

Short walk

Just over the footbridge, at A (on map), turn left. Walk on, following the woodland path through a kissing gate to reach soon a surfaced park drive. Turn right and continue toward the railway bridge. Before reaching the bridge you will rejoin the main route at B (on map). Then follow the commentary in the paragraph above.

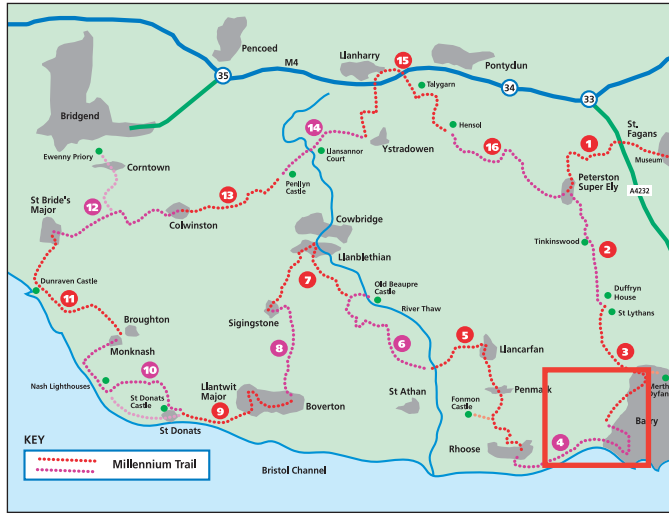


Porthkerry Country Park
Photograph © Vale of Glamorgan Council



Glan-y-Môr Roman site
Photograph © Vale of Glamorgan Council

WALK LOCATION IN RELATION TO VALEWAYS' MILLENNIUM HERITAGE TRAIL



Valeways' Millennium Heritage Trail covers a distance of over 100km, spanning over 6,000 years of history. It wends its way through a variety of beautiful landscapes. At its northern edge there are panoramic vistas of the Blaenau Morgannwg, while in the south it skirts a spectacular cliffed coastline.

The Trail is split into 16 easy to follow sections, each of which can be walked within a few hours. The surroundings are diverse, often spectacular and steeped in history.

Those who have never visited this part of Wales will enjoy walking through fertile, lowland countryside adjoining the spectacular Heritage Coast with its beautiful beaches. The route includes many fascinating historic features, from prehistoric burial chambers to magnificent castles, churches and mansions.

Valeways has published a guide to the Millennium Heritage Trail. This colourful book describes the 16 sections which make up the Trail and comes in a package with 16 separate A3 maps. Information on purchasing the guide can be obtained by contacting Valeways.



Gorsedd Stones, Romilly Park
Photograph © Vale of Glamorgan Council



Cwm Ciddy Saw Mill
Photograph © Vale of Glamorgan Council

WALK FEATURES

- Romilly Park
- Gorsedd Stones
- Barry Castle
- Cwm Ciddy Saw Mill
- Railway Viaduct
- Golden Stairs
- Roman Villa



Windsurfing at Porthkerry
Photograph © Vale of Glamorgan Council

FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



Valeways is a registered charity working in partnership with the community to reopen existing footpaths to create a network of enjoyable circular walks across the Vale of Glamorgan, linking towns and villages to the surrounding countryside and points of interest. We are indebted to the many volunteers who give up their time freely to provide this walk for your enjoyment.

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Valeways Partnership - Many thanks to the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Countryside Council for Wales for their continued support.

Cefnogwyd gan Supported by



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Registered Charity No. 1062031 Registered Company No. 3330088

Walk No.4, Barry

Woodlands, Park & Coast

Distance: 5 1/2 miles or 3 1/2 miles.

Cwm Ciddy

cerdded yng nghefn gwlad
VALEWAYS
countryside access & walking

Registered Charity No. 1062031



Photograph © Vale of Glamorgan Council

Barry Castle

Walk No. 4, Barry

Woodlands, Park & Coast

Though you are never more than half a mile from the built up area of Barry, there are times on this walk when you would never think so. For after walking through some attractive suburbs of the town, where you glimpse into the town's Roman and medieval past, you pass through a quite extensive tract of woodland and an area of parkland. You then return along a cliff-top path that offers, in places, splendid views of coastal scenery. To cater for those who want a shorter walk, a 3½ mile option is also offered.

Distance 5½ miles; shorter walk 3½ miles long.

Map OS Explorer 151 Cardiff and Bridgend.

