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#### Assessment of leaching risk of trace metals, PAHs and PCBs 1 from a brownfield located in a flooding zone 2

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Martin SEIDL<sup>1\*</sup>, Julien LE ROUX<sup>2</sup>, Rémi MAZEROLLES<sup>1</sup>, Noureddine 4 BOUSSERRHINE<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>LEESU ENPC, Université Paris-Est, 6-8 avenue Blaise Pascal, 77455, cedex 2 Marne la Vallée, France

7 8 <sup>2</sup>LEESU UPEC, Université Paris-Est Créteil, 61 avenue du Général de Gaulle, 94010 Créteil Cedex, France

9 \* Corresponding author: <u>martin.seidl@enpc.fr</u>

10

#### 11 Abstract

12 An old industrial site (brownfield) located south of Paris in a flooding plain and containing demolition disposal as well as a burning zone for metal recovery is being regenerated to satisfy local need for 13 14 public green space. The main objective of the described study was therefore to assess the risk of 15 remobilisation of trace metals, PAH and PCB present. The research focused on vertical migration due to rainfall (non-saturated flow) and to river flooding (saturated flow). To assess the remobilisation 16 17 risk, representative soil profiles were reconstituted and eluted in columns with artificial rain and 18 filtered river water for six weeks with an equivalent of 25 mm d<sup>-1</sup>. Soil analysis showed that both 19 zones are highly contaminated, exceeding the French environmental standards. Though the superficial metal content was much higher in the burning zone with levels of  $g kg^{-1}$  than in the demolition zone, 20 21 most metals showed higher levels in the eluents of the latter. The level of dissolved Zn in the burningzone eluent was 30  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> while in the demolition-zone it was 300  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>, 40 times the admissible 22 23 level. Zn was thereby correlated to aromaticity parameter HIX, indicating a link with organic matter 24 transformation. The Cu was only significantly released under saturated condition (up to 80  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>) in 25 the demolition soil, indicating as implicated mechanism manganese and iron oxide reduction rather than organic matter transformation. Despite the high PAH and PCB soil contents, these pollutants 26 27 were not released. The total PAH content in the effluent was 30 ng  $L^{-1}$  in average and did not 28 significantly differ between the two zones and the types of hydrology. Only Zn and Cu issued from 29 demolition zone presented an eco-toxicological risk. Crossed statistical analysis of the results showed 30 that the role of the soil type is preponderant in the pollutant release and that temporary flooding 31 condition would induce a lower impact on the ground water quality than an equivalent amount of 32 fallen rain. Though the burning site was far more contaminated in the upper soil than the demolition zone, it presented little risk compared to the demolition-zone, more profound and more permeable. 33 The latter showed therefore significative trace metal release, up to 2.1 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> year<sup>-1</sup> for zinc, doubling 34 35 the local atmospheric deposition.

36

#### 37 **Keywords**

38 Soil contamination; Pollutant remobilisation; Rain; Flood; Heavy metals; Organic micropollutants; 39 Saturated and unsaturated flow conditions; Column experiments; Environmental impact

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#### Introduction 41

42 Generally, brownfield sites exist in a city's or town's industrial sections, on locations with abandoned

43 factories or commercial buildings or other previously polluting activities. Typical contaminants found 44

on contaminated brownfield land include hydrocarbon spillages, solvents and heavy metals. The 45 regeneration of brownfields has gained prominence due to their potential to satisfy urban expansion

46 and to promote green areas.

In France, the most treated pollutants in brownfield soils are the total hydrocarbons (HC), the organohalogen volatile compounds (OHVC) and heavy metals, representing together nearly 80% of the brownfield pollutants. The principal pollutants in groundwaters are also OHVC and HC, representing 47% of the pollutants. The "other pollutants" usually include cyclohexane, pentachlorophenol (PCP), asbestos, cyanides and sulphates (ADEME 2014).

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54 The Pierre-Fitte study site (ENPF 2017) is located in the industrial area of Villeneuve-le-Roi (France), 55 more particularly in the docks of Carelle port on the left bank of the river Seine, 20 km upstream of Paris. It is representative of typical polluted brownfields, with high levels of heavy metals and several 56 57 spots of organic micropollutants (Guittard et al. 2013). The long-term annual precipitation of the region is 650 mm, and the mean annual air temperature is 12.1 °C. The area still accommodates various 58 59 types of companies like trade of construction material, recycling of paper and scrap and petrol deposit 60 (Souvestre 2013). The site may be periodically flooded in the spring by the river Seine depending on rain distribution and dam management upstream (DRIEE 2015). The flood return period is about 25 61 years, and the last ones registered occurred in 2016 and 2018 (DRIEE 2018). Since the 3-ha brownfield 62 is planned to be regenerated as green space for local inhabitants, local authorities evaluated its sanitary 63 64 risks in 2013 (Guittard and et al. 2013). The area shows two main zones of contamination: a 50-yearold demolition disposal (called DEM) and a more recent spot where electric equipment was burned 65 for metal recovery (called BURN) (Figure 1). The heavy metal content of the DEM zone is actually 66 67 too high to allow public access and should be therefore decontaminated in the future by 68 phytoremediation. The Zn concentration map based on the data obtained from the preliminary risk 69 assessment (Guittard and et al. 2013) is shown in Figure 1. 70



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Fig. 1 Position of the brownfield and the sampling sites DEM and BURN, together with the intensity
 of zinc contamination (ppm), using the data of CD94 County survey (Guittard et al. 2013). The bottom
 left corner corresponds to GPS coordinates 48.7374427 N, 2.4371572 E.

77 Floodplains act as a link between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. They underlie large seasonal 78 fluctuations of the water table that induce varying compositions of the interstitial solution and redox 79 conditions. Moreover, periodical floods result in the deposition of sediments and casually in 80 concomitant inputs of dissolved and particulate contaminants. Varying conditions of redox potential, which are seasonally found in floodplain soils (Shaheen and Rinklebe 2014), may induce the 81 precipitation or reductive bacterial dissolution of Mn and Fe oxides acting as carrier phases for heavy 82 83 metals and, under strictly reducing conditions, the formation of sparingly soluble metal sulphides (Bousserrhine et al. 1999; Suna Erses and Onay 2003; Du Laing et al. 2009; Gounou et al. 2010; 84 85 Harris-Hellal et al. 2011). Even though the river Seine floods upstream of Paris are relatively short 86 events (level rise during 1 or 2 days, level decrease 1 or 2 weeks), such conditions might also be 87 present in the area studied.

