**Author's response** 

1-

Thank you for doing some of the edits. Text at line 115 is still not clear and I can't work it out to suggest an edit "Two replicates were made, giving rise to three sampling points chosen per site, separated from each other by a minimum distance of 100 m."

**Answer: Suggestion adopted** 

2-

The way you included 'southerly' and 'northerly' has resulted in text that grammatically poor and does not make sense. Please fix this.

Answer: modifications were made in the text.