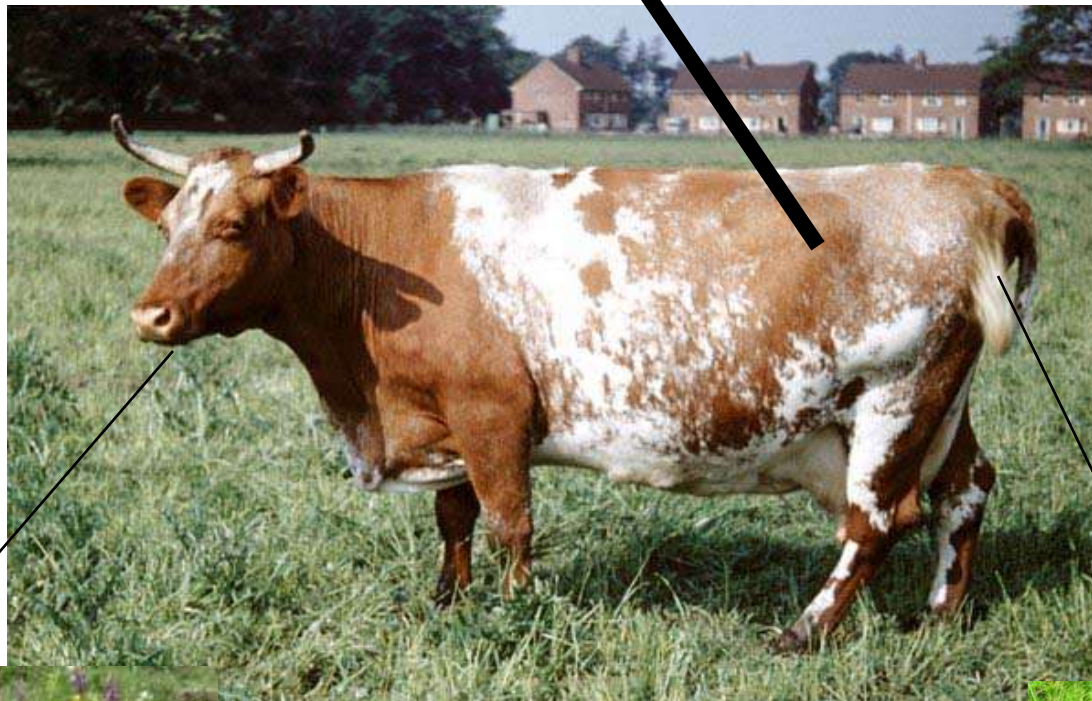


Methane from rumen has 27 times more warming potential than CO2

Extensive systems – high fibre diet = higher enteric emissions per head (ie methane).



Cow pats deposited on ground where emissions cannot be mitigated



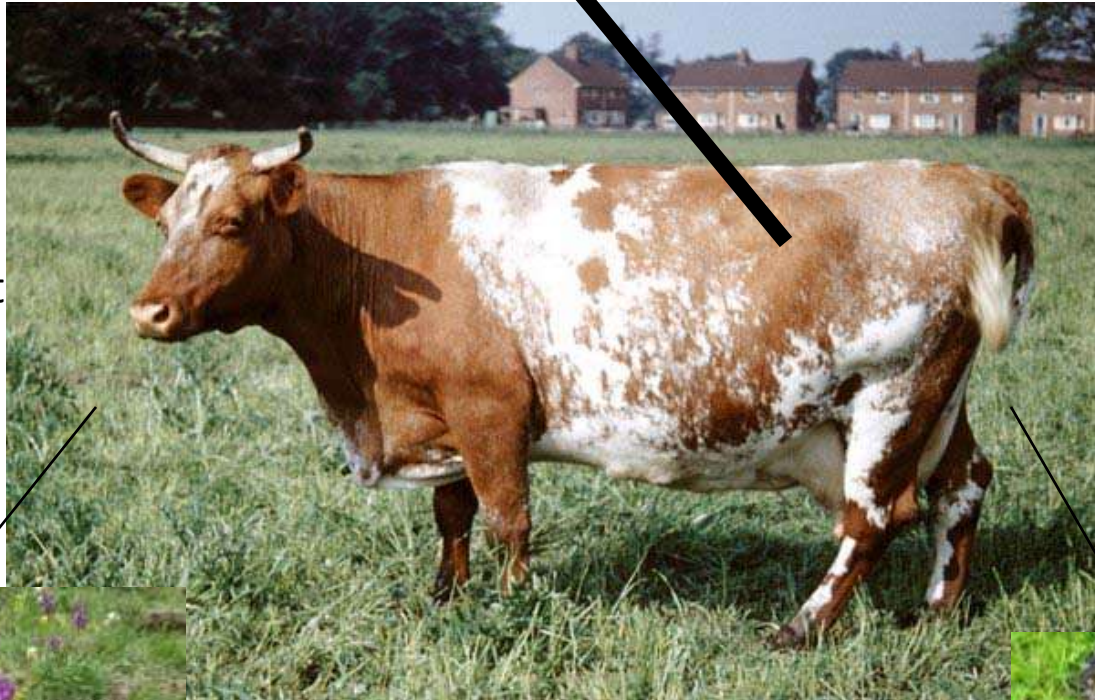
Conservation regimes demand low stocking and/or late season grazing. Mature or senescent forage = high fibre content = higher methane production



