3).

$$\Delta PM_i = -a \ln(x) + c \quad (4)$$

where  $x$  (m) is a distance from the demolition site. The values of the empirical coefficient  $a$  ( $\mu g m^{-4}$ ) are 13.57, 8.51 and 1.77 for  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$ , respectively (Section 3.4). Likewise,  $c$  (–) is a constant with values as 92.57, 40.60 and 11.59 for  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$ , respectively. Substitution of Eq. (4) into Eq. (3) gives:

$$PMEF_i \times W = [-a \ln(x) + c] [U_x \times H_m] \quad (5)$$

Furthermore, the value of  $H_m$  is taken as 8.4 m, which is the maximum height of the building; the similar assumption was taken by Jamriska and Morawska (2001). Since the value of average synoptic wind speed ( $U_{15}$ ) were available from at a height of 15 m above the ground level and that the PMC measurements were taken at a height of about 1.8 m (Section 3.1), we applied the log-law to predict the wind speed ( $U_x$ ) at a height ( $z$ ) of 1.8 m using the Eq. (6):

$$U_x = \frac{u^*}{k} \ln\left(\frac{z-d}{z_0}\right) \quad (6)$$

where  $u^*$  ( $= 0.26 m s^{-1}$ ) is surface friction velocity,  $k$  ( $= 0.40$ ) is a constant,  $z_0$  ( $= 0.5 m$ ) is surface roughness length, and  $d$  ( $= 1 m$ ) is the zero displacement height (Britter and Hanna, 2003). Substitution of Eq. (6) into Eq. (5) gives our final equation to estimate the PMEFs as:

$$PMEF_i = \frac{[-a \ln(x) + c] \times H_m \times \left(\frac{u^*}{k} \ln\left(\frac{z-d}{z_0}\right)\right)}{W} \quad (7)$$

## 2.5 Estimation of the respiratory deposited doses (RDD)

The mass-based RDD, based on deposition fraction (DF) values, for various PM fractions are estimated using the Eq. (8):

$$\text{RDD of PM fractions} = (VT \times f) \times DF_i \times PM_i \quad (8)$$

where DF values are estimated based on the mass median diameter ( $d_p$ ) of PMCs in various size ranges (SI Figure S1) using the Eqs. (9-10) given by Hinds (1999):

$$DF = IF \left( 0.058 + \frac{0.911}{1 + \exp(4.77 + 1.485 \ln dp)} + \frac{0.943}{1 + \exp(0.508 - 2.58 \ln dp)} \right) \quad (9)$$

where  $IF$  is the inhalable fraction that is computed as:

$$IF = 1 - 0.5 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{1 + 0.00076 dp^{2.8}} \right) \quad (10)$$

The  $d_p$  is considered as the average particle diameter by mass of the coarse and fine particle fractions, which is estimated by plotting the cumulative fraction of PMC against the particle diameter for each measurement type (SI Figure S1).  $VT$  is tidal volume that is considered equal to 1920 (1360) and 1250 (990)  $\text{cm}^3$  per breath during heavy and light exercises for men, respectively; the values in parenthesis are for females (Hinds, 1999).  $f$  is the typical breathing frequency, which is taken as 0.45 (0.55) and 0.34 (0.35) breath per second during heavy and light exercises for male, respectively; the values in parenthesis are for females (Hinds, 1999). The resulting product of  $VT$ ,  $f$  and  $DF$  to  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  values provide mass-based RDDs.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 PMCs downwind of the demolition site

Figures 4a and 4b show the average PMCs and their fractions in various size ranges,

respectively, from the building demolition activity during the fixed-site measurements (SI Figure S2). Polar concentration rose were also plotted to identify the locations of the source during different wind directions (Figures 4c-e). These polar plots clearly showed increments in  $PM_{10}$  (Figure 4c),  $PM_{2.5}$  (Figure 4d) and  $PM_1$  (Figure 4e) when the prevailing wind was from demolition to monitoring sites. In fact, the overall average of  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  concentrations were found to be  $133.1 \pm 17.2 \mu g m^{-3}$ ,  $15.0 \pm 6.3 \mu g m^{-3}$  and  $7.9 \pm 5.2 \mu g m^{-3}$ , with a fraction of about 89, 5 and 6% in  $PM_{2.5-10}$ ,  $PM_{1-2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  size ranges, respectively (SI Section S3). Fraction of coarse particles (i.e.  $PM_{2.5-10}$ ) was found to be about 39% higher over the background level, compared with fine particles (i.e.  $PM_{2.5}$ ) that reduced by about similar percentage, against the background level during the demolition periods. This observation clearly suggests a much higher increase of coarse particle emissions from building demolition (Figure 4).

As far as the regulatory metrics are concerned, the average concentrations of  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  were found to be up to 11-times higher during the demolition periods than the background levels of  $PM_{10}$  ( $12.0 \pm 6.3 \mu g m^{-3}$ ),  $PM_{2.5}$  ( $6.07 \pm 2.6 \mu g m^{-3}$ ) and  $PM_1$  ( $2.0 \pm 1.1 \mu g m^{-3}$ ; Figure 2a). Published studies on this topic are limited for direct comparison but our results were analogous to that observed by previous studies. For example, Dorevitch et al. (2006) measured  $PM_{10}$  during the demolition of a brick-walled reinforced concrete building and average concentrations were reported to be up to 10-times higher compared with background levels. Later, Hansen et al. (2008) measured  $PM_1$  particles from the demolition of a brick-walled concrete building and found about 3-fold increase in concentration during the demolition over the background values.

The differences in *peak* concentrations with respect to the background levels changed drastically.



For example, the *peak* values of  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  during the demolition period increased to about 7358, 348 and  $42 \mu g m^{-3}$ , which were 615–, 60– and 30–times higher than the background levels, respectively. Closer inspection of the log-sheets indicated these peak increments to be coinciding with the periods of intense breaking of the ceiling and side walls at the upper floors of the demolished building (Figure 4).

Histograms of  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  concentration were made using the SPSS statistical software for comparing measured concentrations against the air quality standards (SI Figure S3). The EU Directive 2008/50/EC (Directive, 2008) and WHO guidelines (WHO, 2006) suggest the daily mean concentrations of  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$ , not to exceed of  $50 \mu g m^{-3}$  (on more than 35 occasions per year) and  $25 \mu g m^{-3}$ , respectively. The results showed that a cumulative percentage of concentrations for about 42% exceeded the EU daily limit value for  $PM_{10}$  and about 11% of the time the daily mean WHO guideline value of  $PM_{2.5}$ .

The above observations clearly suggest increased considerations above the background and exceedances over the regulatory limits, especially for daily mean  $PM_{10}$ , for over 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of total demolition period. On the other hand, the exceedances of  $PM_{2.5}$  were minimal, indicating that more efficient preventive measures (e.g. wind barriers, building sealing by impermeable plastic foil or water spraying (Kumar et al., 2012a) is needed to contain the  $PM_{10}$  emissions within the site boundaries in order to decrease the exposure to public in the downwind of such sites.

### 3.2 Spatial variations of PM during mobile measurements

In order to understand the exposure to people around the demolition site, we assessed the spatial variation of  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  concentrations on the routes A and B that have a closed “mobile monitoring” loop of about 100 and 600 m, respectively, around the demolition site. The

average  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  for the route A were measured as  $162.7 \pm 48.4$ ,  $15.5 \pm 0.8$  and  $4.7 \pm 1.2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  (Figure 5a), respectively, with about 4- and 2-times lower  $PM_{10}$  ( $37.2 \pm 9.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) and  $PM_{2.5}$  ( $7.5 \pm 3.6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) and slight decrease in  $PM_1$  ( $3.5 \pm 1.0 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) at the route B (Figure 5b). Fractions of coarse (and fine) particles were found about 90% (10%) and 79% (21%) at routes A and B, respectively (SI Figure S4). The higher PMC and fraction of coarse particles at the route A was expected, given that this route was around the periphery of the site compared with route B which was further apart from the demolition site (Table 3).

The increase in PMC during the mobile measurements cannot be directly attributed to the demolition activity since the collected data also included the periods when the mobile sampling location was in the upwind of the routes A and B. Therefore, to separate the upwind (primarily baseline, or background, PM concentrations arriving at the site) and downwind concentrations (primarily baseline plus the contribution from the building demolition), we firstly plotted the spatially averaged PM concentrations (Figure 6) and then divided the upwind and downwind data set to identify contribution from the demolition activity. For both the routes, the PMCs were much higher in downwind than those in upwind of the site and these differences were highest for the  $PM_{10}$ , followed by  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$ . For example, the average  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  in downwind ( $217.4$ ,  $21.0$  and  $6.6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) were about 7.7, 2.3 and 2.1 times higher than those in upwind ( $28.3$ ,  $9.3$  and  $3.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) areas of the demolition site on the route A; with corresponding values on the route B being  $63.6$ ,  $12.3$  and  $4.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  (in downwind) and  $21.0$ ,  $3.1$  and  $2.0 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  (in upwind).

Peak concentrations are usually reflection of the intense emission activities, which reached to  $3510.9$  ( $PM_{10}$ ),  $244.5$  ( $PM_{2.5}$ ) and  $31.2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  ( $PM_1$ ) which were 16.2, 11.6 and 4.7-times over

the average PMCs on the downwind of the route A. Our manual log of activities showed these peak PMCs corresponding to intense breaking of reinforced concrete beams and removal of waste material from the site that may have led to generation and resuspension of particles from the site. It was clear from the results that the close vicinity (route A) of the demolition site in downwind wind direction was significantly more influenced by PM emissions and that the most influenced size range was  $PM_{10}$ .

