

# Young Planners Cymru Walking Tours Social Maps

- Conwy -

Follow a trail within Conwy which highlights some interesting locations within the area as well as some important landmarks of planning merit.

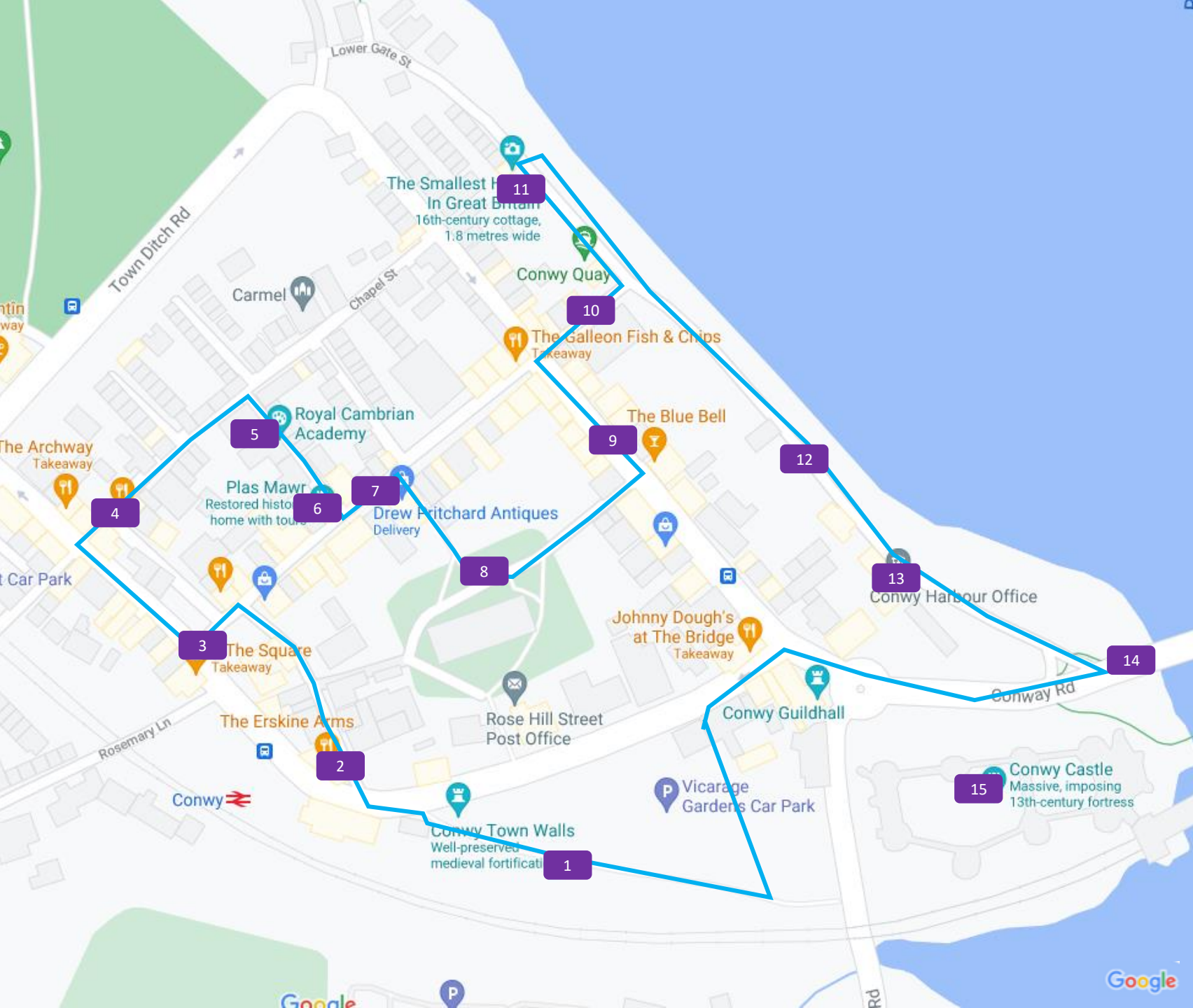
Young Planners Cymru have put this walking tour together to add a social activity to our armour during the pandemic (and after) and encourage us all to get outside and look at the richness some of our local places have to offer.

#### **The Small Print**

On undertaking this walk please take care of your personal safety and observe any local COVID restrictions.

