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An Experimental Investigation into the Bond-Slip Behaviour between CFRP Composite and Lightweight Concrete

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6 ABSTRACT

7 Epoxy bonded fibre reinforced polymer (FRP) composites are widely used for the retrofit of 8 ailing reinforced concrete structures, for both shear and flexure. The behaviour of retrofitted 9 concrete structures is governed by the bond strength and the material characteristics of the epoxy bonded FRP and the concrete. Previous studies show that lightweight concrete (LWC), which 10 11 uses Pulverised Fuel Ash (Lytag) instead of coarse granite aggregates, has significantly lower tensile strength and aggregate interlock compared to normal weight concrete. Performance of 12 shear retrofitted concrete elements is primarily governed by the aggregate interlock and tensile 13 strength. Thus the study of FRP enhancement techniques in LWC is paramount for limit state 14 design. Many studies have been conducted to understand the bond-slip behaviour between 15 normal weight concrete (NWC) and FRP composites, where the increasing interfacial (shear) and 16 normal stresses with increasing plastic deformation lead to FRP debonding and/or FRP rupture 17 failures. This paper presents the experimental pull-off test results obtained from lightweight 18 concrete prisms with various configurations of epoxy bonded Carbon FRP (CFRP) sheets. The 19 experimental results show that the LWC can successfully be applied in the strengthening of 20 lightweight concrete structures. However, the lightweight concrete prisms failed due to a 21 22 diagonal crack within the concrete materials. This was due to a lower tensile strength compared

to normal weight concrete specimens where peeling or rupture of FRP is the dominant failuremechanism.

25 INTRODUCTION

Structural lightweight concrete (LWC) has become established as an important and versatile 26 material in modern construction. The reasons for development taking place in this field are 27 28 technical and economic. The use of lightweight concrete has shown that it has many advantages. Its lower density means that the dead weight of the structure can be reduced with a consequent 29 reduction in the size of foundations. Alternatively the dimensions of elements can be 30 31 considerably enlarged without having to alter erection systems, or the geometric shape of an element can be greatly simplified without increasing its overall weight. Lightweight concrete has 32 been used increasingly over the past decades. In the coming decades it is therefore expected that 33 structures constructed using lightweight concrete will occupy a significant proportion of concrete 34 infrastructures. When deteriorated, these structures may be retrofitted using efficient systems 35 such as FRP reinforcement. 36

Externally bonded fibre reinforced polymer (FRP) plates or sheets have emerged as a popular 37 method for retrofitting of reinforced concrete (RC) structures [1]. This technology offers unique 38 advantages with respect to traditional strengthening techniques. Among those are good immunity 39 to corrosion, lower self-weight and excellent mechanical properties. Furthermore, the hand lay-40 up allows adaption of FRP reinforcement to the shape of any structural element [2]. The 41 performance of the FRP-to-concrete interface in providing an effective stress transfer is of 42 43 crucial importance [3]. Indeed, a number of failure modes in FRP-strengthened RC members are directly caused by debonding of the FRP from the bonded surface. Therefore, the safe and 44 economic design of externally bonded FRP systems needs a sound understanding of the 45

behaviour of FRP-to-concrete interfaces. A significant amount of research has been conducted 46 to investigate the effect of the bond between normal weight concrete and FRP on the failure of 47 adhesively bonded joints. These factors are mainly as follows: concrete compressive or tensile or 48 both strength [4, 5& 6]; FRP bonded length [7&8]; FRP bonded width [9&10]; FRP stiffness 49 [11&12]; adhesive properties [13]; surface preparation [14] and concrete composition [15]. 50 51 However, the study of bond characteristics between lightweight concrete (LWC) substrate and FRP reinforcement has not received much attention. In our experiments, the bonded lengths, 52 width, thickness and fibre orientation of CFRP sheet were varied in order to understand the 53 54 fracture behaviour and the effectiveness of CFRP on lightweight concrete.

55 **TEST PROGRAMME**

The entire experimental program 55 concrete prisms divided into four phases, each phase comprising a different number of samples cast with LWC and NWC bonded with CFRP sheets in eight different CFRP configuration techniques (each technique was repeated in three to four LWC samples and two NWC samples). All specimens of NWC and LWC were cast as the same grade of concrete (i.e. the same compressive strength) to eliminate any unwanted variable in these two types of concrete. The letter ''L'' refers to LWC samples and the letter 'N'' refers to NWC samples. The details of each series are described as follows:

Series (BN/L1) contained twenty-one concrete prisms: twelve specimens were cast with
LWC and nine specimens were cast with NWC. The specimens were bonded with CFRP
sheets of 100mm width and varying lengths of 100, 150 and 200 mm. The main purpose
of this series of tests was to determine the bond strength properties, bond-slip behaviour
and effective bond length.

Series (BN/L2) contained twelve concrete prisms: eight prisms were cast with LWC and
four specimens were cast with NWC. This series was designed to study the behaviour of
CFRP bonded sheets when a pull-out force was inclined to the grain direction of FRP
fibre. The angle between the FRP grain fibre and the loading direction was varied at
orientation angles of 0°, 45° and 90°.

- 3. Series (BN/L3) contained ten concrete prisms in which six prisms were bonded with
 LWC and four prisms were cast with NWC. This series examined the effect of using
 double parallel and perpendicular layers of CFRP sheets.
- 4. Series (BN/L4) contained twelve concrete prisms: eight prisms were cast with LWC and
 four prisms were cast with NWC. The width of the CFRP sheet (100, 150 and 200 mm)
 was varied in this series. The main purpose of these tests was to study the effects of the
 CFRP-to-concrete width ratio.