88

89 On most contaminated sites, monitoring of groundwater and interstitial water is not feasible due to 90 field conditions like lack of physical accessibility, high heterogeneity of underground, administrative 91 limitations and limited financial support. Therefore, laboratory tests have been set up to simulate field 92 conditions and to allow sampling of all components using simplified techniques (Van der Sloot 1996). 93 Numerous procedures exist to simulate the leaching of pollutants from soil (Dermont et al. 2008; US EPA 2015). These tests can be principally divided in batch-leaching tests (i.e. a soil sample is leached 94 with water or a specific solution at a predefined liquid/solid (L/S) ratio and reaction time) and column 95 96 experiments, where contaminant release from soil is studied under controlled and more realistic flow 97 conditions. Column experiments offer, moreover, the option of modification of experimental 98 conditions like flow velocities and flow interruptions to better identify the kinetics of contaminant 99 release (Rennert et al. 2010). To estimate the metal mobility, numerous studies determined the sequential metal content (Thums et al. 2008; Gounou et al. 2010; Li et al. 2015) or standardised 100 101 leachability of organic pollutants (Van der Sloot 1996; Reemtsma and Mehrtens 1997; Cappuyns and 102 Swennen 2008; Tian et al. 2015; US EPA 2017; ISO 2019), but only few of them focused on 103 biogeochemical or hydrological process involved in pollutant release and behaviour (Gounou et 104 al.2010; Harris et al. 2011; Fang et al. 2016). Although natural leaching processes occurring in situ 105 can be best reproduced in the laboratory by column experiments with undisturbed soil or sediment profile (Camobreco et al. 1996; Schuwirth and Hofmann 2006), only few recent papers use this 106 approach, principally due to a more complex and work-intensive methodology (Pot et al. 2011; 107 108 Gonzalez et al. 2019; Cueff et al. 2020). Nevertheless, these authors use simplified, constant and 109 unsaturated flow conditions. Some authors, like Rennert and Rinklebe (2010), used a saturated 110 approach to compensate these shortcomings, though they applied homogenised sieved soils. The originality of our paper is therefore a combination of column experiments with reconstituted natural 111 112 soil profiles and intermittent, saturated and unsaturated flows to assess the mobilisation risk as close 113 as possible to the hydrological field conditions.

114

115 Based on a preliminary environmental assessment (Guittard and et al. 2013) revealing contamination with heavy metals, the main objective of this study was to provide an extensive evaluation of in-depth 116 contamination by trace metals, PAH and PCB and to evaluate their mobility according to various 117 118 hydrological scenarios present on site. The aim of proposed work was therefore to answer the following specific questions: What is the risk of contamination of groundwater linked to present 119 120 contamination? Is there any specific risk of remobilisation of pollutants due to flooding? To what 121 degree do the soil structure and biogeochemical conditions contribute to the pollutant mobility? What 122 are the differences between trace metals and organic micropollutants in terms of remobilisation and 123 associated processes?

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## 127 Materials and methods

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129 As the process in situ is more accurately simulated by column experiments (Schuwirth and Hofmann 130 2006), with undisturbed soil profile (Camobreco et al. 1996), this approach was applied in the present 131 study. Due to the presence of large fragments of construction material or electric cables in the soil, it 132 was not possible to get undisturbed soil columns in situ and reconstitution of representative soil 133 profiles was performed in the laboratory. Since the brownfield is situated in the flooding zone, the 134 evaluation focused on the (vertical) pollutant mobility induced by rainfall (non-saturated percolation) 135 or as consequence of river flooding (saturated percolation). As rain and flooding are recurrent 136 processes intermittent water supply was applied.

#### 137

## 138 Soil sampling

139 Soil sampling was carried out on two areas of the Carelle site: the DEM area, a 50-year-old demolition 140 disposal and the BURN area, a more recent spot where electric equipment was burned for metal 141 recovery, in the beginning of April 2016, 1 week after a rainfall. For each sampling area, three points 142 were chosen at equidistance (30 m for DEM and 5 m for BURN), south, east and west from the 143 pollution spot centre. At each point, surface plants and objects larger than 10 cm were removed and 144 the soil was excavated on a square of 50 by 50 cm, per layer of 10 cm to a depth of 50 cm, sufficient 145 to sample the whole organic soil horizon, the most microbiologically active layer. The soil of each 146 layer was homogenised and quartered, where after the half of one portion was taken as a representative 147 sample of the layer. In the laboratory, the soil samples were sieved at field humidity subsequently 148 with 1-cm and 2-mm mesh. The fraction of 2 mm was kept refrigerated at 6°C until the column 149 experiments and soil analysis. 150

## 151 **Column operation**

For the two sampling areas (DEM and BURN), the layers coming from the same depth of three sampling points were mixed to obtain composite layers, representative for the entire area (i.e. 5 composite layers for each sampling area). These composite samples were used for extended soil analysis and to pack the columns.

156

157 The columns were constituted from standard PVC water pipes and closures, with a large internal diameter of 153 mm to avoid border effects. A drainage layer of 3 cm of gravel (mainly quartz) was 158 159 placed at the bottom of the column, surmounted by a PE geotextile membrane (Onduline). Gravel and 160 sand were soaked overnight in 2% nitric acid to remove any trace of limestone and metals and were 161 washed prior to use. All columns were cleaned with detergent (Extran), 2% HNO3 and distilled water 162 before experimentation. The cleaned empty columns, together with gravel, sand and geotextile were entirely filled with the same eluent used for the experiments (see below) and left for 24 h in the dark 163 164 at room temperature to determine the background pollution (blank samples). Afterwards, the columns were packed with subsequent composite layers according to their field depth and mass, based on the 165 166 field wet density to constitute a representative soil profile with approximate field hydraulic conductivity. The separation between layers were marked by a small stripe of geotextile to make their 167 final analysis possible. The top of the column was covered again by geotextile and a 2-cm layer of 168 169 quartz sand to guarantee a homogenous water distribution (Figure 2).

170

For each study area, DEM and BURN, two columns were prepared, one to simulate rainfall (unsaturated percolation) and the other to simulate exposition during flooding (saturated elution).

