

Aliens on the Gower Coast

by Colin Cheesman

Gower Coast

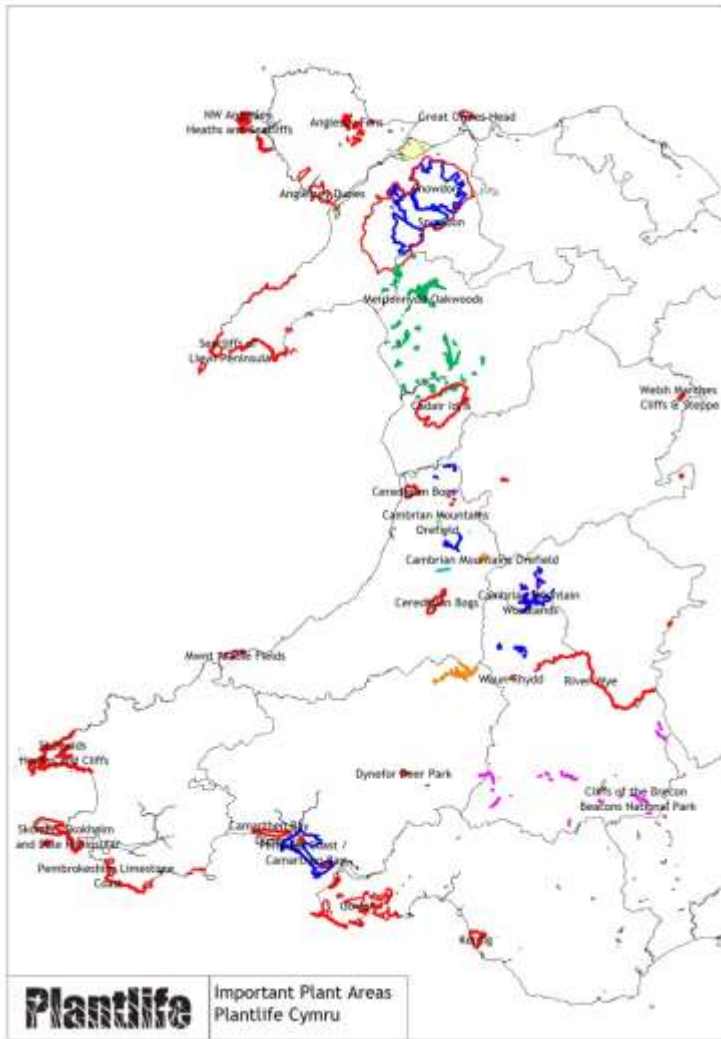




The limestone cliffs, beaches and dunes of the Gower peninsula are incredibly diverse.

Inland, acidic heaths and commons predominate, while ash woodlands and arable farms contribute further to the richness of the area, with over 700 vascular plant species recorded.





Important Plant Areas

24 IPA's in Wales

Selected on the basis of 3 criterion-

A. Plants threatened globally, European, threatened endemics & threatened limited range species





Gower Coast

Important Plant Areas

B. Richness - number of species in a defined habitat type

C. Priority and Threatened Habitats - speaks for itself - Annex 1 of Habitats Directive





Section 42 species - *Juniper communis*

Yellow Whitlowgrass, *Draba aizoides*
restricted to Gower in UK

Gower Coast

Important Plant Areas





The 'Aliens'

Cotoneasters

At least 10 species including
C. integrifolius,
C. horizontalis,
C. simonsii and
C. hjelmqvistii.



