

**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU  
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

**VALE OF GLAMORGAN**

**COEDYDD Y BARRI/BARRY WOODLANDS**

**Date of Notification:** 2007

**National Grid Reference:** ST 087690 and ST 127707

**O.S. Maps:** 1:50,000 Sheet number: 171  
1:10,000 Sheet number: SO 00 SW

**Site Area:** 120.7 ha

**Description:**

Coedydd Y Barri/Barry Woodlands is of special interest for its semi-natural broadleaved woodland.

The site comprises a series of fourteen separate woodland blocks, some of which are connected by hedgerows. They are in two groups, about 3 km apart, centred on Pencoedre Wood and Middleton Wood, on the northern and western outskirts of Barry, in the Vale of Glamorgan. Most of the woodlands are on gently sloping ground at an altitude of between 30m and 70m and associated with clayey, often waterlogged, moderately base rich lowland soils that in Wales are almost entirely restricted to the Vale of Glamorgan. Long-established woodland on this particular soil-type gives rise to ash-dominated woodland that supports a rich ground flora. This series of woodlands is the best example of this habitat in Wales.

The individual woodlands vary in the combination of species of tree present, depending on their management in the past. Generally, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* is the dominant species, but pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and beech *Fagus sylvatica* are also present. Other tree species include hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and downy birch *Betula pubescens*. Some of the woods have been subject to replanting in the past.

Beneath the woodland canopy, a shrub layer consists of species such as hazel *Corylus avellana*, field maple *Acer campestre*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, spindle *Euonymus europaeus* and crab apple *Malus sylvestris*. Occasionally, wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, wayfaring tree *Viburnum lantana*, wild cherry *Prunus avium* and holly *Ilex aquifolium* can also be found. Climbing species such as field-rose *Rosa arvensis* and honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* use these shrubs and trees for support. Where there is a gap in the woodland canopy, downy birch, field maple, ash and other tree and shrub saplings occur, competing to fill the space created by fallen or dying trees.

The ground flora of these woodlands is of particular interest as it is especially rich, even in areas replanted with non-native trees. Typically, this includes woodland species such as dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, enchanter's-nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*, lesser celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*, soft shield-fern *Polystichum setiferum*,

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**BARRY ISLAND**

**Date of Notification:** 1958, 1990

**National Grid reference:** ST 110662 and ST 120661

**O.S. Maps:** 1:50,000 Sheet number: 171  
1:25,000 Sheet number: ST 16

**Site Area:** 16ha

**Description:**

The marginal facies of the Mercia Mudstone Group is seen in a unique unconformable relationship with the Carboniferous Limestone at Barry Island. Several horizontal to sub-horizontal terraces up to 15m wide are cut into the Carboniferous Limestone. These terraces are joined by vertical cliffs up to 5 m high and covered by marginal lacustrine facies of the Mercia Mudstone Group. The terraces are covered by poorly sorted angular breccias, interpreted as fossil screens, and better sorted gravels associated with wave-rippled and desiccated finer sediments which are interpreted as lacustrine short zone (beach) sediments. The locality is unique in showing such a spectacular exposure of marginal Triassic facies.

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**HAYES POINT TO BENDRICK ROCK**

<b><u>Date of Notification:</u></b>	1986
<b><u>National Grid Reference:</u></b>	ST 138671
<b><u>O.S. Maps:</u></b>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 171 1:25,000 Sheet number: ST 16
<b><u>Site Area:</u></b>	29.5 ha

**Description:**

This 1.8 km stretch of coastline lies to the south east of Barry on the northern shore of the Bristol Channel. The whole length of the cliffline and foreshore provides excellent exposures through important rock sections of Triassic age while the vicinity of Bendrick Rock is one of the best localities in Britain for fossil footprints.

The Hayes Point to Bendrick Rock coastal section provides excellent exposure of Triassic lake and river deposits. Fine-grained, lake-margin sediments occur here, interbedded with coarse-grained fluviatile (river) sediments, representing the marginal facies of the Triassic Mercian Mudstone Group of South Wales. The finer sediments include siltstones with nodular evaporites, wave-rippled siltstones and fine sandstones, and thin graded sandstones of sheet-flood origin. The coarse fluvial sediments include a limestone conglomerate up to two metres thick, together with occasional thin, matrix-supported conglomerates, interpreted as the products of debris flows. Sediment transport was towards the east and south west. This is a key locality for the interpretation of Triassic lake and river environments.

Bendrick Rock is one of Britain's best localities for fossil footprints and the best for such trace-fossils in rocks of Triassic age. Dinosaur trackways have been known from South Glamorgan for over 100 years, and were first described by Sollas under the name of *Brontozoum thomasi*. Latterly the specimens from this new site have been attributed to the ichnogenus *Anchisauripus*, a form name normally associated with bipedal prosauroped dinosaurs.