

BLACK MOUNTAINS/MYNYDD Y GADER

This area of high mountains and striking ridges has created a number of problems over the years due to the confusion of names. There are no early references to a Black Mountain or Black Mountains in the eastern areas of the Bannau range; the first reference to such a name is by Leland in his Itinerary (1536-9), an incomplete collection of notes and observations which was not published in his lifetime. There could have been a local or even an erroneous use of the term Black Mountain(s) in the area; or, it may have been a simple misunderstanding, to be edited out later. In another section of notes Leland only mentions Mynydd y Gader; for this area, with a later reference to a Black Mountain, the one found far to the West: *'The hilles caullid in Walsch Mennith e gader appere in Talegarth about Dinas, and so to the places about Nanthonddy, and with sum part of the montaines meate the greate hilles caullid Banne Brekeniauc, and renneth in lenght to the Blake Montaine to my estimation apon an xviii. miles.'*

The eastern area of these hills, which continue into what is now Herefordshire were in an area named in the 12C Liber Landavensis as Ewias or Ewyas; in Welsh texts it has the name form Euas. It may have been a small post-Roman 'kingdom, perhaps linked to hiwicce, but was later reduced to being an even smaller commote. The terms Forest Hen and Forest of Monow have also been used for this area.

Unfortunately, it was in this area of ridges, that the Hatterell term was also used, another name that moved about quite a bit, almost as much as the term Black Mountains. At one time the whole area was given the name Hatterel Hilles (or similar). At a later stage, the ridge running southwards from Trwyn Llech above Hay (now marked as Hay Bluff) was recorded as Black Mountain and Hatteral Hill/Ridge on the early maps, this is still known to some as Hatteral Ridge.

Although the main area of hills was sometimes known as Talgarth, even Fforest Dinas and Talgarth Forest at times, the mountains were generally termed Mynydd y Gader. This Mynydd y Gader definition, with perhaps Euas/Ewias for the eastern hills, probably has greater historical substance to its usage.

Y Waun Fach 810m SO 216300

Gwaun 'moorland, mountain' + fach 'small, lesser' - the mutated form of bach; although there is no Waun Fawr. When viewed from the South, Pen y Gadair Fawr seems to be the highest mountain in the area. Also, the whole ridge line was named Mynydd y Gader/Gadair at one time, the topographer and historian William Rees has this on his 1933 map of the area.

Pen y Gader Fawr 800m SO 229288

The name on the early OS maps was Pen y Cader Fawr OS 1832 and a little later Pen y Gader Fawr; though, at one time the whole ridge was termed Mynydd y Gader as in the 1729 Emanuel Bowen Map of South Wales, The Gadair Mountain 1828 Greenwood Map. Previously, the whole area had been termed in English as the Hatteral or Hatterel Hills, though that has shifted well to the East by now.

It is hard to decide which meaning is present in the name of this mountain. Is it the main dictionary form cadair 'chair, throne'? To supposedly describe a hill with the shape of a chair on its flanks; or, of it being metaphorically a high place of honour. There are indeed two separate cwms, through which the streams now named Nant y Gadair flow (the cadair 'chair' shapes to some); but, the stream and/or cwm name are just as likely to have been taken from the name of the mountain.

The word cadair is borrowed from the Latin *cathedra* 'chair'; however, the dictionary meanings for cadair now also has 'fort, stronghold' as well as 'settlement' included as meanings for the term. This apparent later melding of the meanings seems to be used to undermine the argument for what (for

some) is a contentious *cader 'fort, defensive site' interpretation. One should note that this 'defensive site' interpretation can also be used as a metaphor for strength or eminence, there is no actual fort along the ridge.

'Ekwall in Place Names of Lancashire (p. 50) and in early editions of Dictionary of English Place Names, proposed for Chadderton Lanc a British cognate of OIr *cathir*, **caterā*- > neoBrittonic **cader*, but he abandoned this in the 4th edition of Dictionary of English Place Names, 1960. There is no evidence for such a word in Brittonic, but, again, that a loan-word meaning 'a chair' came, apparently quite quickly, to be used as a place-name for 'a fort' is perplexing.' AG James **The Brittonic Language in the Old North** 2017 (Scottish Place-name Society Website).

Thus Ekwall postulated the Brittonic **cater*/**cader* 'fort' word, similar to the Middle Irish *cathir* 'a fortified place', Old Irish *cathair* 'stone fort': This may ultimately be linked to cad 'battle, army', similar to Irish *cath* 'battle, fight, army' The term is seen in the mountain names such as Cathair, Cork; Cathair Bhláth, Kerry; Stracathro, Forfar; Seancathair, Aberdeenshire.

John Leland wrote in his itineraries (1536-9) of the river Llynfi '*Lleueney that cummeth owt of Atterel Hylles, the wich be cawlded in Walsch Meneth e Cadair, id est montes alti instar cathedrarum, [which is the seat of the high mountains]*'. Another reference of his to the hill name has: '*The hills caullid in Welsch Mennith e gader appere in Talegarth about Dinas,*'.