173 Artificial rainwater was produced according to the rain composition in Paris region (Kafi et al. 2008;

174 Seidl et al. 2013) by diluting twice the commercial mineral water *Mont Roucous* with MilliQ water,

stocked in the dark prior to use. River water came from the entrance of the harbour Villeneuve-le-Roi

- and was filtered on oven cleaned (2h 550°C) glass microfibre filter (Whatman GF/F, approx. porosity
- $177 \quad 0.7 \,\mu\text{m}$ ) and stocked in the dark prior to use.
- 178



gravel layer
 Fig. 2 Set-up and operation of unsaturated (u-DEM and u-BURN) and saturated columns (s-DEM and s-BURN)

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183 Rainfall was simulated by sprinkling 2.3 L of artificial rainwater through 5 irrigation gutters at the top of the column twice a week (Monday and Thursday afternoon) at approximate flow of 1 L h<sup>-</sup> 184 equivalent to a "rainfall" of 125 mm (u-DEM and u-BURN) columns. Columns s-DEM and s-BURN, 185 186 simulating the flood conditions (fast rise of groundwater level in the beginning of the flood, followed by slow infiltration of remaining flood water) were initially saturated by river water by the bottom of 187 188 the column, where after 2.3 L of river water was applied at the top of the column, the columns were 189 kept saturated by a siphenoid outflow. The resulting hydraulic regime corresponded to 4-6 h of 190 percolation followed by 3 days of retention. The apparent vertical Darcy velocity, determined from flow and cross section, varied according to the soil type from 2 to  $8 \times 10^{-5} \,\mathrm{m \, s^{-1}}$ , similar to those found 191 192 in situ (Table 1) and to those used by others, in comparable set-up (Rennert et al. 2010). Whole samples were collected at the bottom of the column at the end of percolation the morning after the 193 application. The total water height applied on each column was 1500 mm for 6 weeks of experiment. 194 195

## 196 Analytical methods

All analyses were performed following the US (APHA et al. 2012) and French (AFNOR 2002, 2005)
 analytical and GLP recommendations. For metal analysis, certified reference materials were used for
 result verification.

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201 Estimation of granulometry was obtained on AFNOR-certified stainless-steel sieves at 10 mm and at 2 mm. All specific soil analyses were done on the crushed 2-mm fraction dried at 40°C for 7 days to 202 203 limit the organic pollutant evaporation/degradation. The soil humidity and porosity were estimated as 204 water loss at 105°C on unsaturated and saturated standard ring samples (100 ml) taken in each column 205 layer at the end of experiments. The soil organic matter was estimated as dry volatile matter after 206 ignition loss at 550°C for 8 h. The total organic and inorganic soil carbon content were determined on COT metre (OI Analytical), and the total soil heavy metal content was screened by fluorescence X 207 (portable XRF analyser Bruker). The hydraulic conductivity was measured in the field by the Guelph 208 permeameter (Nasri et al. 2015) and determined in the laboratory as flow rate during the first hour of 209 210 the percolation.

The leachate conductivity and pH were measured using a TetraCon 325 sensor and Sentix 41-3 KClelectrode (WTW Multi-parameter 340i). Turbidity was determined with a portable turbidimeter (Hach 2100P).

213 214

215 Liquid samples for metal analysis were vacuum filtered using disposable PE tubes including 0.45-µm PTFE filters (Digiprep SA, France) and acidified by adding 1% of concentrated HNO<sub>3</sub> (Merck 216 217 ultrapure). Liquid samples for DOC and organic micropollutants analysis were vacuum filtrated on oven treated (2h at 550°C) using glass support and microfibre filter (Whatman GF/F). Any vessel used 218 219 for the metal analysis was soaked overnight in 2% Extran detergent (Merck) aqueous solution, 220 followed by 24 h in 2% HNO<sub>3</sub> solution and rinsed with tap, distilled and ultra-pure water (18MΩ, 221 MilliQ Millipore). Any vessel used for the organic micropollutant and DOC analysis was soaked 222 overnight in 2% TFD4 detergent (Franklab SA, France) aqueous solution and rinsed abundantly with 223 tap and distilled water and air-dried and, if necessary, oven cleaned at 550°C for 2 h. 224

225 Dissolved organic carbon (DOC) was measured using an IR spectrometer (OI Analytical) on filtered samples preserved with 1% orthophosphoric acid (VWR, 85 %). UV absorbance was obtained on 226 227 filtered samples on a UV spectrometer (Secoman UV-Line 9400, France) and three-dimensional 228 fluorescence excitation-emission matrices (EEMs) were obtained on a fluorescence spectrometer (Jasco FP-8300, Japan). Specific UV absorbance at 254 nm (SUVA) was calculated as the ratio 229 230 between UV absorbance at 254 nm and DOC concentration. Specific fluorescence indexes for 231 dissolved organic matter, BIX and HIX, were determined according to Huguet (Huguet et al. 2010) and Zsolnay (Zsolnay et al. 1999). 232 233

Trace metals were analysed in acidified (2% HNO<sub>3</sub> ultrapure, Merck) eluents and in mineralised soil samples by ICP-AES (Spectroblue, Ametek, USA). The mineralisation of soil samples was performed in DigiPREP MS system (SCP Science) at 95°C using three successive steps: 30 min with nitric acid (Suprapur 65%, Merck) followed by 30 min with hydrogen peroxide (30 % AnalaR Normapur, VWR) and finalised by 15 min with hydrochloric acid (37%, Fisher Scientific, Analytical grade).

240 PAHs and PCBs in dissolved phase were extracted by solid phase extraction (SPE) on Chromabond 241 C18 6-mL 2000-mg cartridge (Macherey-Nagel) with an AutoTrace SPE Work Station (Caliper Life 242 Sciences, USA). PAHs and PCBs in the particulate phase were extracted by Multiwave 3000 243 microwave (Anton Paar, Austria). Both types of samples were quantified using a gas chromatograph 244 (Thermo Focus GC) coupled with a mass spectrometer (Trace DSQ, Thermo Electron Corporation, 245 USA) in single ion monitoring (SIM) mode. A standard mixed containing 16 PAHs (SV Calibration 246 Mix #5/610) was supplied from Restek. An internal standard mix (PAH-Mix 31) containing 5 247 deuterated PAHs, an additional internal standard (pyrene-d10), a mixed standard containing 15 PCB 248 congeners, and 3 additional PCBs used as internal standards were purchased from LGC Promochem. 249 Analytical details for PAHs and PCBs can be found elsewhere (Bressy et al. 2011).

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Enrichment factors were calculated as a ratio of trace metal mass to iron mass or as organic micropollutant compound mass to organic carbon mass, compared to equivalent ratio of a reference material according to Bern et al. (Bern et al. 2019).

