Understanding the impact of the built environment mosaic on rainfall-runoff behaviour

3

4 1. INTRODUCTION

5 Increasing urbanisation of catchments is recognised to have a demonstrable effect on storm runoff 6 characteristics, contributing to increased magnitude and frequency of urban flooding (McGrane 7 2016). The urban environment is often characterised by large surface areas of anthropogenic origin 8 with hydrological characteristics that differ from natural surfaces in terms of reduced infiltration 9 (e.g. Fletcher et al., 2013; Ragab et al., 2003; Redfern et al., 2016; Salt and Kjeldsen, 2019) and 10 reduced lag-times (e.g. Leopold, 1991); the combined effect is a detectable increase in runoff 11 volume and peak flow. These effects become evident when the fraction of urban landcover increases 12 above 10%-15% of the total catchment area (Kjeldsen 2010; Miller et al. 2014), thereby making small 13 catchments more susceptible to change.

14 To manage the resulting surface runoff within urban areas, hydraulically efficient surface water 15 drainage systems that collect and route surface runoff to receiving water bodies are often constructed (Butler and Davies 2004); with major impacts to hydrological systems (Rose and Peters 16 17 2001). The urbanisation of previously natural land covers has potential negative downstream 18 implications for flood risk management, geomorphology, hydro-ecology and water resources 19 (DeFries and Eshleman 2004; Booth et al. 2016). However, despite the obvious importance of urban 20 hydrology, there are surprisingly few experimental studies of observed flood events from high-21 resolution hydrological data in urban systems (Redfern et al., 2016). Thus, the relative importance 22 of factors such as seemingly impervious surfaces, connectivity, and soil moisture are still not well-23 understood in the context of urban catchments (Jefferson et al. 2017). Current understanding of rainfall-runoff behaviour in urban areas is typically based on two key conceptual descriptions of the 24 25 hydrological properties of urban surfaces:

(i) that anthropogenic surfaces such as roads, driveways and roofs are impervious to the
 infiltration of precipitation to the soil (Wiles and Sharp 2008); and,

(ii) that urban impervious surfaces are either connected or disconnected to a surface water
 drainage system (Arnold and Gibbons 1996).

30 These assumptions are used to derive descriptive statistics of urban development such as 31 Percentage IMPervious area (PIMP) or Total Impervious Area (TIA) (Lu and Weng 2006; Sahoo and 32 Sreeja 2016), or urban developments are described with categorical terms lacking physical detail e.g. 33 residential, industrial, commercial (Herold et al. 2002). Aerial photographs, infrared imagery, 34 satellite remote sensing and maps are analysed to produce estimates of the extent of impervious 35 surfacing, combining areas covered by roofs, roads and other anthropogenic materials 36 (Shahtahmassebi et al. 2016; Sørensen 2021). The hydrological properties of urban areas are 37 examined by comparing rainfall-runoff data (where available) to geospatial data that describes the 38 extent and features of urbanisation (O'Driscoll et al. 2010; Ferreira et al. 2016), or more typically 39 where such data are limited, the hydrological behaviour of urban areas is estimated with 40 hydrological models (Yin et al. 2016; Mei et al. 2020). Modelling techniques usually rely on the 41 calibration of model parameters that link metrics describing urban development (e.g. PIMP) to 42 rainfall-runoff behaviour, or, where such data are missing, model parameters are estimated, 43 assumed or derived from previous work, e.g. Kjeldsen (2009) refers to Packman (1980) to estimate surface connectivity in the United Kingdom. Further, Vesuviano and Miller (2019) found substantial 44 45 differences in the runoff patterns from three heavily urbanised catchments located close together, 46 highlighting the importance of local scale effects. Although models can be calibrated to achieve a 47 good performance between simulated and recorded rainfall-runoff data, model parameters at large 48 scales are often abstract generalised mathematical representations of real-world processes and 49 features, offering little understanding of how small-scale, local processes and physical features 50 influence the generation of surface water runoff and pluvial flood risk.

51 It is well documented that not all rainfall falling onto urban surfaces is converted into direct runoff 52 (Hollis and Ovenden 1988; Wiles and Sharp 2008; Awadalla et al. 2017), yet there is uncertainty 53 about what causes losses from urban catchments and how to estimate these losses in lieu of 54 monitored rainfall-runoff data. Not all surfaces are connected to the surface water drainage system 55 and instead only a "Directly Connected Impervious Area" (DCIA) or "Effective Impervious Area" (EIA) 56 has a hydraulic connection to a surface water drainage system (Carmen et al., 2016). The degree of 57 connectivity between surface water drainage systems and surfaces has been found to play an 58 important role in determining the rainfall-runoff properties of urban areas (Ebrahimian et al. 2016). 59 Controlling and reducing connectivity of surfaces is cited (Walsh et al. 2005; Moore et al. 2012; 60 Carmen et al. 2016) as a mechanism by which the impacts of urbanisation on hydrology could be 61 reduced and determining accurate estimates of DCIA is acknowledged as an important factor in 62 predicting urban hydrological behaviour (Beighley et al. 2009). However, without detailed ground 63 assessments (e.g. Lee and Heaney, 2003), current methods for defining the connectivity of urban 64 surfaces are based on estimates e.g. DCIA is equal to 70% of TIA (Packman 1980), or empirical equations (Sahoo and Sreeja 2016) that show poor performance when applied to areas outside of 65 66 their original derivation (Lee and Heaney 2003).

67 Detailed studies have shown that the connectivity of urban surfaces to the surface water drainage 68 system is dependent on small-scale features (such as road gullies), which are difficult to measure 69 across large areas without intensive study (Ravagnani et al. 2009). Additionally, surface scale studies 70 have shown that a direct connection to the surface water drainage system does not necessarily 71 convert all rainfall into runoff upon impervious surfaces (Kidd and Lowing 1979; Hollis and Ovenden 72 1988) indicating that the rainfall-runoff properties of urban impervious surfaces are more complex 73 than current theory allows for, e.g. urban surfaces can be considered impervious, converting a large 74 fixed proportion of rainfall into runoff, or pervious converting little or no rainfall into runoff (Wiles 75 and Sharp 2008; Law et al. 2009). The importance of the urban form and function on hydrological

76 processes is predominantly based on modelled studies (e.g. Ogden et al. 2011), with few spatial 77 empirical studies (Mejía and Moglen 2009; Miller et al. 2020a). In summary, there is a lack of 78 detailed understanding of what features and processes affect the rainfall-runoff properties and 79 connectivity of surfaces within the urban environment, with a greater need for understanding the 80 role of spatial heterogeneity at different scales, from surface to flowpath to development (the 81 present study) scales. Such information is critical for use in hydrological modelling and surface water 82 management planning and therefore research and practical engineering decisions are often made on 83 assumed or else uncertain model assumptions, parameters and outputs.

