

## ***Interactive comment on “Climate change threatens archeologically significant ice patches: insights into their age, internal structure, mass balance and climate sensitivity” by R. S. Ødegård et al.***

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Comments on the general remarks from the reviewers: (Our comments are in italic)

The overall objective of this study is to do an exploratory data analysis of field data to better understand the governing processes of ice patch mass balance and Holocene development. Such an exploratory approach is normally a good research strategy when moving into new territory. The long-term objective is modelling studies to get a better quantitative understanding of the processes controlling the growth and decline of ice patches in this alpine environment. Design of models requires a basic

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understanding of the governing processes and how they interact. We think this study was successful to bring the state of knowledge to a level where such models can be designed. One additional dimension in this research is the cooperation with the archeologist to help them in their interpretation of finds and give some advice regarding the cultural management perspective and future development. Based on the feedback from both reviewers we have tried to clarify better the objectives (short-term, long-term) and make a better integration of the results in the conclusion. We have also made some changes in the data analysis with particular focus on the limitation of the available data (wind, mass balance) regarding quantitative calculations of turbulent fluxes, ice deformation etc. However, our intention in this study was to explore the possibilities. The quantitative modelling studies will be the next step.

New text to the introduction: “The overall objective of this study is to do an exploratory data analysis of field data to better understand the governing processes of ice patch mass balance and Holocene development. The long-term objective is to design reliable models of the growth and decline of ice patches in this alpine environment. One additional dimension in this research is the cooperation with the archaeologist to help them in their interpretation of finds and give them some advice regarding future development.”

Chapter 6 – Conclusion is re-written “6. Conclusions and future perspectives”

Interactive comment on “Climate change threatens archeologically significant ice patches: insights into their age, internal structure, mass balance and climate sensitivity” by R. S. Ødegård et al. Anonymous Referee #1 Received and published: 3 July 2016 This paper provides an interesting analysis of the physical characteristics and recent mass balance of an ice patch in northern Norway, and provides information about a topic which has been little investigated in the past. The results are certainly interesting, but the paper is currently quite simplistic and underdeveloped compared to the rich datasets that are available for analysis. The paper basically lists the different characteristics of the ice patch, but does little to integrate them and to really explore the different

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processes that might be driving its temporal and spatial changes. For example, wind is stated to be an important factor in the ice patch development, but no proper analysis of the wind dataset and its connections to air temperatures and surface melt rates is made. Similarly, no calculations are made of likely internal deformation rates for the observed ice thicknesses and surface slope. There is a considerable glaciological literature that could help with these kinds of calculations, but this is little referenced at the moment. These kinds of analyses could lift the paper from its current simplistic form to one that could really provide useful long-term insights into the factors that control ice patch growth and decline.

Chapter 5.3 was rewritten to include calculations of deformation rates.

There is considerable duplication between the latter sections, with the Conclusions basically just providing a bulleted list of what's already been said in the Discussion and Results.

The paper would also benefit from a thorough read by a native English speaker; there are currently many (generally minor) typos and language issues, some of which I detail below, but several others that I don't. We have made some corrections in addition to those suggested by the reviewers. Otherwise we rely on the English copy-editing provided by the journal if the paper is accepted for TC.

Finally, several of the figures and tables could do with improvement, as detailed below. Here are a list of comments by line number:

P2, L20: for a reader who may be unfamiliar with Otzi, please indicate where he was Found Included in text.

P3, L6: it would be good to add some more details about the finds at other ice patches around the world, such as the clothing associated with Otzi, spears in Yukon ice patches, etc. The authors of this paper have no background in archeology. We have a short introduction with references to finds, but we don't have the background for a

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more detailed introduction. Based on the comments from reviewers we have added 2 references from Yukon, but it is difficult for us to make more extensive references based on the vast literature available. Added references from Yukon (Hare et al, Meulendyk et al.).

P3, L13: 'differed' should be 'differentiated' Done

P3, L18: to help with the differentiation between glaciers and ice patches it would be useful to specify the ice thickness needed to cause ice motion (i.e., ~40 m according to most textbooks) Chapter 5.3 is rewritten including calculations of ice deformation.