- Statistical analysis of data was conducted using the R environment (RFSC 2019) and XLSTAT(Adinsoft 2018).
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#### 261 **Results and discussions**

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#### 263 Soil contamination

Based on the particle size distributions, using the diagram of Pourbey, the DEM samples can be 264 265 classified, in the range of silty sand soils and the BURN samples in the silty loam soils. While the 266 DEM soil showed increasing silt content with depth, no significant modification of vertical distribution could be observed for the BURN soil. The dry bulk density increased with depth for both 267 types of soil, varying from 1.2 g cm<sup>-3</sup> at the surface to 1.5 g cm<sup>-3</sup> at 50-cm depth. Due to the presence 268 of incompletely buried waste in the second sublayer of the BURN soil, its profile showed a peak of 269 porosity and particulate carbon at 15-cm depth (Figure 3). The difference between the two soil types 270 was even greater by considering the (high) proportion of coarse particles (>2 mm) in the DEM soil 271 (Table 1). The loam and silt-loam classes (Clapp and Hornberger 1978) have typically a permeability 272 of  $10^{-6}$  m s<sup>-1</sup>, ranging between  $10^{-7}$  m s<sup>-1</sup> for pure silt to  $10^{-5}$  m s<sup>-1</sup> for sandy loam (Dunne and 273 Leopold 1978; Dingman 2015). Due to the brick fraction and stone content in the DEM soil as 274 275 observed in situ, the conductivity measured by the Guelph permeameter in the field was around  $5.10^{-5}$ m s<sup>-1</sup>, i.e. higher than the superior limit of  $10^{-5}$  m s<sup>-1</sup> for sandy loams. The average values of general 276 parameters for both types of soils are given in Table 1. 277



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280 Fig. 3 Reconstituted porosity and particulate carbon profile in the experimental columns

Field					Column						
	d < 2 mm (%)	2 <d<10 mm (%)</d<10 	d > 10 mm (%)	Humidity (%)	Permeability (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	Porosity (%)	dry density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	VS (%)	POC (%)	PIC (%)	
DEM	55.0	24.4	20.6	13.8	$5.10^{-5}$	43.8	2.46	5.1	1.9	4.8	
std	5.0	7.0	6.8	2.0		5.1	0.18	2.0	1.0	1.0	
BURN	88.6	7.6	3.8	20.6	n.d.	52.6	2.80	8.6	3.7	4.4	
std	4.0	3.0	3.0	4.0		5.0	0.24	3.0	3.0	1.0	

**Table. 1** Soil characteristics (n=10)

VS volatile solids, POC particulate organic carbon, PIC particulate inorganic carbon, std standard deviation

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284 The results of X-ray fluorescence analysis (Figure 4) and organic contaminants analysis (Figure 5) confirmed that both zone are highly contaminated and exceeding the French environmental standards 285 286 (Legifrance 1998; MEDDM et al. 2009). The values found are in the range of that found during the 287 environmental screening in 2013 (Figure 1) (Guittard and et al. 2013). As expected, the BURN zone exhibited high levels of PAH (up to 39.9 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) and copper (53 to 154 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>). Surprisingly also, high levels of lead and zinc (1623 and 316 g kg<sup>-1</sup> in average, respectively) were found in this zone, 288 289 290 even higher than in the demolition zone (DEM) (Table 2). The high lead concentrations accompanied 291 by antimony indicate a possible activity of retreatment of lead-acid batteries (Jin et al. 2015). Because 292 of waste burning, the BURN zone was principally polluted in the upper 30 cm, and deeper layers 293 contained natural sediments (silt) without any trace of physical anthropogenic perturbation. The DEM 294 zone showed traces of anthropogenic pollution over the whole depth in the form of bricks, plastic and iron parts and presented therefore a minor vertical gradient as compared to the BURN zone. Iron and 295 manganese concentrations did not show any vertical variation (data not shown). Iron concentration 296 was higher in the BURN zone soil than in the DEM zone soil (7.2 and 4.4 g kg<sup>-1</sup>, respectively) DEM 297 298 and manganese concentrations were similar in both soils (about 0.1  $g kg^{-1}$ ). Compared to natural 299 values of enrichment of 0.025 for Zn/Fe and 0.004 for Cu/Fe (Baize 2000) the DEM factor is a double, 300 and that of copper in BURN soil is a hundred fold. 301



**Fig. 4** DEM zone on the top and BURN below. Zinc and Copper profiles of the fraction < 2 mm as found in the brownfield, showing the spatial heterogeneity of the pollution: south (S), east (E) and west (W) of the pollution spot centre. Solid line represents the column composite used for the column experiments. The vertical red line indicates the French limits for wastewater sludge amendments of agricultural land. For both, trace metal enrichment factors are shown.

- 309 As expected, beside trace metals, the brownfield was also contaminated by organic pollutants like PAH and PCB (Figure 5). The burning zone (BURN) was more contaminated especially in the top 310 311 layers than the zone containing demolition material (DEM). The average contamination observed of 312 around tenth of mg kg<sup>-1</sup> of total PAH is below the range of industrial contamination of 100 to 1000 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> often mentioned in the literature (Crone 2001; Wang et al. 2010). However taking median 313 values for arable land of 0.7 mg kg<sub>-DW</sub><sup>-1</sup> (Motelay-Massei et al. 2004; Holoubek et al. 2009) as 314 background value, even the underground of BURN zone should be considered as contaminated, 315 classifying the whole soil profile as urban or as industrial. Normalisation with carbon showed that 316 DEM soil was 10 times more polluted than the BURN soil. 317
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Fig. 5 Vertical profile of 16 PAH and their composition (above) and the equivalent of 18 PCB (below) for the two types of soil as used in the test columns. The bar charts have the components classified from the lowest molecular weight on the top (e.g. naphtalene and PCB 18) to the highest on the bottom (e.g. benzo[ghi]perylene and PCB 209).

Like PAH, the PCBs were mainly present in the BURN soil, though more at the surface. Compared to levels of 10-20 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> found in rural areas in the Seine river basin (Motelay-Massei et al. 2004) the PCB levels of the upper soil of the BURN zone (up to 126 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) can be characterised as industrial pollution. The PCB distribution indicates a possible contamination with Aroclors as could be present in electric and electronic equipment (ATSDR and USDHHS 2000).

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The different PCB and PAH distributions between the two zones, especially if normalised by organic soil carbon concentrations, demonstrate that the type of contamination is different from one zone to another and is characteristic of the activity in each zone.