It will be interesting to put our measurements in the context of relevant mobile measurement studies. For example, Gulliver and Briggs (2004) reported results on variation of  $PM_{10}$  concentration during walking on the suburban routes in Northampton, UK. Their average  $PM_{10}$  concentrations ( $38.1 \pm 25.1 \mu g m^{-3}$ ) were ~6 and 2-times lower than those found in downwind of our routes A and B, respectively. Furthermore, Kaur et al. (2005) found the average concentration of  $PM_{2.5}$  to be  $27.5 \mu g m^{-3}$  during the measurement of pedestrian exposure during walk along a major road in London (UK), which was slightly higher (~1.3) than our averaged downwind  $PM_{2.5}$  ( $21.0 \mu g m^{-3}$ ). Our downwind  $PM_{2.5}$  on the route A were about 3-times higher than those found inside the car ( $6.60 \mu g m^{-3}$ ) by Weichenthal et al. (2014) in Toronto (Canada). This is clear from the above contextualisation that while  $PM_{10}$  concentrations can be much higher in the downwind of demolition sites compared to those the most polluted roadside environments in urban areas; the  $PM_{2.5}$  emissions from demolition are generally less pronounced and comparable to urban walking and in-vehicle studies.

### **3.3 Concentrations inside the excavator cabin and temporary on-site office**

Excavator vehicle and on-site temporary office are integral part of demolition sites where drivers and on-site workers remain present. In order to understand how the concentration levels

change during the demolition periods in these settings, the measurements made showed the *average* (and *peak*) concentrations of  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  inside the excavator cabin as  $455 \pm 349$  (54124),  $109 \pm 54$  (12401) and  $75 \pm 14$  (699)  $\mu g m^{-3}$ , respectively (Figure 7a), which were about 38- (4500-), 18- (2060-) and 37- (350-) times higher than those during the background periods, respectively. These relatively higher average concentrations and the notably high peak values inside the excavator cabin, compared with fixed-site (Section 3.1) and mobile measurements (Section 3.2), were expected due to a very close proximity (~5 m) of the excavator cabin from the demolition site.

As for the concentrations in on-site temporary office, the *average* (and *peak*) concentrations of  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  were measured as  $90 \pm 4$  (2566),  $16 \pm 6$  (341) and  $8 \pm 4$  (26)  $\mu g m^{-3}$  during the days of measurements, respectively (Figure 7b). The corresponding *average* (and *peak*)  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  increased to 8- (214-), 9- (57-) and 7- (13-) times higher over the background levels during the building demolition periods. These peak values for on-site office were recorded during the time of intense demolition of the building's ceiling and falling of demolished materials such as brick and concrete pieces from heights to the ground level at the site. Furthermore, a greater fraction of coarse particles (i.e. 83%), compared to that (~76%) in excavator cabin, was found in on-site temporary office (Figure 7). The windows and doors of both the temporary office and excavator cabin were closed during the measurement periods, with frequent in/out movement of office workers from temporary office. Both the fixed-site (Figure 4b) and mobile (Figures 5a-b) measurements showed that the demolition activities produce much higher fraction of coarse particles ( $PM_{2.5-10}$ ) compared with fine particles ( $PM_{2.5}$ ). Therefore the higher ventilation in temporary office due to in/out movement of office workers could have added larger fraction of coarse particles in temporary office compared with the much air tighter

excavator cabin.

The above results clearly reflect that drivers of excavator vehicle and the other on-site workers, engineers or supervisors are exposed to relatively high level of PM concentrations at the demolition sites. The levels of concentrations, as expected, reduce with the distance from the source (i.e. demolition site in this case) and release of emissions from demolition activity is much larger in  $PM_{10}$  size fraction compared with  $PM_{2.5}$  (Figure 7).

### 3.4 PM decay profiles

The PM data collected at different downwind distances (i.e. at 10, 20, 40 and 80 m) was plotted for evaluating the horizontal decay in concentrations of  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  in the downwind of demolition site (Figure 8). In order to find the best fit function, both the logarithmic (Figure 8) and exponential (SI Figure S5) best fit functions were applied to our net  $\Delta PM_{10}$ ,  $\Delta PM_{2.5}$  and  $\Delta PM_1$  concentrations, which were determined by subtracting the background PMCs from the measured concentrations during the demolition period. The  $\Delta PM$  concentrations at downwind distances showed a negatively correlated logarithmic form (Figure 8), with  $R^2$  values as 0.94 ( $\Delta PM_{10}$ ), 0.93 ( $\Delta PM_{2.5}$ ) and 0.84 ( $\Delta PM_1$ ). For the discussion purposes, the logarithmic decay function (Figure 8) was chosen as a best fit to our data due to better  $R^2$  values than those given by an exponential decay profile as 0.85, 0.89 and 0.68 for  $\Delta PM_{10}$ ,  $\Delta PM_{2.5}$  and  $\Delta PM_1$ , respectively (SI Figure S5).

The decay profiles suggest a higher rate of change in PM concentrations close to the demolition site compared with those at farther distances. For example, the rate of change in  $\Delta PM_{10}$ ,  $\Delta PM_{2.5}$  and  $\Delta PM_1$  concentration with per meter distance are (1.60, 0.51, 0.27)  $\mu g m^{-3}$  between 10 and 20 m, which decreases to (0.27, 0.45, 0.04) and (0.19, 0.06, 0.01)  $\mu g m^{-3}$  per meter distance in the

20-40 m, and 40-80 m range, respectively (Figure 8).. Furthermore, the average  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  concentrations reached to half of their initial concentrations within 80, 50 and 50 m from the demolition site, respectively (Figure 8). Similar decay profiles from demolition works are not available for comparison but other studies for construction or roadside (Buonanno et al., 2009; Hagler et al., 2009; Hitchins et al., 2000) have either logarithmic or exponential decay profiles. For example, Azarmi et al. (2015b) and Buonanno et al. (2009) found the decay profiles of  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$  for the construction works in London (UK) and at the highway in Cassino (Italy) as logarithmic and exponential, respectively. In order to understand how far the initial concentrations from demolition site reaches to meet the standard limits, we compared the daily limits of the EU Directive 2008/50/EC (Directive, 2008) for  $PM_{10}$  and WHO guidelines for  $PM_{2.5}$  (WHO, 2006) with our decaying concentrations (SI Section S4).  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$  took 50 and 15 m in the downwind of demolition site to meet the EU and WHO daily mean standard values, respectively (SI Figure S6). This distance could be taken as a public exclusion zone in the downwind direction of such demolition sites during demolition days.

### 3.5 The PMEFs for building demolition

Using the modified box model described in Section 2.4 and the PM data monitored downwind of the building demolition at the fixed-site (Section 3.1), the average PMEFs for  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  were estimated as  $35 \pm 1$ ,  $17 \pm 4$  and  $4 \pm 0.5 \mu g m^{-2} s^{-1}$ , respectively (SI Table S3). While there are numerous field studies available for emission factors from road traffic (Kumar et al., 2011b), limited studies are available for road works (Font et al., 2014) and almost none for building demolition activity. For example, Font et al. (2014) estimated emission factors for  $PM_{10}$  from road works in London as  $0.0022 kg m^{-2} month^{-1}$  which was about 6-fold smaller than those observed ( $0.013 \pm 0.004 kg m^{-2} month^{-1}$ ) in our case (SI Section S5). This difference

clearly suggest much larger emissions of  $\text{PM}_{10}$  during building demolition, which is expected given its dry and intense nature compared with less intense construction activities in relatively open areas such around roads. Our results were about 19-fold higher than those reported in the UK National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) for the  $\text{PM}_{10}$  as  $0.0007 \text{ kg m}^{-2} \text{ month}^{-1}$  (NAEI, 2013) and about 2-fold greater than European emission inventory median value ( $0.0068 \text{ kg m}^{-2} \text{ month}^{-1}$ ) (EMEP-EEA, 2013) for the demolition and construction activities (SI Figure S7). The PMEF of  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  and  $\text{PM}_1$  from demolition, construction or road works are currently unavailable and hence our estimates provide hitherto missing information for future experimental and modelling studies.

### 3.6 Morphology and chemical characterisation

SEM and EDS analyses were performed on the bulk mass of particles collected on the filters (Table 2) for assessing their shape, size, composition and structure (SI Section S6). Figure 9 shows the SEM images of the samples, indicating a heterogeneous structure with crystal and aggregated shaped particles during the demolition works; the irregular shaped holes show the porosity of PTFE filters. EDS analysis suggested the dominance of silicon, Si (10.5-17.8%) and aluminium, Al (4.2-5.1%; Table 4). The crystal shaped particles are thought to be Si released from concrete debris (Srivastava et al., 2009) while the aggregated shaped particles shows the presence of metals such as Al (Falkovich et al., 2001). The EDS analysis also showed the presence of other elemental species (Table 4), with a strong peak for carbon (C) and fluorine (F) in the blank “reference” filter, with an additional peak of nitrogen (N) in the background sample (SI Figure S8). C and F are thought to be the material of PTFE filters while presence of N in the background filter is possibly from the regional background in a nitrate form due to secondary gas-to-particle aerosol formation (Schaap et al., 2004; Viana et al., 2008).

The differences between particles deposited on the reference (sample 1) and background (sample 2) filters and those collected during the demolition activity periods (samples 3, 4 and 5) signify the presence of *new* elements (Figure 9). Apart from the dominating fraction of Si and Al, the additional elements during the demolition periods were found to be sulphur (S), chlorine (Cl), magnesium (Mg), sodium (Na) and Zinc (Zn), as shown in Table 4. The potential sources of these elements in urban environments are summarised in SI Table S4. Some of the deposited elements could be in oxide form because of presence of O during the demolition activities. The increment in the intensity and ratio of O peak compared with other peaks like Si, Al and S suggested that these elements appear to be strongly related with building demolition sources where aluminium oxide, sulphur oxide and silicon dioxide compounds are expected to be formed. The main source of Si is likely to be building related activities, particularly those involving concrete material such as breaking concrete slabs, which is typically made of cement, admixtures, water and aggregates (Kumar and Morawska, 2014). Si can be found in asbestos-containing hazardous building materials and it is also one of the key constituents of cement in the form of celite (tetracalcium aluminoferrite), belite (dicalcium silicate) and alite (tricalcium silicate) (Beck et al., 2003; Lioy et al., 2002). Al were thought of coming from breaking and demolition of aluminium windows, steel beams and concrete since alumina ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ) is integral component of cement (Azarmi et al., 2015b). There are sources such as sea salt and fuel oil fly ash for S (SI Table S4) but this is expected to be predominantly arising from diesel exhaust emissions from the construction machinery (Dorado et al., 2003). Furthermore, Na and Cl was mostly likely due to the effect of sea salt brought by the south-westerly winds to the site (Figure 2). Zn and Mg were expected to be contributed by on-site exhaust emissions from construction machinery and soil dust, respectively. The above results reflect the dominance of Si and Al in



particles and the ability of building demolition works to effectively aerosolise both friable and non-friable building materials to the surrounding environment.

