



# Permanent pastures - a reminder of the issues

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# What's the problem?

- From our perspective
- From the administrator's perspective
  - Drawing boundaries/ identifying criteria
  - Lack of data/systems?
  - Political and bureaucratic

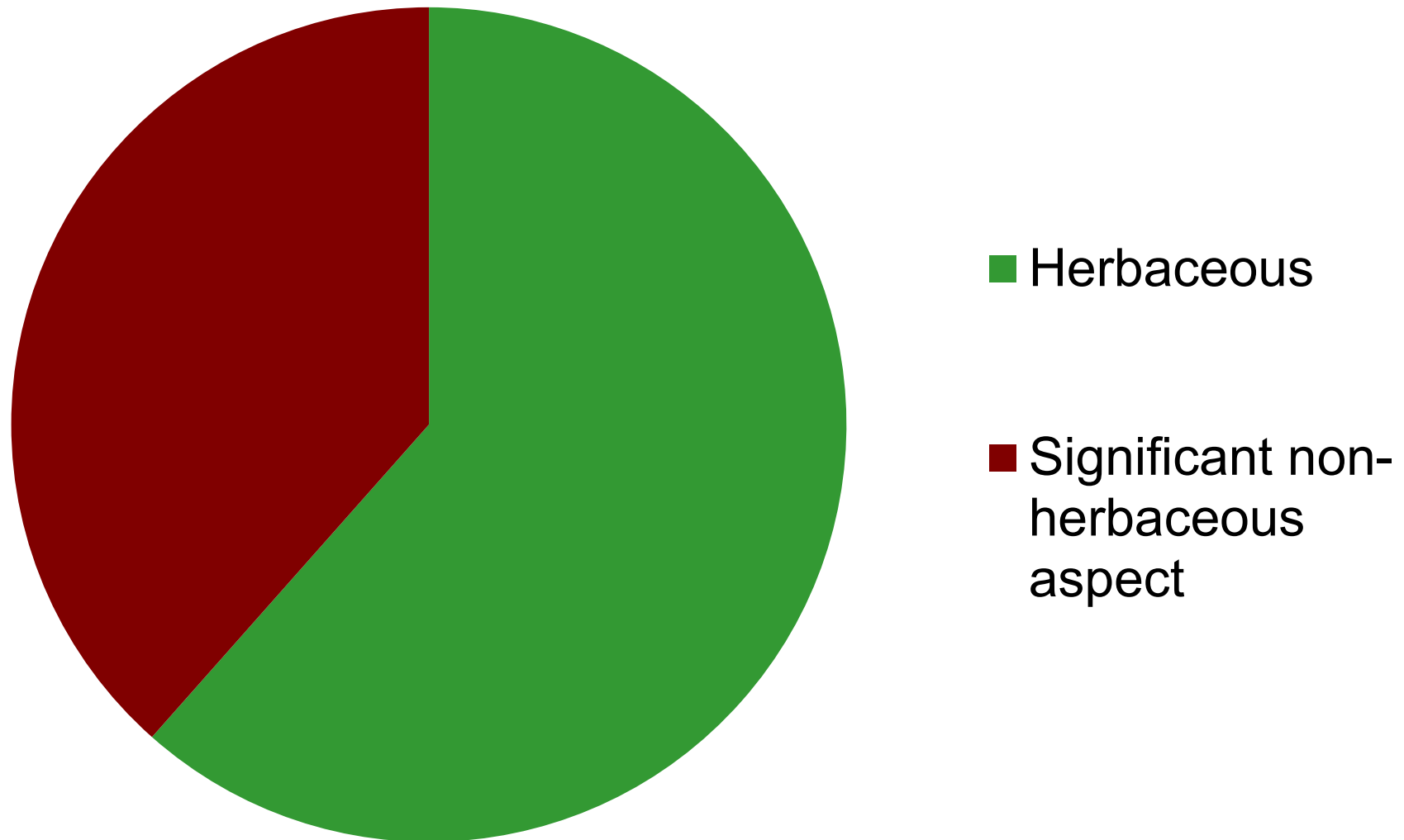


## The problem from farmer/conservationist perspective

- Lands used for forage excluded from support
- Lands of biodiversity importance which need grazing/mowing excluded from support