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Zone		DEM	BURN
Species	Unit	Average	Average
Al	$\mathrm{mg}\mathrm{kg}^{-1}$	2389	8734
Cd	$ m mgkg^{-1}$	1.512	1.630
Co	$ m mgkg^{-1}$	0.898	1.377
Cr	$ m mgkg^{-1}$	9.760	17.77
Cu	${ m mgkg^{-1}}$	31.88	1798
Fe	$ m mgkg^{-1}$	4420	7181
Mn	${ m mgkg^{-1}}$	103	159
Мо	$ m mgkg^{-1}$	1.012	0.792
Ni	$ m mgkg^{-1}$	3.490	5.716
Pb	${ m mgkg^{-1}}$	199	1623
Sb	${ m mg}{ m kg}^{-1}$	<1	19.94
Zn	${ m mgkg^{-1}}$	167	316
Benzo(a)pyrène	$ m mgkg^{-1}$	0.57	0.47
Dibenzo(ah)anthracène	${ m mgkg^{-1}}$	0.27	0.10
Total ∑16 PAH	$ m mgkg^{-1}$	11.5	8.52
Total ∑16 PAH /C	$mg kg-C^{-1}$	735	145
PCB52	$\mu \mathrm{g}\mathrm{kg}^{-1}$	0.60	10.32
PCB180	$\mu g  k g^{-1}$	1.92	1.22
Total ∑18 PCB	$\mu g k g^{-1}$	15.30	48.02

 Table. 2 The micropollutant concentrations of soils used in the column experiments

Bulk density weighted averages (n=5). Arsenic and Mercury < 1 mg kg-1

## 339 Leaching experiments

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#### 341 Concentrations

342 Concentrations of global parameters (pH, conductivity, turbidity, DOC, UV absorbance and fluorescence indexes), trace metals and organic pollutants were measured in the dissolved phase of 343 344 the column effluents collected under each hydraulic regime (i.e. unsaturated percolation to simulate 345 rainfall and saturated elution to simulate river flooding) (table 3). Artificial rain and river water 346 contained appreciable amounts of total PAH (209 and 895 ng L<sup>-1</sup>, respectively) and PCB (7.2 and 2.6 ng L<sup>-1</sup>, respectively) but limited concentrations of trace metals. High concentrations of Ca and Mg 347 348 were present in all effluent samples (>100 mg L<sup>-1</sup>). Several metals like Cr, Ni, Pb and Fe were not 349 detected in the dissolved fraction of leachates, though all of them were present in the soil matrix (table 350 2). Neither As nor Hg was detected in soils and leachates. The Zn levels were the highest in the DEM 351 column percolated with artificial rain (356.9 µg L<sup>-1</sup>) and were in the range of Zn roof runoff (Gromaire352 Mertz et al. 1999). Similar levels of Zn in soil leachates were found by Rennert et al. (2010) in 353 comparable experimental set-up. Significantly higher concentrations of Co, Cu and Mo were observed 354 under saturated conditions (s-DEM and s-BURN columns) compared to unsaturated percolation 355 (u-DEM and u-BURN columns). In the saturated conditions, these levels were also accompanied by higher concentration of Mn, which may be due to the activity of manganese-reductive bacteria 356 reducing manganese oxides and releasing associated trace metals. Such process has already been 357 358 observed in soils and anaerobic sediments and was attributed to the iron- and manganese-reductive 359 bacteria. Cu and Zn showed a low solubilisation because they were probably not associated with 360 oxides. Indeed, several authors (Bousserrhine et al. 1999; Gounou et al. 2010; Harris-Hellal et al. 361 2011) have shown that in temperate soils, the organic matter constitutes the more important carrier 362 phase for Zn and Cu than iron- and manganese oxides.

- The absence of ferrous iron in collected solution can be explained by the set-up, whereby effluent exposed to ambient air was collected once a day and by the precipitation of solubilised iron given the high pH of the solution (Bousserrhine et al. 1999). This process was confirmed by turbidity increase and total iron concentration. The low solubilisation of manganese and associated metals in unsaturated columns can be explained by the absence of anaerobic conditions necessary for the functioning of reducing bacteria or the low activity of these bacteria.
- As described by Lovley and Phillips (1986); Bousserrhine et al. (1999); and Gounou et al. (2010), the reductive bacterial activity of iron and manganese is often associated with fermentation metabolism producing organic acids. This metabolism probably explains the increase of DOC in the saturated column where a solubilisation of trace metals was observed. None of the trace metals detected in the leachate infringes the French environmental limits, nor for wastewater discharge nor for raw water for drinking water supply (Legifrance 2007, 2012).
- The concentrations of organic micropollutants (PAHs and PCBs) in the eluents were situated between roof (Gromaire et al. 2014) and road runoff in the Paris metropole (Gasperi et al. 2010, 2012). Despite the high levels in the soil, the total PAH and PCB concentrations in column effluents were even lower than in the waters supplied, which indicates that these compounds were not released, but partially adsorbed onto soils during percolation.
- 383 384 This can be explained by their relatively low solubility, which decreases with increasing molecular 385 weight. PAHs are likely bound to organic matter such as humic acid, and the binding capacity of humic acid is highly dictated by protonation/deprotonation. The structure of humic acid is relatively 386 387 labile and the number of binding sites will depend on the pH of the solution. Schlautman and Morgan 388 (1993) showed that the binding capacity of humic acid for PAHs would increase as the pH decreases. 389 Thus, considering the relatively high pH of the solution (pH  $\approx$  8), the PAHs will remain rather bound 390 to the solids than pass to the pore water solution by binding to dissolved organic matter. Another 391 important inorganic parameter that affects PAH solubility may be the 'salting-out' effect whereby the 392 PAH solubility decreases as the salt concentrations increase (Oh et al. 2013). The high conductivity 393 of the leachate, especially in unsaturated conditions, supports this hypothesis. Both effects contribute 394 not only to the retention of PAHs in the soil but also to the adsorption of PAHs present in the eluent 395 (Walsh et al. 2005).
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<u>ur tirrer turri, r</u>	<u>1, c1</u>	LOD (*)	Art. Rain	River water	u-DEM	s-DEM	u-BURN	s-BURN
Hydraulic cond.	$M s^{-1}$		-	-	7.5E-06	8.3E-06	1.7E-06	2.0E-06
pН	_	0.05	6.96	8.03	7.65	7.74	7.78	7.88
Conductivity	$mS \ cm^{-1}$	0.01	0.04	0.519	2.55	2.57	0.98	0.94
Turbidity	NTU	0.1	0.49	0.97	1.52	75.12	1.23	1.40
COD $t=t$	$mgO_2  L^{-1}$	2	<lod< td=""><td>3.3</td><td>6.94</td><td>14.54</td><td>3.43</td><td>4.24</td></lod<>	3.3	6.94	14.54	3.43	4.24
DBO <sub>5</sub> $t=t$	$mgO_2 L^{-1}$	0.5	<lod< td=""><td>3.5</td><td>1.8</td><td>6.0</td><td>0.7</td><td>1.6</td></lod<>	3.5	1.8	6.0	0.7	1.6
DOC	$mgC L^{-1}$	0.1	0.10	2.0	9.10	17.31	5.02	4.72
SUVA	$L mgC^{-1}$	0.1	1.00	2.65	4.00	2.70	2.14	2.06
HIX	-	-	0.22	3.49	15.28	7.52	6.99	9.28
BIX	-	-	0.87	0.77	0.59	0.60	0.88	0.87
Al	$\mu g  L^{-1}$	8.0	17.10	9.77	18.3	19.0	21.9	21.7
Co	$\mu g  L^{-1}$	0.42	<lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""><td>5.19</td><td><lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""></lod<></td></lod<></td></lod<></td></lod<></td></lod<>	<lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""><td>5.19</td><td><lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""></lod<></td></lod<></td></lod<></td></lod<>	<lod< td=""><td>5.19</td><td><lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""></lod<></td></lod<></td></lod<>	5.19	<lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""></lod<></td></lod<>	<lod< td=""></lod<>
Cu	$\mu g  L^{-1}$	1.2	<lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""><td>7.12</td><td>16.4</td><td><lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""></lod<></td></lod<></td></lod<></td></lod<>	<lod< td=""><td>7.12</td><td>16.4</td><td><lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""></lod<></td></lod<></td></lod<>	7.12	16.4	<lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""></lod<></td></lod<>	<lod< td=""></lod<>
Mg	$\mu g  L^{-1}$	5.5	396	3875	7296	7789	5069	5749
Mn	$\mu g  L^{-1}$	11	12.35	11.15	1114.0	6826.9	183.7	490.4
Mo	$\mu g  L^{-1}$	4.5	11.20	8.23	11.5	25.2	5.53	8.16
Sb	$\mu g L^{-1}$	7.5	<lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""><td>52.8</td></lod<></td></lod<></td></lod<></td></lod<></td></lod<>	<lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""><td>52.8</td></lod<></td></lod<></td></lod<></td></lod<>	<lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""><td>52.8</td></lod<></td></lod<></td></lod<>	<lod< td=""><td><lod< td=""><td>52.8</td></lod<></td></lod<>	<lod< td=""><td>52.8</td></lod<>	52.8
Si	$\mu g L^{-1}$	2.7	1586	1944	13683	12195	5634	5099
Zn	$\mu g L^{-1}$	2.6	31.01	37.59	356.9	108.6	26.8	33.7
DBahA(**)	$\mu g  L^{-1}$	0.1	0.125	0.115	0.106	0.087	0.182	0.211
$\Sigma 16 \text{ PAH}$	$\mu g  L^{-1}$	2	209	895	118	199	185	172
PCB52	$\mu g  L^{-1}$	0.1	1.084	0.188	0.279	0.173	0.256	0.178
Σ18 РСВ	$\mu g  L^{-1}$	0.1	7.239	2.581	4.028	3.033	2.772	2.324

