

Interactive comment on “Ecological survey of the Native Pinewoods of Scotland 1971” by C. M. Wood and R. G. H. Bunce

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Received and published: 1 March 2016

I believe that this manuscript was well written and presents a solid foundation for the dataset collected from 1971-2. These types of data sets are increasingly important to enhance our understanding of forested systems over time given the long lived nature of trees. The data are unique in that they represent collections made some 44 years ago in a location that is ecologically rare today. The clear descriptions allow for the continual resurveying of the sites, hopefully soon, to enhance our understanding of these Pinewood systems. The database as defined in the article is both complete and useful. I only have a few minor technical corrections to highlight which are listed by line number from the pdf document. Line 79: “forests” is very general. Please elaborate is it based on, percent cover, minimum basal area? Line 82-83. Are these recent or historical climate factors? Line 109: “here” change to “there” Line 123: not everyone

knows when “Queen Victoria” ruled. Add a date. Line 139: insert “natural” before “Scots Pine”. Lots of Scots Pine has been planted in the western hemisphere. . . . Line 141: What is “high rainfall”? Quantify or compare across other sites. Line 149-150: A set basal area per ha or percent cover could be used to quantify this. Line 177: “habitat sheet” clarify what this is. Line 324-325: “Water levels”? is this precipitation amounts? Confusing. Line 324-326: “The Scottish Pinewoods are characterised by 323 a diverse structure, with irregular tree spacings and sizes, diverse slopes, soils and also water 324 levels (Bain, 2013), Data from the survey provides information on the structure of the tree 325 layer”. Sentence is not clear. . . . Thanks for allowing me to review the document.

[Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., doi:10.5194/essd-2016-4, 2016.](#)

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