84 This study aims to better understand how the urban form (morphological land-use – e.g. relative 85 land cover and spatial arrangement) and hydrological function (purpose and relationship to 86 hydrological pathways - e.g. hydrological connectivity) of built environments in small urban 87 catchments impacts hydrological response. Throughout this paper the relationship between what Van de Voorde et al. (2011) refers to as 'form and function' is shortened to 'urban mosaic' (Timms, 88 89 1971). The analysis of the hydrological response to urban form was achieved through the evaluation 90 of high-resolution runoff data obtained from a monitoring campaign involving equipment installed in 91 two neighbouring small (< 1ha) urban catchments (development scale) with differing densities of 92 urban and green space (heterogeneity) in the town of Swindon in the South of England. The study 93 compares key hydrological parameters observed during flood events, including runoff volume, lag-94 times and hydrograph shapes.

95

96 **2. CASE STUDY**

97 The town of Swindon is located 115km to the west of London and has experienced extensive
98 development in peri-urban residential areas during the twentieth and twenty-first century.
99 Originally a small village, Swindon's rapid development began during the latter part of the
100 nineteenth century as a hub for construction and maintenance of the UK's rail network and related

101 industries. The population grew in the post war era (1950s), as it was designated a "spill over" town 102 for London, to reduce overcrowding (in central London) and aid in the supply of housing 103 (Cullingworth 1961). Swindon also expanded rapidly during the period 1970-2000 as the central 104 industrial core was re-developed into areas servicing commercial, financial, distribution and other 105 service based economic activities (Brown et al. 2000). Housing developments constructed at 106 different periods during the twentieth century accommodate a large proportion of the town's 107 population to the peri-urban north. Each development reflects the design and planning policy of its 108 era of construction and thus forms a mosaic of differing surface types, housing layout, road design, 109 green spaces and gardens. North Swindon is therefore characterised by several different residential 110 areas with contrasting designs of land surface and the provision of surface water drainage. By 111 selecting two different residential developments in north Swindon for study it is possible to control 112 for a number of factors that may influence rainfall-runoff behaviour such as: climatic conditions, 113 soils, geology and slope, thus isolating differences in design and layout of residential development -114 the subject of this study.

In selecting two study sites in close proximity (<1km apart) of comparable size, the influence of extrinsic variables in determining the rainfall-runoff behaviour of the two study sites is limited, with age and design being the predominant physical difference. The two study sites reflect two periods of urban expansion in much of Western Europe (including the UK and Swindon), during the post-war 1950s and 1990s. The two study catchments are of homogeneous residential land use and meet the following selection criteria:

(i) Each study sub-catchment is drained via separate surface water and foul/waste water
drainage systems with no separate highway drains (i.e. roads drain to the surface water drainage
system via road gullies).

(ii) The study areas are of a similar size (under 1ha), of similar slopes and with similar underlyingsoils and geology.

(iii) The potential to install and maintain hydrological monitoring equipment within the surface
water drainage systems that serve each study sub-catchment with appropriate practical health
and safety considerations.

129 After several field visits to the north Swindon area, two sites were selected for study: Arley Close 130 (AC) and Winsley Close (WC; Figure 1a). WC was constructed in the post-World War II era of the 131 1950s, within the Penhill housing estate, and is built on the American Radburn principle, with houses 132 grouped in small cul-de-sacs around areas of open vegetated space (Dunning et al. 1970). Access to 133 each property is via shared pathways that link buildings to the road network, whilst few properties 134 have private car parking spaces. Constructed as social housing following Swindon's designation as a 135 spill over town for London in the 1950s, a time when car ownership was low and development 136 planning favoured speed of construction over other considerations, such as transport links or 137 proximity to employment (Cullingworth et al. 2014). In contrast, AC is part of the Abbey Meads housing development built during the 1990s, a period of increased car ownership (Dargay and Hanly 138 139 2007) and like WC (1950s) is arranged into a small cul-de-sac. However, there is no centrally shared 140 open space, instead the road network constitutes the largest open shared space. Access to each 141 property from the road network is via private pathways and driveways. Neither of the two 142 developments contains any form of public green infrastructure (GI), whilst individual households 143 may have installed water-butts, these were not evident during the data collection phase, as they are 144 often situated in back gardens.

145

146 **3. METHODS**

147 **3.1 Hydrological monitoring programme**

A hydrological monitoring network was established to measure rainfall, runoff, and soil moisture
within the study catchment areas between May 2014 and December 2015 (approximately 18
months). This is comparable to other studies, for example, Hollis and Ovenden (1988) and Gilbert

and Clausen (2006) analyse data collected over a twelve-month period, Ragab et al., (2003) a
fourteen-month period.

153 Flow monitoring: To monitor flow within the surface water drainage systems of AC and WC, two 154 Stingray 2.0 (Greyline instruments) Ultrasonic Doppler Flow Monitoring (UDFM) devices are installed 155 into the pipe network serving each study area (Figure 1b). The UDFM is a standard method for the 156 measurement of flow within non-surcharged pipes and open channels (Blake and Packman 2008). 157 Access is gained to each surface water drainage system via manholes within the roads serving each 158 study catchment (Figure 2). To place the sensor in a position with known and constant geometry, 159 metal plates were used to affix the sensor head onto the bottom of drainage pipes upstream of the 160 access manhole. Data quality control and correction was undertaken on the data to ensure a stable 161 and reliable velocity-depth relationship, with scatter in the velocity-depth data is ascribed to the 162 following possible sources: (i) turbulence in flow conditions; (ii) debris within the pipe network, and; 163 (iii) the backing up of flow under high flow conditions and potential instrument error.

