

## ***Interactive comment on “Woodland survey of Great Britain 1971–2001” by C. M. Wood et al.***

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This paper is essentially the methods used to monitor woodland vegetation change in Great Britain over a 30 year time-span. There are many methods used to monitor vegetation at regional and National scales across the world. In this paper their approach was somewhat rigorous by attempting to place sample sites in all woodland vegetation types in Great Britain, sound statistical placement of plots within each site, and a comprehensive sampling of vegetation and environmental variables within each site. The major shortfall is not using a systematic grid or random placement of the plots across Great Britain. Even with this shortfall, it is still a large and valuable dataset that encompasses most if not all vegetation communities in Great Britain.

There are many individual monitoring efforts developed at different times for varied purposes that use different methods. As a result, the monitoring effort may fulfill a

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local land management objective, but the information cannot typically be combined with other monitoring data to answer larger scale management objectives. Having a single approach to monitoring is, thus, extremely valuable. Serving all of the data online also allows managers and researchers to rapidly search and analyze this data for a variety of purposes.

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Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., 8, 259, 2015.

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