### 3.7 Exposure to demolition workers and engineers

The average RDD of coarse and fine particles were estimated using the methodology described in Section 2.5 for people on and around the demolition sites (i.e. workers, individuals around the demolition site, engineers inside a temporary on-site office and drivers inside the excavator vehicle cabin) during heavy and light exercise levels (Table 5). Compared to the local background (pre-demolition) exposure levels, the RDD of coarse and fine particles were found to be 58- and 5-times in the excavator vehicle cabin, respectively, which happens to be the highest exposure among all the assessed categories. This was followed by the fixed-site “downwind” measurements where RDD rate for coarse (and fine) particles were 20- (and 3-) times over the background, followed by 32- (and 4-) times at the downwind of mobile measurements on the routes A compared to only 9- (and 3-) times at the route B and 13- (and 2-) times in the on-site temporary office (Figure 10). Given a logarithmic decay of emissions away from the site (Section 3.4), the distance from the demolition site was an important variable to describe the differences in RDD. For example, highest RDD were calculated at the closed locations to the source, such as at the excavator vehicle cabin (SI Figure S9).

As expected, downwind RDD of coarse (and fine) particles during mobile measurements were 10- (and 3-) times higher for route A, and 3- (and 4-) times higher for route B, respectively, compared to those in upwind of demolition site. These downwind exposures are much higher than those reported during walking on typical urban routes. For instance, we used the  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$  concentrations measured by Gulliver and Briggs (2004) during walking on suburban routes

in Northampton, UK to calculate RDD for comparison. Their RDD for coarse (and fine) particles were found to be up to 8- (and 2-) and 2- (and 0.8-) times less than our downwind RDD during the mobile measurements at routes A and B, respectively.

Our result also showed that exposure to coarse particle is greater compared with fine particles due to the disproportionate increments in concentrations of coarse particles from demolition works (Sections 3.1-3.3). Male subjects breathe and inhale higher doses of coarse and fine particles, compared with female subjects, due to differences in body tidal volume and higher frequency of breathing (Section 2.5; Figure 10). Furthermore, given that breathing rate and frequency is higher during heavy exercises such as removing and segregating demolished materials for re-use or recycling, exposure rates could vary substantially depending on the nature of work workers are involved even if all the workers are exposed to same emission source (SI Section S7). Moreover, the results of physicochemical analysis of collected particles on the filters reflected the dominance of Si and Al (Section 3.6). Exposure to Si have been linked with variety of adverse effects such as lung (Attfield and Costello, 2004) and renal (Steenland et al., 2001) diseases; both of which have been found to result in increased rate of mortality (Calvert et al., 2003). In addition, inhaling higher doses of Al have been associated with the cardiovascular (Sjogren, 1997) and Alzheimer's (Polizzi et al., 2002) diseases, besides leading to increased morbidity, particularly in older people. It worth highlighting that the exposure doses of coarse particles indicate up to 57-times higher doses over the typical background levels for the male on-site workers during heavy or light activity (Table 5). Since Si, Al and other elements such as Mg and Zn (Table 5) are integral part of inhaled particles, there is clearly an increased health risks at demolition sites.

#### 4. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORKS

Size-resolved mass distributions of particles were measured in the 0.22–10  $\mu\text{m}$  size range through a combination of measurement strategies (e.g. fixed-site and mobile). The objectives of this study were to assess emission characteristics of PM emissions in various size ranges during the mechanical demolition of a building, in addition to understand their physicochemical characteristics and the occupational exposure of workers to  $\text{PM}_{10}$ ,  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  and  $\text{PM}_1$  on and around the demolition site.

The following conclusions are drawn:

- The mass concentrations of average  $\text{PM}_{10}$ ,  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  and  $\text{PM}_1$  were found to be about 11-, 3- and 4-times above the local background levels during fixed-site measurements at the downwind of the demolition site. The coarse particles ( $\text{PM}_{2.5-10}$ ) contributed majority (89%) of the total PMCs. The largest  $\text{PM}_{10}$ ,  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  and  $\text{PM}_1$  were detected in the excavator cabin during the demolition of building's ceiling and walls.
- The overall average  $\text{PM}_{10}$ ,  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  and  $\text{PM}_1$  during mobile measurements at route A were found to be 4-, 2- and 1.5-times higher than those at the route B (larger periphery of the site), mainly due to route A being the closed periphery of the demolition site. Segregation of the data in the downwind of the demolition site showed up to 8- and 2.5-times higher  $\text{PM}_{10}$  and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  concentrations than those in the upwind of the mobile routes, respectively. These observations substantiate our previous findings that the demolition activities produce much larger  $\text{PM}_{10}$  emissions compared with  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ . The exposure to high PMCs can be minimised by staying indoors or being positioned upwind of demolition sites.
- $\Delta\text{PM}_{10}$ ,  $\Delta\text{PM}_{2.5}$  and  $\Delta\text{PM}_1$  values during the demolition period in the downwind direction showed a logarithmic decay with distance ( $R^2 \approx 0.90$ ). Such decay profiles are important for

extrapolating emissions in downwind of building demolition and incorporate them in dispersion models such as we used in PMEF modelling.  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$  concentrations meet the daily mean EU and WHO limit values at about 50 and 15 m, respectively, suggesting this as a public exclusion zone in this particular case.

- Average emission factors during fixed-site monitoring of demolition activity were calculated as  $35.3 \pm 12.7$ ,  $12.2 \pm 3.6$  and  $3.9 \pm 0.5 \mu g m^{-2} s^{-1}$  for  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$ , respectively. Such emission factors are currently lacking, but are key input to dispersion models for accurately estimating the affected area around demolition sites and design appropriate measures to limit the exposure of nearby public.
- SEM images indicated irregular, aggregated and crystal shaped particles during the demolition works while the EDS analysis suggested the dominance of Si and Al in the particles. The escape of these elements along with others such as S, Zn and Mg suggest towards appropriate protection measures of population, particularly sensitive subgroups (e.g. elderly and children) and those in nearby sensitive areas (e.g. hospitals, retirement home or nurseries).
- The downwind distance from the demolition site was an important factor to dictate the exposure doses. For example, highest exposure doses to coarse (and fine) particles were found to be inside the excavator vehicle cabin, which were up to 6- (and 5-), 5- (and 3-) and 17- (and 6-) times higher than those in downwind at the fixed-site, downwind of the mobile route A and temporary on-site office, respectively. Other factors affecting the exposure doses of individual workers depend on their nature of work and type of physical exercise and therefore the RDD rates could be different to workers involved in heavy and light exercise, site engineers or drivers even if they are exposed to same level of particle concentrations.

This study focuses on  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  generated from the demolition of a 3-storey brick-walled concrete building. The results showed effect of PM emissions on the exposure to people on and around such sites. The elevated PMCs during the demolition represent a potential health risk due to exposure to a wide variety of toxic elemental species. The results are also important for the development of mitigation strategies prior to the demolition operations and accordingly choose special protective equipment to limit exposures during the demolition activities. The male subjects inhale more doses of particles than female subjects, because of their higher body tidal volume and breathing frequency and that the rate of deposited particles could considerably increase during heavy exercises by workers for the same emission source. This suggests varying RDD rates to individual workers depending on their nature of work. The PMEFs assessed in this study can be used for developing the emission inventories while the decay profiles are important findings for estimating the dilution of particles in the downwind areas of such demolition sites. Moreover, the estimates of RDD rates are useful to compare the extent of exposures to coarse and fine particles between the demolition operations and those during exposure in typical roadside (Kumar et al., 2008, 2014) or transport microenvironments (Joodatnia et al., 2013; Goel and Kumar, 2015) in urban areas. Further personal monitoring studies, focusing on individual workers with different level of physical activities at large-scale demolition sites, are recommended to advance the understanding of occupational exposure of on-site workers. In order to provide adequate protection to the workers and population living in neighbourhood and given that demolition studies are yet limited, further studies involving monitoring of size-resolved particles from a wide variety of buildings under different urban morphology and meteorological settings are recommended.

## 5. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors thank the University of the Surrey and Cara for supporting this work, and Prof Stephen Baker and Mr Stuart Robinson for permitting us access to the demolition site. The authors also thank Prof John Watts and Mr Chris Burt of Microstructural Studies Unit at the University of Surrey for their help in SEM and EDS analysis.

## 6. ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information (SI) includes Sections S1-S7, Tables S1-S4, and Figures S1-S9.

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## List of Figure Captions

**Figure 1.** Schematic diagram of the experimental set-up, showing (a, b) monitoring stations around the demolition site (DS) during (c) fixed site measurements at day 2, and (d) day 3. Route of mobile measurements around the DS during (e) day 4, and (f) day 5. Sequential measurements of PM at the downwind of DS during (g) day 6, and (h) day 7. Solid triangles in each sub-figure show the sampling station. SP and EP refer to the start and end points, respectively, while the arrows represent the path of mobile measurements. Please note that the figure is not to scale and distances are presented in Table 1.

**Figure 2.** Wind rose diagrams depict the hourly frequency distribution of the wind speed and direction during the fixed-site measurement on (a) day 2, and (b) day 3, as well as during the mobile measurements on (c) day 4, and (d) day 5, together with measurements at sequential distances on (e) day 6, and (f) day 7. Please note that the unit for mean wind speed is metre per second.

**Figure 3.** Schematic diagram of the box model, showing various dimensions and parameters;  $f_x$  and  $f_z$  refer to the particulate mass flow rate entering and leaving the box in the  $x$  and  $z$  directions.  $U_x$  and  $U_z$  refer to wind velocities in the  $x$  and  $z$  directions;  $L$  and  $W$  refer to length and width of the box, respectively, and  $H_m$  refers to maximum mixing height.

