

This map takes you on a **recommended route** of the locations **starting from Whitmore High School and ending at Whitmore Bay**. The route is **5.5 miles** long and should take around **two hours** to complete.

If you would like to share any photos from the trail, please use the hashtag **#BarryCommunityHistoryTrail**

Thank you for taking part!

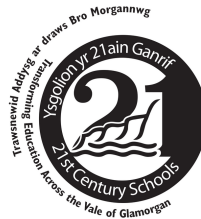
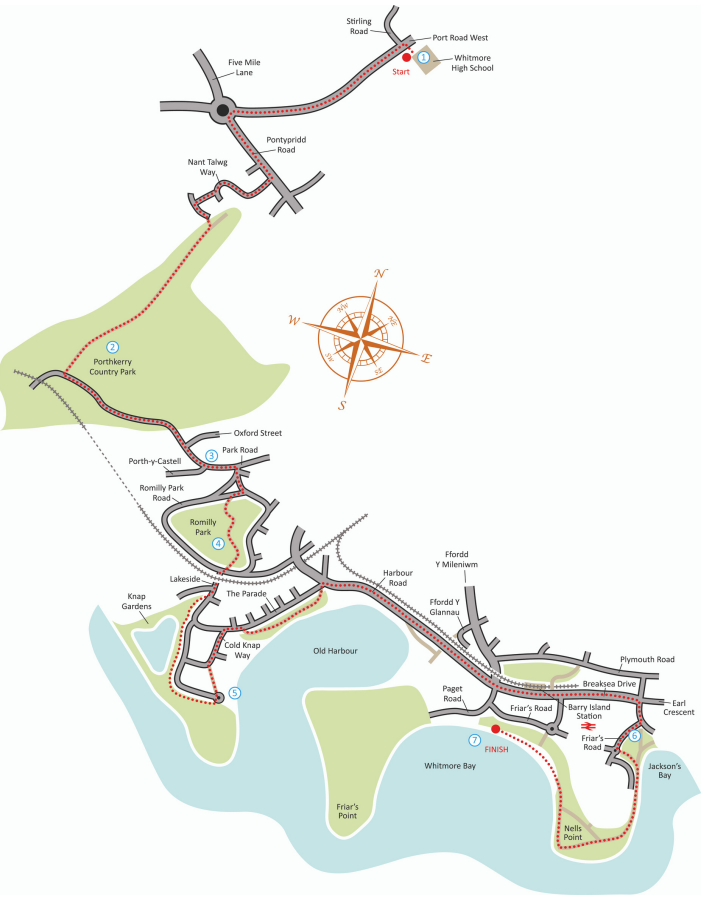
We would like to show our appreciation to members of **Victorian Barry Experience** and **residents of Barry** for submitting ideas and information for the trails.

We would also like to thank the **school project contractors and partners:**

Barry Community History Trail – Whitmore High School Route and Information

To celebrate **Community History Month** in May, we're launching **three community history trails** starting at our three Barry Secondary Learning Communities schools; **Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg, Pencoedre High School and Whitmore High School.**

Ideas have been submitted by the **local community** and each point on the trail celebrates an **important historical event, landmark, or significant figure in Barry.** Take a leisurely walk along one or challenge yourself by completing all three!



Ysgolion a Cholegau yr 21ain Ganrif 21st Century Schools and Colleges



Whitmore High School Route Stops:

- 1) Whitmore High School
- 2) Porthkerry Country Park
- 3) Barry Castle
- 4) Romilly Park
- 5) Watch House Bay
- 6) St Baruc's Chapel (St Baruch)
- 7) Whitmore Bay

If you would like to find out more about the 21st Century Schools programme, please visit our website:

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/21st-Century-Schools

This booklet is also available in Welsh.

The 21st Century Schools Programme is a long-term strategic investment in educational estate throughout Wales. The 21st Century Schools' Barry Secondary Learning Communities project is investing £86.6 million in three secondary schools across Barry.