The image features a teal background with a pattern of white dots and abstract, light-colored shapes. The word "Conwy" is centered in white text.

Conwy



1. Waliau'r Dref / Town Walls
2. Erskine Arms
3. Cerflun o Llywelyn Fawr Statue
4. York Place
5. Yr Academi Frenhinol Gymreig / Royal Cambrian Academy
6. Plas Mawr
7. Stryd Fawr / High Street
8. Eglwys Santes Fair a'r Holl Saint / St Mary's & All Saints Church
9. Black Lion Inn
10. Lower Gate Quay / Cei y Giat Isaf
11. Tŷ Lleiaf Prydain / Britain's Smallest House
12. Diwydiant Cregyn Gleision Conwy / Conwy's Mussel Fishing Industry
13. Swyddfa's Harbwr Feistr / Harbour Master's Office
14. Tair Pont / Three Bridges
15. Castell Conwy Castle

# Fact Sheet

1. The town walls are among the finest and most complete in Europe. Stretching almost uninterrupted around Conwy's medieval heart, they run for three quarters of a mile, with 21 towers and three original gateways along their length.
2. The Erskine Arms is a traditional Georgian coaching inn nestled within the medieval walls of Conwy believed to have built around the 1830s/1840s.
3. Statue of Llywelyn Fawr ("Llywelyn the Great") in 1895. Llywelyn defeated a number of his Gwynedd relatives in a series of battles in the mid-1190s. These included his uncles, Dafydd and Rhodri, and his cousins, Gruffudd and Maredudd - who were all descendants of Owain Gwynedd. This made Llywelyn the sole ruler of Gwynedd by 1199 whereupon he styled himself as 'Prince of all North Wales'.
4. Behind the police station is York Place. This is named after Dr John Williams, Archbishop of York, who played an important role during the Civil War between King Charles I and Oliver Cromwell.
5. The building on the corner is the Royal Cambrian Academy which houses works of contemporary Welsh artists. It was founded in 1881 by a group of Welsh artists who had established a 'colony' based in Betws-y-Coed and other villages in the Conwy Valley. It moved to this converted chapel in 1993.
6. Plas Mawr, built for Robert Wynn of Gwydyr Castle, Llanrwst, in 1576-80. Plas Mawr, or the Great Hall, is one of, if not the finest surviving Elizabethan town house anywhere in Britain.
7. Most of the buildings in High Street are 19th century and replace earlier, less well-built, half-timbered houses, shops and inns. At times in the 18th and 19th centuries there were over 50 inns in Conwy, which was an important town along trade routes between England and Ireland .
8. The Cistercian Monastery of Aberconwy originally stood on this site and the 13th century Welsh prince, Llywelyn the Great, was buried here. After the conquest King Edward I moved the monks up the Conwy Valley to Maenan and the Abbey church here was rebuilt over the following centuries.
9. The oldest parts of the building date from the period when Conwy was rebuilt following destruction of the walled town in 1401 by the forces of Welsh rebel leader Owain Glyndwr. Archaeology has indicated the house was originally an urban two-bay hall house with jointed crucks. The hall house was converted in 1589.
10. The Liverpool Arms is built through the old town walls, with the back door inside the town and the front door facing the quay.
11. Measuring just 180cm x 300cm (72" x 122"), that is a floor area of 5.4sqm, Britain's smallest house came into being when houses were built along the walls from either end. They didn't quite meet up and the gap was filled with a tiny house. It was lived in until 1900, when the last occupant was a 6ft fisherman.
12. The white building near the far end of the quay is the Conwy mussel purification facility. The clear waters from the mountain springs of Snowdonia, mixing with the sea water offers the perfect environment for mussels to grow.
13. During the 19th Century Conwy was a busy port for shipping slate, salt and timber on which duties had to be paid, and the 19th century Harbour Master's Office was once the Customs Office.
14. The oldest bridge is Thomas Telford's Suspension Bridge, built in 1822-26. Telford built his bridge to fit in with the castle: the towers are smaller versions of the castle towers and the toll house, at the far end of the bridge, is a miniature baronial castle. Robert Stephenson's unique railway bridge was built in 1846-48. A third new road bridge was built in 1958.
15. Conwy is one of the great fortresses of medieval Europe. The castle was an important part of King Edward I's plan of surrounding Wales in "an iron ring of castles" to subdue the Welsh population who were violently opposed to English occupation of their homeland.