

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for the detailed attention paid to our manuscript and for your suggestions for further improvements. Please find our description of the changes that were made below.

Kind regards, on behalf of all authors,

Cindy Quik
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Paragraph 2 (former lines 43-49) and paragraph 3 (former lines 51-57):

Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 were merged and shortened. Elemental information and definitions were removed, only references to where this information can be found in literature were kept in place.

Former lines 100-105:

Paragraphs 8 and 9 were merged, the text originally in lines 100-105 was reduced to make it more concise. The study by Chapman et al. (2013) is mentioned in the Discussion section (starting currently at line 535).

Former lines 107-110 and following part:

Paragraphs 10 and 11 were merged. The text in former lines 114-123 was removed to improve the flow towards the end of the Introduction section. Reference to earlier obtained dating evidence is now only included in the Study Area section (currently in lines 114-115). The information on our field approach was moved to the subsection at the beginning of the Methods (3.1.1).

In addition to the above, some corrections were made to references and figure numbering.