## Ostermann list of Annex 1 biotopes dependent on agricultural management



## The problem from farmer/conservationist perspective

- Lands used for forage excluded from support
- Lands of biodiversity importance which need grazing/mowing excluded from support
- Excluded for variety of reasons



Herbaceous fodder, but 'too many' trees

- Canopy cover
- Breach of EC guidelines





Not herbaceous, but forage





Not herbaceous, but forage





# Not enough forage? Ineligible herbaceous vegetation?

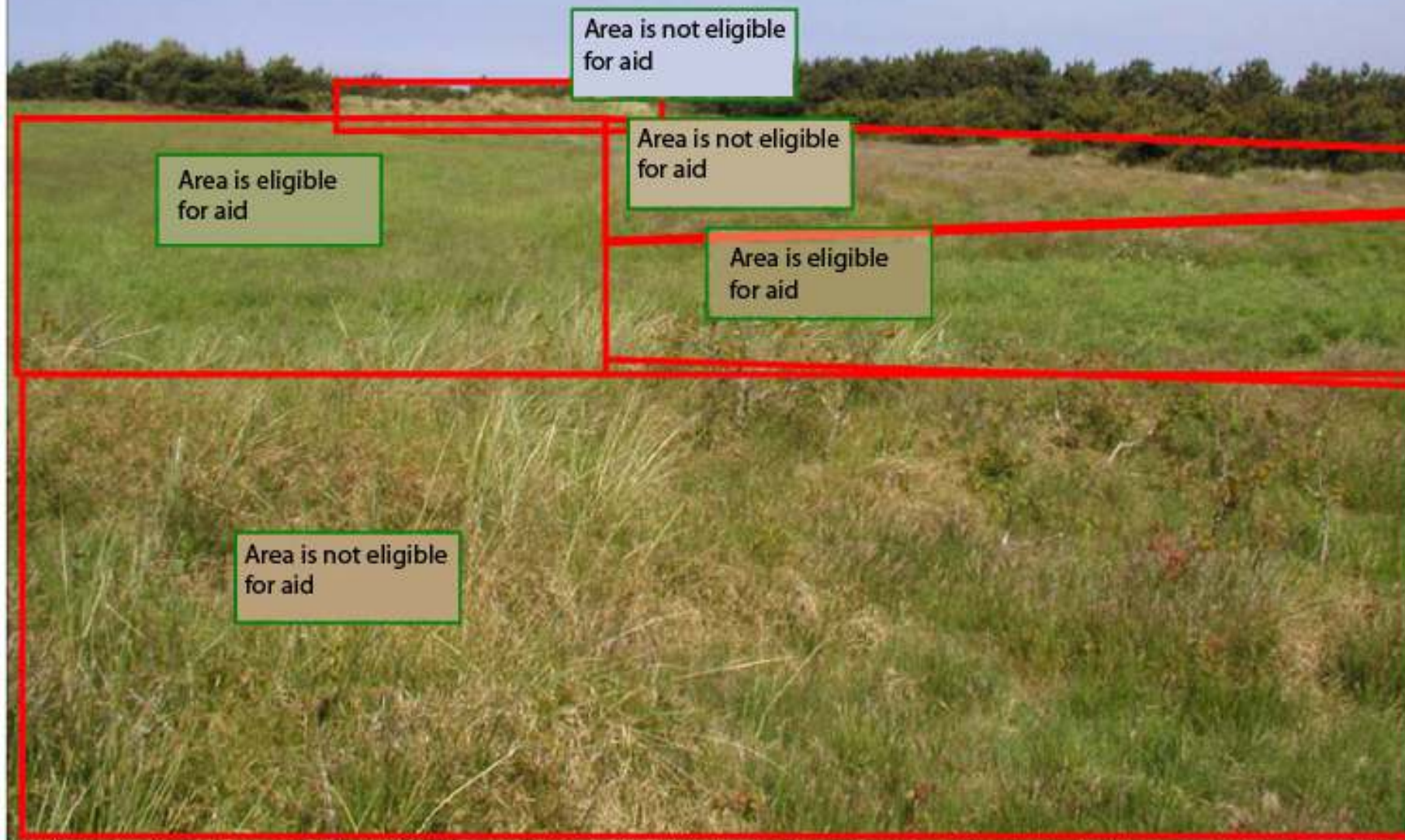


Not available for long enough in the year?





At the evaluation the field is divided into areas that are fairly uniform








## The problem from farmer/conservationist perspective

- Lands used for forage excluded from support
- Lands of biodiversity importance which need grazing/mowing excluded from support
- Excluded for variety of reasons
- In some countries, insufficient distinction between principle (ELIGIBILITY) and actual management (GAEC)





Area in the front **not eligible** for aid (Heather). Bright area in the middle is doubtful (trees)



## The problem from farmer/conservationist perspective

- Lands used for forage excluded from support
- Lands of biodiversity importance which need grazing/mowing excluded from support
- Excluded for variety of reasons
- In some countries, insufficient distinction between principle (ELIGIBILITY) and actual management (GAEC)
- Definition includes things which are NOT permanent pastures and makes no distinctions within between permanent pastures



# Spectrum of permanent pasture

(according to definition)

Marginality  
Public goods delivery



No distinction between types of permanent pastures, so no protection for semi-natural grasslands







# The problem from administrative perspective

- Drawing boundaries/ identifying criteria
- Lack of data/systems?
- Political and bureaucratic



Natural

Permanent  
grassland  
– semi-natural

- other

Arable

## Grassland

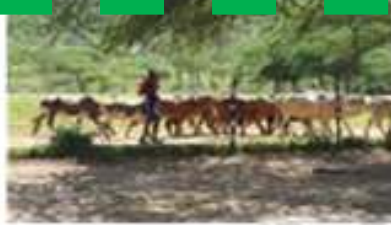
100%



original species

Original  
species

Mean abundance of original species



extensive use

Extensive use



burning



silence agriculture

Intensive use



intensive agriculture

Fossil fuel  
subsidized

0%



Orthophoto is not enough!





# Orthophoto is not enough!





Very few sharp lines – there IS a problem to address...