80 Double lap shear (DLS) test

Double-lap shear tests on concrete prisms were carried out in order to understand the behaviour 81 of the epoxy bonded CFRP sheet. The nominal dimensions of the prismatic concrete blocks are 82 as follows: length (L = 280 mm), width (b = 200 mm) and height (h = 90 mm). The CFRP sheets 83 84 were bonded in the centre on both sides of the concrete block. The concrete blocks had been sawn into two separate parts and then re-joined by two threaded rods as shown in Figure 1. In a 85 typical test, the tensile load was applied to the ends of a steel bar, which had been cast inside the 86 87 concrete block and cut into two parts within the concrete block. In addition, two longitudinal aluminium tubes were provided to facilitate clamping of the sample 'halves' prior to testing. The 88 89 two threaded rods were released before testing, as shown in Figure 2(c). Also a plastic membrane 90 was placed between the two parts of the concrete block to prevent any undesirable bond from the

91 adhesive entering this interface. In this study, the samples were tested in a 50kN capacity Instron tensile test machine. To negate the effects of any eccentricity causing moment on the sample 92 during testing, a 'ball and socket' connection was employed as shown in Figure 2(b). In most of 93 94 the cases, the maximum slip was less than 2 mm. The displacement of 0.24 mm/min was maintained throughout the test program in order to eliminate the inertial effect of applied load 95 and to capture adequate data over a small period of time (the experiment was expected to last 96 about 1 to 3 mins with the loading rate of 0.24 mm/min). Global slip was measured using two 97 linear voltage displacement transformers (LVDTs), which were set up on both sides of the 98 99 concrete block as shown in Figure 2(a). To investigate the strain distribution along the length of the CFRP sheet, a series of 3 mm-long strain gauges were attached on the top surface of the 100 CFRP sheets on two samples of (BL/N1-1, BL/N1-2 and BL/N1-3) as shown in Figure 2(d). 101 102 Strain gauges were installed at shorter distances along the length of CFRP sheet in one part of specimen. The first strain gauge was placed at the centre of the concrete samples and the others 103 were attached along the bond length. The positions of the strain gauges are reported in Table (1). 104



Figure 1: Process of preparing the two concrete blocks for bond testing



Figure 2: Detail of the double lab test

Table 1: Position of the strain gauges along the length of the CFRP composite

Distance of the strain gauge from the center of the specimen (mm)

								_		
Samples	Bonded Length	SG-1	SG-2	SG-3	SG-4	SG-5	SG-6	SG-7	SG-8	SG-9
notation	of CFRP sheet									
	(mm)									
BL/N1-1	50	0	10	25	40	50				
BL/N1-2	75	0	10	25	40	50	60	75		
BL/N1-3	100	0	10	25	40	60	70	80	90	100
		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

114 Material properties

Pulverised Fuel Ash (Lytag) and sand aggregates were used in the preparation of the lightweight 115 concrete mixture. The particle size grading, physical properties and chemical composition of the 116 117 Lytag aggregates are summarised in Tables 2, 3 and 4 respectively. Coarse granite and sand aggregates were used in preparation of the NWC mixtures. The concrete mixes for both 118 concretes were designed to have a slump of 75 mm, and a 28-day cube compressive strength of 119 40 N/mm². The mix details for the lightweight and normal weight concretes are given in Table 5. 120 121 A tilting drum mixer was used for mixing the concrete. All the LWC and NWC were cast in a single batch each. In addition, six concrete cubes (100 x 100 x 100 mm), two concrete cylinders 122 (150 dia. x 300 mm) and two prisms (100 x 100 x 400 mm) were cast from each batch to 123 determine the uniaxial compressive strength, the Young's modulus of elasticity and the modulus 124 125 of rupture of lightweight and normal weight concrete (see Table 6).

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 Table 2: Particle size distribution of Lytag aggregates

127	Sieve size (mm)	Passing %
128		
129	14	100%
130	10	81%
150	8.0	29%
131	4.0	4%
132		

Table 3: Physical	properties	of Lytag	aggregates [16]
2		1 1	

Moisture content as delivered	15% 134
Long term moisture content	30% 135
Oven dry loose bulk density	700-800 kg/m ³ 136
Particle density	1300-1650 kg/m ³ 137
Permeability	$1.3 \times 10^{-1} \text{ m/s}$ 138

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140		Table 4: Chemical	l comp	osition of	f Lytag agg	gregates	[17]		
141		SiOa			530	<u></u>			
142					25%				
143		Fa.O.			£0%	0			
144					4.04				
144			•		4%	/			
145			ion		3.19	⁄0			
146					0.01	%			
147		Acid Soluble Su	Iphate		0.19	6			
148		Table 5: The mix design	n of ligl	htweight	and norma	l weight	conc	retes	
		Concrete Type		Water	Cement	Sand	Co	oarse	Design
				(kg)	(kg)	(kg)	Agg	gregate	Strength
							(kg)	N/mm ²
		NWC		192	400	667	1	184	40
		LWC		216*	480	485		715	40
	* The moistu	re content and absorption	n of ligl	htweight	aggregates	were co	onside	ered in ca	alculations
			of n	nix desig	n.				
149									
150		Table 6: M	echanio	cal prope	rties of cor	ncrete			
	Concrete	Average cube	I	Average		Average	;	Averag	ge concrete
	Type concrete strength f_c' m		odulus of	f m	odulus o	of	der	nsity $ ho_c$	
	(MPa) ruptu		are f_r (M	Pa) ela	asticity I	E _c	()	(m^3)	
						(MPa)			
	NWC	41.6		3.4		29670		,	2345
	LWC	40.1	1	2.9		22900			1776
	(S.D)	2.40		0.43	I			1	
151	S.D: is the stand	lard deviation.	I						

152 A unidirectional CFRP sheet with a thickness of 0.117 mm, a tensile strength of 4000 MPa, a

153 Young's modulus of 240 GPA and a strain at failure of 1.6% were used. Epoxy plus primer (EN-

Force primer) and epoxy plus adhesive (EN-Force bonding adhesive) were used to bond the CFRP composite to the concrete substrate respectively. Both primer and adhesive are twocomponent epoxy based adhesives. Part A of the epoxy is the base component while Part B is the hardener which should be made of approximately 2/3 base and 1/3 hardener according to the manufacturer recommendations. The physical and mechanical properties of the primer resin and the physical properties of adhesive bonding are summarized in Table (7) and (8) based **[18]**.

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Table 7: Physical properties of the Primer resin [18].