**Figure 4.** (a) The average concentrations of  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  with average of prevailing wind direction, during all days of fixed site measurements. The inner and outer circles represent fractions of PMCs in various size ranges during the background and activity periods, respectively. The polar plots show variation in concentration with the wind direction and speed and their corresponding hourly mean (b)  $PM_{10}$ , (c)  $PM_{2.5}$  and (d)  $PM_1$  concentrations, along with



(e) temporal profiles.

**Figure 5.** The average concentrations of  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  at (a) route A and (b) route B, during all days of mobile measurements. The inner and outer circles represent fractions of PMCs in various size ranges during the background and activity periods, respectively. The box and whiskers plots at (c) route A and at (d) route B are showing upper, middle, and lower lines of “boxes” indicated 75<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> percentiles of  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  during the building demolition periods at the demolition site. Please note that SP and EP refer to the start and end points, respectively.

**Figure 6.** The spatially averaged concentrations of  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  during mobile measurements at (a) route A and (b) route B. The words Avg, DW and UW in the figure represent average, downwind and upwind, respectively. Blue triangles represent different waypoints on the routes A and B between the starting and end points. Each coloured point represents the average concentrations over the 12 runs each at both the routes A and B. A number of parallel points at each route were due to the sensitivity of GPS device, which varied within  $\pm 3.5$  m at the same route. Please note that SP and EP refer to the start and end points, respectively.  $PM_{2.5-10}$  (%),  $PM_{1-2.5}$  (%) and  $PM_1$  (%) represent fraction of 2.5-10  $\mu m$ , 1-2.5  $\mu m$ , 1  $\mu m$  from the total  $PM_{10}$  concentrations in upwind and downwind direction on the mobile route, respectively.

**Figure 7.** The concentrations of  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$ , at (a) the excavator cabin and (b) temporary on-site office for site engineers and managers during days of measurements. The inner and outer circles represent fractions of PMCs in various size ranges during the background and working periods, respectively.

**Figure 8.** (a) Horizontal decay profiles of  $\Delta PM_{10}$ , (b)  $\Delta PM_{2.5}$  and (c)  $\Delta PM_1$  at the demolition site

during the sequential measurements;  $x$  and  $y$  expresses distance from the demolition site and  $\Delta\text{PM}$  values, respectively. The solid line in represents the best fitting linear decay curve and the dotted line represents 50% drop from the initial concentrations.

**Figure 9.** SEM images of the surface morphology of the particles collected on blank filter, background measurements, sample 3, sample 4 and sample 5 at  $\times 50$ ,  $\times 1000$  and  $\times 8000$  resolution.

**Figure 10.** Factor of increased exposure (FIE) representing a ratio of respiratory deposition doses during the activities over the background level in coarse and fine particles range during each activity; deposited fractions were estimated based on mass median diameters as explained in Section 2.5.

## List of Tables

**Table 1.** Description of sampling duration and monitoring sites.

Day number	Date	Start-end time (sampling duration in minutes)	Measurement type	Measurement location with respect to demolition site (x)
1	28 June 2015	10:00:00–14:00:00 (~220)	Background	At 15 m downwind of demolition site
2, 3	1, 3 July 2015	08:56:01–17:00:07 (~500) 08:33:01–16:56:37 (~500)	Fixed-site	At 10 m downwind of the demolition site
4, 5	6, 8 July 2015	08:46:01–17:01:13 (~500) 08:35:01–16:59:25 (~500)	Mobile measurements	Around the demolition site in ~100 m (route A) and ~600 m (route B) loop
6, 7	9, 10 July 2015	14:12:01–16:46:43 (~150) 08:39:01–16:44:01 (~500)	Sequential measurements	At 10, 20, 40 and 80 m downwind of demolition site
7	10 July 2015	11:03:00–14:40:00 (~220)	Excavator cabin	At 5 m downwind inside the vehicle cabin
2, 3, 4, 6, 7	1, 3, 6, 9, 10 July 2015	15:10:00–15:49:00 (~40) 13:25:00–14:00:00 (~35) 14:30:00–15:00:00 (~30) 14:10:00–14:40:00 (~30) 15:00:00–15:10:00 (~10)	Engineer's on- site office	At 16 m downwind inside the office

917 **Table 2.** Summary of samples collected on PTFE filters during the demolition activity.

Name	Date of sampling	Time for sampling (min <sup>-1</sup> )	Mass of particles collected on the filter per unit area ( $\mu\text{g cm}^{-2}$ ) <sup>a</sup>
Sample 1	Blank (reference)	-	-
Sample 2	28 June 2015	240	0.3
Sample 3	1 and 3 July 2015	1000	19.5
Sample 4	6 and 8 July 2015	1000	14.7
Sample 5	9 and 10 July 2015	650	16.1

918 <sup>a</sup>The mass of collected particles on the filter per unit area ( $\mu\text{g cm}^{-2}$ ) has been calculated by  
 919 dividing the collected mass over the area of a filter ( $\sim 17.3 \text{ cm}^2$ ).

920 **Table 3.** PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>1</sub> concentrations ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) during mobile measurements at routes A and  
 921 B.

	Route A				Route B		
	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>1</sub>		PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>1</sub>
Run 1A	48.8±20.7	12.2±2.1	4.3±0.6	Run 1B	35.0±5.1	12.2±0.5	4.7±0.4
Run 2A	29.6±2.7	9.8±0.1	3.9±0.2	Run 2B	28.4±7.8	9.1±1.3	3.9±0.7
Run 3A	133.9±83.5	19.4±5.3	8.3±1.3	Run 3B	61.7±56.8	12.2±5.2	4.9±1.2
Run 4A	202.4±198.0	19.9±12.1	5.8±1.3	Run 4B	32.9±9.6	9.3±1.6	4.5±1.1
Run 5A	331.7±204.1	27.0±9.3	6.7±1.0	Run 5B	75.8±81.3	10.5±6.3	3.5±1.7
Run 6A	24.4±6.6	8.3±1.6	4.2±1.3	Run 6B	28.2±20.4	7.4±1.1	4.0±0.9
Run 7A	53.3±37.1	7.0±4.5	2.2±0.4	Run 7B	23.5±11.6	4.6±0.7	2.7±0.8
Run 8A	440.1±358.5	30.9±24.3	5.2±2.2	Run 8B	29.9±37.6	5.0±1.2	3.1±0.4
Run 9A	171.4±96.8	13.5±4.5	4.1±0.6	Run 9B	25.3±15.6	5.5±0.4	3.2±0.6
Run 10A	155.5±91.7	12.9±1.9	4.4±0.9	Run 10B	58.2±54.5	6.4±3.2	2.7±0.6
Run 11A	150.8±56.8	11.4±1.7	3.5±0.3	Run 11B	29.5±22.9	5.1±1.2	3.0±0.4
Run 12A	210.8±114.4	13.8±4.7	3.4±0.8	Run 12B	17.9±8.7	3.3±0.4	2.2±0.2
Overall average	162.7±48.44	15.5±0.8	4.7±1.2	Total	37.2±9.1	7.5±3.6	3.5±1.0

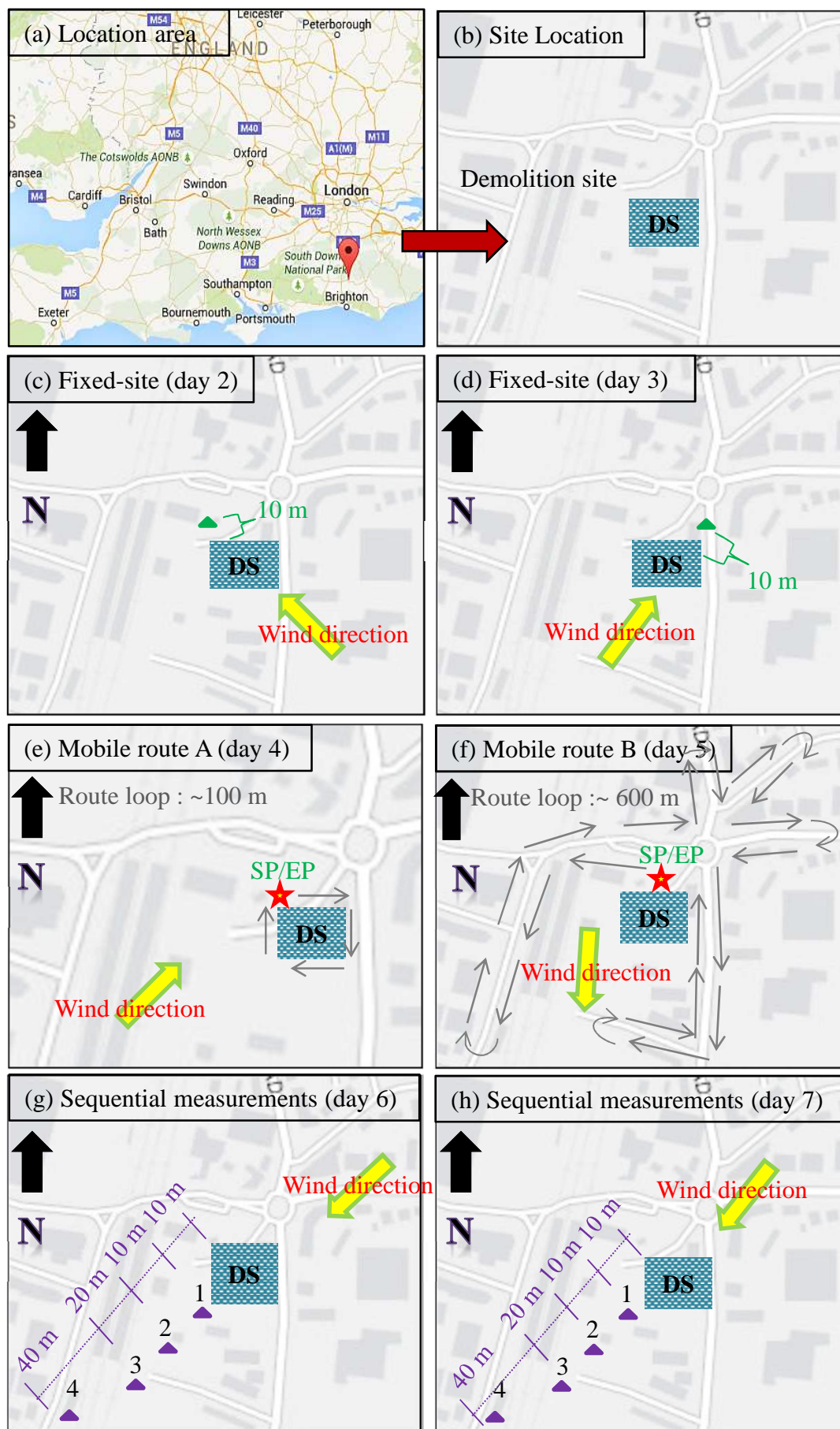
923 **Table 4.** The elemental composition of the all the filters (quantitative EDS analyses).