P4, L6: change 'was excavated' to 'were excavated'. Also need to specify where the ice patch was that was investigated: from this para it's not even obvious that it's in Norway! Done

P4, L29: it would be useful to state what the ELA is on the nearby glaciers ELA added. "The ELA increases with distance from coast from 1780 m a.s.l. at Storbreen to 2150 m a.s.l. at Gråsubreen (Kjøllmoen et al., 2011)"

P5, L6 (and elsewhere): there should be a space after every semi-colon. At the moment the references run into each other due to this space being missing. An update of the output style fixed the problem.

P5, L19: where exactly 'in the area' were these boreholes and air temp measurements installed? I also think that you mean 'temperature sensors' rather than 'temperature measurements' New text: "In 2008 an altitudinal transect of boreholes and adjacent air temperature sensors were installed at three sites ranging from shallow seasonal frost to permafrost"

P6, L9: change 'Totally' to 'A total of' Done

P6, L11: please provide more information about these measurements: e.g., what was the flight altitude above the ground, what was the name of the instrument, what data was used for positioning? New text: "The ice patch and surrounding terrain was

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scanned with an air-borne laser (Leica ALS70) on 17 September 2011. The company COWI AS, on assignment from Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate, carried out the laser scanning and the processing of the data. The flight altitude was 10100-11800 feet (3078-3597 m a.s.l). The area was scanned with 5 points m<sup>-2</sup>. Quality controls and accuracy assessments revealed an accuracy better than 0.1 m in surface elevation. Aerial photos were taken on the same day. These data were used to produce a high quality DTM and orthophotos of the ice patch surface and surrounding terrain. The DTM was resampled to a resolution of 1 m.”

P6, L18/19: some words are missing from this sentence: I think that you need to say ‘were made following standard’ Done

P7, L1: please provide information on how the GNSS data was processed (e.g., using a base station, using precise point positioning?) Text added: The extent of the Juvfonne ice patch has been surveyed by foot with GNSS with a Topcon receiver mounted on a back pack and one reference receiver mounted in a fixed base point (Fig 3a, Table 1). The GNSS data was processed with Topcon software TTOOLS version 8. ‘

P7, L6: please add a label to Fig. 2 to show the location of this station Location added on figure.

P7, L18: delete extra bracket from end of this sentence The Norwegian Mapping Authority Done

P7, L22: it would be useful to provide some information about how the tunnels were excavated. E.g., using chainsaws? Did the excavation cause any disturbance to the surrounding ice? New text: “The tunnels were excavated with specially designed ice axes causing minimal disturbance to the surrounding ice. The tunnels gave an excellent opportunity to verify the radar data and to collect organic material and ice for radiocarbon dating”

P9, L5: later in the paper (P15, L8) you say that ‘there are several organic/debris layers’

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observed within the ice tunnels. These seem to be just as likely, or perhaps more likely, to explain the layering observed in the GPR profiles. From observations in the tunnels the organic layers are discontinuous. New text: “The bed reflection was clearly seen in the radar plots (see example in Fig. 4). In addition the ice layering was detected on most of the plots, probably due to density differences in the ice layers (air bubbles) (Hamran et al., 2009) or organic layers.”

P10, L14: this sentence makes it sound as if the ice patch almost doubled in size between 2014 and 2015 (0.101 to 0.186 km<sup>2</sup>), but based on the presence of an asterisk in Table 1 it appears that this growth was entirely due to the presence of temporary snow rather than ice. This should be made clearer in the text, and I don’t believe that it’s fair to include temporary snow in the calculation of the ice patch area. Added text: “Furthermore, observations in field show that the ice is very thin along the margins. In 2015, seasonal snow covered the entire margin, and the measured area of 0.186 km<sup>2</sup> is thus only to be considered a maximum extent, not the actual ice patch area. “

P10, L27: please state here as to what defines a ‘strong breeze’, and how that value was chosen The definition was written in the Figure caption for Figure 10b (P37, L7) and follow the international classification given by World Meteorological Organization and is now also included in the text (see below). The available wind dataset is from Juvvasshøe, located 750 meters from the ice patch, and from Fokstugu, 70 km NE of Juvvasshøe. The wind speed at Juvvasshøe and Fokstugu is unfortunately not representative for the ice patch. Experience gained through field work at Juvfonne suggests that the wind speed is only 10 to 50% compared to Juvvasshøe, especially during prevailing westerly winds. Thus strong breeze observed at the two meteorological stations was used as a lower limit to get sufficient high wind speeds for effective turbulent fluxes at Juvfonne.