Precipitation monitoring was undertaken by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) for the 164 165 study monitoring period as part of a wider hydrological monitoring programme (Miller et al. 2014; 166 Miller and Hutchins 2019). This data is used as it was not possible to place precipitation monitoring 167 equipment directly within AC and WC given the lack of secure and suitable locations. Raw data collected by CEH was processed to determine estimates of precipitation at two-minute resolution 168 169 (sensitive to 0.2 mm) for AC and WC. The three CEH precipitation stations at Vygon, Penhill and 170 Pinhurst are all situated within 3 km or AC and WC (Figure 1a), however these stations represented 171 less secure locations and as such suffered from intermittent vandalism and overgrowth of 172 vegetation. Therefore, an Environment Agency tipping bucket rain-gauge at the Swindon treatment 173 works to the southwest of Swindon was also used, this recorded at 15min intervals and is 174 approximately 3km from both sites. To derive a complete rainfall series for AC and WC the rainfall 175 time series from each of the CEH rain-gauges is compared to the data collected at the Environment

Agency gauge using double mass curves. Both Vygon and Penhill sites have periods of missing data,
therefore analysis of the Pinehurst-EA gauge relationship using a Double Mass Curve (DMC)
illustrates that there is a good correspondence between the two TBRs, with no discernible
breaks/changes of slope, indicating a consistent relationship.

180 Soil moisture measurements were conducted at one location within each of the two study sites 181 using a PR2 capacity-sensor based probe, converting soil electric permittivity to estimates of soil 182 moisture at a depth of 100mm. Data is missing on a number of occasions throughout the PR2 soil 183 moisture data as a result of malfunction caused by vandalism and rust, with infilling of periods of 184 missing data a linear interpolation between two known points at either end of the missing data 185 period. On 27th October 2015, the series of soil moisture measurements collected at AC falls within 186 one hour by 14.5 m^3/m^3 , caused by vandalism (the probe was lifted from the access tube). To correct 187 this error an uplift of 14.5 m³/m³ is applied to data collected post 27th October 2015. After August 2015, the PR2 probe near WC records soil moisture readings at an increased variability and 188 189 sensitivity compared to prior August 2015; the result of probe damage again caused by vandalism, 190 therefore a DMC was established and the slope for the period August-December 2014 and August -191 December 2015 compared and examined by fitting a simple linear regression model using the 192 Ordinary Least Squares method. The slope of the DMC during the period August-December 2015 is 193 approximately 18% greater than the August-December 2014, therefore the later was adjusted to 194 bring about an average reduction of DMC slope to match the August-December 2014 period. In 195 addition, intermittent field monitoring was undertaken using a Field Scout TDR300 mobile soil 196 moisture probe (Spectrum Technologies, Inc.) with GPS locator (Garmin 72H) to record surface soil 197 moisture readings at 1-2 m spacing within the vegetated surfaces of the study catchments. Whilst 198 the TDR300 soil moisture probe can be calibrated to site specific conditions, through comparison of 199 data collected between the PR2 and TDR300, the PR2 data can be validated. It was found that during 200 the summer months the TDR300 provided inaccurate and unreliable measurements, a function

we believe of insufficient rod lengths penetrating below the vegetated horizon, with short rod
length (76mm) selected to overcome earlier issues of rod deformation. However, the TDR300
data suggests limited variability in soil moisture across the two sites.

204 Event selection was based on a target set of characteristics defined a priori. The catchments in this 205 study are comparatively small and heavily urbanised and the surface water drainage system at each 206 site only drains the study area and do not contain drainage of non-urbanised or additional areas 207 upstream. The hydrological response of the studied surface water drainage systems is highly 208 sensitive to rainfall as they only contain flow when there is rain (i.e. the flow in the pipes is 209 ephemeral). Therefore, minimal base flow removal is required, as it is unlikely that flow within the 210 drainage system is derived from any source other than surface runoff (e.g. aquifers, groundwater or 211 anthropogenic sources). Where there is flow within the drainage system prior to an event, this is 212 assumed to be the contribution of local soil drainage from previous events. The following criteria 213 were adopted to either include or exclude an event from analysis:

214 (i) Total event rainfall depth must be over 1mm.

(ii) Runoff response must have a defined single peak, with rising and falling limb. Fluctuations in
hydrograph shape are allowed, however subsequent peaks must not be more than half of the
peak runoff rate.

(iii) There must be rainfall, runoff and soil moisture data for the event at both AC and WC (this
helped remove anomalous events, such as someone washing a car).

220 (iv) Runoff must return to pre-event conditions prior to the next event occurring.

221 By constraining analyses to events that meet these selection criteria, uncertainty in determining

which rainfall input produces subsequent runoff output is reduced. A total of 34 individual events

223 were identified. An average hydrograph is presented that was generated from the average

normalized flow at each timestep. Of the 34 events, nine occur in winter (Dec, Jan, Feb), seven in

225 spring (Mar, Apr, May), seven in summer (Jun, Aug) and eleven in autumn (Sep, Oct, Nov). Total 226 event rainfall depth, maximum 10-minute rainfall intensity and event durations are plotted (Figure 227 3). This illustrates that event depth is positively associated with both rainfall intensity and duration. 228 The events selected for analysis are predominantly sampled from relatively low values of depth, 229 duration and intensity resulting in distributions that are skewed towards lower values of depth, 230 duration and intensity (Figure 3). Seasonally there is little grouping in events, however there are no spring events over 2.0 mm/10-minute rainfall intensity and only one winter event (event 34). There 231 232 are five summer and autumn events over 2.0 mm/10-minute rainfall intensity.

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234 3.2 Assessing the urban mosaic

235 The impact of the urban mosaic on both peak flow and percentage runoff are assessed using 236 multivariate linear regression. At each of the two study sites, the response variable (peak flow or 237 percentage runoff) was modelled as a function of the explanatory variable listed in Table 3, which 238 are derived from analysis of the observed rainfall and soil moisture data, representing rainfall 239 characteristics and antecedent soil moisture conditions. To reduce co-linearity, an exploratory 240 analysis of cross-correlations showing weak or no correlation between exploratory variables representing rainfall and antecedent soil moisture, respectively. Consequently, the explanatory 241 242 variables are split into two groups defined as (1) rainfall characteristics and (2) antecedent 243 conditions.

To assess the sensitivity of each study site the following procedure was adopted: First, one explanatory variable is selected from the antecedent group, one from the rainfall characteristics group. Next, a multiple linear regression model is fitted between either peak flow or percentage runoff (y) and a combination of one antecedence x_1 and one rainfall characteristics variable x_2 , i.e.