**Table. 3** Average concentrations of global parameters, trace metals and organic micropollutants in artificial rain, river water and the column effluents in dissolved fraction

u-DEM, demolition waste percolated by artificial rain; s-DEM, demolition waste, saturated and eluted with river water; u-BURN, river bed contaminated by electronic equipment burning, percolated by artificial rain; s-BURN, contaminated river bed, saturated and eluted with river water. The river contained 34 mgSO<sub>4</sub> L<sup>-1</sup> and 18 mgNO<sub>3</sub> L<sup>-1</sup>, while the rain contained 1.32 and 1.22 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. \*\*dibenzo(ah)anthracene

\*LOD limit of detection; Cr: 1.1  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>; Fe: 1.3  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> and Pb: 4.8  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> are not shown as all values were below LOD

#### 400

401 The usual evolution for long-term columns experiments under aerobic condition is a decay of the 402 component concentration in the leachate (Cappuyns and Swennen 2008; Naka et al. 2016). This can be globally seen with conductivity and DOC in Figure 6. However, the intermittence of hydraulic 403 404 regimes applied (percolation followed by a longer rest period) combines the physico-chemical processes like desorption and dissolution with microbiological transformation. For example, under 405 406 flooding conditions, the dissolution processes, illustrated by turbidity and conductivity, are 407 superposed in the beginning by bacterial reduction processes resulting in a stronger metal release. Figure 6 illustrates the influence of hydraulic conditions on the organic matter release especially for 408 409 the DEM soil, where an initial fast DOC increase can be observed under saturated conditions and the saturated release of 17.3 mgC m<sup>-2</sup> mm<sup>-1</sup> was thereby 47% higher than the unsaturated one. For the 410 411 BURN soil, there was no difference. This difference might be due to higher mineralisation rate in the anoxic conditions as was observed by other authors (Bastviken et al. 2004). This process was 412 413 accompanied by aromaticity (HIX) increase. In BURN soil, it was faster than in DEM soil probably 414 due to leaching of burned material in the first and humic substances in the latter (Huguet et al. 2009, 415 2010).

416

417 Though the heavy metal content was much higher in the BURN soil than in the DEM soil, the levels

418 of Cu and Zn were lower in the BURN zone effluents than in the DEM effluents. This could be 419 explained by the difference in soil composition, trace metal association to soil components and bacterial activity. Cu and Zn were probably more associated to iron and manganese oxides in DEM 420 421 samples than in BURN ones. The polluted upper silt soil released only slowly the heavy metals due 422 to presence of carbonates (higher pH), better retaining the pollution before passing to lower levels. An initial increase of Cu was observed due to liberation of easily bound metals linked to organic 423 424 matter, alumino-silicates and or Fe/Mn hydroxides, followed by decay (Figure 6). Similar results were 425 reported by Gounou et al. (2010) showing that in anaerobic sediment, the bacterial reduction of iron 426 oxides was concomitant with trace metal solubilisation. The flux of zinc and copper in the recomposed 427 DEM soil seemed therefore to be related to organic matter release ( $r^2=0.88$ , respectively,  $r^2=0.98$ , 428 p>0.05). The gradual transformation of organic matter can be seen from the increase of the HIX 429 fluorescence index. Under saturated conditions, zinc and copper were thereby more linked to the 430 aromatic components HIX ( $r^2=0.95$ , respectively,  $r^2=0.82$ , p>0.05) than BIX. No correlation was observed with HIX under unsaturated conditions. This behaviour was not observed for the BURN soil. 431 432 Both metals showed correlation with manganese under aerobic conditions ( $r^2$ >0.6, p>0.05) for DEM 433 and BURN soil but not under the anoxic conditions.