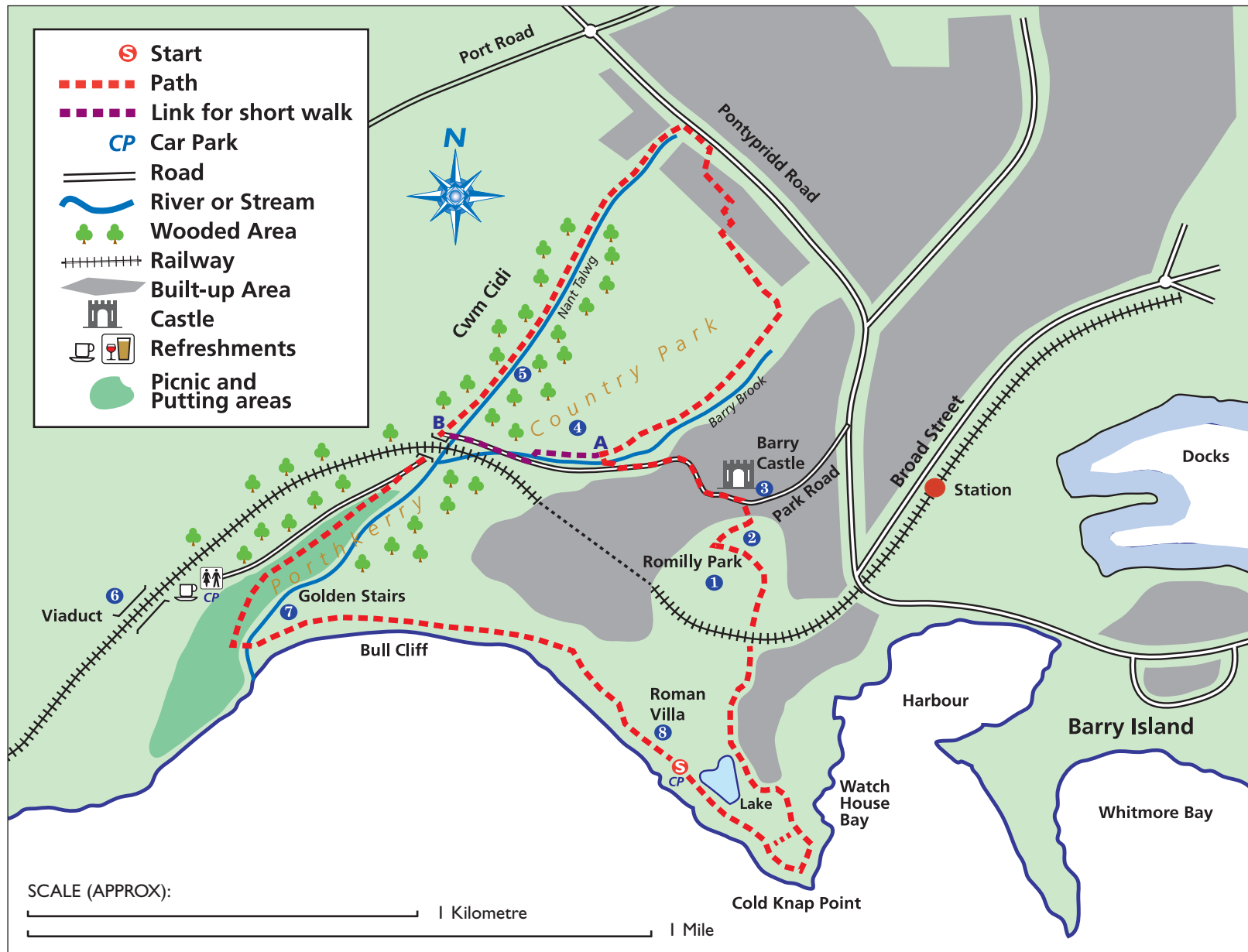
Parking The Knap (on the Promenade & Bron y Mor Car Park) and in Porthkerry Park.

Public Transport Buses to the Knap and Pontypridd Road (Nant Talwg Way) to start at Millwood.

Refreshments Cafes at the Knap and Porthkerry Park.

Toilets The Knap and Porthkerry Park.

START In the commentary below the start is at the Knap car park, Barry.



THE ROUTE

S From the Knap car park walk along the sea front in a south-easterly direction, with the sea to your right, to Cold Knap Point. Continue up round the grassy headland (there are views across Watch House Bay and Barry Harbour to Barry Island). Keeping the sea on your right, go past the Lifeguard Station to the beach and Watch Tower & Rocket Station. Turn left at 'The Beachcomber' and proceed along Lakeside into the Knap Gardens. Here turn right, walking through to the far end, keeping the Lake and its feeder stream on the left.