Pen y Manllwyn 775m SO 213309

An end of a spur and not a true summit; it is probable that manllwyn is a variant form of the word manllwdn 'a sheep, small animal'. Some have suggested something akin to man 'place, region' or mân 'small, fine' + llwyn 'grove, woods'.

Pen Allt-Mawr 719m SO 207244

Pen 'end, head, summit' + allt 'slope, cliff, height or wooded slope' + mawr 'large'; the mountain forms a gently undulating ridge. A little to the South is Pen Gloch y Pibwr (204233), there is no actual summit here but from the valley floor it does look like a separate peak. Pen-allt-mawr 1832 OS.

Pen Rhos Dirion 713m SO 212334

The early OS maps show the name Pen Rhos Dirion right on the top; today, the name is further down, as a name for a slope. The tirion 'gentle, mild' would give the impression of a gently undulating moorland rather than good ground. Also, a rather romanticised corruption could have occurred to the word rhosdir rhos 'moor' + tir 'land' changing with time to form Rhos Dirion. Rhos 'upland, heath, moor; marshland, plain' is comparable to Cornish *ros* 'hill-spur, promontory; moor' and Breton *roz* 'upland, side of a valley; all from the Brittonic **rosto*- 'promontory, headland; moor'. Pen-rhos-tirion 1832 OS.

Twyn Llech 703m SO 256351

This is not really named as such on the present OS map, though it is noted with the name on some digital maps. The Twyn Llech name is to be seen on the flanks of the mountain; it may certainly have been termed Black Mountains on early maps although these were terms scattered about as much as the Hatterall Hill form. The 6" OS map 1840-80 has the name Black mountains in a number of places while the 1832 map gave the name Hatterall Hill to the whole ridge-line leading South East towards what is now Hatterall Hill. Some still want the whole ridge named as Hatterall Hill. Twyn 'hill, peak' + llech 'slab, stone, rock'.

Pen y Trumau 707m SO 204294

Pen 'end, head' + y 'the' + trumau - one plural of trum, drum 'mountain crest, ridge, peak'.

Twyn Tâl y Cefn 702m SO 221325

On the William Rees historical map 1933, this was the name for the ridge leading all the way to what is now Pen Rhos Dirion. Twyn 'hillock, pile, banc or knoll' + tâl 'end, head' + cefn 'ridge, back'.

Pen Cerrig Calch 701m SO 217224

The cerrig 'rocks' + calch 'limestone' refers to the remnant layer of rocks found in the area. This thin layer of carboniferous limestone was so out of keeping with the other tops in the area that it gave its name to the mountain. From the Latin *calx*, the Middle Welsh word *calch* or the Brittonic **calco-* gave rise to the Irish term *cailc*.

The name Cefn Digell Hill is seen on the 1831 Greenwood map, the cefn 'back' element refers to the ridge; what is interesting is the term digell. The element di- is a negative prefix meaning 'devoid of, without, dis-, -less' + cell(i) 'groves, woodland' to signify an area bare of trees. Otherwise, di- + cell 'stag' - an obscure form of cellaig 'stag' [cell + gi 'dog' is a staghound], therefore an area on the mountain without deer. Pen-cerrig-calch 1832 OS.

Twmpa 682m SO 225350

Twmpa is a shorter version of the word twmpath 'hillock, heap, pile'; however, in some areas it shows the same meaning as the term begwn 'beacon'. Here the term twmpa probably refers to the distinctly rounded or heaped feature found at the top of this ridge and not the usual peaked promontory associated with many of the other beacons, it therefore stands out as being different. Another name that may be connected to this top, but which moves around a bit on the maps, is Rhiw Wen. The name of the ridge is Y Darren Lwyd; it has also been denoted as being Lord Hereford's Knob in the past. The South East end of the ridge has been marked as Trwyn y Tâl in the past on the 1834 Greenwood Map, Rhiw Wen/The Tumpa 1840-80 6" AO.

Y Das 680m SO 201327

More of a spur than a peak; the word is a mutated tas 'heap, pile, (hay)rick, s tack', cognate with Cornish *das* 'stack, rick'; is once again a term denoting a peaked heap. Using the definite article makes the word, and so the hill, a special location.

Cwarel y Fan 679m SO 259294

Cwarel 'chwarel' + y + fan 'uchder, copa', oherwydd y cwarel bychan ar ei gopa; mae'r enw Y Fan (246303) ar y llechwedd. Cwarel y von 1830 map Greenwood.

Trwyn Llech/Hay Bluff 677m SO 244367

Trwyn Llech is the only name seen for this mountain on the earliest OS maps of 1832; this is very similar to the Twyn Llech first seen just to the south on the 1840-80 6" map and on the present day OS map now about a kilometre away, at (247256). If the term trwyn is correct, it is a very apt descriptor for the landscape feature here; trwyn 'ridge, promontory, nose' + llech 'slab, stone, rock' Old Welsh *lech* 'flat stone, slab'. Twyn would also fit the location as a topographic term; they are also very similar sounding terms; differing communities sometimes had differing names for the same topographic features.