1) Whitmore High School

Whitmore High School, formerly Barry Comprehensive School, was formed by the merger of Barry Boys' Grammar School and the three Boys' Secondary Modern Schools (Cadoxton, Gladstone and Romilly) in September 1966. In 2018, the school became Whitmore High School and a mixed-gender school. A new £30.5m school building opened to pupils from 6 May 2021.



By the late 13th century the castle had two stone buildings on the east and west sides of a courtyard, but nothing now remains of these above ground. Early in the 14th century the castle was strengthened by the addition of a large hall and gatehouse on its south side, and the ruins of these can be seen today.

2) Porthkerry Country Park

Once split between the ancient manors of Barry, Porthkerry and Penmark, the area was bought by the Romilly family in 1412. Porthkerry Park was purchased from the Romilly estates in 1929 by Barry Urban District Council, after which it was used as a large public open park and then even played a role in the build up to the invasion of Normandy in World War II.

Local charity, Innovate Trust run The Porthkerry Park Project which includes environmental conservation and horticultural sessions for adults with learning disabilities. The group has worked hard to help re-wild the golf course, including installing new ponds and habitats, planting trees and litter picking.



One of the places to look out for in Porthkerry is the Cliff Wood Cottage. Originally built in 1583 by Owen William, the most notable occupant was Ann Jenkin - convicted for witchcraft! The cottage was completely rebuilt around 1781 and represented a building style typical of the time.



3) Barry Castle

This small, two-storey gatehouse and the adjacent walls of a hall are all that remain of the seat of the de Barry family.

The castle was little more than a small fortified manor house, built in the 13th and 14th centuries to replace an earlier earthwork.



4) Romilly Park

Romilly Park was laid in various phases between 1898 - 1911 on land owned by the Romilly family. By the end of the Edwardian period, the park featured landscaped pathways, a bowling green, tennis courts, and a fine bandstand. The Gorsedd Circle, situated in a separated section of the park, was unveiled in 1920 to mark the National Eisteddfod held in Barry in that year.

Romilly was heavily used for sporting activity throughout the interwar years and clubs regularly campaigned for more provision. During the Second World War, Romilly was home to an ARP station.



Today the park has been returned to the quieter serenity of its Edwardian origins. It is a CADW grade ii listed park and has achieved Green Flag status.

5) Watch House Bay

Watch House Bay, also known as Watch Tower Bay, is one of the quieter beaches in the Barry Island area. Behind the beach is the Knap Gardens with a marine lake in the shape of a Welsh harp.

The old watch house, which can still be seen on the beach, was built in the 1860s as a lookout over the old harbour and reminds visitors of the area's nautical past.



The watch house was originally used by the coastguard but has since been used as tea-rooms, Scouts headquarters and an activities centre.

6) St Baruc's Chapel

St Baruch (or Baruc) was a follower St Cadoc. One day, Cadoc and Baruch set sail from Flat Holm to Barry Island. Baruch forgot Cadoc's holy manual and on the journey to collect it, his boat sank. Cadoc's precious book and Baruch both drowned. A few hours later, Cadoc's attendants were ordered to go fishing. They found a giant salmon washed up on the beach and in its bowels, they discovered Cadoc's lost book remarkably 'free from all injury by water'.

Pilgrims flocked to the island for hundreds of years, worshipping in the little chapel built in the 8th century that took Baruch's name. Excavation work in 1894-5 on the Island uncovered the remains of the church, a holy well and mass grave.



7) Whitmore Bay

Barry Island has attracted visitors since the 1870's to its beaches, cafes and family amusements. Whitmore Bay is a golden sandy beach sandwiched between two limestone headlands and was one of the locations of the popular TV show Gavin and Stacey.

The refurbished seafront now offers a sweeping promenade along the entire length of Whitmore Bay beach, which has achieved Blue Flag status.

A landscaped headland walk leads around to Jackson's Bay whilst the western end footpath leads out to the headland at Friars Point. Also worth visiting are the Barry Tourist Railway and Barry War Museum.

