



Natural Environment Scrutiny Panel

Colin Cheesman, Head of Plantlife Cymru

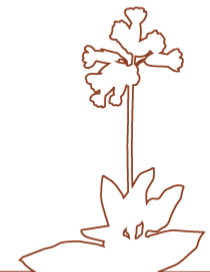
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“What should Swansea Council be doing to maintain and enhance its natural environment and biodiversity, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems?”

1. Understand what you have
2. Limiting factors
3. Make connections
4. Manage
5. Monitor
6. Celebrate all biodiversity



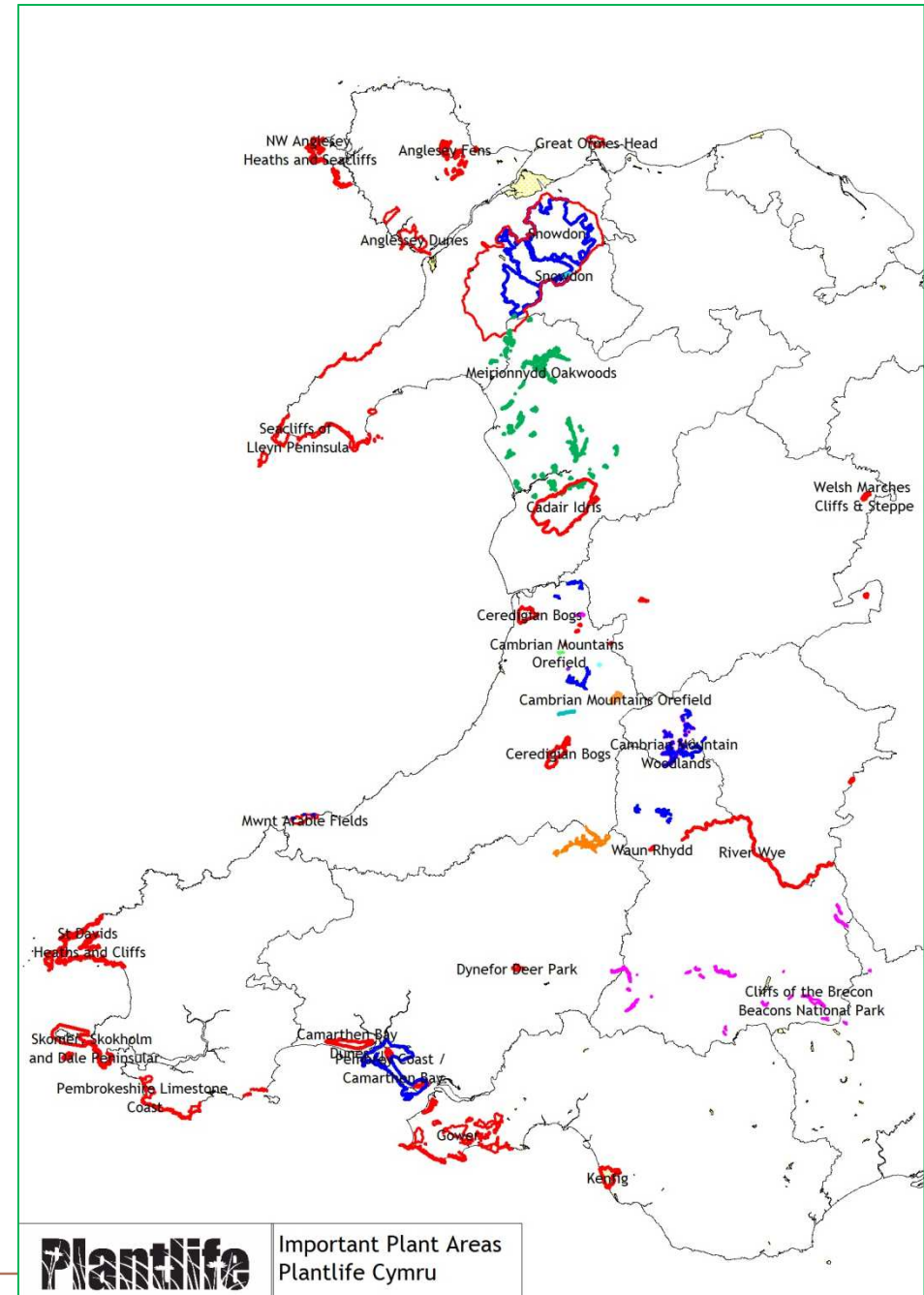
1. Understand what you have

Much of our understanding and knowledge comes through voluntary recording

Over time a whole set of designations has been applied to species, habitats and areas