The rather made up and seemingly quite late names Pen y Begwn, Pen y Beacon were then used for this mountain top. The begwn 'beacon' is a heap of fuel (usually of gorse) set up to be lit on fire as a warning, signal or celebration. A hill or mountain which would be a good site for such a beacon could be named as such. Otherwise, hill shapes that look like a beacon would also be a reasoning for such a name and many hills in this area do have that pointed form.

Previously the mountain was denoted as being, Hatterel hil 1578 Saxton, Haterell Hill 1610 Speed, in English it is now known as both Hay Bluff and Black Mountain. However, there might have been an earlier name, the episcopal boundary description for this area in the Book of Llandaf c. 1120-34 has the : '..... dyr uyncul dyr brydell dy hal ruma dy main y bard ynlycat nat y bard. nant y bard niht yr guayret hyt pandyscein yn dour.'

..... to **Vyncul**, to the **Brydell**, to **Hal Ruma**, to **Maen y Bardd**, at source of **Nant y Bardd**, **Nant y Bardd** along it down till it falls into **Dour**

The Vyncul, later Bwlch y Fingul, is the pass now marked on the map as Gospel Pass, while the source of Nant y Bardd now seen as Nant y Bar is at 275402 and Maen y Bardd is near this source; the Dour is the River Dore. Therefore, one has Brydell and Hal Ruma as probable hill names in between these known locations. JG Evans and Sir John Rhys have the Brydell as the top of this hill and Hal Ruma as '? Cussop 'Moor' in their The Text of the Book of Llan Dav, 1893.

If the brydell, given as bridell in the Mellville Richards Archive is a variant form on priddell 'a mass, clump or clod of earth'; similar to the name Briddellarw. This could be the name for this mountain, but is more likely to be a similar naming as the cnapiau seen consistently on the maps at (238352). Cnap 'lump, mass' probably from Irish *cnap* 'lump, heap', Old Norse *knapp* 'boss, knob'. This would leave the name hal ruma as the name for this mountain; from hâl 'moor, upland', linked to Cornish *hal* 'moor' and ruma 'belly, paunch; abdomen'; both rare terms today.

Pen Gloch y Pibwr 674m SO 206233

Not really a hill as such but part of a spur leading down from Pen Allt Mawr, but it looks like a top when viewed from below. There are a cluster of Bronze Age cairns near the summit, showing its importance to those dwelling in the valley one time. The element pen 'head, summit' is straightforward while the word pibwr 'piper' is a little unusual as a mountain name. The difficulty comes with the word cloch: if cloch 'bell', does it signify a bell shape, one of the cairns at one time; or, the shape of the mountain rather than a variant of clog 'crag', linked to Cornish *clog*, *clugh* 'crag', Irish *cloch* 'rock'.

However, on the Greenwood map one sees the name Briannog Hill for this part of the ridge and one would assume that the Bryniog name (199224) is a remnant of this. Unfortunately, the long gradual ridge line could not be described as being bryn 'hill' + -og 'tending to, prevalence of, association with', giving the impression of a hilly area. An alternative might be breuan, brefan 'carrion crow, raven' + -og, to denote the gathering of ravens.

Y Fan 671m SO 259314

One can see the name Y Fan 'The Height' about a kilometre away to the north west; while at the summit one finds Chwarel y Fan, similar to Cornish *ban*, *van* 'height'. However, the name of this ridge was at one time Cefn y Capel; cefn 'back' + y 'the' + capel 'chapel'; probably relating to Capel y Ffin.

Mynydd Llysiau 663m SO 207278

The diminutive of the word llysiau 'plants, vegetation' may be correct as it could also be used to denote grassland or moorland vegetation. However, llysiau could be a corruption of llusau, the secondary plural of the word llus 'bilberries'; Cornish *lus*, Breton *lus*. The Greenwood map of 1823 has this area as Waun Fain, to denote a narrow ridge.

Pen Twyn Mawr 658m SO 242267

Pen 'top' + twyn 'hill, pile, heap' + mawr 'large'. The term twyn or tywyn is usually found as a descriptor of a sand dune or low hill in many other parts of Wales. In this region the term is often

used for far larger hills.

Pen Twyn Glas 646m SO 213257

As previously mentioned, the colour term glas is a conundrum when it comes to landscape names; as it was only at a late stage that it came to mean blue. Previously the word glas could denote a grey, greenish grey, a colour that could be termed glaucous. One must decide which is present. Another decision has to be made as to the meanings of the other elements. The word pen 'head, end' + twyn 'heap pile' seem to be straightforward.; the two elements are sometimes combined to form the word pentwr 'heap, pile'.