	Physica	al properties
	Colour	Translucent
	Density	1.12 kg/litre
	Thickness of application	100µm
161	Mechan	nical properties
	Compressive strength	100 N/mm^2
	Tensile strength	19 N/mm ²
	Flexural strength	30 N/mm ²
	Bond to concrete	> 5.3 N/mm ²
	Young's modulus	5 kN/mm ²

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Table 8: Physical properties of the bonding adhesive [18]

Colour	White, transparent
Density	1.3 kg/litre
Thickness of application	300µm

164	The surfaces of the concrete blocks, where the CFRP sheet would be glued, were first ground to
165	a fine finish with a stone wheel to remove the top layer of mortar, just until the aggregate was
166	visible (approximately 2-3 mm). Then the concrete surface was properly cleaned with air jet to
167	remove dust. Finally, the surface of the concrete was covered with a thin layer of primer.

168 Afterwards, the CFRP sheets were applied to both sides of the concrete prisms using two-169 component epoxy adhesive with a relatively uniform thickness of 1-1.2 mm.

170 TEST RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The experimental results of the pull-off double shear-lap tests between the CFRP sheets and the lightweight/normal weight concrete prisms are now presented and discussed in order to understand the bond characteristics, fracture behaviour and the effectiveness of CFRP to retrofit LWC compared to NWC. A summary of the test results are provided in Table 9.

Table 9: Details of LWC and NWC specimens and test results

Test	FRP	Total	CFRP	CFRP	Test	Maximum	Test
samples	width	CFRP	Thickn	Orientati	failure	Slip	failure
	$b_{\it frp}$	bond	ess	on	load	(s _{max})	Mode
	(mm)	length	t_f		P_{test}	(mm)	
		L_{frp}	(mm)		(kN)		
		(mm)					
BL1-1a	100	100	0.1178	0^0	19.34	0.30	CF
BL1-1b	100	100	0.1178	0^0	18.71	0.27	CF
BL1-1c	100	100	0.1178	0^0	19.99	0.32	CF
BL1-1d	100	100	0.1178	0^0	19.86	0.37	CF
BL1-2a	100	150	0.1178	0^0	27.31	0.36	CF+DC
BL1-2b	100	150	0.1178	0^0	23.80	0.43	CF+DC
BL1-2c	100	150	0.1178	0^0	27.80	0.50	CF+DC
BL1-2d	100	150	0.1178	0^0	25.22	0.46	CF+DC
BL1-3a	100	200	0.1178	0^0	26.15	0.54	DC+BC
BL1-3b	100	200	0.1178	0^0	27.11	0.56	DC+BC
BL1-3c	100	200	0.1178	0^0	18.50	0.28	DC+BC
BL1-3d	100	200	0.1178	00	27.48	0.60	DC+BC
BL2-1a	100	100	0.1178	90 ⁰	0.81	2.3	FR
BL2-1b	100	100	0.1178	90 ⁰	0.57	3.6	FR

BL2-1c	100	100	0.1178	90 ⁰	0.47	0.37	FR
BL2-1d	100	100	0.1178	90 ⁰	0.99	1.4	FR
BL2-2a	100	100	0.1178	45 ⁰	8.24	2.3	DC
BL2-2b	100	100	0.1178	45 ⁰	9.91	2.4	DC
BL2-1c	100	100	0.1178	45 ⁰	9.13	2.5	DC
BL2-1d	100	100	0.1178	45 ⁰	8.76	2.41	DC
BL3-1a	100	100	0.2356	0%/00	24.16	0.14	CF
BL3-1b	100	100	0.2356	0%/00	22.99	0.16	CF
BL3-1c	100	100	0.2356	0%/00	18.19	0.16	CF
BL3-2a	100	100	0.2356	0 ⁰ /90 ⁰	18.69	0.20	CF
BL3-2b	100	100	0.2356	0 ⁰ /90 ⁰	19.54	0.23	CF
BL3-2c	100	100	0.2356	0 ⁰ /90 ⁰	17.72	0.22	CF
BL4-1a	50	150	0.1178	00	18.80	0.54	CF+DC
BL4-1b	50	150	0.1178	0^0	13.32	0.58	CF+DC
BL4-1c	50	150	0.1178	0^0	17.31	0.54	CF+DC
BL4-1d	50	150	0.1178	0^0	13.95	0.63	CF+DC
BL4-2a	150	150	0.1178	0^0	21.04	0.043	DC+BC
BL4-2b	150	150	0.1178	0^0	21.69	0.058	DC+BC
BL4-2c	150	150	0.1178	0^0	21.51	0.037	DC+BC
BL4-2d	150	150	0.1178	0^0	20.98	0.039	DC+BC
BN1-1a	100	100	0.1178	0^0	18.13	0.25	DC+AD
BN1-1b	100	100	0.1178	0^0	22.1	0.35	DC+AD
BN1-1c	100	100	0.1178	0^0	21.9	0.32	DC+AD
BN1-2a	100	150	0.1178	0^0	29.6	0.69	DC+AD
BN1-2b	100	150	0.1178	0^0	29.4	0.61	DC+AD
BN1-2c	100	150	0.1178	0^0	28.9	0.63	DC+AD
BN1-3a	100	200	0.1178	0^0	28.4	0.79	DC+AD
BN1-3b	100	200	0.1178	0^0	29.64	0.85	DC+AD
BN1-3c	100	200	0.1178	0^0	28.95	0.67	DC+AD
BN2-1a	100	100	0.1178	90 ⁰	5.13	2.22	FR

BN2-1b	100	100	0.1178	90 ⁰	0.93	2.5	FR		
BN2-2a	100	100	0.1178	45 ⁰	10.64	1.61	AD		
BN2-2b	100	100	0.1178	45 ⁰	3	0.95	AD		
BN3-1a	100	100	0.2356	0°/0°	28.01	0.18	CF		
BN3-1b	100	100	0.2356	0°/0°	28.19	0.18	CF		
BN3-2a	100	100	0.2356	0 ⁰ /90 ⁰	22.44	0.28	CF		
BN3-2b	100	100	0.2356	0 ⁰ /90 ⁰	23.09	0.28	CF		
BN4-1a	50	150	0.1178	00	14.80	0.53	CF+AD		
BN4-1b	50	150	0.1178	00	15.55	0.57	CF+AD		
BN4-2a	150	150	0.1178	00	29.05	0.153	DC+BC		
BN4-2b	150	150	0.1178	00	29.69	0.17	DC+BC		
Note: (a)	Note: (a) CF. Concrete prism failure (b) DC, debonding in concrete (c) BC, bond								

failure between the steel bar and the concrete, (d) FR, CFRP rupture (e) AD, Adhesive debonding, (f) t_f is the one side thickness of CFRP sheet.