Sample 1 (Reference)		Sample 2 (Background)		Sample 3 (Fixed site)		Sample 4 (Mobile measurements)		Sample 5 (Different distances)	
Name	Fraction (%)	Name	Fraction (%)	Name	Fraction (%)	Name	Fraction (%)	Name	Fraction (%)
C	30.6	C	46.2	C	16.7	C	19.3	C	21.0
-	-	O	24.3	O	48.5	O	48.9	O	22.9
F	69.3	-	-	F	3.5	F	1.4	F	40.8
-	-	-	-	Si	17.8	Si	14.0	Si	10.5
-	-	S	1.2	S	2.3	S	4.2	-	-
-	-	-	-	Al	5.1	Al	4.5	Al	4.2
-	-	-	-	Mg	1.4	Mg	2.6	Mg	0.3
-	-	Cl	4.4	Cl	1.9	Cl	1.5	-	-
-	-	Na	2.6	Na	2.5	-	-	-	-
-	-	N	21.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	Zn	3.1	-	-

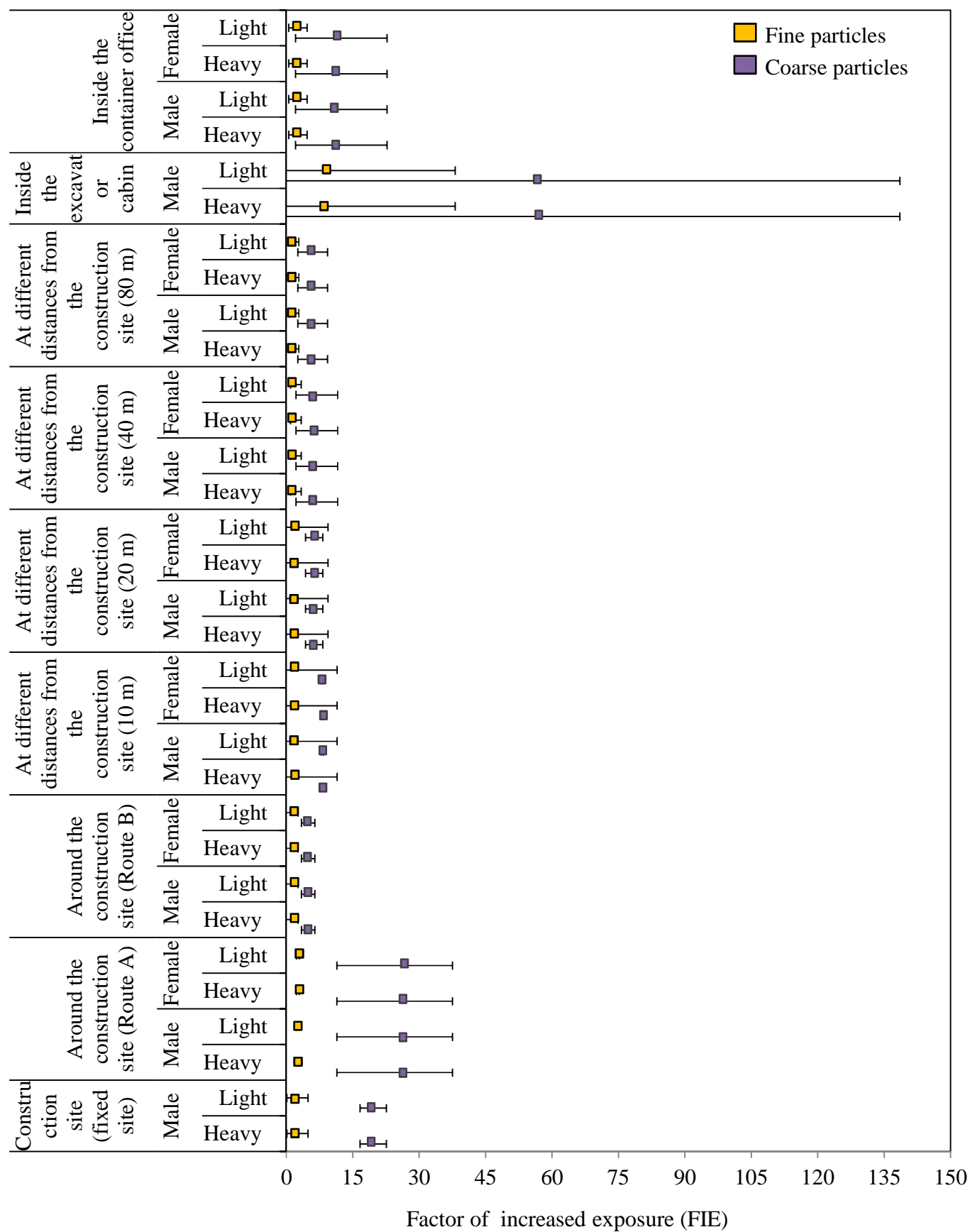
924

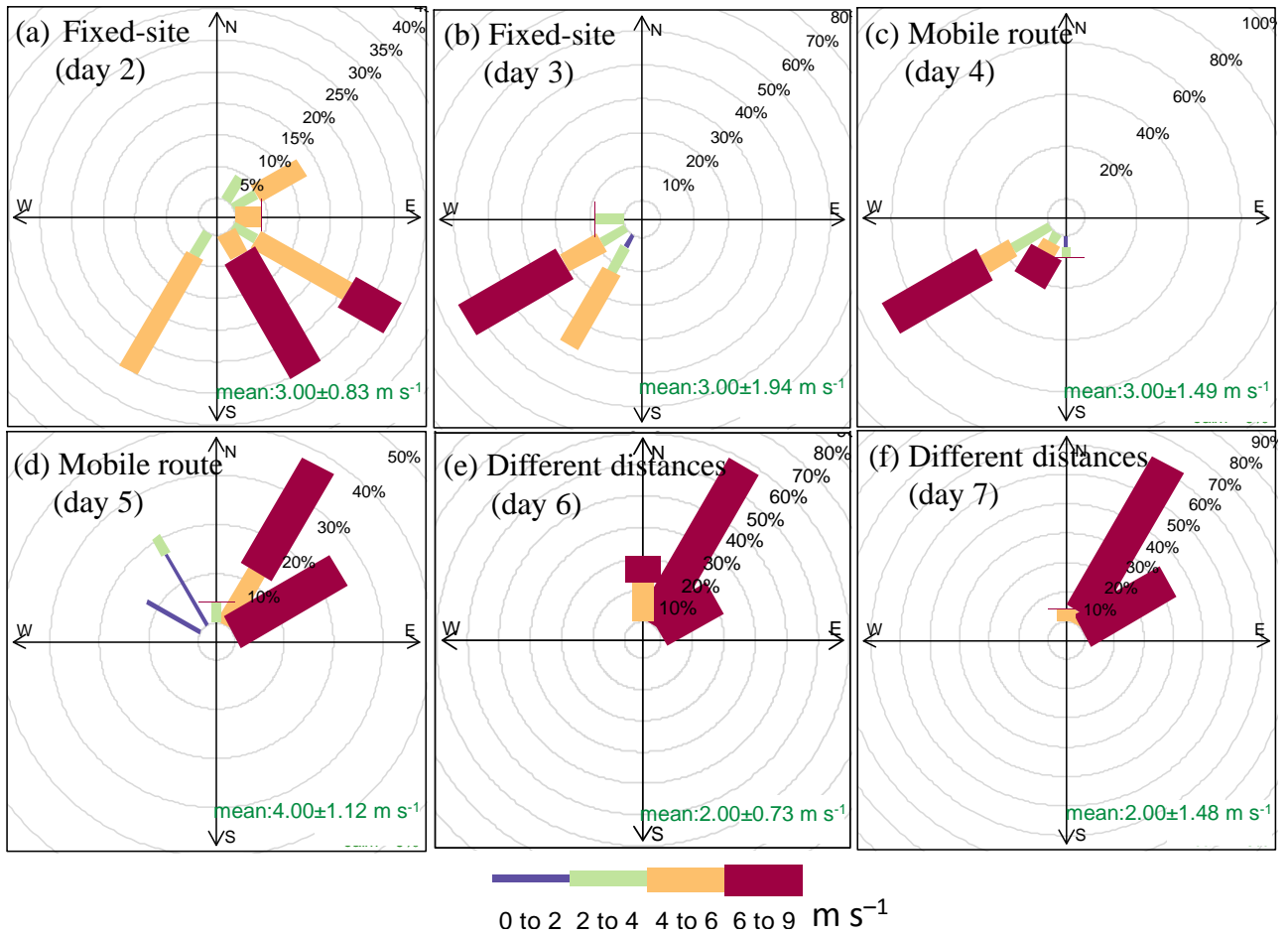
925 **Table 5.** The RDD rates of coarse and fine particles.