**Grazed forest**

**UNgrazed forest**











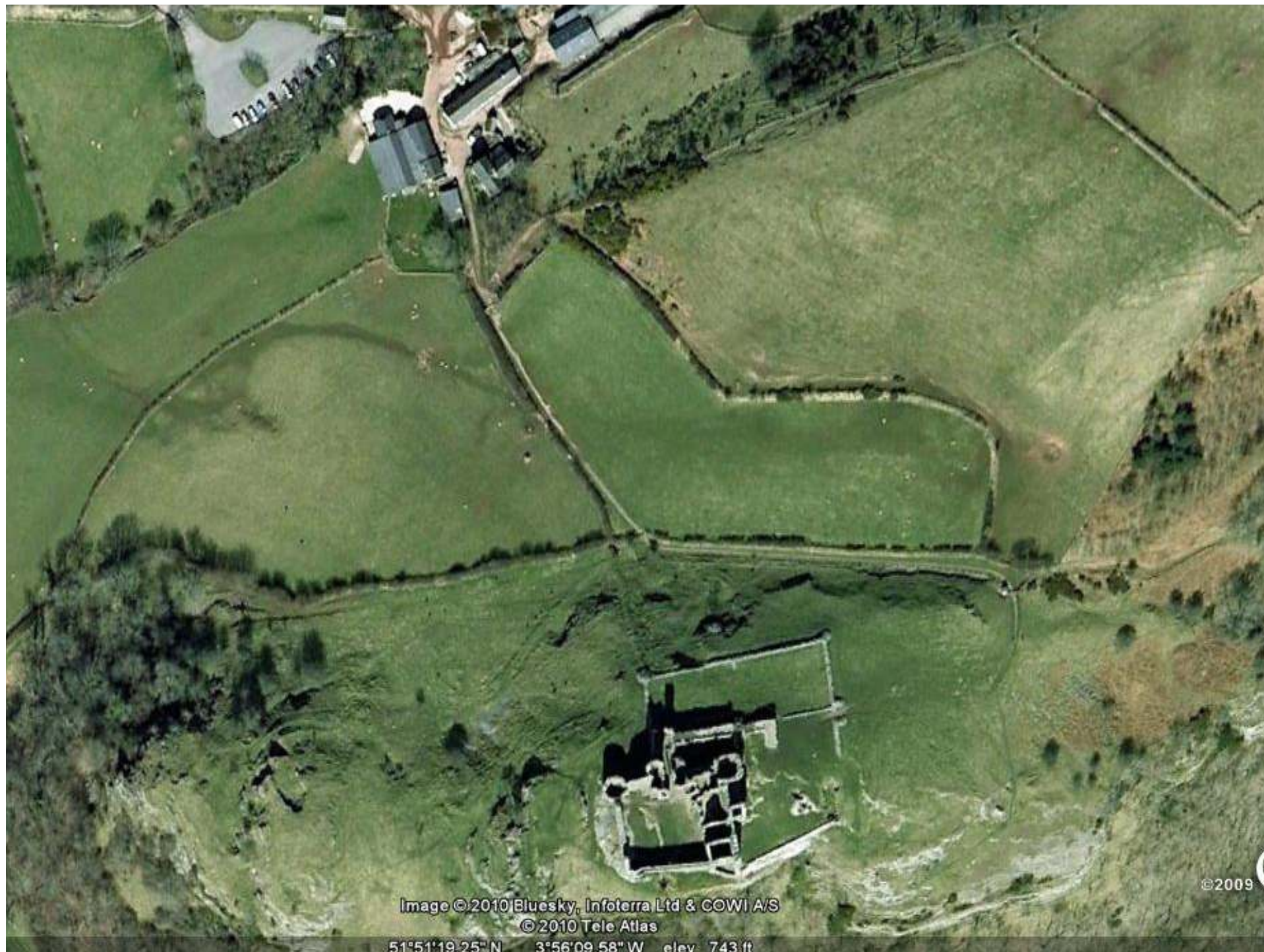


Image © 2010 Bluesky, Infoterra Ltd & COWI A/S

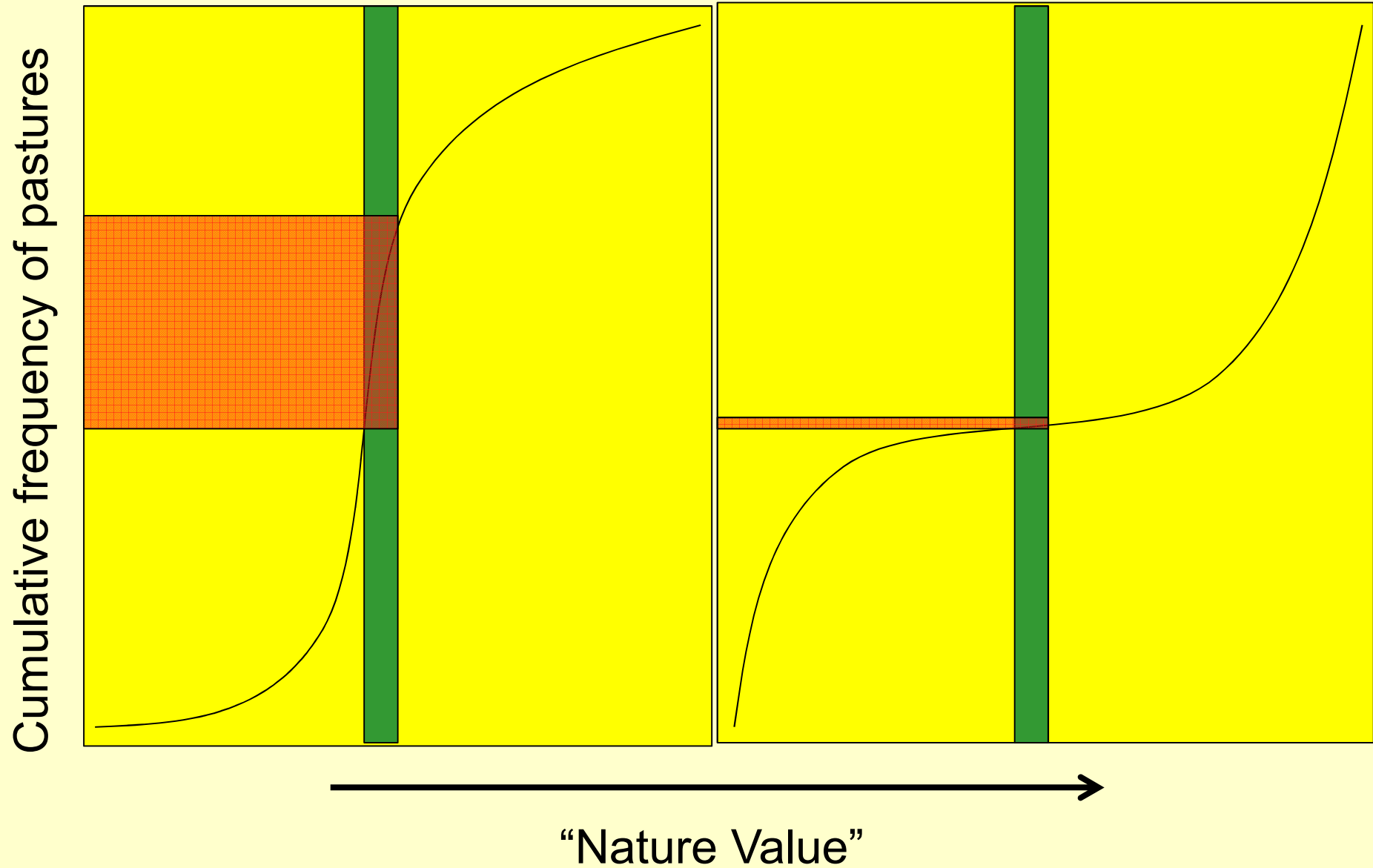
© 2010 Tele Atlas

51°51'19.25" N 3°56'09.58" W elev 743 ft

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## How large is the 'grey area'?



## Political realities

- Even if can be implemented, likely to involve higher admin burden than, say, arable land – not attractive to Ministries
- Means ‘dilution’ of overall payment rates (more hectares paid from same budget)
- In effect it is a redistribution from ‘proper’ farmers, to marginal embarrassing, part-time, dog-and-stick farmers
- In SOME countries, feeling in Agri Min that it is an extension of funding to areas that Env Min should be funding (some feeling to this effect in DG Agri also)



## My own assessment of where we are

- Non-herbaceous pastures: battle is won in principle? But lot depends on delegated acts, guidance, Member State actions etc. Need vigilance.
- Ineligibility of other vegetation types (e.g. DK, DE). Importance varies greatly – exchange of good practice needed, but what role for Commission guidance? (Don't want to make it worse in some countries where it works well!)
- Difference between GAEC and eligibility – need to get this clear in delegated acts and guidance, using best practice. There IS good practice out there...





## My own assessment of where we are

- Making permanent grassland definition limited to permanent pastures & meadows – not clear that everyone knows what CURRENT situation is – needs to be discussed
- Distinguishing intensive and semi-natural perm past – nowhere near it just now, but....? Can we do it in PRACTICAL terms? Something worth spending some time on?