177 Failure condition

In general, the failure conditions of the LWC samples were due to crack propagation within the 178 179 concrete. This led to a brittle failure of the concrete and sometimes resulted in concrete debonding. In contrast, the most common failure observed in the NWC samples was concrete 180 debonding and sometimes adhesive debonding. The crack intensity was more prevalent in LWC 181 specimens compared to NWC specimens. Figure 3(a) and (b) compares the concrete failure 182 between LWC and NWC respectively. The higher peeling width and thickness in the LWC 183 samples compared to similar strength NWC may be due to the lower shear strength for Lytag 184 185 aggregates compared to that of normal aggregates.



Figure 3: Comparison of failure modes between LWC and NWC samples

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As bond failure developed in the BL1-1, BL3-1, BL3-2 and BL4-1 specimens, small diagonal 189 190 cracks started to occur at the centre of the specimen. These cracks never extended significantly outwards from the centre of the samples. The angle of the cracks suggests an edge effect, 191 192 affecting the crack front propagation. This is the same failure observed by [19&20] prior to our 193 study. As more load was applied, these samples developed additional small cracks near the center of the concrete prism. Once the cracks appeared, they propagated rapidly towards the 194 195 upper surface of the tested concrete sample, which led to sudden brittle failure of the concrete 196 prism by the formation of a diagonal fracture plane as shown in Figure 4 (a) and (b). The same failure mode was observed for the NWC samples of the (BN3-1) and (BN3-2) series as shown in 197 198 Figure 4 (c) and (d).



Figure 4: Typical failure in the concrete prism (CF) in LWC and NWC specimens (a) Front view
of LWC specimen, (b) Side view of LWC specimen, (c) Front view of NWC specimen, (d) Side
view of NWC specimen.

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204 All the samples of BL1-2, BL1-3 and BL4-2 and BN4-2 series failed due to concrete debonding 205 adjacent to the adhesive-concrete interface, where concrete layers of different thickness were broken and attached to the CFRP sheet. The debonding failure between the CFRP sheet and the 206 concrete was extremely brittle and the duration of the debonding process was mainly influenced 207 208 by the bond area. The failure process started with small concrete cracking near the specimen center. As the load increased, the small cracking in the concrete initiated CFRP debonding from 209 the concrete surface near the sample centre and then propagated towards the far end of the FRP 210 sheet. This eventually led to full detachment of CFRP strips from the concrete surface as shown 211 212 in Figure 5 (a) and (b). Splitting cracks along the plane of the loaded steel bar developed in some 213 of the (BL1-3) and (BL/N4-2) samples at very high loads leading to sudden bond failure between 214 the steel bar and the concrete followed by concrete debonding.

The samples of the BN1-1, BN1-2, BN1-3 and BN4-1 series showed a combined failure mode as

shown in Figure 5(c) and (d). All these samples failed by debonding of small pieces of concrete

near the sample centre followed by adhesive debonding. This may be attributed to the higher stiffness of normal weight particles and the surrounding cementitious matrix. The matrix resists the crack propagation from the centre of the concrete sample toward the far end, which leads to stress concentration. The result is debonding of the concrete near the centre of the sample.



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Figure 5: Typical combined failure concrete debonding of LWC and NWC specimens: (a) front
view of LWC specimen, (b) side view of LWC specimen, (c) front view of NWC specimen, (d)
front view of NWC specimen without CFRP sheet.

227 CFRP strain and local shear stress distribution

228 Data is collected from strain gauges mounted on the upper surface of the CFRP sheet on one side 229 of the three specimens in each BL1-1, BL1-2 and BL1-3 series and two specimens of each BN1-230 1, BN1-2 and BN1-3 series. These data are used as an example to understand the process of 231 debonding and to show the typical strain distribution profile along the length of the CFRP sheet. 232 Figure 6 shows the distributions of strain at different levels of maximum load (40%, 60%, 80%, 233 90% and 100% of the maximum load) for LWC and NWC samples with different bonded lengths. Each curve plotted corresponds to the strain distribution along the CFRP sheets at a 234 particular load. When the load (P) is smaller than about 60% of the maximum load (P_{max}), the 235

236 CFRP strain decreases quickly with distance from the center of the concrete prism. This 237 descending trend is attributed to the low axial stiffness of the bonded CFRP composite sheet with respect to that of the concrete sample. Increasing the load before primary debonding leads to 238 239 upward shifting of the curve, but the strain trend does not change. However, when the load value 240 goes beyond 60% of maximum load, cracks start to develop. The cracking led to a clear change 241 of the strain distribution in the CFRP sheet. The profiles tended to attain a linear shape and the slope of the strain curve tended to decrease near the specimen center. Since the slope of the curve 242 reflects the rate of strain change in the CFRP Sheet (which is proportional to the local shear 243 244 stress), the decrease of the slope shows shear softening along the FRP-concrete interface. The same behaviour was observed in a previous study [20&21]. At a certain load level before local 245 debonding, the strain profile at the beginning of the bonded length almost remains constant up to 246 the failure of the joint. This means that the concrete prism begins failure at the loaded end. It also 247 follows that the portion of the CFRP sheet near the loaded end of the specimen cannot transfer 248 load. The strain gauges far from the center measure strain which indicates the load transfer zone 249 250 shifted away from the loaded end of the specimens towards the centre of the sample.