Extensive systems – high fibre diet = higher enteric emissions per head (ie methane).

Methane = CO₂ x 27

But ... many fewer animals
So GHG emissions low overall



Native breeds more efficient converters of plant fibre which is more prevalent in conservation grazing systems

Cow pats decompose aerobically releasing mainly CO₂ rather than methane



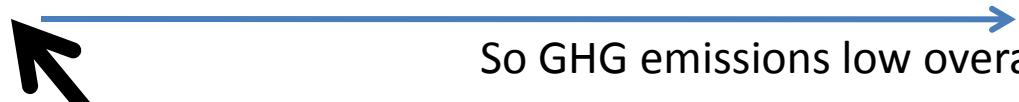
Spp-rich grasslands sequester soil carbon



Low or zero inputs of fossil fuels (fertilizers)



Food resource for invertebrates – more biomass



Intensive systems – lower enteric emissions per head but many more animals



Modern breeds inefficient converters of plant fibre – need cereals and soya for best performance



High inputs of fossil fuel

Cereal production = ploughing = losses of soil carbon



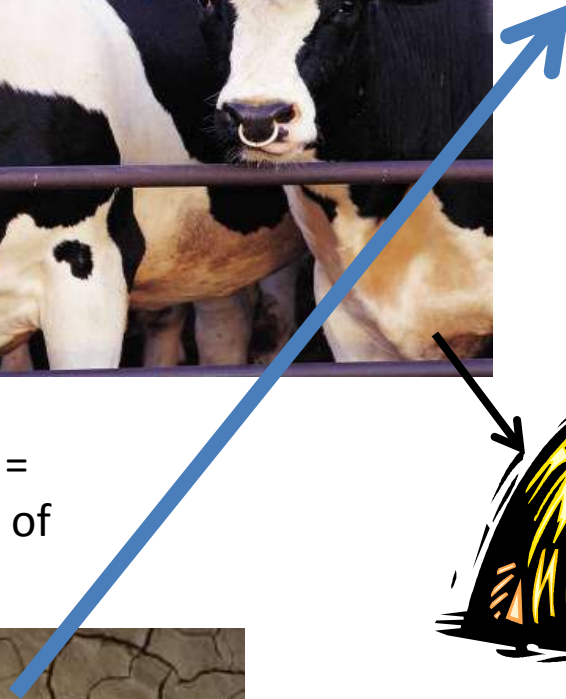
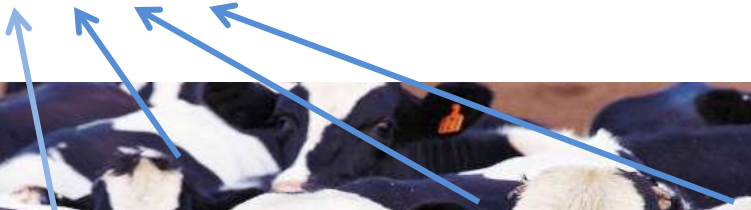
UK enteric emissions (methane) 15.5 Mt C eq

All UK Soil emissions 23.3 Mt C eq

All UK manurial emissions 4.6 Mt Ceq



Manure and slurry stores decompose anaerobically producing methane



Issues for Discussion

Do we think GHG emissions from conservation grazing are a problem in terms of their actual contribution to global warming.

If they are would we be able to manage wildlife habitats to the same standard using less polluting methods?

If we cannot find alternatives to grazing , what can be done to minimize the problems?

Or can it all be ignored because nature conservation take precedence over wider environmental issues

Or is it all just media hype and should we concentrate our efforts on correcting the underlying misinformation