The text was changed to: “Due to the sheltered setting of Juvfonne compared to the meteorological stations, strong breeze (wind speed above 10.8 ms<sup>-1</sup>) was used as a lower limit to get sufficient high wind speeds for effective and enhanced turbulent fluxes

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at Juvfonne. In general there is a high frequency (35-58 days per season) of strong breeze during the period 2009-2015 (Fig. 10b).” According to this our text at P7, L6-7 was also changed: “It is the highest official meteorological station in Norway and is freely exposed and representative for this study, except for wind speed.”

P11, L1: change ‘peaks out’ to ‘stands out’ Done

P11, L3-L6: there is no data presented to back up the statements in this para, so either the para should be deleted or the data should be provided.

Snow accumulation and erosion are among the most discussed processes in context with local wind speed variations in mountainous areas (see e.g. Liston and Sturm 1988; Lehning et al. 2007; Dadic et al. 2009). Data is now provided with a new figure included (Figure 11).

The text was changed to: “For snow accumulation or abrasion on ice patches wind speed and wind direction is crucial (Lehning et al. 2008; Dadic et al. 2010). There are great variations from year to year in respect to frequency of strong gale and wind direction. During the two stormiest winters 2011-12 and 2013-14, the frequency of strong gale was 15.7 % and 17.3 %, respectively (Figure 11).”

Lehning M, Löwe H, Ryser M, Raderschall N. Inhomogeneous precipitation distribution and snow transport in steep terrain. *Water Resour Res* 44(7), 10.1029/2007WR006545. Dadic R, Mott R, Lehning M, Burlando P. Wind influence on snow depth distribution and accumulation over glaciers. *J Geophys Res* 115 (F01012), 10.1029/2009JF001261.

New figure text: Figure 11. Relative frequency (as % of all hourly observations) of strong gale or more ( $\geq 20.8$  ms<sup>-1</sup>) at Juvvasshøe during winter (Oct-Apr) 2009-2015 for the wind sectors SE to NW. The values inserted show the total frequency of strong gale or more.

P11, L13: I haven’t heard the term abrasion used much in relation to snow events; ‘wind

C7

scouring’ is a more commonly used term, and would seem to be a better descriptor here. Done

P11, L13: change ‘not take’ to ‘don’t take’ Done

P12, L1-4: please indicate the depth of the winter cold wave. Also please explain why the heat flow into the ice would gradually decrease during the melt season. And approximately how much superimposed ice forms each year? Winter cold wave is a confusing expression here since there is cold ice below the level of meltwater percolation. Paragraph has been rewritten: “There is cold ice below the level of meltwater percolation, which means that the heat flow into the ice is gradually decreasing during the melt season. Because of this heat flow superimposed ice forms at the level of impermeable ice, generally less than 0.1 m.”

P13, L1: change ‘obtained results’ to ‘results obtained’ Done

P13, L19: it’s not clear from the text as to why ‘increased accumulation towards the front of the ice patch probably a response to increased melt’. Please explain.

Added at the end of the sentence: “which will increase the snow accumulation at the leeward side of prevailing westerly winds”.

P13, L26-29: please provide information to back up these statements. You have the wind, temperature and ablation data, so you need to provide specific data that shows the patterns that you are arguing for. We have only one ablation stake that survived the measurement period. For the asymmetric melting we have to rely on field observations reporting extreme melt in early-mid August 2010 and pictures. The table below shows the warmest 10-day periods each year. 8-18 August was the warmest in 2010 with average wind speed 3.4 m/s, humidity 79.5% and wind direction from SW. The wind speeds are not representative for Juvfonne, but SW is an exposed wind direction for Juvfonne. Table below show median values of wind speed, air temperature, relative humidity and wind direction of the warmest 10-day period during Jun-Jul-Aug each

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year. 8-18 August 2010 is a period with high wind speeds, high humidity and most important median wind from SE. Wind speed [ms-1] Temperature [°C] Humidity [%] Wind direction [°] Ending date for 10-day period 2009 2.3 11.1 59.5 192.0 2009-07-04 2010 3.4 7.8 79.5 139.0 2010-08-18 2011 2.6 8.7 81.5 183.0 2011-08-04 2012 2.5 6.5 77.0 155.0 2012-08-20 2013 2.5 9.4 65.5 256.0 2013-07-29 2014 2.7 11.0 67.5 182.5 2014-07-28 2015 7.3 7.8 53.0 162.0 2015-08-23

Added text: “Extreme melt was reported in early-mid August. The warmest 10-day period in 2010 was 8-18 August. Average wind speed was 3.4 m/s from SE (humidity 79.5%).”