In this paper, the "Active zone" is defined as the distance between the point of the maximum 251 252 strain at the centre of the sample and the point of the minimum strain. The strain distributions of the NWC samples with 50 mm bonded length have been plotted in Figure (6a). The patterns of 253 strain distribution of these samples were similar to those obtained for LWC samples as shown in 254 255 Figure (6d). The active zone length was approximately 50 mm up to the maximum load level. The maximum recorded strain reading for the LWC samples was approximately 4600 μ m/m and 256 3600 µm/m for the NWC samples. Figure (6b) shows the strain distribution of the NWC samples 257 258 with 75 mm bonded length. It can be noted that the active zone moved to 75mm at the maximum

259 load level. The same behaviour was observed for samples cast with LWC with 75 mm bonded 260 length as explained in Figure (6e). The maximum recorded strain reading was approximately 6800 µm/m for the LWC and NWC samples. Figure (6c) shows the strain distribution of the 261 262 NWC samples with 100 mm bonded length. No more movement was observed for theses samples. The active transfer zone ranges between 70-75 mm. Similar behaviour was observed for 263 264 samples cast with LWC with 75 mm bonded length as shown in Figure (6f). The maximum recorded strain reading was approximately 8300 µm/m for LWC specimens and 4800 µm/m for 265 NWC samples. It can be concluded that both LWC and NWC samples showed the same strain 266 267 distribution patterns along the length of the CFRP composite. However, the LWC specimens recorded higher strain readings compared to NWC in most cases. This is strongly related to 268 higher crack intensity due to the lower shear strength of Lytag aggregates, which allows 269 270 propagation of the cracks over a large area of the concrete substrate. This contrasts with that of natural weight aggregates. The noticeable difference between the LWC samples and NWC in 271 terms of strain distribution is as follows: for LWC, the strain gauges attached near the far end of 272 273 the CFRP sheet detect more strain compared with samples cast with NWC. This is attributed to local concrete debonding near the far end of the CFRP sheet. 274



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Figure 6: CFRP strain versus distance from the centre of the specimens (a) BN1-1, (b) BN1-2,
(c) BN1-3, (d) BL1-1, (e) BL1-2 and (f) BL1-3

278 Effect of concrete type on interfacial bond strength

LWC bond test specimens showed 73%-96% lower bond strength and slightly lower slip at failure than those of NWC of similar strength grade, regardless of the CFRP strengthening system. Considering the average bond strength of each series, a linear regression analysis was carried out on the results between the NWC and LWC samples. Linear regression analysis shows that the bond strength of LWC is approximately 0.85 of the NWC samples having the same strengthening techniques as shown in Figure 7.



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Figure 7: Relationship between the bond strength of LWC and NWC samples

Debonding of the samples in lap shear tests mainly occurs inside the concrete. Furthermore, 287 interlocking along the debonding plane may affect the bond behaviour in samples cast with 288 289 LWC. The bond capacity is dependent on the residual friction along the attached area of the 290 CFRP. Therefore, the composition of the concrete needs to be considered in the study of interfacial behaviour in adhesively bonded joints. The effect of LWC should be considered in the 291 current design guidelines by introducing a safety reduction factor due to the lower surface tensile 292 strength. The lower strength accelerates substrate failure compared with NWC samples which 293 294 show higher debonding loads.

The fundamental difference between normal and lightweight aggregate concrete is the tensile 295 strength, which influences the aggregate interlock. The shear capacity of the RC members is 296 297 proportional with the aggregate interlocking effect [22]. In lightweight concrete retrofitted with epoxy bonded FRP for shear deficiencies, the failure path is in the substrate of concrete due to 298 299 lower aggregate interlock. The efficiency of using FRP is not fully exploited in lightweight concrete. In contrast, the failure was due to debonding of FRP along the bonding agent. This 300 effect of the aggregate interlocking on the maximum shear capacity is hard to control in 301 experimental tests because it depends on the type, size and the distribution of these aggregates in 302

the debonding plane. Lower stiffnesses of lightweight aggregate particles and higher cement ratio result in large plastic deformation. In addition to higher crack intensity in LWC compared with those samples cast with NWC are likely to increase the shear and normal stresses in FRP reinforcements and at the concrete-FRP interface. An increase in interfacial and normal stresses may be lead to FRP debonding, thus the effectiveness of FRP for shear strengthening (LWC) elements is slightly affected by these issues.

309 Effect of CFRP sheet length

The three cases of the BL/N1-1, BL/N1-2, and BL/N1-3 series have the same width and 310 311 thickness ($w_f=100 \text{ mm}$ and $t_f=0.1178 \text{ mm}$) and have different bonded length of the CFRP sheet (50, 75, and 100 mm). The bonded length measured from the center of the specimens to the far 312 end of the CFRP sheet in one side of the concrete sample is clarified in Figure (2d). Test results 313 indicate that the increase of CFRP sheet length beyond 75 mm does not lead to higher load 314 capacity in both LWC and NWC samples. However, a larger bond length leads to a longer 315 deformation process as debonding propagates along the interface. Based on the failure 316 317 mechanism, the effective bond length was assumed to be about 75 mm for LWC and NWC samples, which showed the same behaviour. It can be concluded that the effective bond length is 318 319 not influenced by concrete type. Figure 8 presents the effect of increasing the bond length of the CFRP sheet on the maximum load. The load-slip relationship for one sample has been selected 320 from each testing series with various CFRP bond lengths, as these are all similar in shape. The 321 322 load increases linearly with increase in slip and after a certain stage shows nonlinear behaviour. The post-nonlinear stage for the samples shows the same trend in each series. There is no 323 significant difference in behaviour for specimens with different bonded lengths. However, 324 325 increasing the CFRP bonded length leads to concrete debonding in addition to concrete failure