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Holm Oak, *Quercus ilex*

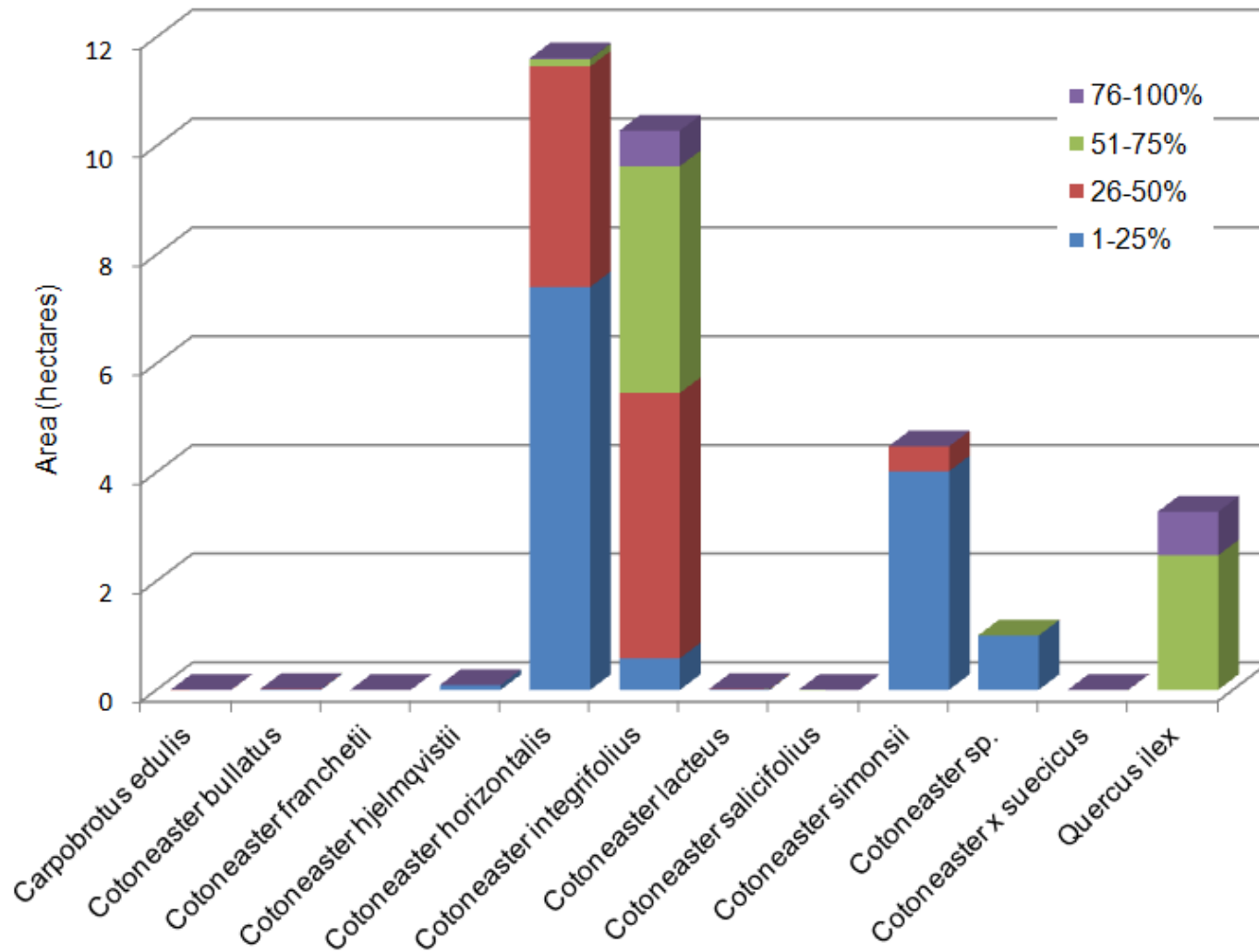


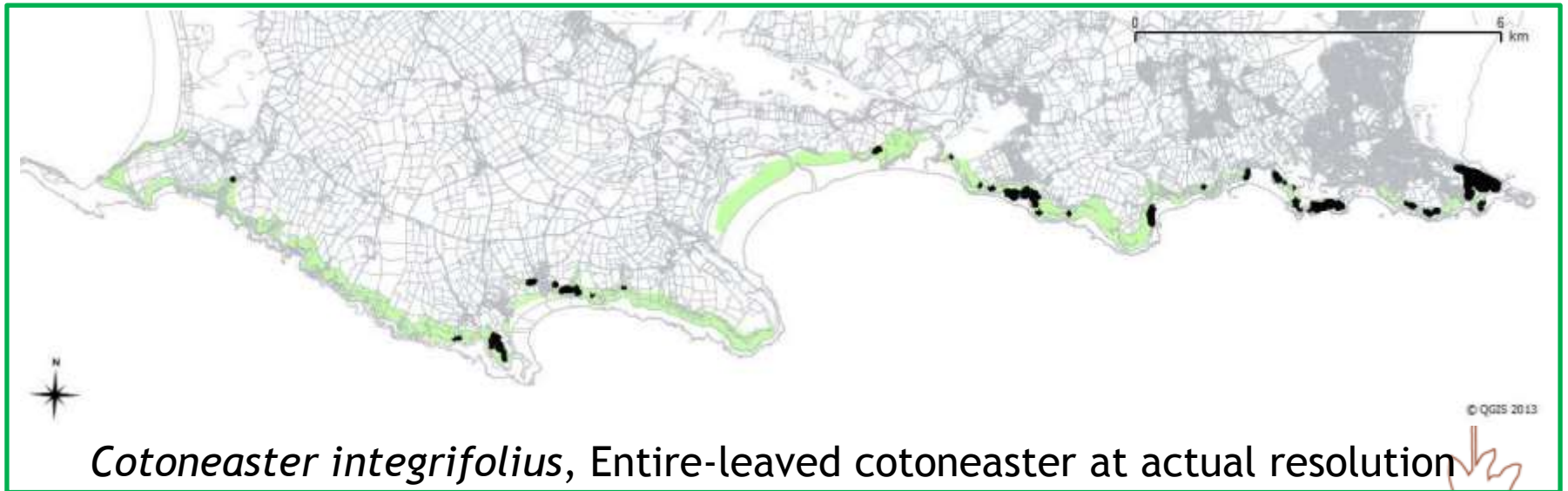
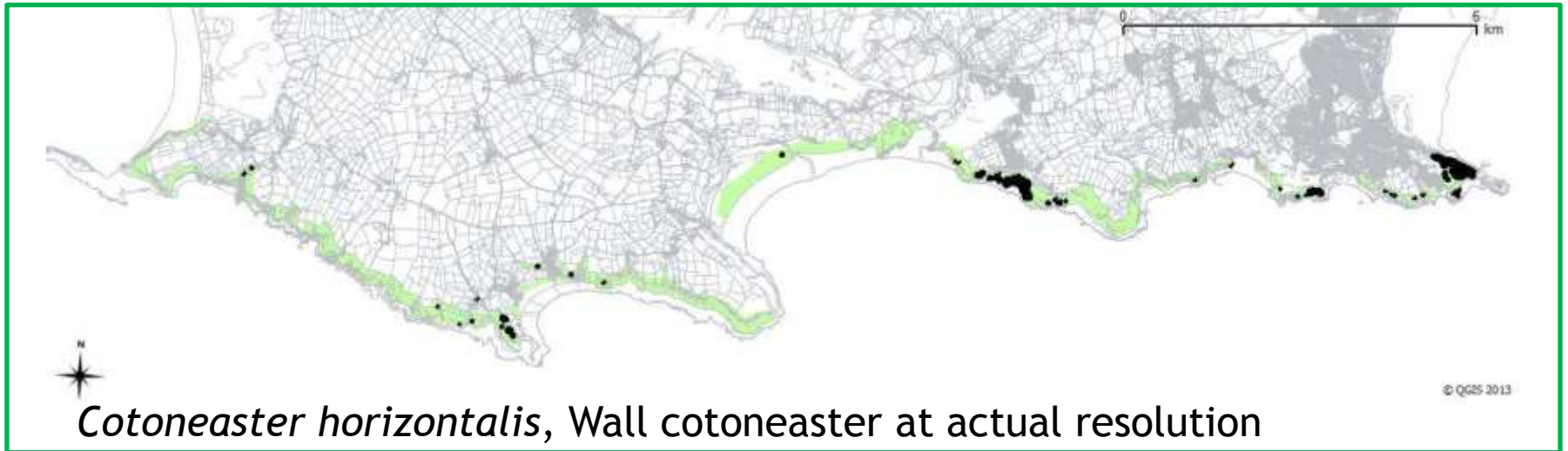
White Stonecrop, *Sedum album*



Hottentot Fig, *Cardipbrotis edulis*







Action on the ground at Southgate

- Survey lichens and bryophytes
- Methodology of control based on work at Portland, Torbay, the Lizard and Cheddar Gorge.
- Use of a ‘traffic light’ system for control via herbicides.
- Get it funded!



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Survey of cliffs for lichen and bryophyte interest ahead of invasive control

Discovery of an *Anaema* lichen not previously recorded in UK. Nicknamed the ‘burnt cauliflower lichen’



Photograph © Alan Orange



Gower Coast

E. pulchellus at map ref. 22
Invasive code D

20+ patches of plants with sporophytes thinly scattered over various ledges within 1m².

Entosthodon fascicularis,
Hasselquist's Hyssop
location in Sharon Pilkington's report







Stem treatment using an adapted mist-spray bottle



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Pathfinder -

Contractors

Tim Wilkins -

formerly Project Manager at Plantlife now at Natural England



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