P14, L1-3: if you make comparisons with recent major Greenland melt events you have to persuade the reader that the same conditions prevail at Juvfonne as they did in Greenland, but this isn't done at the moment. The comparisons with Greenland were meant to highlight situations that lead to a significant increase in nonradiative energy fluxes and the importance of exposure to wind. A similar exceptional melt event caused by a warm, very humid storm system in the Central Cascade Mountains of Oregon was reported by Marks et al. 1998. They showed that the snow melt were enhanced by strong wind, high air temperature and high humidity. At higher unsheltered sites 60-90% of the energy for snowmelt came from sensible and latent heat exchanges, while it was only about 35% at more sheltered sites (Marks et al. 1998).

The text was changed to: “Exceptionally large melt episodes have been reported from the Central Cascade Mountains of Oregon where snow melt were enhanced by strong wind, high air temperature and high humidity (Marks et al. 1998). At higher unsheltered sites 60-90% of the energy for snowmelt came from sensible and latent heat exchanges, while it was only about 35% at more sheltered sites (Marks et al. 1998). Recently similar extreme melt events have been reported from the southern and western part of Greenland ice sheet in July 2012, where nonradiative energy fluxes (sensible, latent, rain, and subsurface collectively) dominated the ablation area surface energy budget during multiday episodes (Fausto et al., 2016).”

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Added reference: Marks D, Kimball J, Tingey D, Link T. The sensitivity of snowmelt processes to climate conditions and forest cover during rain-on-snow: a case study of the 1996 Pacific Northwest flood. *Hydrol Process* 1998; 12: 1569–1587.

P14, L8-9: delete ‘One’. Also provide the specific date that you're referring to in this sentence (I presume that it's the storm that occurred around Feb. 5 in Fig. 11?) Changed to: “Single storm events with westerly winds could account for almost 50% of the winter accumulation in less than 24 hours, like the storm February 7-8 in 2015 (Figure 11, 2014-15).”

P14, L10: I'm unclear as to what event you're referring to here. Please provide a specific date so that it can be connected to the patterns shown in Fig. 11 Changed to: “Spring snow accumulation with insignificant wind drift could also influence mass balance, like the period from early April to mid May 2012 where more than 40 cm of snow accumulated (Figure 11, 2011-2012).”

P14, L23-24: if you say that the ice patches have a similar thermal regime to nearby glaciers, then please describe what the thermal regime of the nearby glaciers actually is New text: The temperature measurements at Juvfonne show that there is sufficient melt water to bring the permeable snowpack to an isothermal condition within a few weeks in early summer (Fig. 13). Below the seasonal snowpack, the ice remains cold during the summer with temperatures on the range -2 - -4°C at 5-10 m depth (Fig. 13). In Norway most glaciers are considered to be temperate, although measurements are available for only a few glaciers (Andreassen and Winsvold, 2012). Recent observations from nearby glaciers in Jotunheimen, reveal that at the lower parts of Storbreen the winter cold wave is removed during summer, but remained at Hellstugubreen and Gråsubreen (Sørdal, 2013; Tachon, 2015). The temperature measured close to the equilibrium line at Hellstugubreen (-1°C) and Gråsubreen (-2°C) were warmer than the temperature measured at similar depths at Juvfonne (-3°C).

P14, L29: state the ice thickness used to determine this basal shear stress Chapter

C10

5.3 is rewritten including ice thickness.

P15: L1-3: please provide reference to previously published studies that indicate the shear stress required for ice deformation to occur. There are several laboratory studies that have investigated this, so this could provide insight into the likely amount of deformation that is currently occurring, and that occurred in the past. Chapter 5.3 is rewritten including references.

P15, L5: change 'theses layer' to 'these layers' Done

P15, L13-L16: I don't understand what the point of this para is. What are you trying to say? Deleted.

