Looking for clues into Black Rock’s past life

We’re here at Black Rock, which has been a crossing point for the River Severn for centuries. This may look like a quiet place today, but the past has lots of stories to tell of how people have crossed the river by boat, ferry, train and by car.

There are lots of clues in the landscape of how this used to happen. Roman coins have been found in the estuarine mud. Imagine a small boat carrying Roman soldiers across a hazardous, treacherous water, possibly throwing coins as offerings to the gods for a safe journey.

The regular ferry was established in 1131, and that was used by the monks from Tintern Abbey. And later, King Henry VIII banned river crossings across the River Severn because of the many crimes, robberies and murders that were committed to steal goods which were then transported across the river to be sold in England. So in the 18th century a road was built to bring travellers and traders to the ferry here at Black Rock. And you can see on my right a brick slipway leading down into the River Severn where they would get on the ferry and be taken across the water.

Later in the 1800s, the railway line came to this very site. You can just see the horizontal brick supports jutting out into the River Severn and here the train would go onto the pier to meet the waiting ferry so that passengers could get off the train and straight onto the ferry and go across the River Severn. You

Chwilio am gliwiau i orffennol Y Garreg Ddu

Rydyn ni yma yn Y Garreg Ddu, sydd wedi bod yn fan croesi’r Afon Hafren ers canrifoedd. Efallai ei fod yn edrych fel lle tawel heddiw, ond mae gan y gorffennol lawer o straeon i'w hadrodd am sut mae pobl wedi croesi'r afon mewn cwch, fferi, trên ac mewn car.

Mae yna lawer o gliwiau yn y tirlun o sut arferai hyn ddigwydd. Cafwyd hyd i ddarnau arian Rhufeinig yn y mwd aberol. Dychmygwch gwch bach yn cludo milwyr Rhufeinig ar draws dŵr anniogel a pheryglus, o bosib yn taflu darnau arian fel offrymau i'r duwiau ar gyfer taith ddiogel.

Sefydlwyd y fferi reolaidd yn 1131, a’i defnyddiwyd gan y mynachod o Abaty Tyndyrn. Ac yn ddiweddarach, gwnaeth Brenin Harri VIII wahardd croesfannau ar draws Afon Hafren oherwydd cyflawnwyd nifer fawr o droseddau, lladradau a llofruddiaethau wrth ddwyn nwyddau, a fyddai wedyn yn cael eu cludo ar draws yr afon i'w gwerthu yn Lloegr. Felly yn y 18fed ganrif adeiladwyd ffordd i ddod â theithwyr a masnachwyr i'r fferi yma yn y Garreg Ddu. A gallwch weld ar fy ochr dde llithrfa frics yn arwain lawr i mewn i Afon Hafren lle byddai’r bobl yn mynd ar y fferi ac yna eu cludo ar draws y dŵr.

Yn ddiweddarach yn y 1800au, daeth y rheilffordd i'r union safle hwn. Gallwch weld y seiliau brics llorweddol yn estyn allan i Afon Hafren a dyma le fyddai'r trên yn mynd ar y pier i gwrdd â'r fferi, fel y gallai teithwyr ddod oddi ar y trên ac yn syth ar y fferi er mwyn mynd ar draws Afon Hafren. Yn y pellter gallwch weld y tŷ New Passage gwyn, a dyna le byddai'r teithwyr yn

can just see in the distance the white New Passage house, which is where the travellers would disembark and get onto the waiting train to continue their journey. The pier fell into disrepair when the Severn Tunnel was built under the water from Wales to England. The ferry was no longer needed because passengers could go right the way under the River Severn without the need to get off the train. In the distance, just by the second Severn crossing you can see the pumphouse which still pumps water out of the Severn Tunnel. These days, the most popular way to get across the River Severn is by car on one of the two Severn Bridges that go across the river. You can probably hear them in the distance.	cyrraedd cyn parhau a’u taith ar y trên. Fe ddadfeiliodd y pier pan adeiladwyd Twnnel Hafren o dan y dŵr o Gymru i Loegr. Nid oedd angen y fferi mwyach oherwydd gallai teithwyr deithio’r holl ffordd o dan Afon Hafren heb orfod disgyn oddi ar y trên. Yn y pellter, ger yr ail groesfan Hafren gallwch weld y pwmpdy sy'n dal i bwmpio dŵr allan o Dwnnel Hafren. Y dyddiau hyn, y ffordd fwyaf poblogaidd o deithio ar draws Afon Hafren yw mewn car ar un o'r ddwy Bont Hafren sy'n mynd ar draws yr afon. Efallai y gallwch eu clywed yn y pellter.