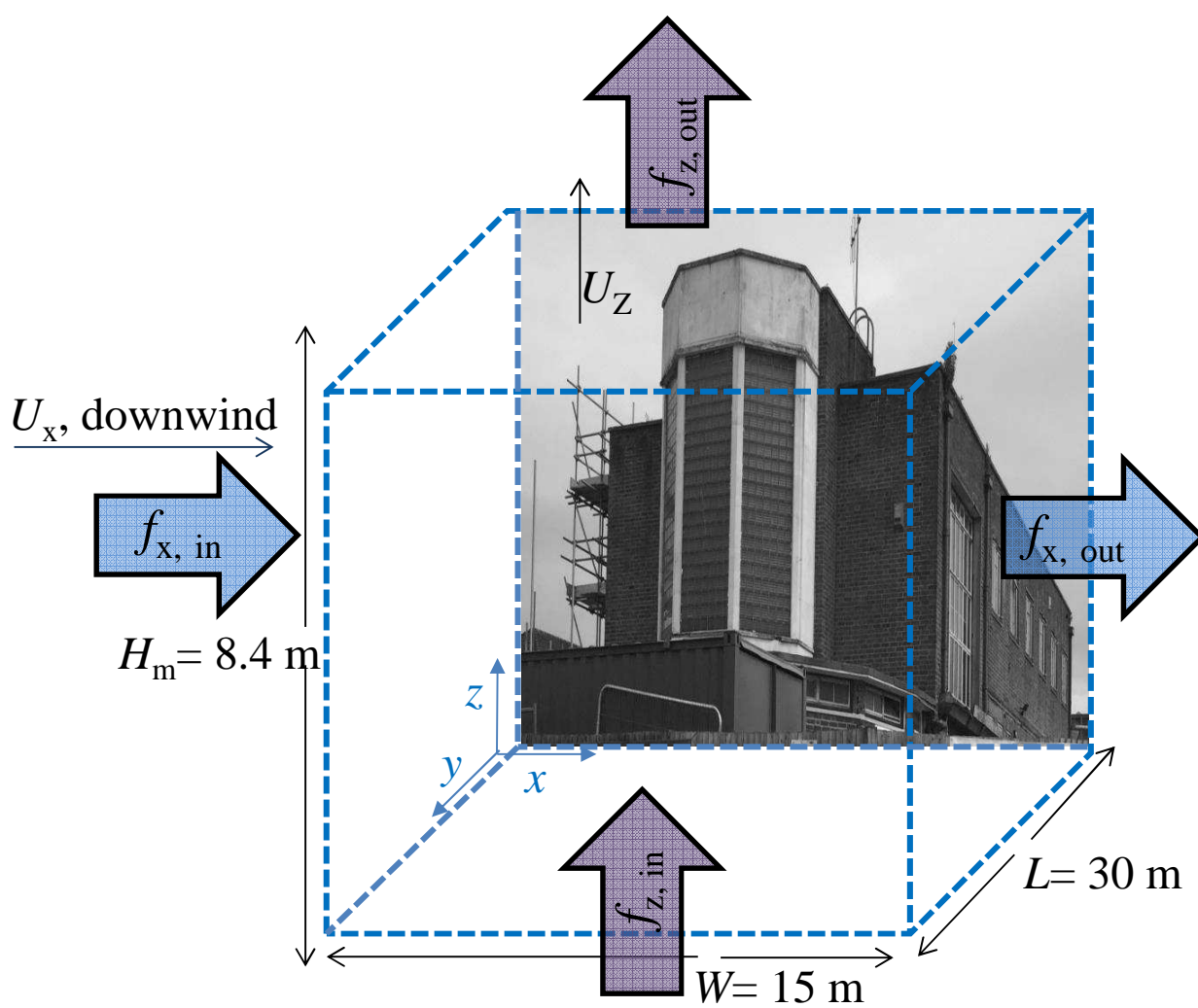
Location	Gender	Exercise level	Total RDD ( $\mu\text{g min}^{-1} \times 10^{-2}$ ) $\pm$ STD	
			Coarse particles	Fine particles
Construction site (fixed site)	Male	Heavy	572.8 $\pm$ 52.7	34.7 $\pm$ 14.6
		Light	290.0 $\pm$ 26.6	17.5 $\pm$ 7.4
Around the construction site (route A)	Male	Heavy	956.0 $\pm$ 231.8	64.8 $\pm$ 2.5
		Light	484.1 $\pm$ 117.3	32.8 $\pm$ 1.2
	Female	Heavy	827.6 $\pm$ 200.6	56.1 $\pm$ 2.2
		Light	383.4 $\pm$ 92.9	26.0 $\pm$ 1.0
Around the construction site (route B)	Male	Heavy	249.7 $\pm$ 26.8	38.0 $\pm$ 11.2
		Light	126.4 $\pm$ 13.5	19.2 $\pm$ 5.6
	Female	Heavy	216.1 $\pm$ 23.2	32.9 $\pm$ 9.7
		Light	100.1 $\pm$ 10.7	15.2 $\pm$ 4.5
At different distances from the construction site (10 m)	Male	Heavy	238.7 $\pm$ 4.7	39.5 $\pm$ 26.9
		Light	120.8 $\pm$ 2.4	20.2 $\pm$ 13.6
	Female	Heavy	206.6 $\pm$ 4.1	34.2 $\pm$ 23.3
		Light	95.7 $\pm$ 1.9	15.8 $\pm$ 10.8
At different distances from the construction site (20 m)	Male	Heavy	185.1 $\pm$ 34.4	32.0 $\pm$ 22.4
		Light	93.7 $\pm$ 17.4	16.2 $\pm$ 11.3
	Female	Heavy	160.3 $\pm$ 29.8	27.7 $\pm$ 19.4
		Light	74.2 $\pm$ 13.8	12.8 $\pm$ 8.9
At different distances from the construction site (40 m)	Male	Heavy	202.9 $\pm$ 84.0	18.7 $\pm$ 4.7
		Light	102.7 $\pm$ 42.5	9.5 $\pm$ 2.3
	Female	Heavy	175.3 $\pm$ 72.7	16.2 $\pm$ 4.0
		Light	81.3 $\pm$ 33.6	7.5 $\pm$ 1.8
At different distances from the construction site (80 m)	Male	Heavy	175.5 $\pm$ 60.3	15.4 $\pm$ 4.1
		Light	88.8 $\pm$ 30.5	7.8 $\pm$ 2.0
	Female	Heavy	151.9 $\pm$ 52.2	13.3 $\pm$ 3.5
		Light	70.4 $\pm$ 24.1	6.1 $\pm$ 1.6
Inside the excavator cabin	Male	Heavy	1662.8 $\pm$ 1422.3	78.3 $\pm$ 38.2
		Light	842.0 $\pm$ 720.2	39.6 $\pm$ 19.3
Inside the container office	Male	Heavy	365.4 $\pm$ 184.3	30.7 $\pm$ 10.9
		Light	185.0 $\pm$ 93.3	15.5 $\pm$ 5.5
	Female	Heavy	316.3 $\pm$ 159.5	26.5 $\pm$ 9.4
		Light	146.5 $\pm$ 73.9	12.3 $\pm$ 4.3
Background	Male	Heavy	29.3 $\pm$ 17.7	15.2 $\pm$ 6.8
		Light	14.8 $\pm$ 8.9	7.7 $\pm$ 3.4
	Female	Heavy	25.3 $\pm$ 15.3	13.1 $\pm$ 5.9
		Light	11.7 $\pm$ 7.1	6.1 $\pm$ 2.7