Go under the railway bridge and cross the road into Romilly Park **1**. Follow the winding path to pass the tennis courts on your right and proceed up the gentle hill, to exit the park onto the main road. Now turn right and continue uphill, bearing left where the road forks. (You may see the Gorsedd stones **2** to your right). Very soon, at the junction with Park Road, turn left. Follow this road as it swings to the

right in the direction of Porthkerry Park. (You pass, en route, Barry Castle **3** to your right). Continue ahead to enter Porthkerry Country Park **4**.

Walk down the Park's Drive for about 200 yards. Then turn right to descend the steps that lead you into the woods of Cwm Barri. Cross a footbridge over a stream (Barry Brook).

If choosing to take the 3½ mile southern short walk, stop here (A on map) and go on to this colour text at end of the route guide.

On the main walk turn **right**, following the footpath gently uphill, to reach an open area of grassland. At this point take the waymarked footpath uphill to the left. Proceed through a gate and then go diagonally left across the Green. Go through another gate, bearing right. Keeping the hedgerow on your right, walk the length of the field and take the metal gate on your right. Turn left, then right into Rhodfa Felin, then second left into Maes Glas. At the T junction turn left into Coed y Felin, dropping

down the hill and bearing right to the traffic lights on Pontypridd Road.

Here turn left and left again into Nant Talwg Way. Walk along this road and then, just before the road swings right, take a footpath on the left that continues straight ahead downhill into Millwood. For a distance of just over ½ mile you can enjoy the gentle descent through the woods, passing the remains of the Cwm Ciddy Saw Mill **5** to your left. You now reach a footpath T junction. Here turn left.

Continue under the railway bridge to emerge onto a large, grassy picnic area to your left. You may choose your route across this area, but a recommended route is one that runs roughly parallel to the main drive before swinging left as you pass the café on the right. (The Porthkerry Railway Viaduct **6** can also be seen to the right). When you reach a notice board at a surfaced track near the Putting Green, cross the footbridge and turn left, keeping the stream bank to your left. Turn left over another footbridge and then begin the quite steep ascent of the Golden

Stairs **7** that are ahead of you. This accomplished, carry on straight ahead, (ignore footpath off to the left), to enter a large open area. Walk on for almost ½ mile, keeping the hedge line to your right (Note that the precipitous Bull Cliff is just on the other side, while towards the end of this stretch there are fine views over Barry and across the Channel to the Somerset coast and beyond) and keep following it as it swings right and begins to descend. Lower down you will reach steps that lead you back to the Knap car park. (Just above the car park are the remains of a Roman Villa **8**).

Short walk (see over page)



The True Service Tree

PLACES OF INTEREST

1 Romilly Park

A south facing, attractive park that among other things contains woodland, lawns, children's playground and tennis courts. The land was acquired by the Council in 1898, at a nominal cost, from the Romilly family. This family's most significant members were John Romilly, the 1st Baron Romilly of Barry, who was a judge, MP and Master of the Rolls and his father Samuel, the noted legal reformer. The family was of French Huguenot stock.

2 Gorsedd Stones

Quarried at Cadoston and erected to mark the site of the National Eisteddfod in 1920.

3 Barry Castle

Passed to the Du Barri family after the Norman conquest of Glamorgan in the 11th century. After a period of unrest, it was strengthened in the 14th century with a Hall and Gatehouse being added. In 1349 the Castle passed from the Du Barri family into the hands of the St. Johns of Fonmon. Little is known of it during the next 200 years, but the Castle was in ruins by the time of Queen Elizabeth I.

4 Porthkerry Country Park

This is an area of some 220 acres that was landscaped in the 1840s by the Romilly family. They had purchased it from the Fonmon estates. It is now a Council owned area of woodland, meadowland and pebbly beach, rich in wildlife, that is managed by a small team of wardens. It contains a range of walk and cycle trails, play areas, a putting green, barbecue facilities and café. The next three features are all within the Park boundaries.

5 Cwm Ciddy Saw Mill

Built by the Romilly Estate circa 1835. At the turn of the 20th century there was also a blacksmiths and wheelwright's shop in the vicinity.

6 Railway Viaduct

Opened in 1897 it was closed the following year due to subsidence. It reopened in 1900. It is 110 feet high. It now carries a regular passenger train and freight service.

7 Golden Stairs

Reputed to have a pirate's treasure of gold coins buried there, but nothing has ever been found! It is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), not for the steps, but because of the presence in the area of Gromwell and the True Service Tree! These two plants are very unusual in Britain.

8 Roman Villa

From Roman coins found in the vicinity, it is thought to have been built at the end of the third century AD. It was associated with the nearby Roman harbour and possibly used as a guesthouse for visiting dignitaries.