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$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1,i} + \beta_2 x_{2,i} + \varepsilon_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, 34$$
 (1)

249

where β_0 , β_1 and β_2 are regression model parameters estimated using ordinary least square, and ε_i 250 251 are normally distributed model residuals. The significance (p<0.05) of each regression model 252 parameter is noted along with the adjusted R² value of the overall model fit. 253 The procedure is repeated for all possible combinations of antecedent and rainfall characteristics 254 variables, and model outputs are used to determine the optimum model for analysis and 255 interpretation, defined as the models where the regression model parameters for both explanatory 256 variables are significant (p<0.05). Where more than one model is highlighted as having two 257 significant explanatory variables, the model with the greatest adjusted R² value is chosen. Residual 258 analysis is completed on optimum models to ensure conformity with the assumptions of linear 259 regression modelling. If a model deviates from the assumptions of linear regression modelling, the 260 modelling procedure is repeated following an appropriate transformation of the dependant or 261 explanatory variables. Finally, the regression model parameters (β_0, \dots, β_p) can be interpreted to understand how changes in values of the explanatory variables affect the response of the dependant 262 variable. 263

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265 4. CHARACTERISING THE URBAN MOSAIC

The catchment boundaries defined within AC and WC respectively and locations of key hydrological connections are illustrated in Figure 1b. An area to the west of WC was originally thought to be included within the catchment drained by the monitored surface water drainage system, however upon checking the connectivity of surfaces through a manual acoustic method, it was determined that this area connects downstream of the monitored point and was therefore omitted from the catchment boundary (hashed area, Figure 1b). The catchment area for AC is 4982 m² (0.4982 ha) and 6690 m² for WC (0.6690 ha). The average overall slope characteristics of the two catchments are
compared by calculating the s1085 slope characteristic, derived from the LIDAR using the profile
graph tool of the 3D Analyst ArcGIS Toolbar; with comparable results of 1.54% and 1.45% at AR
and WC respectively.

276 The underlying soil characteristics are defined within Hydrology of Soil Types (Boorman et al. 1995). 277 as soil type 2 at WC and as potential 2 and/or 25 at AC, with HOST 2 described as a 'Free draining 278 permeable soils on 'brashy' or dolomitic limestone substrates with high permeability and moderate 279 storage capacity', whilst HOST25 is a 'Slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged soils over 280 impermeable clay substrates with no storage capacity'. Analysis of the soil types indicates bulk 281 density is comparable 0.86 g/cm³ (AC) and 0.91 g/cm³ (WC), the percentage organic matter differs, 282 7% and 19% respectively. Textural analysis of the sediments at both sites shows comparable 283 percentages of sand, silt and clay, with classification of light silts and light loams. Therefore, whilst 284 the HOST system may suggest differences in soil properties, the actual surface soil properties at both 285 sites are similar and unlikely to generate notable different in hydrological response (Supplementary 286 material S1).

287 Ordnance Survey Master Map data (OSMM), Light Detection and Ranging data (LiDAR) and aerial 288 photography are combined in a GIS environment and site based Individual Parcel Assessments (IPA) 289 are used to define surface cover and connectivity within AC and WC (Figure 4). The extra detail that 290 is collected via the IPAs in roadside and domestic areas are compared to OSMM alone (Figure 4a- d). 291 For both sites, the majority of surface cover is defined as General Surface within the OSMM (around 292 65%, Figure 4e-f), characterisation post IPA provides greater detail compared to OSMM alone. The 293 OSMM data identifies the locations of buildings accurately in both areas and whilst roads are 294 identified accurately within WC, in AC an area of road is incorrectly identified as general surface. All 295 road surfacing is tarmac within WC, whilst AC contains 183 m2 (approximately 38% of total road 296 surfacing) of brick paved surfacing, with cement mortar fill between brick elements (Table 1). No

297 serious defects in surface condition are recorded in either area, although WC does contain some 298 areas of minor cracking to road and pavement surfaces, likely a function of the increased age of 299 surfaces within WC. AC contains a greater proportion of both private and roofed areas, whilst WC 300 contains a greater proportion of public areas. The public areas within both study sites contain a 301 majority of road related surfacing; AC contains 98% whilst WC contains 65%; as a consequence, 35% 302 of public land within WC is vegetated compared to 2% at AC (Table 1). Both study areas have similar 303 splits in the private areas between front and rear gardens in residential parcels (AC 62% and WC 64% 304 rear gardens).

There is uncertainty in both AC and WC as to whether rear garden non-vegetated surfaces are impervious or semi-impervious cover and therefore the total impervious area in each study area is calculated under the three assumed states:

308 (i) that all non-vegetated rear garden surfaces are impervious, (High Estimate)

309 (ii) that 50% of non-vegetated rear garden surfaces are impervious, (Medium Estimate)

310 (iii) that all non-vegetated rear garden surfaces are semi-impervious, (Low Estimate)

AC contains a larger PIMP in comparison to WC for all three methodological assumptions tested. The

312 variation in estimated imperviousness is greatest at WC where there is a larger area of rear garden

313 non-vegetated surfaces (Table 1). However, AC has a greater impervious cover ranging from 54% to

314 71% vs 43% to 64% compared to WC respectively. In both sites roofs constitute the largest

component of directly connected impervious surfacing 1156 m² (AC) and 992 m² (WC), being directly

316 connected via guttering and downpipes to the surface water system, typical of the age and type of

317 development (i.e. no soakaways identified).

Within AC and WC the position and type of hydraulic connections between urban surfaces and the surface water drainage system is determined through site based IPA (Figure 1b). The number of road drainage gullies, roof downpipes and linear drainage features were recorded in each study area, AC 321 (11) has nearly three times the number of drainage gullies in comparison to WC (4), with gullies 322 located on both private and public surfaces in AC. In comparison, WC only has drainage gullies upon 323 public surfaces, meaning that there are no gullies draining private driveways or paths, therefore 324 hydrological connectivity at AC is much greater than at WC, with mean drainage areas of 60m² 325 compared to 219m² and average drainage distances of 15.7 compared to 27m respectively 326 (Supplementary materials S2a-b). The combination of an increased number of gullies, draining 327 smaller surface areas with reduced drainage distances creates a greater connection efficiency in AC 328 than WC (Supplementary materials S2c-d).

