

ARENIG

Most of the passes in the northern part of these hills try and skirt around the rather bleak and open moorland; travelling through the terrain would have been very difficult. Further South, a number of routeways can be seen.

Bwlch Blaen y Cwm SH 873467

A simple descriptor of a bwlch 'pass' + blaen 'head, end' + y 'the' + cwm 'valley', where most are probably located. Blaen -y-cwm 1838 AO.

Bwlch Carreg y Fran SH 734454

There are many locations with this name; in the mountains the carreg 'stone, rock' + y 'the' + fran 'crow'; is usually linked to cigfran 'raven'. Ravens were associated with death while crows were also a bad omen if you saw just the one; while two crows were sign of good luck.

Bwlch Goriwared SH 765245

Gor 'above' + (g)wared or (g)waered 'downward sloping, descent, declivity'; Old Welsh gwoiret from the Celtic word *uo-ad-ret 'descend'. In French, the word adret is used for a sunny, south-facing slope. Bwlch Gorwaered 1838 OS.

Bwlch Graianog SH 890422

A fairly straightforward name, graianog, graeanog 'stony, gravelly'.

Bwlch Gwyn SH 755242

It is difficult to see how colour terms are used in the landscape; the term gwyn 'white' might be an allusion to brightness, the pale colour of rocks, or even snows. However, it should be noted that in 'Celtic' culture the colour white was associated with the South, a southerly wind was a white wind, also a favourable way might be viewed as being white. This pass was quite important at one time and it heads almost directly North/South through the hills.

Bwlch Llwyd SH 847337

Apart from a reference to colour either as llwyd 'grey'; or, even a 'brown, russet' there are a number of other meanings, some of which may be in a figurative sense, such as 'ancient' or 'undistinguished'.

Bwlch Pen y Feidiog SH 783332

Beidiog is one name for the plants in the *Artemisia* genus; the Lady's Mantle *Alchemilla vulgaris* is just one of this group, many of which are found in the mountains.

Bwlch y Bi SH 780355

Bi(w) is an old word for cattle, one can also find bi 'cattle' in names such as Buarth ym Mherth y Bi to support this. Bwlch y Bi 1838 OS.

Bwlch y Buarth SH 840395

This is the pass that was used by the old railway to get round the base of Arenig Fawr. The term buarth usually denotes a 'cattle enclosure'; or, a 'milking yard'.

Bwlch y Llu SH 750387

The word llu 'a host, army' is probably correct, the proximity of this pass to Tomen y Mur, a Roman fort at one time, later a medieval stronghold would support this. Bwlch y Llu 1837 OS.

Bwlch y Pentre SH 883457

The name of this pass refers to pen 'head, end, extremity' + tref 'dwelling, farmstead'; also seen in the stream name Nant y Pentref below, not pentref 'settlement, village'. Bwlch-y-pentre 1838 OS.