Crib y Garth 640m SO 275348

Crib 'ridge' + garth 'promontory' can both be used separately to denote a 'mountain ridge'; However, another meaning for crib 'crest' is probable here, denoting the ridge top cliff-line. Black Hill is the other name for the mountain; however, it is doubtful if this was the original Mynydd Du or Mynyddoedd Duon. One sees the form Gripegarth as the name on the William Rees South Wales and the Border in the XIV Century map (1933) and Crib'r-garth 1832 OS. Crib y Gath is a very late back formation of the name and has led to the misconstrued English name for the feature, the Cat's Back.

Cefn y Gaseg 637m SO 267322

Cefn 'back, ridge' + y 'the' + caseg 'mare'. Unnamed on the OS maps over many years, this little summit on the ridge top to the East of Llanthony, is noted as Cefn y Gasseg by Henry Price in his A New Map of Monmouthshire 1823; a name that is also seen on the Greenwood, Monmouthshire Map of 1830 but never made it to the OS maps. Keven = cefn 'back, ridge' + caseg 'mare', is far more probable than caseg 'wrinkled, uneven', as the ridge is relatively smooth. The name Kevenecassec is seen in the 1324 Calendar of the Charter Rolls (PRO 1908 Vol3 p475) which records the gift as: *'Whereby, Walter de Lacy, son of Hugh de Lacy, gave all the valley in which the said church is situated to wit on the side of **Kevenecassec** and Askaresweye and along the Ruggesweye up to Antefyn and on the side of Haterel from the land of Seisel son of Gilbert by the Ruggesweye to the bounds of Talgarth.'*

One would then assume that the Charter information would link to the surveyed maps of Price and Greenwood perfectly; unfortunately, there is a discrepancy. The historian William Rees, in his South Wales and the Border in the XIV Century (1933) map; has Y Cefn Cassec written along the ridge to the West of Llanthony, exactly where Chwarel y Fan is located today. There is a Rugge(s)weye (= ridgeway) written further South on this ridge; the other Rugge(s)weye is written on the ridge to the East of Llanthony. Unfortunately, the names Askaresweye (?Esgair + way?) and Antefyn (? Antefin?) given in the text of the charter are very difficult to locate without further research. However, as the Hatterel ridge and lands of Seisel/Cecil (around Oldcastle) are to the East one would suspect that Cefn Caseg is an old name for Chwarel y Fan to the West. More research is needed.

Mynydd Troed 609m SO 173283

To many, the word troed 'foot' is a reference to the rather odd hill shape, which from some angles, especially on the higher slopes to the East, may resemble a gigantic foot. However, the word troed may be taken from a location 'at the foot' of a hill, such as from Allt Troedrhwfelen 233m SO 786355 or it may reference to the pasturage of a farm with the element troed in its name, there is a farm nearby - Troed yr Haearn at (SO 168323). Other suggestions are that the name is derived from a corruption of troad, troead 'a turn', as in a change in direction of the mountains; being at the foot of the higher hills and with much less conviction a corruption of the old word troeth 'urine'.

In the boundary description of the Book of Llandaf c.1120-34 one finds that after the ridge of

'cecyn y pennypynmarch' and before the probable stream name 'rytnant' one finds the term 'guornoyd' or 'guornoid'. The Melville Richards Archive has this name as Gornoeth; this may give gor 'very' or 'big, high' + noeth 'bare' and as such may be the old name for this hill? This is what is suggested by JG Evans and Sir John Rhys 'to Guornoid, the ridge of Mynydd Troed' in their book: The Text of the Book of Llan Dav 1893. While the Williams Rees map does not locate the name on this hill; probably because his Bryn Eital is mis-placed as the name for Mynydd Llangors and thus he would have to bypass this hill. Gornoeth is found in two other sites as hill names in Wales.

Bal Mawr 607m SO 267271

The Dictionary of the Welsh Language has a rather uncertain bal 'bare' entry, as well as a bâl 'summit, peak' meaning that they have as being the last element of the Pen y Fal, but have qualified it with a statement 'the meaning and source of the element is uncertain'. While in Alan G James', The Brittonic Language in the Old North: (Scottish Place-name Society Website) one finds: '*bāl (f.) Brittonic *bal-m-ā- >Middle - Early Modern Welsh *bâl*, Modern Breton *bal*. The meaning in Welsh is 'summit', in Breton 'steep beach or slope': the root sense may be inferred from Welsh *balog*, Cornish *balek* '[something] projecting, sticking up or out'.

The probable connection to an anglicised corruption of the moel/foel to the bal/fal elements in these names is quite strong. The development of a corrupted form of the word foel to give a vale or fal/val spelling was espoused by many over the years, by a number of writers. In his Parochialia, Edward Lhwyd's comment c.1700: *Moel* - 'The people about Abergavenny in Monmouthshire, having lost the true notion of this word, call a sugar-loaf-hill near the town, the Vale'. Then one finds in: A Welsh and English Dictionary 1793 William Owen (-Pughe): '*Bal* A prominence, or what juts out. It is applied to mountains that terminate in a peak, in some parts of Wales, for which moel is used in other parts'. Also, it must be noted that in the area, the mutated form foel is pronounced closer to a fôl (in English 'vole') sound.