P15, L21: I don't understand what 'environmental treats' are. Please define. Spelling error corrected

P16, L5: it would be good if this photo could be incorporated into this study, as it would really help to extend the timeline provided in Table 1 New figure 17 with old photo. Figure text: Figure 17. Picture taken from Vesljuvbrea towards north-northwest showing Juvfonne from around 1900. The surface slope of Juvfonne is estimated to approximately 15°. Height and length estimate from map based on position in the picture. The upper and northern part of Juvfonne is not seen on the picture.

P17, L16: delete 'One' Done

Table 2: this table is poorly organized and difficult to follow, with inconsistent placing of columns between different part of the table. For example, some parts of the table have a 'Comments' column, others have a 'Dated material' column, while others have neither of these. Some sample ages are only given with 1 sigma, others are with 2 sigma. Some ages are given in relation to 1950, others are BCE. The table needs completely reworking and tidying up to make it consistent throughout. New table 2 is totally reorganized. All dates from Juvfonne changed to BP in the manuscript.

Table 3: I don't see the value in including this table. For the (limited) information it

C11

provides it seems that it could just be incorporated into the text Deleted.

Table 4: this table makes little sense by itself as from the caption it's not even possible to know what it relates to, and none of the data given in the table are really described or evaluated in the text. It should either be deleted or better described and better integrated into the manuscript. Deleted.

Figure 1: this map is pretty poor quality and is missing basic information such as a scale or elevations. If you can't find better quality vector data it would be better to use something like a Landsat 8 image for the base map. New figure 2 with a simple map. We have plenty of available vector data, but decided to keep it simple.

Figure 2: provide date of photo, and the direction in which the photo was taken. Also add labels to show where the P30 and P31 boreholes are located. Date of photo not available (month and year inserted). The rest is corrected.

Figure 3: this figure needs a scale bar. Also change 'ortofoto' to 'orthophoto' in caption With the UTM references in meters a scale bar is not included.

Figure 6/7 (and check elsewhere): use a, b, etc. to label figure parts rather than terms such as upper, lower, left and right Done Figure 8: the base of the bars for 2010 and 2013 are cut off, so it's not clear what the bs values are for these years OK in Word-version. Problem in PDF-version

Figures 12/13: it's very difficult to distinguish between the black lines then they cross each other. Please use a different colour (or different shade of the same colour) for each line. New figures with different colors.

Figure 14: very nice picture OK – text on photo changed to BP

Interactive comment on "Climate change threatens archeologically significant ice patches: insights into their age, internal structure, mass balance and climate sensitivity" by R. S. Ødegård et al. Anonymous Referee #2 Received and published: 10 July 2016 This is a interesting research project at a very interesting site. The authors col-

C12

lected an impressive array of data from the perennial ice patch studied. This makes a contribution to the field as there are relatively few studies on ice patches, their development and evolution to draw information from. However, the paper lacks a central theme that ties all the data together, and more importantly, the analysis and interpretation of the data presented is rather superficial. General comments: Overall, the paper is fairly well written but has a number of topographic and grammatical errors that, in some places, could lead to confusion. I have identified a few of these below, but a thorough copy edit should be done. As well, the authors could have done a better job in placing their findings in the broader context. For example, a similar study from the Canadian Arctic was published a few years ago (Meulendyk, T. et al., 2012. 'Morphology and development of ice patches in Northwest Territories, Canada.' *Arctic* 65, 43-58). Reference included. The authors of this paper have no background in archeology. We have a short introduction with references to finds, but we don't have the background for a more detailed discussion of finds. It could have been used as a comparison to delve deeper into age, development, internal structure and radar stratigraphy of the results from this study. Further, the authors collected georadar and GNSS data to image the ice thickness and bed topography, but did not do a topographic correction to the radar lines to reveal the true internal structure of the ice body.

New figure figure 7 with topographic corrections..

The depth of the samples for radiocarbon dating should be given and so they can be put into a proper stratigraphic context.

New figure 16: age/vertical distance to bed.

Specific comments: P14, L12-13. I disagree that perennial ice patches can be used as indicators of permafrost. Just like warm-based glaciers, ice patches can be at the melting point at their base with no permafrost below them.

Very interesting comment – no changes made to the text but we gladly included parts of the discussion below– 2 references added , Imhof 1996 and Kneisel 1998. Moun-

C13

tain permafrost researchers have used perennial snow patches as an indicator of permafrost. Some authors (Imhof 1996) consider perennial snow patches as permafrost by definition with a statement: "The only exception are perennial snow patches, which - by definition - cover permafrost and which are easily detectable by aerial photographs: below snow patches, the ground surface temperature cannot rise above zero degrees during the whole season." Other authors like Kneisel, 1998 use statements like "perennial snow patches as indicator of mountain permafrost". To our knowledge these types of statements have not caused any big controversy.