435 The hydraulic conditions influenced the redox conditions and therefore the metal release. The major 436 indicator of redox conditions is iron, not soluble under oxic conditions (unsaturated percolation), but 437 soluble under anoxic conditions (saturated flow). No dissolved iron was directly detected in the 438 leachates (Table 3); however, iron was detected in colloidal form in the s-DEM effluents after 2 days 439 of experiment and stabilised after 10 days at a level of 9.7 mg  $L^{-1}$ . Dissolved iron leached from the 440 saturated column under anoxic conditions and precipitated afterwards as colloids in the sampling 441 bottle, where it was exposed to aerobic conditions. This precipitation of iron in amorphous form has 442 been widely described for anaerobic environments with high pH and identified as the reason for trace 443 metal precipitation (Bousserrhine et al. 1999; Gounou et al. 2010; Harris-Hellal et al. 2011). The 444 initial iron solubilisation was also accompanied by Cu and Zn release. 90% of copper and 20% of zinc 445 were hereby present in particulate form, trapped in the colloids. The decrease of Al, Cu and Zn 446 concentrations at the end of the experiment under saturated conditions can be explained by the 447 formation of metallic sulphides following bacterial sulphate-reductive activity as has been reported 448 by Bousserrhine and Gounou (Bousserrhine et al. 1999; Gounou et al. 2010).

449

434

Regarding PAHs and PCBs, there was no significant trend in the leachate concentrations of the four columns. Comparable levels of PAHs were found by Azah et al. (2017) in batch extraction of storm water sediments with artificial rain. Nevertheless, the dust used had a PAH content ten times lower than the soils HC and MX. The difference is probably due to the hydraulic conditions of batch experiments, high specific surface of dust particles and the acidity of rain, used by Azah (2017).



455

Fig. 6 Evolution of leachate concentrations (<  $0.45 \mu m$ ). Straight red lines represent the initial eluent concentration (rain and river water). The dashed lines correspond to experiments with artificial rainwater, and the solid lines corresponds to experiments with river water, whereby the dots represent the soil recomposed from contaminated demolition waste (DEM) and triangles represent burning zone soil (BURN). The iron, not shown, was only detected in the saturated DEM soil, at same level as manganese but in the form of colloids

#### 463 Effect of hydraulic conditions on pollutant release

464 PCA A principal component analysis (PCA) was performed to better understand the relationships
 465 between all measured parameters. The PCA results show that the four types of columns can be clearly
 466 differentiated according to the soil types and hydraulic conditions, based on the whole set of analytical
 467 results (Figure 7).

468



470 Fig. 7 PCA for the overall set of concentration data. D, DEM; B, BURN. a scores plot; b loadings
471 plot

472

469

PCA analysis differentiated clearly by the first dimension, BURN soil on the left (negative portion of the X axis) and the DEM soil on the right side (positive portion of the X axis). The first dimension was mainly driven by the conductivity (capacity of dissolution), organic matter (DOC) and its aromaticity type (UV254, BIX) as well as the metal content. The samples from the BURN zone were characterised by higher values of BIX fluorescence index and boron and sodium concentrations, while the samples from the DEM zone were characterised by higher conductivity, DOC, copper, manganese and zinc, as well as the dibenzo(ah)anthracene and benzo(a)anthracene inter alia.

480

The second PCA dimension was mainly driven by sodium concentration followed by HIX index and trace metals Zn and Cd, thus indicating that the flooding condition favoured the release of sodium in leachates. The differentiation between the two hydraulic conditions was more pronounced for the DEM samples. From these samples, Mn and Mo were mainly released under flooding conditions, while Cd and Zn releases were favoured by the rainfall hydraulic regime.

486

Fluxes To evaluate the overall contribution of hydraulic conditions and types of soil to the pollutant release, total fluxes were calculated from concentrations and flows. The incoming fluxes entering the columns were compared to the outcoming fluxes (Figure 8). Three types of behaviour could be observed: (i) no leaching whereby the outcoming flux was globally equal to the applied flux (Co, Cd, Al, Na); (ii) a medium leaching, whereby outcoming flux was globally ten times the incoming flux (Cu, Si, Zn); and (iii) a pronounced leaching of metals above quotient of 100 (Mn, K, B).

493
494 The rainfall unsaturated condition had a stronger leaching effect than the saturated condition regarding
495 Zn, Mg, K, and B. This behaviour was even more pronounced for the DEM soil than for the BURN
496 soil. The rain condition maintains an open soil structure with presence of oxygen and that river
497 flooding condition tends to modify the soil structure lowering the permeability and creating anoxic

498 conditions. The anoxic conditions may diminish the solubility of metals by forming sulphides, which 499 could explain the higher release of several metals (Zn, Mg, K, B) under unsaturated conditions. On the contrary, under reducing conditions, high-valent iron and manganese present in soils are 500 501 reductively dissolved via a number of alternative abiotic and microbial pathways (Roden and Wetzel 2002). Fe(III) can act as a terminal electron acceptor during microbially mediated decomposition of 502 organic matter, forming soluble ferrous ion ( $Fe^{2+}$ ) (Lovley and Phillips 1986; Bousserrhine et al. 503 504 1999). This picture becomes more complex, if we take into account the presence of nitrate and sulphate in the river water and  $Fe^{2+}$  and  $Mn^{2+}$  as potential electron donors making their oxidation possible, 505 through nitrate reduction (Pyzola 2013). The higher fluxes of Fe and Mn and lower flux of Zn in the 506 507 s-DEM leachate (saturated conditions), compared to the u-DEM leachate (unsaturated conditions), are 508 in accordance with these processes.





510 511

Fig. 8 Retention and release of different micropollutants as the ratio of the outcoming to incoming flux. A value below 1 means retention and value above 1 means release. Values between 0.8 and 1.2, estimates are not significatively different from 1 and are not shown. PCBs are not shown as all species were retained in both substrates. Saturated conditions in grey, unsaturated in blue

516

As described before, the BURN soil exhibited the highest contamination by metals, but its natural clay structure and high organic matter content immobilised the pollution and presented *in fine* little leaching in the different hydraulic conditions. The differences between the saturated and unsaturated flows regarding the leaching of metals were rather due to the existence of different redox conditions than to the difference in residence time (i.e. ratio of saturated pore volume and flow). Neither the higher water content of saturated columns compared to unsaturated nor the higher porosity of BURN soil compared to DEM soil impacted the release of micropollutants. The low importance of flowvelocity was also reported by Naka (Naka et al. 2016).