Loxidge Tump 605m SO 288297

This was recorded as Loxy Tump in the 1832 OS map quite close to the top. The name is a corruption of llochi 'shelter' or lloches 'shelter, refuge, cover, dwelling'; there is a pre-historic enclosure high on the hill (286295). The farm below the hill was also recorded as Loxy and Loxid on early maps. However, some have tried to move the cliff name Red Darren up the hillside as the name for this hill. Tump is a corruption of twmp 'hillock, knoll, mound, pile'.

Sugar Loaf/Mynydd Pen y Fal 596m SO 273188

The name seen on the OS maps today is Sugar Loaf, as well as Y Fal in brackets; Mynydd Pen y Fal is still seen about a kilometre away (263192). On the early OS maps of 1832, the name Mynydd Pen y Val was at the summit. The Sugar Loaf is a good descriptor of the shape of the mountain as it is reminiscent of the solid cones of sugar that were bought by households before granulated sugar became popular. However, the pointed cone was also a shape linked to the word moel, as in the Antiquae linguae Britannicae Thomas Richards ed. 1753 'Moel or Y Foel, doth also signify metaphorically a towering hill on which grows no wood. Hence, Moel came to be the name of many such hills as have no woods growing on them. Moel doth also signify a heap of corn, butter, and of other things of the like sort, when raised up like a pyramid above the brim or summit of the vessel in which it is contained.'

The forms bal, fal and val are only used here and in the nearby hill name Bal Mawr and nowhere else in Wales. Also, there is no corresponding topographic term in use in Irish, Gaelic or Cornish. Looking at the early map names, the forms seem to hint that there has been a corruption of moel/foel, through an anglicised vale to arrive at val; this then being 'corrected' back to a fal form. Only on the Henry Price map of 1823 does one see Pen y Voel. One should once again note the Edward Lhwyd statement in the Parochialia, c.1700 *Moel*: The people about Abergavenny in

Monmouthshire, having lost the true notion of this word, call a sugar-loaf-hill near the town, the Vale'. Also in his Parochialia one finds the name forms Fforest Moel and Y Mynydd Moel for this hill.

The 1933 historical map by William Rees, shows two other names for the hill Moel y Fan Forest with a bracketed Moel Fannau; here the forest refers to hunting ground. In the Moel y Fan form, the elements may be: moel 'bare, bare top' + y 'the' + ban 'summit, point'; or, perhaps moel 'pointed or conical top' + y 'the' + ban 'mountain, hill'. If Moel Fannau was used it could refer to the many ridges that extend down from the summit by using the sense similar to the Irish, Gaelic *benn*, 'headland, spur' rather than ban 'summit, point'. Penuaiell Hill 1579, Penuatell 1611 Speed, Penuaiell Hill 1645 Janz, Pen y vale 1785 Snell map, Pen y voel 1823 Henry Price map, OS Pen y Fan 1840-80.

Pen Gwyllt Meirch 580m SO 250250

This would seem to be a fairly straightforward set of elements in a name; a pen 'summit where you would find gwyllt' wild' + meirch 'horses'. The gwyllt could denote a wild tract of land a place where the horses could use as pasture. Even today in certain areas of Wales, semi-wild ponies are found roaming the mountains. However, if the name is as seen on the 1832 OS map Pen-gwellt-march, this could give a totally different meaning, as gwellt 'grass, pasture' + march 'horse' probably denotes an area of better ground.

Cwrwm 552m SO 304279

The actual top of this hill has not been named on OS maps, though the name Rhiw Arw is seen some digital OS maps for the summit, this is not seen elsewhere. There seems to be a trend by some digital mapmakers to pluck a name from the surrounding terrain if there is no actual name to be seen for a hilltop.

However, the boundary description for the Merthyr Clydog charter in Book of Llandaf c.1120-34 has the following description: 'Finius illius est, lapis iniguoun breith i cecin inihit di rui i curum. dirmain icecin iralt arhit cecin diuinid bet i mein arcuier nant trineint diguaret ar i hyd bet elchon'. This translates as: 'The boundary of it is, stone in **Guoun Breith** to ridge, along it to the acclivity of **Curum**, to the stone to ridge to slope along ridge up to stone opposite vale of **Trineint** down its length to **Elchon**'.

It is likely that Guoun Breith - Gwaun Brith is what is now on the OS maps marked as Hatteral Hill, the stone or cairn opposite Trineint is at 296286, the Trineint 'three streams' are those flowing down to the Elchon – now the Olchon.