There is no doubt that temperate ice can survive for some years, maybe decades in a perennial snow/ice patches during an initial fast build up. However, ice patches are by definition areas with close to zero mass balance. Snow could accumulate fast and reduce heat loss to the atmosphere during most of the winter. The critical phase occurs in late autumn/early winter when cold weather occurs before the first snowfall. In summer/summers with negative balance, ice is often exposed and there is a cooling of surface ice. This is similar to the situation close to ELA of glaciers. This cooling occurs when the ice patch is at its minimum. Depending on the melt the following years, there is plenty of time (years or decades) for the cold wave to penetrate and eventually reach the base. Unlike glaciers this ice is not likely to melt because there is no movement and close to zero mass balance. When the ice is cold and stagnant, there is no way to bring it back to temperate ice. The possibility of melt at the base is another aspect that needs to be considered for an ice patch with no permafrost beneath. If the ice at the base is at the pressure melting point heat flow from below will cause basal melting. Even the geothermal heat flow in Southern Norway (50-60 mW/m<sup>2</sup>) will cause a melting of 5-6 m/years\*1000. Additional heat sources like ground water are likely. With no permafrost the old ice at the base will not survive. Even 100 years with no permafrost could cause significant basal melt. The oldest ice samples at Juvfonna are within 0.5 meters of the base.

P15, L5 change these to these Done

C14

P15, L11-12 Explain why you suggest that at other ice patches the age of the ice does not correlate to that of the organic layers.

See chapter 5.3 (re-written) New text: "This is necessarily not the case at other ice patches, where organic material exposed at the surface could be contaminated by surface processes or microbial activity."

P15, L21 change treats to threats Done

P16, L8-12 This paragraph is unclear. All the dating is relative as all sample could be contaminated with carbon from different times. Text added: "Contamination is not likely in the clear ice samples, which gives confidence in the dating of the ice stratigraphy."

P16, L29 The authors refer to the ice patch not developing into a glacier with basal sliding. However, earlier they argue that it is cold based and underlain by permafrost, in which case you wouldn't expect basal sliding. See other papers on cold based glaciers. The ice temperatures and evidence of internal deformation in Figure 6 suggests that at least at some point it has been a polar style glacier (ie. cold based). Chapter 5.3 rewritten in an attempt to clarify. We definitely agree that at some point this was a cold based glacier.

P17L17 change events to event Done

P17L24-29 The data presented are not detailed enough to support an assertion such as this.

Chapter 5.3 rewritten and conclusion modified. "Even a thin ice patch like Juvfonne (<20 m thick) ice deformation on Holocene time scale could be a critical factor in the interpretation of the ice layering and makes it difficult to relate the present thickness and slope of these layer to previous thickness of the ice patch."

P23L8-12 instead of referencing theses that are difficult to get ahold of, it would be There are no papers from these theses. See also our response to P14, L23-24.

C15

P25Table 2 It would be good to have the depth, or stratigraphic position, of the samples presented here to better understand the radiocarbon dates that in some cases appear to be out of order (e.g. L28&33)

New figure 16: age/vertical distance to bed.

P26Table 3 change intp to into Done.

P31 Figure 4 Topographic correction should be applied to show true stratigraphic relationships such as in Figure 5. As they are presented the unconformity in the two figures appears to be very different. As well, there seems to be a problem with the application of gain to this profile. The processing methodology is not presented in the methods section, so it is unclear what was done. However, the uniform 15 ns of muted returns above the basal reflection suggests that the gain window may have been too large or that there was some other error in the processing. New figure 4 with topographic correction. Gain has been changed.

P34 Figure 7 – the winter precipitation used appears to be the modeled values estimated from the regional weather data instead of the on-site data as shown Figure 11, where the modeled data is shown to be dramatically different than the measured. Data from SeNorge are the best data for precipitation in Norway (they are modelled but based on observations).

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.the-cryosphere-discuss.net/tc-2016-94/tc-2016-94-AC1-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on The Cryosphere Discuss., doi:10.5194/tc-2016-94, 2016.

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