# What I would like to get out of meeting

- Everyone clear about the different problems (and that they are different....)
- Everyone clear about what where the battlefield is in each case (Reg? Implementing rules? Guidance? Member State choices...)
- If there are concrete and urgent things, make some progress on them before we leave
- Agree on what can be done collectively on EU level and who might do what when (remembering that we need to be quick to adapt)
- Aware of possibilities of bilateral actions (e.g. where there is good practice)







Figure 6. Mesotrophic pastures and meadows in relation to treatment.

ARRHENATHERION	CYNOSURION		LOLIO- PLANTAGINION
<p>MG1</p> <p><i>Arrhenatheretum elatioris</i> grassland</p>	<p>MG5</p> <p><i>Centaureo-Cynosuretum</i> grassland</p>	<p>MG6</p> <p><i>Lolio-Cynosuretum</i> grassland</p>	<p>MG7</p> <p><i>Lolium perenne</i> leys &amp; related grassland</p>
Mown once or twice annually for amenity, ungrazed and unmanured	Mown annually for hay and autumn- and winter-grazed, manured by stock	Grazed through the year, chemically fertilised and often resown	Sown swards, chemically fertilised and grazed through the year or cut for silage or amenity

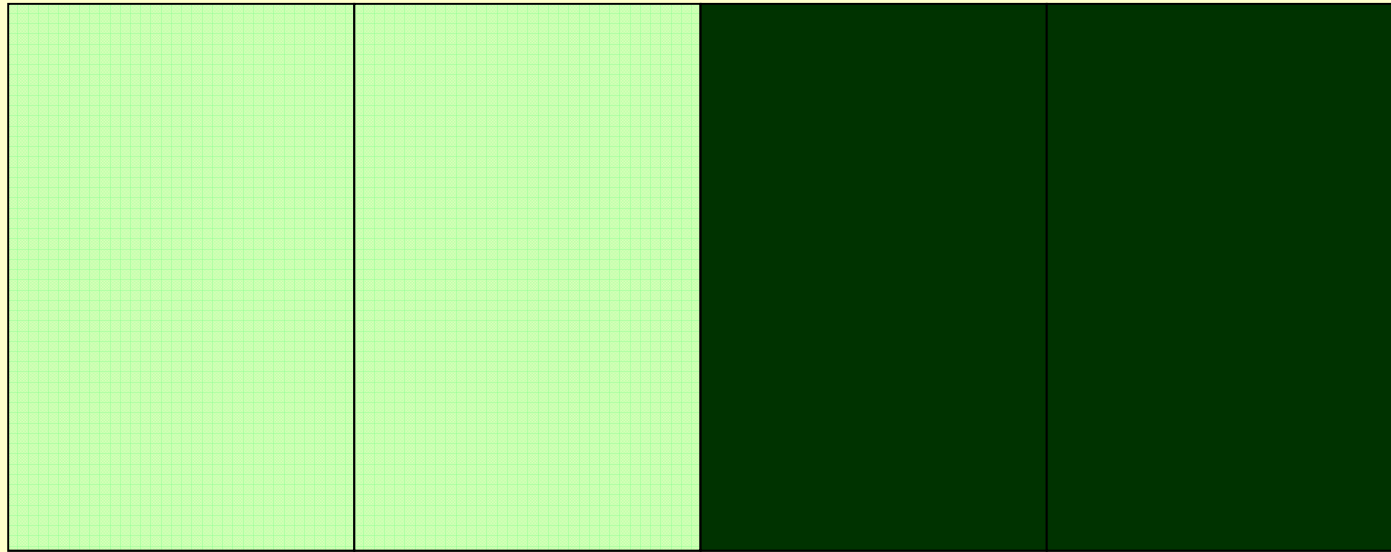
Higher  
plants  
(NVC)

MG1

MG5

MG6

MG7



Waxcap  
fungi

