

This is an excellent paper, which provides very rare detailed documentation of a transient drainage event from a Himalayan glacier. It is exceptionally well written, and presents the methods and results in a clear and logical way. The interpretations and conclusions are sound and convincing. I can find no fault with the paper, and have only a few remarks, mostly relating to pertinent unpublished observations.

p. 2, line 20: nature of the flow path into Khumbu Glacier. In 2006, Jason Gulley and I entered an ice cave in the margin of Khumbu Glacier at the bottom of the Changri proglacial gorge. The entrance led into a low, wide passage that trended along parallel to the slope. The passage was floored by boulders resting on bedrock, so any water entering the glacier would flow along the ice-bed interface, at least initially. This was also one of the most dangerous places we had ever been, owing to rocks occasionally bouncing down the gorge, so we did not linger long enough to make any surveys.



Perhaps the fact that the system was subglacial in 2006 could be added as a 'pers. comm.'

This observation also helps to support the authors' interpretation of the flood flowpath through Khumbu Glacier, presented on p. 9, line 15. Interestingly, there is also evidence of a sub-marginal / englacial drainage system on Ngozumpa Glacier, which is intermittently connected to the supraglacial / englacial system. The same may be true on Khumbu Glacier - although the flood likely bypassed the supraglacial - englacial system inferred by Irvine-Fynn et al. (2017), the two systems may not be entirely and perennially separate.

p. 7, line 7: hydrofracture is unlikely because the lower Changri glacier is stagnant - see Benn et al. 2009 for a discussion of the conditions required for hydrofracture on Khumbu Glacier.