Dear authors,

As you have seen we have received two independent reviews of your manuscript and both recommend publication after revision. While focusing on different weaknesses in the current manuscript, both reviewers provide concrete suggestions for improvement. One reviewer asks for additional analyses to substantiate some claims made in the ms about the mechanical behaviour of the samples during the experiments. Performing additional analyses may or may not be feasible during revision. It will be down to the authors to decide in which way these criticisms can be addressed. A careful edit of parts of the narrative that according to one reviewer lack empirical underpinning will be
necessary.

I expect to receive a carefully revised manuscript including a rebuttal letter that provides details on how the reviewers’ comments have been addressed. I will then consider your manuscript for a final decision.

With best wishes, J. Gottsmann
Executive Editor Solid Earth