What of the Rui Curum – Rhiw Curum? The old OS 6" 1840-80 series map shows the name Rhiw Cwrw for the small farm/dwelling (309271) directly below the top; the area is still known locally as Rhiw Cwrw. The name for the path leading up the very steep eastern side of the ridge is Rhiw Arw; rhiw 'slope, rise' + (g)arw 'difficult, hard', the form Rhiw Garw in seen the 1832 OS as the name for the steep path. It may be that the use of (g)arw 'difficult' is an attempt to somehow explain or reconcile the word cwrw 'beer' to this location. However, there is an old word that agrees with the early spelling and also corresponds with the landscape form of the ridge, namely cwrwm, cyrrwm 'bending, bent back, back'. In the 1688 dictionary, Cymraeg Yn Ei Ddisgleirdeb one finds: cwrwm – gwyriad 'a lumpish shape'.

There may be a rather dubious possibility to link another word to this location; particularly for those struggling to find a 'black' mountain in the area, very tentatively the word gwrwm. In the Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru (University of Wales Dictionary) *gwrwm*, *gwrwm* 'greyish-brown, dark-grey, dark, black, dark-blue' is shown, linked to Old Irish *gorm* 'dark blue, green, red; dark, black' there are

some references to it; unfortunately, the usage is mainly in 13&14C poetic language. Furthermore, there seem to be no instances recorded in any name forms seen in the Melville Richards Archive for the whole of Wales.

Crug Mawr 550m SO 262227

The term crug can denote a number of topographical features 'hillock, knoll, mound, cairn or stack' and it is a challenge to sometimes decide which meaning is being used. If one looks at the OS map one sees that the hill forms an end of a long ridge, but looking 'end on' the hill would resemble a large (hay) stack or rick.

Disgwylfa 541m SO 258234

This hill name is made up of: disgwyl 'expectation, watch' + -ma 'place, site', to denote 'a good watching place, look-out, place of observation'. One has to decide whether this was for defence or when looking out over grazing flocks on the hillside.

Hatterall Hill/Gwaun Brith 531m SO 308257

This name, or the similar Hatterel Hill, is the name seen on the OS maps of 1838, confusingly, it is a name that has been used in a number of other locations in the past, such as Trwyn Llech/Hay Bluff. The early OS maps also show the name of this hill as Cwarau'r Waun, this was a reference to the quarries rather than an overall name. However, on an 1823 map by Henry Price, entitled A New Map of Monmouthshire, the name of the hill is given as Twyn Sych. Twyn 'hillock, peak, top' is a fairly common term in South Wales; while the word sych 'dry' could denote a hill with few streams, no source of water; or, a tendency to become scorched in periods of drought. The various hatterall to hatterel forms are probably derived from the Old French *haterel* 'apex, crown of the head'.

One of the charters in Book of Llandaf c.1120-34 has a boundary descriptor for church land around Merthyr Clydog, now part of Herefordshire. The start of the boundary is recorded as being '..... lapis iniguoun brith, icecin'. The finish point is back on top of the hill, given as '..... iuinid diurchu irguoun breith ar cecin'. The latter part of the boundary is very similar to the boundary seen today between Herefordshire and Gwent, if not the same.

The statement 'iniguoun brith' could be translated as 'in the mottled moor'; but is better as, 'at the Gwaun Brith'. Capital letters for names was not generally used, neither was much punctuation in the text; however, the finishing description would support Gwaun Brith or Frith as the old name for this hill more than the start point. The early OS map forms of Cwarau'r Waun, waun being a mutated gwaun, would also support this.

Bal Bach 520m SO 276264

The element Bal is probably a very old corruption of moel 'bare or conical hill', see Bal Mawr above; with the term bach 'little'. Bal bach 1830 Greenwood map.

Mynydd Llangors 515m SO 159267

The present name for the hill has been taken up from the village/parish name. The name of a Bryn Eital in a local boundary description for Llangors in Book of Llandaf c.1120-34 was associated with this spot on the 1933 William Rees map. However, this seems to be an error as the original text in the charter mentions a stream connected with this hill as Tael and not a mistranscribed afel as is sometimes given; the actual Nant Tawel is on the other side of the valley, it flows through Llanfihangel Tal-y-llyn and Bryn Eital is what is now named Pentwyn.

However, this may be the upper part of the cecyn y pennypynmarch noted in the Book of Llandaf; 'llech bychlyt dy cecyn y pennypynmarch dy guornoid'. William Rees may not have marked this on the map because of the mis-placed Bryn Eital; he located this cecyn [a variant on cegin 'ridge']

further South, on what is now Cefn Moel. However, the name may have included the whole ridge from Cefn Moel to what is now Mynydd Llangors; others have also located the name in this area.

The cecyn 'ridge' y penn 'head, top' + pynmarch or pynfarch 'packhorse' would suggest a ridge shaped like a loaded packhorse as the name for the ridge. However, despite the dictionary meaning of pyn/pynn 'load, pack, pile' + march 'horse'; there are other meanings; one of which could be inferred here.