329

330 5. IMPACT OF URBANISATION ON PEAK FLOW AND PERCENTAGE RUNOFF

331 Comparison of the 34 hydrographs at AC and WC indicates that flows are, in general, greater in 332 magnitude at AC compared to WC. In addition, for certain storm events, flows at AC start at zero 333 before quickly reaching peak flow rates, while at WC, flows are non-zero at the onset of these 334 storms. Combined, these results indicate that AC has a more rapid response to rainfall that at WC. The average hydrograph shape is similar for both sites (red lines, Figure 5), though the height of the 335 336 average hydrograph and the steepness of the rising and falling limbs are greatest at AC. There is a considerable amount of variability in hydrograph shape at both sites, with AC having the greatest 337 338 hydrograph shape variability.

For each of the 34 events from AC and WC, a set of descriptive metrics (explanatory variables) are derived through the analysis of the rainfall and soil moisture data collected during the monitoring campaign. Table 2 details these descriptive metrics, their definition, and units. The metrics are split into two categories, describing either the characteristics of the rainfall event, or the antecedent wetness of the catchments prior to a rainfall event. Those metrics within the antecedent conditions grouping are derived either from an analysis of the rainfall or soil moisture time-series of data (for example the pre-event 1hr rainfall depth), or else require the use of previously published equations

346 to derive descriptive metrics that are shown to correlate to urban rainfall runoff behaviour (API5, 347 SMD and UCWI, Kidd and Lowing (1979). By deriving these descriptive metrics of each event, it is 348 possible to investigate the sensitivity of the urban rainfall-runoff process within AC and WC and how 349 this sensitivity may be influenced by their respective designs through multiple linear regression. 350 Each of the 34 rainfall-runoff events is processed to determine the peak flow rate (QMAX) and 351 percentage runoff value (PR); with each event (QMAX and PR) at WC plotted against those from AC 352 (Figure 6a-b). All but two QMAX events plot to the right, with comparable findings for PR; however, 353 deviation from the 1:1 relationship into the WC side of the plots is small. AC therefore has a 354 consistently greater rainfall-runoff response in terms of peak flow and percentage runoff across 355 studied rainfall-runoff events. Both median peak flow at AC and median percentage runoff values 356 are more than double those at WC (median normalised AQMAX = 0.0016 mm/s, median normalised WQMAX = 0.0006 mm/s, median APR= 60%, median WPR = 25%; Figure 6c-d). Little seasonal 357 patterning within the QMAX or PR data is evident, however there are more spring events for AC than 358 359 WC, whilst winter, summer and autumn events show similar levels of variability. The difference in 360 mean normalised QMAX and PR values between the two sites is significantly different (p<0.05; Mann 361 Whitney non-parametric test).

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5.1 IMPACT OF URBANISATION ON PEAK FLOW

Initial exploratory data analysis based on the regression models defined in Eq. (1) demonstrated that
 using non-log transformed values of peak flow result in violations of the linear regression

assumptions (namely homoscedasticity). The regression modelling of peak flow (QMAX) therefore

367 progresses using log-transformed values of peak flow as the dependent variable (*y*).

Based on the results in Table 3, the strongest link between peak flow and rainfall and antecedent soil

369 moisture for AC and WC, respectively, are the maximum average 10min intensity (10MinMaxIn) at

both sites, the total rainfall one-hour prior to the event (Pre1hr) at AC, and the five-day antecedent

371 rainfall (API5) at WC. The resulting regression equations are:

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$$\ln y = 1.36 + 0.53x_1 + 0.34x_2$$
Arley Close:
$$x_1 = 10MaxInt10$$

$$x_2 = Pre1HR$$
(2)

Winsley Close:

$$\begin{aligned} &\ln y = -0.03 + 0.87x_1 + 0.14x_2 \\ &x_1 = 10 MaxInt10 \\ &x_2 = API5 \end{aligned}$$
(3)

373

374 The log-level regression coefficients are interpreted as follows: For a unit increase of x_1 , the

375 percentage increase in *y* is given by:

% change in Y = [100]
$$(e^{\beta p} - 1)$$
 (4)

376 This rule applies to all explanatory model variables (x_1, x_2) and their corresponding model coefficient

values (β_1 , β_2), where it is assumed that all other explanatory variables are held constant

378 (Wooldridge, 2009).

379 The log-level structure of Eqs. (2) and (3) indicate a non-linear relationship between peak flow and

- the independent variables. Interpreting the regression coefficients contained within the models in
- 381 Eqs.(2) and (3) using Eq.(4), an increase of one unit of 10 minute rainfall intensity leads to a 69%
- increase of peak flow rate at AC and a 138% increase at WC. A one unit increase of Pre1HR rainfall

total leads to a 40% increase in peak flow at AC, whilst a one unit increase of API5 increase peak flow
rates at WC by 15%.

385 The model for AC contains the Pre1HR rainfall total as the antecedent condition variable, whereas

- the model for WC (Eq. 3) contains API5. This indicates that the peak flow rates at AC are sensitive to
- 387 short term variability in antecedent conditions, whereas peak flow rates at WC are more sensitive to
- 388 antecedent conditions over the preceding five days prior to a rainfall event.

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390 5.2 IMPACT OF URBANISATION ON PERCENTAGE RUNOFF

391 In contrast to peak flow, no significant regression relationships could be identified between

392 percentage runoff, rainfall and antecedent soil moisture at AC. However, for WC two models

393 contain significant model parameters and have the same adjusted R² values. The results of the

exploratory analysis are shown in Table 3 and the significant models summarised in Eqs. (5) and (6).

395

$$y = 7.6 + 5.1x_1 + 4.1x_2$$

$$x_1 = RainDepth$$

Winsley Close: (5)
$$x_2 = API5$$

$$y = 9.6 + 7.56x_1 + 3.82x_2$$

$$x_1 = MaxInt10$$
Winsley Close: (6)
$$x_2 = API5$$

The models in Eq. (5) and (6) differ in terms of whether rain depth or 10-minute intensity is included
along with API5. In Eq. (4), a per unit increase of rain depth and API5 produce an increase in

398 percentage runoff values of 4.1 and 5.1 (percentage runoff units e.g. %). Eq. (6), however, suggests 399 that the per unit increase in percentage runoff attributable to rainfall intensity is 7.56%, whilst per 400 unit increases of percentage runoff attributed to API5 is 3.82%. Overall, the multiple linear 401 regression modelling methodology applied to percentage runoff values for the 34 studied events in 402 AC and WC is unable to provide a coherent understanding of the sensitivity of percentage runoff 403 behaviour. In AC, regression modelling provides no models with greater explanatory power than the 404 mean value alone, whilst at WC the variable selection methodology is unable to determine which 405 variables PR values are sensitive to. Whilst the regression model parameters in Eqs. (5) and (6) are statistically significant (p < 0.05) the adjusted R^2 values are low demonstrating that a large 406 407 proportion of variability in PR values is unexplained by the regression models.