326 which was observed in this test. It can be seen that the load-slip curve appears to be a plateau for 327 LWC and NWC samples with 75 mm and 100 mm bonded length where the load continues to increase and drop repeatedly within a narrow range of load values, until complete debonding of 328 329 the CFRP sheet from the concrete substrate. This supports the concept of an effective length of 330 the CFRP sheet. For further comparison, Figure 9 shows the changes in the normalized load ratio (Pa / Pa, max). The Pa, max value used in this study for comparison is the average of maximum load 331 for (BL1-2) and (BN1-2) specimen's series from both LWC and NWC, while P_a value is the 332 average of maximum achievable load for specimens with 50 mm, 75 mm and 100 mm bonded 333 334 length. When the bonded length changed from 50 mm to 75 mm in LWC samples, the normalized load ratio increased by about 34%; beyond 75 mm bonded length. The maximum 335 load did not increase significantly and in fact decreased by about 5%. For NWC samples, the 336 changing of the bonded length from 50 mm to 75 mm leads to increase the normalized load ratio 337 by 47 %. Beyond 75 mm bonded length, the maximum debonding load did not increase 338 significantly and in fact decreased by about 1.6%. The effective bond length is determined based 339 340 on "Active zone length", and is defined as the distance between the points corresponding to maximum strain at the centre of the sample and the point of zero strain near the far end of the 341 342 CFRP sheet. The maximum active strain zone ranges between 70-75 mm. Therefore, the bonded length of the CFRP sheets in the LWC and NWC series of tests is considered to be at least 75mm 343 in length. It can also be observed that there is no significant difference in behaviour for 344 345 specimens with different bonded lengths. However, the increased CFRP bonded length leads to concrete debonding in addition to concrete failure for LWC samples or concrete debonding 346 347 followed by adhesive debonding in the case of NWC samples which were observed in this test.

348





Figure 8: Influence of CFRP bond length on the maximum load of the tested samples.





Figure 9: Normalized Load ratio comparison for CFRP bonded length

357 Effect of orientation of the CFRP sheet on bond behaviour

The fibre orientation of the CFRP sheet is one of the parameters that most influences the 358 interfacial behaviour between the concrete and FRP composite. All the specimens were subjected 359 360 to pure tensile force. Therefore, if there is an angle between the load and fibre direction, this tends toward a lesser contribution of the CFRP sheet to the sample strength. It is seen that the 361 specimens of BL/N2-1 series did not fail at any significant load. Failure of BL/N2-1 specimens 362 was abrupt at a small load because the two concrete parts separated at the center of the 363 specimens without any resistance. By examining Figure 10, the initial stiffness for the load-slip 364 plot decreases as the fibre angle increases with respect to load direction. The noticeable thing in 365 this figure is that the LWC samples strengthened with 45⁰ fibres orientation of the CFRP sheet 366 initiates more cracks near the specimen's center, which propagated in a stable manner through 367 368 the CFRP- concrete interface until failure occurred. This crack propagation is accompanied by a drop in rigidity easily highlighted by the nonlinearity of the load-displacement plots for these 369 samples. Figure 11 shows the variation of the normalized maximum load ratio versus the fibres' 370 371 orientation of CFRP composite for both LWC and NWC mixture. It can be concluded that the increasing of the fibres' angle with respect to load direction from 0^0 to 45^0 decreases the 372 normalized load ratio by 51% compared with the companion samples BL1-1 for specimens cast 373 with LWC and 66% for NWC specimens. With further increasing of the angle to $[90^{\circ}]$, the load 374 ratio decreases by 97 % for LWC samples and 89% for NWC samples. This is attributed to the 375 nature of the CFRP composite properties, which is classified as an orthotropic material having 376 different properties in different directions with the maximum strength being parallel to the fibre 377 direction. 378



381

Figure 10: Influence of CFRP fibre orientation of tested samples





Figure 11: Effect of the fibre orientation on the normalized load ratio.

384 Effect of CFRP sheet thickness on bond

The experimental results of the three cases of the BL/N1-1, BL/N3-1, and BL/N3-2 series with the same dimensions and different bonded thickness and orientation of CFRP sheet are used to 387 examine the influence of using two parallel and perpendicular layers of CFRP composite. It can be noticed that the failure of all the specimens are categorized as concrete failure (CF). For 388 LWC samples, the increase in the normalized load ratio from one to two parallel layers $[0^0/0^0]$ 389 390 was approximately 12%, while the change of strengthening technique from one to two perpendicular layers $[0^{0}/90^{0}]$ does not provide any contribution as shown in Figure 12. This 391 means that increasing the thickness of the CFRP sheet provides limited benefit for strengthening. 392 In contrast, the difference between the normalized load ratios of BN3-1 (same direction) and 393 BN1-1 is approximately 39%. Besides this, the difference in average load ratio of BN3-2 (two 394 perpendicular layers) of the CFRP sheet compared with BN1-1 is about 12% as shown in Figure 395 396 12. It can be concluded that the load capacity for double parallel layered specimens is higher than the load of double perpendicular layered specimens. This means that if the load direction is 397 parallel to two layers, this scenario is better than having double perpendicular layers regardless 398 of orientation to the load. For more investigation, Figure 13 shows the comparison of load-slip 399 response for the three cases. As shown in these figures, the initial stiffness of the CFRP-concrete 400 joints with the $[0^{0}/0^{0}]$ sheet is higher than that of the $[0^{0}/90^{0}]$ sheet and for samples with one 401 layer [0] sheet. This high stiffness appears to promote a higher failure load and lower slip 402 compared with other cases. A similar response was observed for both LWC and NWC samples. 403 Therefore, it can be concluded that when the strength criteria governs the design for the 404 strengthening of reinforced concrete structures, an increase in the CFRP stiffness may lead to 405 higher load carrying capacity. However in the case of ductility, higher stiffnesses lead to 406 extremely brittle adhesively bonded joints, particularly for LWC, which shows a propensity for 407 brittle behaviour compared with NWC specimens. 408

409





Figure 12: Effect of CFRP sheet thickness on the normalized load ratio.