Penfarch or more usually pynfarch in South Wales can be a term for a leat or millrace; something that provides the 'horse-power' to a mill, that which a horse or mule once did perhaps? The sea was also seen as a figurative packhorse (carrying goods) and a pynfarch was regarded as one of the main royal revenues in Welsh Law. The Mellville Richards Archive have the name Pen y Pynmarch located at 1524, where one also finds a stream named Nant y Felin 'Mill Stream'. Though the Llyfr Llanaf text has the stream as entering straight into Llyn Syfaddon. So the cecyn/cegin is the ridge, while the Pen y Pynmarch could refer to a packhorse shaped ridge; or, a ridge named after a mill stream.

The ridge line has a number of pre-historic cairns along its length which would have been quite apparent from the hill fort of Allt yr Esgair.

Y Graig Ddu 503m SO 285267

The mutated craig 'rock' + du 'black, dark' is the name applied to the steep little cliff and is the nearest named feature to this spur top. The cliff is in the afternoon shade but is probably named as a counterpoint to Y Garn Wen (281255).

Blaen yr Henbant 498m SO 218225

This is not the blaen 'end, head, source' meaning usually seen in this part of the country; instead one has blaen 'top, summit'. The hen 'old, original' + pant 'hollow, valley' would usually be seen to refer to a well established or early settlement (or a land-holding) in a valley or lowland location rather than a hilltop. One can see the name Hen Bant below. Blaen-yr-hen-bant 1832 OS.

Bwlch Bach ar Grib 490m SO 184330

There is a Bronze Age cairn at the summit of this little hill overlooking Castell Dinas. Although it is not named on the maps the hill and the sharp ridge line of Y Grib 'the crest' do stand out. It is here that the Llandaf boundary description 'dy ol y gabr dy bron cateir' has been placed by William Rees in his 1933 map. Ôl 'path' + y 'the' + gabr 'goat' probably describes a track through or up the mountains, while the crest of y Grib is bron 'brow' + cateir 'chair, stronghold'.

Ysgyryd Fawr 486m SO 331183

It is probable that the name does derive from ysgyryd 'rough, difficult', a name similar in meaning to Y Drosogl or Yr Arw; it must be noted that a name on the flanks of this hill is given as The Arwallt (337186). Some have the name being connected to ysgyrion 'pieces, chips'; or, even a term ultimately derived from ysgwrn 'ice, slipperiness, area of wet ground hardened by frost' linked to Breton *scourn*, *scorn*? Iscirit c.1120-34 Book of Llandaf. The mountain was noted as iscirit mawr by Leland wrote in his itineraries (1536-9), Skyred vaure 1538 Valor Ecclesiastent, Skiridvaure Hill 1610 Speed; later on in 1700 one sees Skerid fawr and in 1794 Skirid Vawr, Skirrid Fawr 1828 Map Greenwood.

Crug Hywel 482m SO 226207

If it is the personal name Hywel that is applied to the hill, it is hard to decide which, of many with this name, is commemorated. It might be mythological, as there was a giant of the same name. The name is derived from Middle Welsh *Higuel*, comparable to the Breton *Hoël*. from the Brittonic

**Suwelos* 'well seen' as in the sense of 'respectable'. Otherwise, if not a personal name, the word *hywel* 'prominent, conspicuous' would certainly be a good topographic name for this hill, flat and capped as it is by an Iron Age Hillfort. Crecowell Saxton 1578, Crecowell 1611 Speed, Krick Howel c.1700 Parochialia, Crug Hywel 1832 OS.

Y Garn Wen 475m SO 281255

The 'bright', 'fair' or sunny aspect of these South-facing slopes are probably the reason for the hill being described as (g)wen - the feminine form of gwyn 'white'; the carn 'cairn' could also have an association with benevolence because of the word gwyn/gwen.

Castell Dinas 444m SO 179302

Castell 'castle' + dinas 'stronghold'. This hill is named as such because of the ancient and impressive defensive site overlooking one of the ancient north-south routes through the mountains in this area. It was used for a long period and is noted on the earliest maps of the area. Dinas 'stronghold' from the Old Welsh *din* 'a fort', Cornish *dynas*, Brittonic/Gaulish **duno*; whereas the word castell 'castle' is far later, Brittonic **castellon* 'castle' from the Latin *castellum*. Dinas Castel 1536-9 Leland, Cast. Dynas 1645 Jansz Map.

The complex of defensive earthworks at Castell Dinas covers an area of about 360m by 280m and represent what is left of a masonry castle constructed over the site of an Iron Age stronghold. The castle is thought to have been constructed in the later twelfth century as it is first mentioned in 1234. It is described in a survey of 1337 and is thought to have passed out of use not long after, as Leland reported that the castle had been destroyed in the reign of Henry IV.

The Book of Llandaf c.1120-34 has the border of the diocese in this area as 'dyrytnant dy hanher din marchlytandy ol y gabr'; one must filter out the dy 'to' element to get the names. In his 1933 map, the historian William Rees *din marchlytan* [*din*(as) 'fortification' + march 'horse' + (l)lydan 'sturdy; obvious, important'] as the name for this stronghold; as have other translators of the Book of Llandaf text.