408

409 6. DISCUSSION

410 Experimental rainfall-runoff results obtained from a paired catchment study involving two small 411 urban catchments (< 1ha; AC and WC) located in close geographical proximity (~1km), characterised 412 by different types of urban development, generally representative of the time of construction have 413 been analysed. WC was constructed in the 1950s and is characterised by more green and open space than AC which was constructed in the 1990s. Analysis of the hydrographs from the selected 414 415 34 events recorded in both catchments demonstrates considerable differences in the observed 416 hydrological response (Figure 5). First, it is observed that the hydrographs at AC are generally 417 characterised by shorter time-to-rise and higher peak flow values than corresponding hydrographs 418 observed at WC. This is consistent with the hypothesis that increasing urbanisation (PIMP surfaces) 419 generally results in reduced lag-time in catchment response, with median peak flow rate and 420 percentage runoff values at AC more than double those at WC (Figure 6). Differences in rainfallrunoff behaviour exhibited between AC and WC are likely a function of increased imperviousness of 421 422 AC and increased connection efficiency between surface water drainage system and urban surface

423 combining to reduce losses and provide a more efficient drainage system (decreased time to peak).
424 The results are in line with observations and modelling results from larger (~ 5km²) urbanised
425 catchments within Swindon examined by Miller et al. (2014) and highlight that significant variability
426 in responses can occur.

427 Peak flow rates at both AC and WC are highly sensitive to 10-minute rainfall intensity, whilst similar 428 to that reported by other authors (Lloyd-Davies 1906; Schilling 1991), the results reported here 429 indicate that the relationship between peak flow rates and rainfall intensity are non-linear following 430 a log-linear response. QMAX values at AC are sensitive to depth of rainfall within one hour prior to 431 an event, whilst at WC QMAX values are sensitive to the antecedent 5-day precipitation index (API5), 432 indicating that different urban mosaics influence variability of peak flow behaviour (Table 3). This 433 suggests that at AC less storage capacity exists compared to WC, where the large open vegetated 434 surfaces and reduced connection efficiency has created a rainfall-runoff behaviour that is sensitive 435 to longer duration changes in antecedence, thus WC has greater storage capacity.

436 Percentage runoff is difficult to model, with multiple linear regression at AC and WC failing to 437 identify significant (P= 0.05) explanatory variables, consequently regression modelling is not able to 438 produce a model with greater descriptive efficacy than the mean value alone (Table 3). Specifically, 439 for AC, none of the tested variables were significant. The lack of significant regression coefficients 440 could suggest that PR values at AC are static, insensitive to changes in physical conditions. This is 441 unlikely, given variability in PR values observed. Instead, the lack of significant regression coefficients 442 could suggest that at AC PR is (a) insensitive to tested explanatory variables, or (b) non-linearly 443 related to the explanatory variables. A less rigid model structure applied to PR could improve 444 descriptive and predictive power, however this is undesirable given the difficulties of physical 445 interpretation of low-bias/high-variance model structures e.g. a tree based model (James et al. 446 2013). At WC, multiple linear regression of PR is uncertain, given that two models produce significant explanatory variable coefficients and low (0.18; Table 3) values of the adjusted coefficient 447

of determination (R²), indicating large proportions of variation in PR values are unexplained by the
regression models [5,6]. Percentage runoff is an important variable used in hydrological models and
engineering design calculations (Kidd and Lowing 1979; Woods Ballard et al. 2015), we have
demonstrated here that it is challenging to capture a clear relationship, as such greater
consideration should be given to percentage runoff assumptions in current hydrological modelling
given analysis of field observation data is inconclusive.

454 At the study catchment scale, AC and WC are similar in terms of proportion of surface under 455 impervious and non-impervious cover (Table 1). Therefore, hydrological models that link total 456 imperviousness to hydrological response would likely estimate that the two sites have similar 457 rainfall-runoff properties unless locally calibrated (Valeo and Moin 2000; Verbeiren et al. 2012; 458 Dixon and Earls 2012); which would be inaccurate given the results reported here. The results 459 indicate a greater sensitivity is required of how surface water drainage systems connect hydraulically 460 to the urban surface and to small-scale variations in surfacing. Assessing surface connectivity 461 requires detailed data of surface types and hydraulic entry points to the surface water drainage 462 system (i.e. drain gully or down pipe). A lack of relevant data concerning individual surfaces and 463 urban surface water drainage systems and connectivity at small-scales within urban settings has previously limited the inclusion of such fine scale detail on the urban environment within 464 465 hydrological models (Han and Burian 2009). Instead, connectivity is typically estimated or defined as 466 a function of land use or total imperviousness across large urban areas (Lee and Heaney 2003). 467 However, as demonstrated, connectivity of impervious areas and land cover characteristics vary 468 even within a single residential land use area (Table 1; Figure 4) and it is likely that hydrological 469 characterisation based on simple descriptors that group areas based on generalised properties (e.g. 470 land use, imperviousness) would be inaccurate when applied to the study catchments (Figure 4e-h). 471 A further consideration is that pervious surfaces may respond differently to precipitation events, 472 reflecting storm intensity and antecedent conditions, with the potential of pervious surfaces to

473 generate runoff, thereby presenting new flow paths and increasing connectivity. As Sytsma et al. 474 (2020) notes, moving away from the inherent limitation of directly connected impervious areas as 475 binary and static (connected or not) is necessary, to accurately reflect the complexity and dynamic 476 nature of hydrological processes. This study provides comparable results to Miller et al. (2020) that 477 indicate more spatially refined metrics for quantifying urban land cover are required to improve 478 peak flow estimates in small urbanised catchments. Advances in remote sensing and LIDAR offer 479 opportunities for finer resolution understanding of urban environment surfaces, particularly for 480 inaccessible areas, helping to identify small scale interventions that may modify connectivity and 481 runoff relationships (e.g. water butts). The results from this study offer the opportunity to re-482 evaluate the performance of the most common approaches to urban surface representation, the 483 importance of accurate surface representation at such refined (catchment/plot) scales, to identify 484 inaccuracies and improvements based on the greater detail of understanding between the urban 485 mosaic and rainfall-runoff behaviour generated.

