Reply on RC1
Esther Githumbi

Community comment on "European pollen-based REVEALS land-cover reconstructions for
the Holocene: methodology, mapping and potentials" by Esther Githumbi et al., Earth
Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2021-269-CC1, 2021

Thank you for your comments, we are grateful that you have taken the time to go through
the manuscript. I will respond to the questions and comments in the same order.

Q1: Why the British had sparse distribution of Evergreen Trees (such as Pinus
and Picea) during the Holocene?

The REVEALS uses the pollen counts of the taxa in the reconstruction and so the simple
answer is that the sparse distribution observed is because of the low evergreen tree taxa
pollen counts in the records. However if you are asking from an ecological point of view
then I have passed the question to collaborators who are experts about the British Isles
Holocene land-cover.

line 114: What does the "reliable number of sites" mean in Figure 1B? Please
provide detailed description for Figure 1.

Reliable number of sites means grid cells that have multiple large lakes\bogs, we explain
this further in section 4.1 from line 422 but we will provide a detailed description of the
figure as requested.

line 127: Does the "j" represent for the total number of species included for
pollen proportion calculation?

yes

line 296: There has only 3 PFTs which are composed 12 taxa in Summer green
trees (ST); and 3 PFTs which are composed 10 taxa Open land\(OL\), see Table
1.\line 322: Evergreen Trees

The mistakes have been noted and will be corrected.

line 410: The mean count size across all samples is 3550. Is that right?

Yes, most (77%) of the counts are above 1000 (line 409). Each sample is an aggregation
of counts for a time window inorder to obtain a large enough count for a reliable REVEALS
reconstruction (lines 205, 405). We will also discuss that sentence to see if there is a way
to clarify it further in the text.