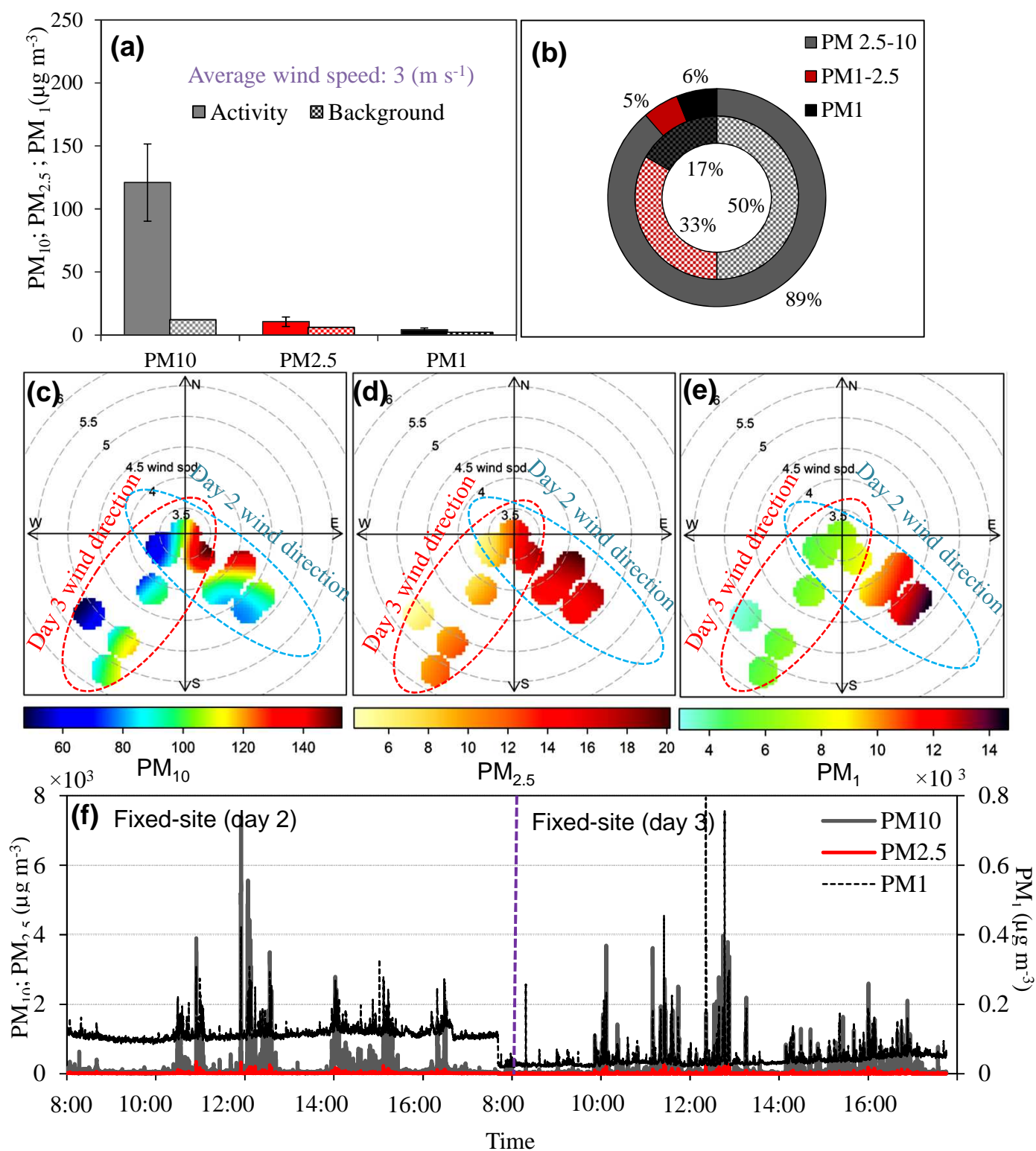


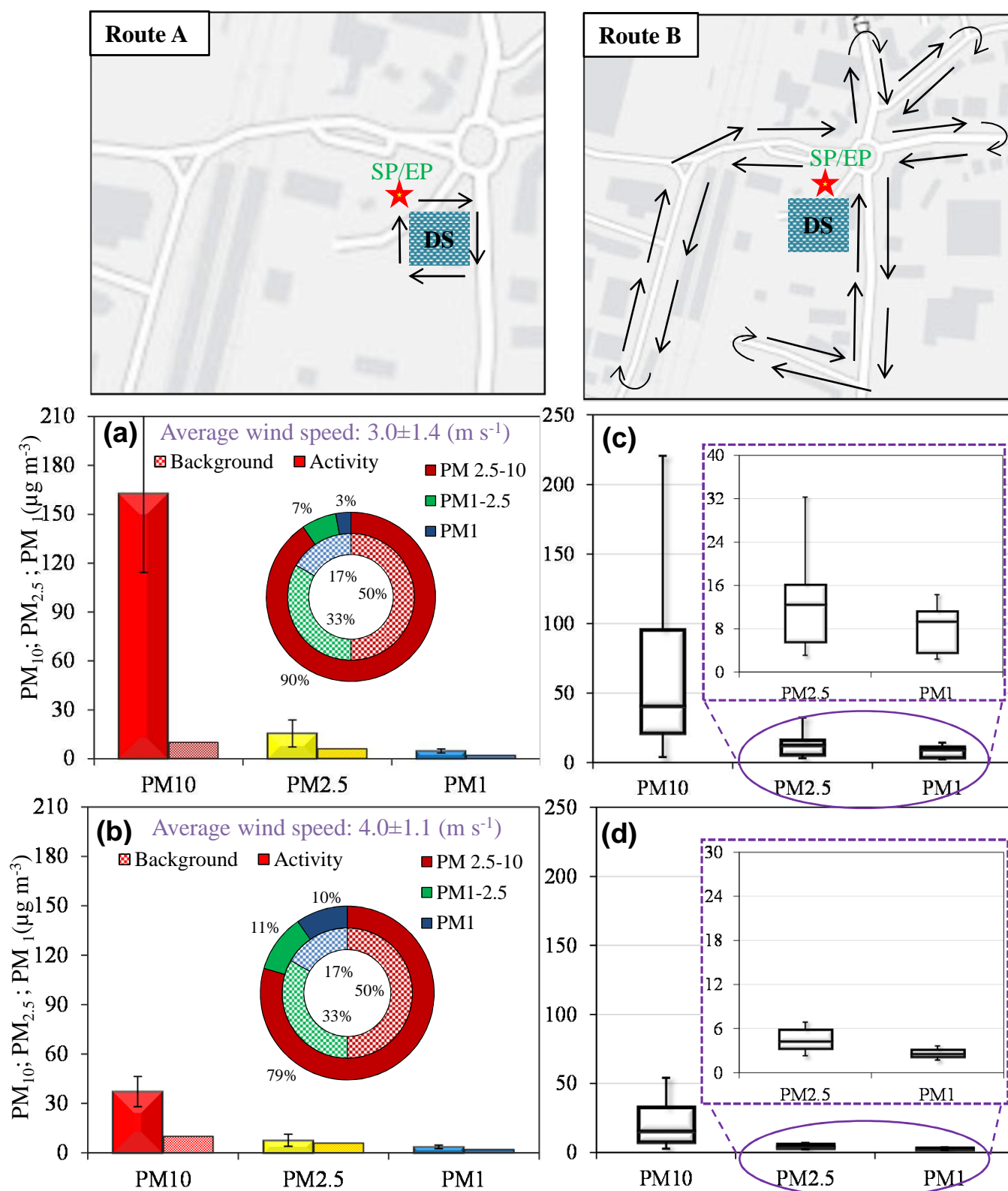


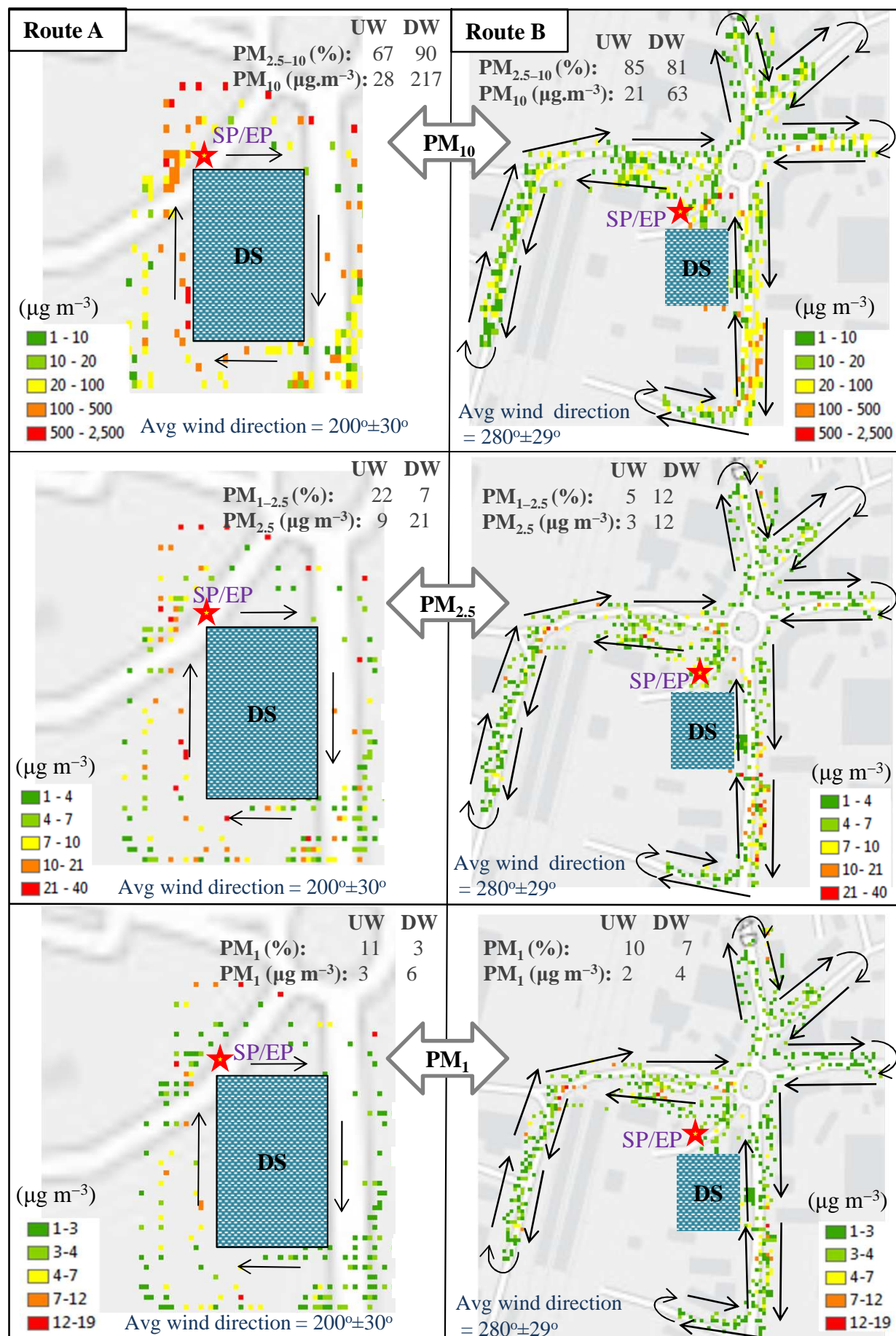




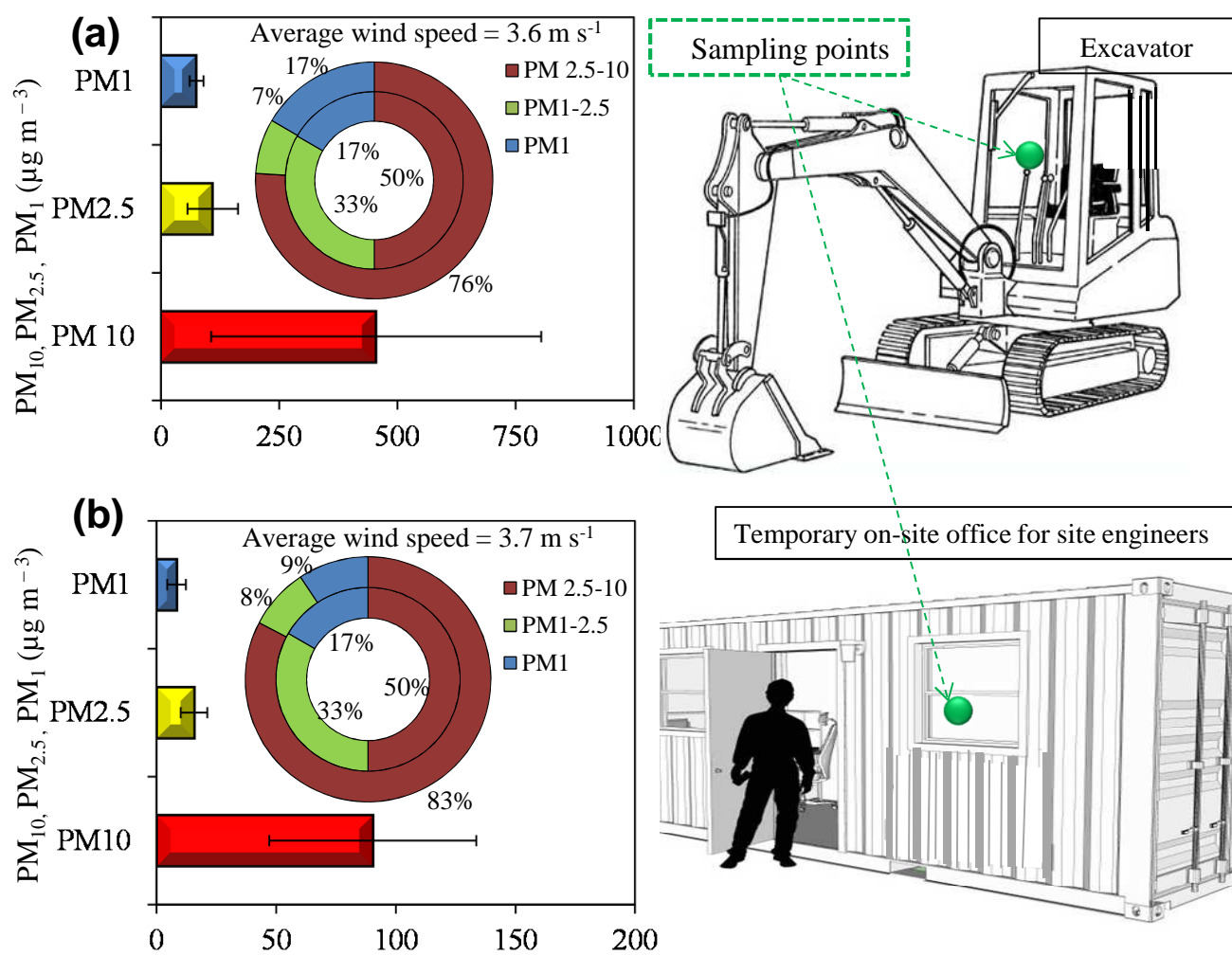


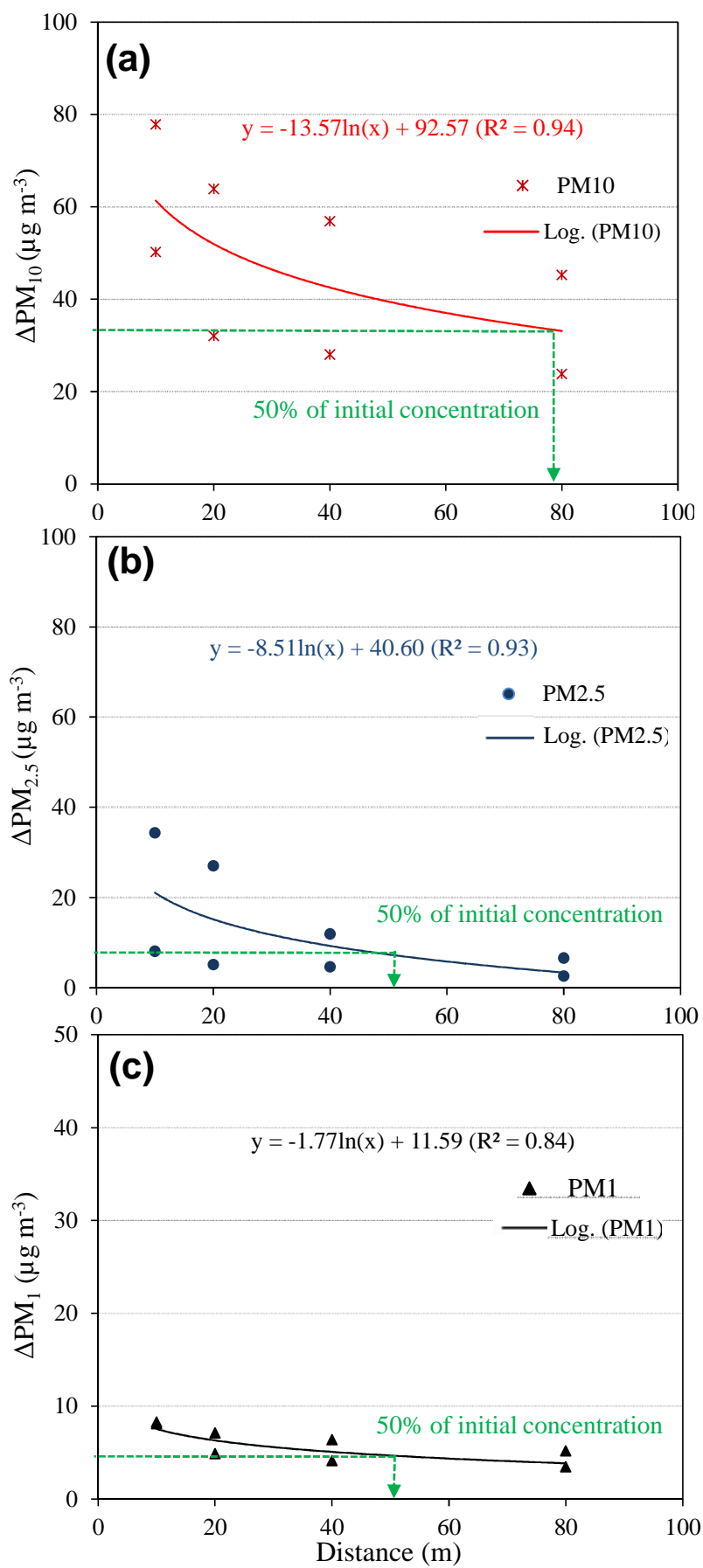




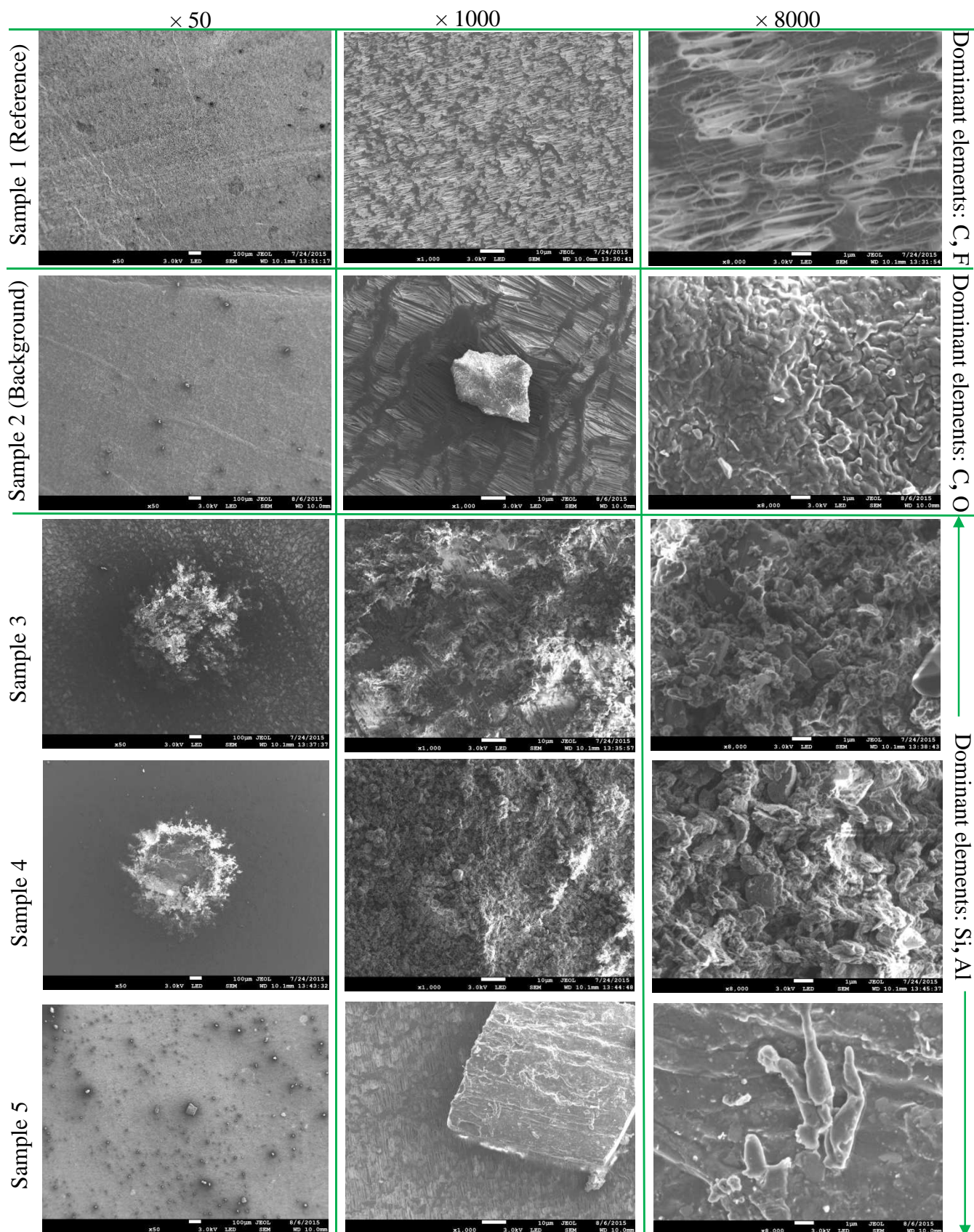












## Research highlights

- ▶  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_1$  concentrations from a building demolition are assessed
- ▶ Physicochemical properties of particles using SEM and EDS are investigated
- ▶ Average exposure doses increased by up to 57-times during the demolition activities
- ▶ PM profiles showed a logarithmic decay with increasing distance from demolition site
- ▶ Chemical analysis showed dominant concentrations of silicon and aluminium