486 It has been claimed that representing the complexity of the urban mosaic within hydrological models 487 and surface water management planning is unnecessary, given that not all hydrological processes at 488 all scales need accounting for (Beven, 2012). However, where deficiencies in understanding and 489 knowledge of heterogeneity of surface and scale may cause inaccurate rainfall-runoff modelling that 490 limits evidence-based surface water management planning, thus reducing the efficacy of 491 hydrological management (Borowski and Hare 2007), further detail and information are required. To 492 date there is a dearth of observation studies examining the rainfall-runoff relationship in urban 493 environments, as such the complexity of such systems remains poorly quantified and understood. 494 Therefore, understanding what level of detail is required to accurately represent the urban surface 495 within hydrological theory, and at what scale certain physical features and processes produce 496 significant effects on hydrological behaviour remains a research priority (Blöschl and Sivapalan 1995;

497 Leandro et al. 2016; Ichiba et al. 2018); within this study we contribute to this discussion at the498 development/plot scale.

499

500 7. **CONCLUSION**

501 The hydrological properties of urban surfaces are complex and sensitive to a number of different 502 hydrological processes that respond to variations in the materials of construction, slope, age, 503 condition and connectivity to the surface water drainage system (Redfern et al. 2016). The rainfall-504 runoff behaviour of the two small urban catchments studied is influenced by the urban mosaic, this 505 study demonstrating how residential layout and hydraulic connections influence rainfall-runoff 506 behaviour. To improve residential design with a focus on reducing runoff generation, an 507 understanding of how the number and locations of hydraulic connection features affects the connectivity of urban surfaces and thus rainfall-runoff behaviour is a priority. In particular, 508 509 untangling the relationships between urban imperviousness, surface water flood risk, the design of 510 surface connectivity and runoff generation to downstream areas is needed, as reducing surface 511 connectivity may reduce the generation of runoff to downstream areas (Walsh et al. 2005); whilst 512 this could increase local surface water ponding and thus flooding (Maksimović et al. 2009). Limiting 513 gully positions to only public surfaces may reduce direct surface connections, however ensuring that 514 important transport infrastructure remains clear of surface water remains crucial (Fryd et al. 2013). 515 Private land would therefore need landscaping to accommodate runoff generated on private 516 impervious surfaces. This is possible, given that no flooding incidents are reported in WC during the 517 study period, despite its reduced number of hydraulic connection points in comparison to AC. We demonstrate that complex, non-linear rainfall-runoff processes within small-scale urban settings 518 519 may not currently be fully accounted for within current hydrological theory, indicating that improved 520 understanding of urban rainfall-runoff process is required that accounts for, and is adaptive to, the 521 urban mosaic. The rainfall-runoff regression models fail reproduce the rainfall-runoff characteristics

522 at the two study catchments consistently, indicating that greater complexity exists than previously 523 identified. An understanding of hydrological processes in urban areas and parameter uncertainty, has a direct impact on potential modelling outcomes and thus the surface water management 524 525 design and planning process. Given the importance of percentage runoff values, it is important that 526 the efficacy of rainfall-runoff models for predicting PR are assessed against monitored data, as uncertain regression results reported here imply that variability in PR is difficult to predict by 527 528 hydrologically derived parameters and therefore there is considerable opportunity for uncertainty in 529 current model parameterisation based on current assumptions. 530

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702 Figure and Table captions

Figure 1: (A) Locations of precipitation stations used in the study relative to Arley Close and Winsley
 Close; (B) location of connectivity points in Arley close (left) and Winsley Close (right). The hatched
 area for Winsley Close was removed based on manual investigation of connectivity.

Figure 2: Installation of Stingray 2.0 UDFM equipment in surface water drainage manholes; (left) the

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 installation of the sensor within the pipe upstream of the manhole; (right) the storage of cabling and
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Figure 3: Rainfall event characteristics for 34 studied events. Points are coloured by season.
Histograms of rainfall characteristics are plotted underneath. Drawn with the R 3dscatterplot
package (Ligges and Mächler 2003).

712 **Figure 4:** Catchment maps with (A,B) OSMM data and (C,D) more detailed surface definitions

713 following IPAs and associated surface cover comparisons between Arley Close (A,C,E,G) and Winsley

Close (B,D,F,H). Plots E and F are defined from OSMM data alone whilst plots G and H contain data

715 from IPAs. Note that in plots G and H, domestic impervious includes both impervious and semi-

716 impervious surface definitions.

Figure 5: Selected event (34) hydrographs plotted on single axis, for Arley Close and Winsley Close,

with average hydrograph for each site (bold red). The x axis has been centred to a 20-minute window around the time of peak flow for each event. Flow ordinates are normalised by catchment

720 area to allow for direct comparison between study catchments.

721 Figure 6: (a) QMAX and (b) PR values at Winsley Close plotted against those at Arley Close. Any

points to the right of 1:1 line indicates that QMAX or PR at Arley Close are greater than those at

723 Winsley Close, while the opposite is true of points left of the 1:1 line. The axes have been normalised

by catchment area to allow for direct comparison between catchments. (c) Comparison of QMAX

725 and (d) PR values between study catchments.

726

Table 1: Calculation of total impervious area and PIMP for Arley Close and Winsley Close under three
 assumptions of the imperviousness of rear garden non-vegetated surfaces.

Table 2: Descriptive metrics for rainfall-runoff events sampled from Arley Close and Winsley Close.
 Metrics are split into rainfall characteristics and antecedent conditions groupings.

731 **Table 3:** Regression model table for log(QMAX) and PR values. + = variable is significant at 0.05 level.

- = not significant. Left hand symbol relates to antecedent condition, right hand symbol is rainfall

characteristic variable. Numbers are the model adjusted R² value. Yellow highlighter with bold is a

model with two significant regression coefficients, Red is the optimum model where the model has

735 two significant regression coefficients and the greatest value of the adjusted R^2 .

736

737 Supplementary Materials S1: Soil grain size analysis for surface soil samples taken from Arley Close
 738 and Winsley Close (drawn using the Plotrix R package, Lemon J., 2006).

