

Interactive comment on “Multi-annual droughts in the English Lowlands: a review of their characteristics and climate drivers in the winter half year” by C. K. Folland et al.

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Received and published: 19 January 2015

This is a well written and considered manuscript and in my view worthy of publication subject to minor modifications. I would though encourage the authors to tone down the ‘aims and novelty’ section on P12937 L1-18, as others have discussed a number of these aspects (e.g. Lloyd-Hughes 2002; Todd et al., 2013). A little more discussion of temperature and its role in drought even within the winter months would be beneficial within a paper considering so many potential drivers.

Suggested Amendments:

C6119

P12936 L17, see Lennard et al., (2014 - ref below) linking drought management and water resources.

P12941 L21-25, consider revising the sentence

P12943 L15-21, I am not convinced this adds to the argument or shows anything particularly beneficial

P12951 L10, consider removing 3.2.3 as it does not really add to the discussion – up to the authors/editor?

P12971 Add an inset map to Figure 1, showing location in UK, then focus the map closer on the study area, consider adding London and Oxford for reference.

P12975/6, a number of the curves (Figures 5 and 6) in the most extreme drought events are cut so they appear to have a flat bottom, show the full curves if possible, as these illustrate the severity of the event

Lennard A.T., Macdonald N. & Hooke J., (2014) Analysis of drought characteristics for improved understanding of a water resource system, *Evolving Water Resources Systems: Understanding, predicting and managing water–society interactions*, Proceedings of ICWRS2014, Bologna, Italy, June 2014. IAHS publ. 364: 404-409. doi:10.5194/piahs-364-404-2014 <http://www.proc-iahs.net/364/404/2014/piahs-364-404-2014.pdf>

Minor comments:

P12934 L2 remove ‘very’, quantifiable

P12935 L16 provide a reference to the ‘English Lowlands’ being the driest part

P12935 L17 reference to support rainfall levels

P12935 L17 population density statement needs a reference as a large portion of the catchment is semi-rural, SE is more densely populated I suspect than the define EL.

C6120

This might be helped by comments above related to Fig. 1

P12936 L3, given 'anticipated' increases in pop and urban development

P12936 L15, remove 'dry' EL

P12936 L27, reconsider 'modulating'

P12941 L21 'are' available

P12943 L12, clarify 'accumulation'

P12944 L5, are rather than is

P12947 L17, 20CR - twentieth century

P12974, ensure font size is same across a-b

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Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 11, 12933, 2014.

C6121