

Interactive comment on “Evaluating the utility of qualitative data in precipitation reconstruction in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries” by Alice Harvey-Fishenden and Neil Macdonald

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We would like to thank the referee (David Nash) for a very thorough and thoughtful review of our paper, and for his constructive comments. We are happy that the referee recognises the value of the data analysed, the quality of the analysis, the strength of the results and the novelty of the study. We are happy to act on his suggested edits and additions.

In our revised manuscript we will pay close attention to the referee’s concerns regarding sentence length, citations and grammatical inconsistencies.

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We note that the referee suggests the inclusion of the words ‘from private diaries’ in the title and will look to revise the title accordingly.

We will review all our captions for clarity and completeness.

We note some confusion around the conversion of the Trentham index series into mm of rainfall. We will clarify this in the appropriate figure captions (figure 5 shows the raw index series plotted on a secondary axis and figure 8 shows the conversion to mm) and in the relevant section of the text (section 6.2). We are happy to revise the labelling of axes in figures 6 and 7 as suggested.

We acknowledge that lines 392-394 presents a UK centric perspective and will modified the text to reflect this.

We will follow the referee’s suggestion, and replace lines 413-418 with a short section in the methodology discussing these issues.

We will work to improve the conclusion in the revised manuscript so that it does justice to the strength of the results.

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