739 **Supplementary Materials S2:** Gully drainage areas and maximum drainage distance for gullies in the

two study catchments. A) Gully drainage areas, B) Gully area drainage distances, C) The area of

741 connected impervious surface plotted against the distance from a drainage gulley (WC - black, AC -

dashed red), D) The area connected expressed as a percentage of total catchment area plotted

against distance from a gully.



Figure 1: (A) Locations of precipitation stations used in the study relative to Arley Close and Winsley
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749

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770

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and (D) PR values between study catchments.

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
	Area (m2)	Area (m2)	Area (m2)
Arley Close			
Roofs	1156	1156	1156
Road related	782	782	782
Domestic Impervious (front garden)	753	753	753
Domestic Impervious (rear garden)	862	431	
Sum (PIMP)	3553, (71%)	3122, (63%)	2691, (54%)
Winsley Close			
Roofs	1150	1150	1150
Road related	1218	1218	1218
Domestic Impervious (front garden)	540	540	540
Domestic Impervious (rear garden)	1389	695	
Sum (PIMP)	4297, (64%)	3603, (54%)	2908, (43%)

Table 1: Calculation of total impervious area and PIMP for Arley Close and Winsley Close under three
 assumptions of the imperviousness of rear garden non-vegetated surfaces.

	Variable Name	Definition	Units	
stics	Depth	Total event rainfall depth	mm	
cteri	Duration	Total event duration	Minutes	
onditions Rainfall Chara	2MinMaxInt	Maximum 2 minute rainfall intensity	mm/2minutes	
	10MinMaxInt	Maximum 10 minute rainfall intensity	mm/10minutes	
	API5	Antecedent (5 day) Precipitation Index	mm	
	SMD	Soil Moisture Deficit	mm	
	UCWI	Urban Catchment Wetness Index	mm	
	Pre1HR	Pre event 1 hour rainfall depth	mm	
edent C	Pre2HR	Pre event 2 hour rainfall depth	mm	
Antec	Pre6HR	Pre event 6 hour rainfall depth	mm	
	ASM/WSM	Soil moisture recorded by PR2 probes, ASM = Arley Close, WSM = Winsley Close.	m³/m³	

Table 2: Descriptive metrics for rainfall-runoff events sampled from Arley Close and Winsley Close.
 Metrics are split into rainfall characteristics and antecedent conditions groupings.

Table 3: Regression model table for log(QMAX) and PR values. + = variable is significant at 0.05 level.
 - = not significant. Left hand symbol relates to antecedent condition, right hand symbol is rainfall
 characteristic variable. Numbers are the model adjusted R² value. * indicates a model with two
 significant regression coefficients, ** is the optimum model where the model has two significant
 regression coefficients and the greatest value of the adjusted R².

Site		Rainfall Characteristics			
	Ant. soil m.	Depth	Duration	2MinMaxInt	10MinMaxInt
logQMAX (Dis	scharge)				
AC	UCWI	-/+,0.23	-/-,-0.02	-/+,0.45	-/+,0.50
WC		-/+,0.22	-/-,-0.06	-/+,0.37	-/+,0.43
AC	SMD	-/+,0.23	-/-,-0.04	-/+,0.45	-/+,0.50
WC		-/+,0.21	-/-,-0.05	-/+,0.37	-/+,0.41
AC	Pre1Hr	-/+,0.31	-/-,-0.04	-/+,0.45	+/+,0.56**
WC		-/+,0.29	-/-,-0.03	-/+,0.38	-/+,0.48
AC	Pre2HR	-/+,0.28	-/-,-0.02	-/+,0.45	-/+,0.51
WC		-/+,0.24	-/-,-0.04	-/+,0.37	-/+,0.42
AC	Pre6HR	+/+,0.33*	-/-,-0.02	-/+,0.45	+/+,0.5*
WC		-/+,0.23	-/-,-0.05	-/+,0.37	-/+,0.42
AC	ASM	-/+,0.23	-/-,-0.06	-/+,0.45	-/+,0.45
WC	WSM	-/+0.29	-/-,-0.01	-/+,0.37	-/+,0.38
AC	API5	-/+,0.23	-/-,-0.03	-/+,0.44	-/+,0.50
WC		-/+,0.28	-/-,0.05	-//+,0.39	+/+,0.49**
Percentage Ru	unoff (PR)				
AC	UCWI	-/-, -0.04	-/-, -0.04	-/-, -0.01	-/-, .0.03
WC		+/-, 0.12	-/-, 0.01	-/-, 0.11	+/+, 0.13*
AC	SMD	-/-,-0.04	-/-, -0.04	-/-, -0.02	-/-, -0.02
WC		-/-, 0.04	-/-, 0.03	-/-, 0.05	-/-, 0.06
AC	Pre1Hr	-/-, -0.02	-/-, -0.02	-/-, 0.01	-/-, -0.004
WC		-/-, 0.1	-/+, 0.14	-/-, 0.08	-/-, 0.11
AC	Pre2HR	-/-, -0.05	-/-, -0.05	-/-, -0.2	-/-, -0.03
WC		-/-, 0.04	-/-, 0.02	-/-, 0.04	-/- <i>,</i> 0.004
AC	Pre6HR	-/-,0.04	-/-, -0.04	-/-, -0.001	-/-, -0.004
WC		-/-, 0.02	-/+, 0.04	-/-, 0.02	-/-, 0.01
AC	ASM	-/-, 0.03	-/-, -0.03	-/-, -0.003	-/-, -0.001
WC	WSM	+/-, 0.19	+/-, 0.10	+/-, 0.15	+/-, 0.15
AC	API5	-/-, -0.06	-/-, -0.06	-/-, -0.04	-/-, -0.04
wc		+/+, 0.18*	-/-, 0.04	+/-, 0.15	+/+, 0.18*

792 Please see Table 2 for definitions of acronyms.



Supplementary Materials S1: Soil grain size analysis for surface soil samples taken from Arley Close
 and Winsley Close (drawn using the Plotrix R package, Lemon J., 2006).



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Supplementary Materials S2: Gully drainage areas and maximum drainage distance for gullies in the
 two study catchments. A) Gully drainage areas, B) Gully area drainage distances, C) The area of
 connected impervious surface plotted against the distance from a drainage gulley (WC - black, AC dashed red), D) The area connected expressed as a percentage of total catchment area plotted

804 against distance from a gully.