Pen Tir 432m SO 175254

Pen 'head, end' + tir 'land, ground'; forms the end of an area of high ground. There is a much disturbed bronze age round cairn to be found at its top and a larger cairn at the 'col' before Mynydd Llangors.

Twyn y Gaer 427m SO 294219

Here one has twyn 'bryn' coupled with caer 'defensive site, stronghold'. Once again a superb defensive site with a great outlook over the surrounding land. Caer is linked to Cornish *ker* 'town', Breton *kêr* 'village, town' but originally 'city, fort'; from the Brittonic word **cagro* 'a settlement within an enclosure'. Twyn-y-gaer 1832 OS.

Allt yr Esgair 393m SO 126244

Allt 'bluff, slope, wooded slope' + yr 'the' + esgair 'ridge, spur'. The word esgair is quite often found in 'Celtic' topographic names; Breton *esker*, Old Cornish *escher*, Middle Irish *escir*. The word describes a long ridge of a mountain similar to a braich 'ridge' and this hill does have a long thin form. The hillside was once known as Allt yr Ysgrin, the slope of the ysgrîn 'coffin, shrine'. There is an elongated Iron Age hill fort along the hilltop and a Bronze age cairn at the very top. The hill fort is a large complex of banks and ditches over 700m in length. Allt yr y skin 1658 Monmouthshire Records Office, Allt yr yskyn 1695 Tredegar Manuscripts, Allt yr yskrin 1745 Lloyd Deeds, Allt-yr-ys-grin 1832 OS.

Bryn Arw 384m SO 302207

Bryn 'hill' is derived from the Old Welsh *brinn* from the Brittonic **brunnjo-/ā-*, ultimately from the Indo European **bhreu-* 'swelling'. The *arw* element in the name is simply a mutation of the word *garw* 'rocky, rough, uncultivated'. The ubiquity of the word *garw* in the landscape is reflected in its use in other 'Celtic' languages and the fact that its meaning in the landscape has hardly changed, such as Cornish *garow*, Middle Breton *garu*, Old Irish *garb* 'rough, rugged' from the Celtic **garuo* 'rugged, craggy, uncultivated'. Brynarw Com. 1823 Price map, Bryn 1828 Greenwood Map, Bryn Aro 1832 OS, Bryn Arrw 1840-80 6" OS.

Deri 376m SO 273176

A small outlier of Pen y Fal (Sugar Loaf), connected to it by a narrow ridge named Cefn Minog; there may be a corruption of the word *miniog* 'sharp, keen edged', this word would then give a meaning denoting a sharp or narrow ridge. The meaning of Deri is quite straightforward, namely one plural of the word *dar* 'oaktree' from the Indo European **doru* 'wood, tree'. Pen Derwen 1823 Henry Price map.

Cefn Moel 365m SO 154229

Cefn 'back, ridge' + *moel* 'bare'; *cefn* is a common term in the mountains Middle Welsh *kefen*, Brittonic/Gaulish **cemno* 'ridge'. However, this ridge is the likely start location of what recorded as 'cecyn y pennypynn march' in the Book of Llandaf c.1120-34, the historian William Rees has the name Pen y Pynmarch for this ridge on his South Wales and the Border in the XIV Century map (1933). *Cecyn* is a variant form of *cegin* 'ridge'; *pen* 'top' + *y* 'the' + *pynmarch* 'mill-stream'; the name may include Mynydd Llangors as part of a long ridge.

Allt Lwyd 316m SO 139213

Mynydd Buckland is the name seen on the early OS maps for this hill, though this is not to be seen on the present day 1:25,000 map. However, one can see Buckland House and a Buckland Hill at (141214); the present map also reveals the name *Blaenbychlyd*, at (144216). There is an obscure form of the word *bach*, namely *bych* 'little', seen in the placename *Dinbych*. However, a corruption of the plural *bwch* 'buck, male deer', namely *bychod* or *bychau* is likelier + *-lyd* is an adjectival ending which generally strengthens a term is probable giving a sense of an area abounding in deer.

On the 1933 William Rees historical map one also finds the name *Bychlyd*; however, the hill name is given as *Allt Lwyd*. This is because Book of Llandaf has a reference to a boundary '..... truy uysc dycilydris dyr all luyt dy lech bychlyt'.

This translates as through **Wysg** to **Cil Idris** to **Allt Lwyd** to **Llech Bychlyd** Therefore, *Allt Lwyd* was the name of the hill, as the *Llech Bychlyd* was probably a stone marker near *Blaen Bychlyd*, probably at *Bwlch*, and that *Bychlyd* was the stream and vale name.

Myarth 292m SO 171208

The name is linked to *meiarth* with *mei-* 'middle' + *garth* - a) 'ridge, promontory' or b) 'enclosure'; or, with the *mei-* element giving the sense of 'amid, in the middle of'. *Myarth* 'commons' Badminton Manuscripts 1612 & 1704, *Penmyarth* Hill 1828 Greenwood Map, *Miarth* 1832 OS.

Ysgyryd Fach 271m SO 316136

See *Ysgyryd Fawr* above.