417 Effect of CFRP-to-concrete width ratio on bond behaviour

The effect of FRP to concrete width ratio $(w_r = b_f/b_c)$ on the interface behaviour is examined in 418 the samples BL/N4-1, BL/N1-2, and BL/N4-2 (see Figure 14). All these samples have the same 419 420 thickness (t=0.1178 mm), bonded length of CFRP composite (L_{frp}=75 mm) and various width of CFRP sheet (50, 100, and 150 mm). The CFRP-to-concrete width ratios are 0.25, 0.5 and 0.75 421 422 respectively. It may be noted that with increase in width, the maximum load increases when the width ratio is changed from 0.25 to 0.5 for both LWC and NWC samples. This trend may be 423 attributed to the distribution of shear stresses over a larger bonded area. However, increasing the 424 425 width ratio to 0.75 leads to premature sample failure at load lower than the failure of samples with 0.5 width ratio in the case of LWC samples or approximately the same load for samples 426 with 0.5 width ratio in case of NWC samples, as shown in Figure 14. In this case, the width of 427 concrete samples is not sufficient to allow the propagation of the stress from the CFRP into the 428 substrate. Therefore, the level of confinement to the CFRP decreases, which accelerates the 429 failure of the interfacial bonded joint at lower loads. Nevertheless, the average bond strength 430 431 may not increase using wider CFRP reinforcement. The bond behaviour described above was also observed in previous work [23&24]. It can be concluded that increasing the CFRP sheet widths 432 433 leads to concrete debonding accompanied by bond failure between the concrete and steel bars for both 434 LWC and NWC samples. The slip corresponding to the width ratio at the maximum load decreases by a higher value of CFRP-to-concrete width ratio. This indicates that ductility of the CFRP-concrete interface 435 436 decreases for a wider CFRP sheet.

Considering Figure 15, the specimens show higher initial stiffness for the load-slip plot, when the FRP width increases versus the concrete prism width. Micro-cracks have sufficient space to propagate across the wider bonded area of the CFRP composite. When the macro-crack initiates, the possibility to cross micro-cracks on its way is greater. These micro-cracks help to bind the 441 macro-crack during the loading process. Therefore, the bond between the wider CFRP sheet and
442 the concrete surface is stronger in comparison with those samples that have lower CFRP-to443 concrete width ratio.





Figure 14: Influence of CFRP width on the tested samples.



447 Figure 15: Correlation between FRP-to-concrete width ratio and (a) the maximum load (b) slip.

448 COMPARISON WITH EXISTING THEORETICAL MODELS

Most existing numerical models for prediction of bond strength and effective bond length were developed using normal weight concrete. The current experimental results show that the modes of failure for LWC and NWC are different. Furthermore, the LWCs' failure loads were slightly less than those of NWC. In order to assess the use of existing models in LWC, the models and guidelines proposed by FIB 14 [25], TR-55 [26], Seracino et al. [27] and Serbescu et al. [28] are considered in this study.

455 The maximum bond between concrete and FRP composite, P_{max} and the effective bond length,

456 L_e according to FIB 14 [25] is as follows:

$$P_{max} = \alpha \cdot c_1 \cdot k_c \cdot k_b \cdot b_f \cdot \sqrt{E_f \cdot t_f \cdot f_{ctm}}$$
(1)

$$k_b = 1.06 \cdot \sqrt{\frac{2 - b_f / b_c}{1 + b_f / 400}} \ge 1.0$$
 (2)

$$L_{e} = 0.7 \sqrt{\frac{E_{f} \cdot t_{f}}{c_{2} \cdot f_{ctm}}}$$
(3)

$$P_{\max}\left(L_{f} < L_{e}\right) = \left(P_{\max} \cdot \frac{L_{f}}{L_{e}}\right) \left(2 - \frac{L_{f}}{L_{e}}\right) \tag{4}$$

where P_{max} , L_f and L_e are the maximum debonding load, FRP bond length, and effective bond length respectively; b_f , t_f , and E_f are the width, thickness and Young's elasticity modulus of the FRP reinforcement respectively; b_c is the width of the concrete element; f_{ctm} is the mean tensile strength of concrete, α is a reduction factor, approximately equal to 0.9, to account for the influence of inclined cracks on the bond strength; k_c is a factor accounting for the state of compaction of concrete (generally it can be assumed to be equal to 1.0); k_b is a geometry factor presented by Equation (2). Note that c_1 and c_2 in Equations (1) and (3) may be obtained through 464 calibration with test results. However, for CFRP strips, c_1 and c_2 are equal to 0.64 and 2.0 465 respectively. Moreover, for bond lengths, $L_f < L_e$ the ultimate debonding load can be calculated 466 by Equation (4).

467 The maximum debonding load of FRP reinforcement, P_{max} and the effective bond length, L_e in 468 TR-55 [26] are assessed based on the following expressions.

$$P_{max} = 0.5 \, . \, k_b \, b_f \, . \, \sqrt{E_f . \, t_f . \, f_{ctk}} \tag{5}$$

$$L_e = 0.7 \sqrt{\frac{E_f \cdot t_f}{f_{ctk}}} \tag{6}$$

$$P_{\max} \left(L_f < L_e \right) = \left(P_{\max} \cdot \frac{L_f}{L_e} \right) \left(2 - \frac{L_f}{L_e} \right) \tag{7}$$

where P_{max} , L_f and L_e are debonding load, FRP bond length, and effective bond length respectively; b_f , t_f , and E_f are the width, thickness and Young's elasticity modulus of the FRP reinforcement respectively; b_c is the width of the concrete element; f_{ctk} is the characteristic tensile strength of concrete and f_{ctm} is the mean tensile strength of concrete. Similar to FIB 14, k_b can be calculated using Equation (2).

The maximum debonding load and effective length of FRP reinforcement based on Seracino etal. [27] model can be obtained from the following expressions:

$$P_{max} = 0.85 \left(\frac{d_f}{b_f}\right)^{0.25} . (f_c')^{0.33} . \sqrt{L_{per}E_f t_f}$$
(8)

$$L_e = \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{\tau_f \cdot L_{per}/\delta_f \cdot E_f \cdot A_f}} \tag{9}$$

$$\tau_f = \left(0.802 + 0.078 \frac{d_f}{b_f}\right) (f_c)^{0.6} \tag{10}$$

$$\delta_f = \frac{0.73}{\tau_f} \left(\frac{d_f}{b_f}\right)^{0.5} (f_c)^{0.67} \tag{11}$$

$$P_{\max}\left(L_f < L_e\right) = \left(P_{\max}.\frac{L_f}{L_e}\right) \tag{12}$$

where A_f is the transversal area of FRP composite; d_f is the thickness of the failure plane perpendicular to the concrete surface, which is proposed as 1mm; L_{per} is the length of the debonding failure plane, which can be obtained as $2d_f + b_f$. Moreover, τ_f and δ_f are the peak local shear stress and slip respectively, beyond which bond stress is zero..