525

526 Contrary to metals, the change in hydraulic conditions had a clear impact on the PAH retention. The 527 retention of all PAH was high (flux ratio always < 1 except for anthracene and fluorene) under saturated conditions in both the DEM and the BURN soils (s-DEM and s-BURN in Figure 7). In 528 529 saturated conditions (i.e. river flood condition), PAH flux ratio was closer or higher to 1, especially for the BURN soil (i.e. u-BURN). These results indicate that the rain (acidity), combined with 530 531 unsaturated flow, created conditions favourable for retention of PAH, while in saturated conditions, 532 PAH were more released especially in the BURN soil, most probably due to desaturation of the 533 burning layer. PCB exhibited a similar behaviour than PAH with a lower difference between the two 534 hydraulic conditions.

535

Pollutants fluxes can also be expressed in gm<sup>-2</sup> year<sup>-1</sup> or kg ha<sup>-2</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>. If we focus on zinc and 536 copper, there was only a net flux from the DEM soil. Taking the average annual precipitation on the 537 region of 650 mm, dissolved zinc showed a flux of 2.1 kg ha<sup>-2</sup> year<sup>-1</sup> for the rainfall condition 538 (u-DEM) decreasing to 0.36 kg ha<sup>-2</sup> year<sup>-1</sup> for the river flood condition (s-DEM). Compared to the 539 annual atmospheric deposition of zinc in the Paris region of 0.45 to 1.2 kg ha<sup>-2</sup> year<sup>-1</sup> (Azimi et al. 540 2005), these values may impact significantly the background levels for zinc. Dissolved copper 541 behaved differently with 0.038 kg ha<sup>-2</sup> year<sup>-1</sup> for u-DEM increasing to 0.078 kg ha<sup>-2</sup> year<sup>-1</sup> for s-DEM. 542 543 These fluxes were significatively higher if we take into account the flux of particulate copper 544 associated to iron, and would be close to values of the atmospheric deposition of 0.1 to 0.2 545 kg ha<sup>-2</sup> year<sup>-1</sup> reported by Azimi (Azimi et al. 2005) and Gasperi (Gasperi et al. 2014). 546

# 547 Conclusions548

The studied soils were moderately to strongly polluted, exceeding the French environmental limits (MEDDM et al. 2009). The DEM soil, marked by demolition disposal over the whole depth, was coarser with higher permeability. The BURN soil was finer and only impacted in the upper soil, with undisturbed layers below. The DEM soil was moderately polluted with trace metals over the whole depth, while the BURN soil was extremely polluted (Zn, Cu and Pb of several g kg<sup>-1</sup> with pronounced presence of PAH and PCB) only in the first 20 cm of the soil profile.

556 The results showed that the intermittence of hydrological regime increased the pollutant release 557 compared to continuous exposition, though the type and structure of soil were of greater importance 558 than the condition of saturation applied. The leachates of the DEM soil were characterised by higher 559 conductivity and DOC content, indicating dissolution and desorption as key processes in pollutant 560 release. Though the BURN soil was 10 times more contaminated with trace metals than the DEM soil, 561 only the latter released copper, zinc and cobalt in significant amounts. Iron- and manganese-reducing 562 bacteria were implicated in the solubilisation of trace metals under anaerobic conditions through the 563 production of soluble iron and manganese oxides and the release of associated metals. The 564 concentrations of pollutants in the leachates were close to those of road runoff and for zinc and copper 565 far above the European standards for receiving water bodies (CEE 2008). According to literature 566 (Seidl et al. 1998; Baun et al. 2008), their peak concentration could eventually generate an acute exposition level if directly released to aquatic ecosystems. 567

568

569 Statistical analysis of the data showed more pronounced differences between the two soil types than 570 between the two hydrological regimes studied (i.e., rainfall and river flooding). Hydrology was still a 571 significant driver especially for the DEM soil and to a lesser extent for the BURN soil. Unsaturated 573 saturated conditions (river flooding) created reductive environment liberating iron and manganese and 574 most probably linked copper. PAH remained adsorbed onto soil in unsaturated conditions but slightly released under saturated flow in the BURN soil. The PCB did not release. No significant relationship 575 576 was observed between the organic micropollutants and the organic matrix indicators (HIX, BIX and 577 aromaticity), suggesting that these parameters and the humic substances present in the soil matrix were not directly linked to the behaviour of these pollutants. The only correlation for these parameters 578 579 was found for zinc and copper in the u-DEM soil suggesting their release under anaerobic condition 580 to be also linked to humic matter transformation.

581

582 Based on the presented leaching experiments, it can be concluded that under actual field conditions, 583 the high levels of PAHs, PCBs and trace metals present upon natural silty sedimentary soils (BURN) 584 do not present an immediate risk for the surrounding aquatic ecosystem because of strong associations 585 between organic pollutants, soil particles, metals and iron or manganese oxides. During flood periods, a limited release of PAHs can be expected. On the contrary, the less contaminated demolition disposal 586 (DEM) presents a moderate risk of zinc and copper mobilisation under actual hydrological conditions 587 (i.e. rain events), doubling the atmospheric wet weather deposition. Overall, a flooding condition 588 589 would produce a lower risk of trace metal release than rainfall but will cause a cumulative effect. 590

591 The general implication of the results obtained is that long-term risk assessment of contained soil 592 should be done with stratified media, applying hydrological conditions (saturation, periodicity, 593 duration of exposition...) as close as possible to field conditions rather than using standard batch tests 594 with fixed L/S ratio. The approach used allowed to identify biogeochemical transformations and to 595 estimate more adequately the fluxes which could be released to the environment.

596 597 The experimental set-up showed to be adequate to study different hydrological conditions of stratified 598 soil contamination and allowed to simulate in situ conditions and obtain more realistic results than 599 batch experiments or full mixed columns. However, some improvements might improve the overall 600 sensitivity of the system, such as airtight sampling bags preventing the oxidation and transformation 601 of collected samples. Moreover, parallel measurements of auxiliary parameters like in- and outcoming 602 nitrate, sulphate and BOD5 would give better information about the existing microbiological 603 processes.

604

## 605 Supplementary Information

606The online version contains supplementary material available at <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-021-15491-0">https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-021-</a>60715491-0

608

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612

## 613 Author contribution

614 Conceptualization: Martin Seidl. Methodology: Remi Mazerolle, Martin Seidl and Julien Le

615 Roux. Investigation: Remi Mazerolle and Martin Seidl. Formal analysis: Martin Seidl and Julien Le

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- 625

## 626 Data availability

- All major data generated during this study are included in the published article. Complementary data are available from the corresponding author on request.
- 629

## 630 **Declarations**

- 631 **Ethics approval** Not applicable
- 632 **Consent to participate** Not applicable
- 633 **Consent for publication** All authors consent to publish
- 634 **Competing interests** The authors declare no competing interests
- 635 636 **Refe**

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