Plantlife has developed Important Plant Areas which define the best sites for all 'plants' at a European level

The Gower is one of the 23 Important Plant Areas in Wales





Yellow Whitlowgrass,
Draba aizoides
restricted to Gower in
UK



Section 7 species - *Juniper communis*

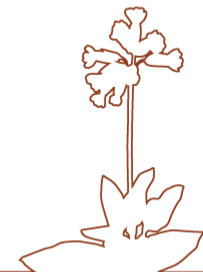
The Gower

700 species - one of the most diverse plant areas in Wales

Why?

Range of habitats

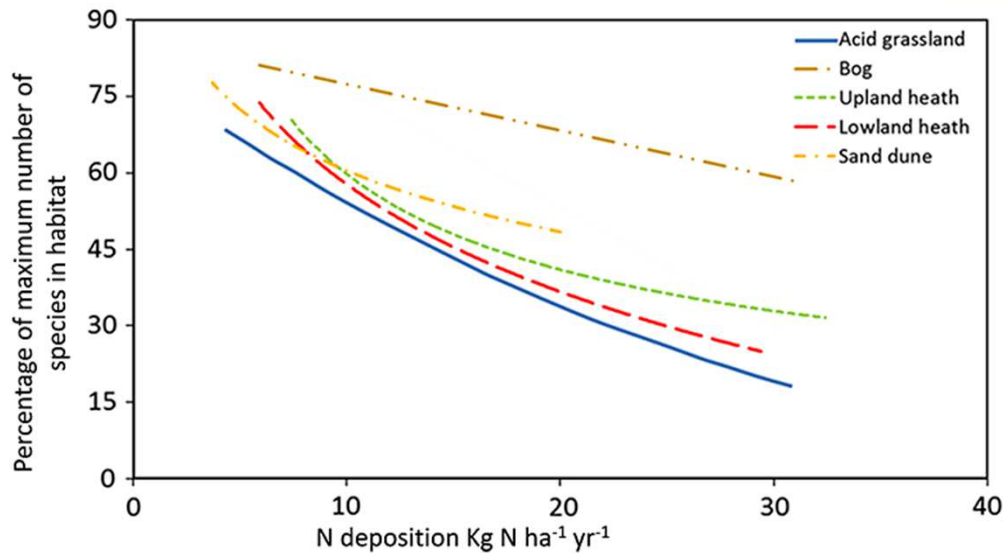
- Sand Dunes
- Heaths - dry and wet
- Sea cliffs
- Arable fields
- Meadows
- Woodlands
- Hedgerows
- Salt marshes



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2. Limiting Factors

- a. Extent of habitat / niche
- b. Policy drivers - agriculture
- c. Competition - invasive species
- d. Pollution - nitrogen, ammonia





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3. Make connections

In the landscape

With partners

With people

“It needs to matter”



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4. Manage

Are the actions going to make the change that is needed?

Are they sustainable?

Without human intervention many species will be lost

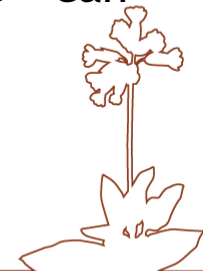


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5. Monitor

How do you know what is happening 'out there' without measuring it?

National Plant Monitoring Scheme - can we make it work at this level?



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6 - Celebrate all biodiversity

It doesn't matter if it is rare or common

Need to engage people as part of the well being agenda. It makes people:

- better,
- healthier,
- more involved/empowered
- and creates the biodiversity champions of the future.

A final thought

ALL biodiversity has its roots in 'plants'

'Plants capture energy from the sun and all life on land, directly or indirectly, depends on them. So, ultimately, plants fuel the diversity of life on earth'

Sir David Attenborough

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Thank you

Colin Cheesman, Head of
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