480 The maximum debonding load of the FRP composite, P_{max} , and the effective bond length, L_e , 481 based on Serbescu et al. [28] are evaluated based on the following expressions:

$$P_{max} = \frac{2}{3} \quad .\beta \quad \frac{455}{b_f + 350} \quad \left(0.8 \cdot \sqrt{f_{cu}}\right) \ L_e \ . b_f \tag{13}$$

$$L_e = 0.7 \sqrt{\frac{E_f \cdot t_f}{2.8 f_{ctm}}}$$
(14)

where β is the surface preparation coefficient, which is assumed to be 0.85 (recommended preparation). Moreover, f_{cu} and f_{ctm} are the mean cube compressive strength and mean tensile strength of concrete.

The coefficient of variation of the predicted bond strength for the LWC and NWC are summarised in Figure 16 (a) and (b). A certain disparity is apparent between the NWC and LWC results. The NWC results show closer agreement than those of the LWC results. It can be seen that the model suggested by Seracino et al. [27] resulted in the highest coefficients of variation among the predicted to-experimental debonding failure loads for specimens cast with LWC and NWC. This model is slightly conservative and calibration cannot easily be applied, since the 491 model proposed is based on d_f (thickness of the failure plane) and such a variable is not easy to 492 obtain based on limited experimental tests.

493 On the other hand, the model proposed by FIB 14 [25], TR-55 [26] and Serbescu et al. [28] 494 show that the lowest values of the coefficient of variation (CV) were a result of the fact that they 495 consider the effect of the width of the FRP sheet and the concrete tensile strength in calculating 496 the maximum debonding loads. The average predicted to experimental bond strength of the LWC 497 and NWC specimens are summarised in Table 10.



498

Figure 16: Theoretical prediction load vs experimental observation of (a) LWC and (b) NWC

	Theoretical to experimental loads ($P_{theoretical} / P_{experimental}$)							
	TR-55 (2013)		FIBFIB Bulletin14		Seracino et al.		Serbescu et al.	
	LWC	NWC	LWC	NWC	LWC	NWC	LWC	NWC
AVG	0.85	0.73	0.84	0.83	0.79	0.68	0.86	0.67
STDEV	0.13	0.10	0.18	0.13	0.21	0.14	0.2	0.12
COV (%)	15.29	13.6	21.4	15.6	26.5	20.5	23.2	17.9

Table 10: Average predicted to experimental bond strength of the LWC and NWC specimens

The theoretical effective bond lengths of the CFRP sheet for both LWC and NWC tested samples 503 predicted by FIB 14[25], TR-55 [26] guidelines and models developed by Seracino et al. [26] 504 505 and Serbescu et al. [28] are used in this study to evaluate the experimental effective length. The calculated L_e based on the FIB 14[25], TR-55 [26] guidelines and Serbescu et al. [28] are about 506 69.8 mm, 69.1 mm and 59 mm respectively for LWC samples, while the predicted effective 507 508 length for NWC samples is about 64.4, 63.8 mm and 54 mm respectively. Note that slight differences in predicted Le for tested specimens between LWC and NWC are due to the variation 509 of tensile strengths of different concrete types. The predicted effective length based on Seracino 510 et al. [27] is about 33 mm for both LWC and NWC. 511

The experimental results show that increasing the bond length (L) beyond 75 mm has no significant effect on maximum debonding capacity, and maximum loads are approximately constant when L increases beyond 75 mm. Consequently, as mentioned in this paper the experimentally evaluated effective length for the CFRP sheets of the current study is approximately equal to 75 mm. Comparing the experimentally evaluated effective length with the theoretically calculated values show that the model of Seracino et al. [27] underestimates the effective length of the CFRP sheet, while the other model and guidelines provide more realistic values for the effective length in most cases.

520

521 CONCLUSIONS

The interfacial behaviour of LWC was studied in this research. For this purpose, 55 concrete 522 blocks (34 LWC prisms and 21 NWC prisms) were cast and tested using the modified double lap 523 shear test set-up. The bonded length, width and direction of uni-directional bonded CFRP sheets 524 525 were varied in order to understand the fracture behaviour and the effectiveness of CFRP. Overall, the experimental results show that the crack propagation occurred within the LWC specimens, 526 while peeling of CFRP was the main cause of failure mechanism in NWC specimens. The 527 effectiveness of using FRP to retrofit RC structures is mainly affected by the concrete properties. 528 Since the existing design codes and numerical models were developed based on test data of 529 normal weight concrete, the performance of FRP with LWC was investigated. From the 530 531 experimental tests, a number of conclusions can be derived.

In general, LWC bond test specimens showed significantly lower bond strength and slightly
 lower slip at failure than those of NWC of similar strength grade.

534 2. The results of this study showed that the increase of CFRP sheet length beyond 75 mm does 535 not lead to higher load capacity in both samples cast with LWC and NWC. However, a larger 536 bond length leads to a longer deformation process as debonding propagates along the 537 interface. The effective bond length was assumed to be about 75 mm for LWC and NWC 538 samples, which showed the same behaviour. It can be concluded that the effective bond 539 length is not influenced by concrete type.

3. The orientation of the CFRP sheet is one of the parameter that most influences the behaviour
which is critical in shear retrofitting system. Therefore, if there is an angle between the load
and the fibre direction, this tends toward a lesser contribution of the CFRP sheet to the
strength. No significant difference in behaviour was observed between LWC and NWC
samples and the same failure modes were recorded for samples having different fibre
orientation.

546 4. The CFRP sheet thickness has the same influence on the interfacial behaviour of the LWAC
547 and NWC samples. However, LWAC recorded lower debonding load compared with NWC
548 samples.

549 5. If there is an increase in the CFRP-to-concrete width ratio, the maximum load carrying 550 capacity is increased. This may be attributed to the distribution of shear stresses over a larger 551 area of the bond. However, for large values of CFRP-to-concrete width ratio, load carrying 552 capacity decreases with wider CFRP. In the latter case, the width of concrete samples is not 553 enough to allow the propagation of the stress from the CFRP into the substrate. Therefore, 554 the level of confinement to the CFRP decreases, which accelerates the failure of the 555 interfacial bonded joint in lower loads.

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