

CADER IDRIS

This area is dominated by the striking ridge of Cader Idris that curves round and down almost to the sea. Another long ridge, a little to the South of the Cader Idris ridge, leads up from the sea to the top of Tarren Hendre and continues North East towards the Aran group. Also in this area are the hills above Corris and Llanwrin, sometimes known as the Dyfi Forest. There are a fair number of hills named after farms in this part of Eryri and as such their names are not always included as they are not really 'mountain' names, but reflect ownership of upland areas.

Cader Idris 893m SH 711131

There has been a debate regarding the use of a cader form rather than a cadair for many years. Early on, some etymologists accepted that a form such as **cader* (or **cater*) was probably linked to Old Irish *cathir* 'fort', Middle Irish *cathair* 'stone fort'. An element that could be found in a number of mountain names as well as locations where defensive sites were to be found; or, were reminiscent of such defences. Later, it was declared that there was no such linguistic connection, it was reasoned that it was a corrupted formation and instead that cadair 'chair, throne'; from the Latin *cathedra* 'chair, throne' was correct.

It was also generally stated that cader was just a local dialect form of the word cadair, even though the use of the cader form was widespread across Wales; that is before many of the spellings were changed, e.g. Mynydd y Gader, Brycheiniog; Cader, Denbigh. The additional meaning of 'dwelling' and of 'fort, stronghold' was probably attached, at a later stage, to the cadair definition; the early dictionaries had a separate cader entry.

The Irish *cathair* 'stone fort' is usually anglicised as caher, is to be seen in many locations in the Connaught and Munster areas; the mountain name Caherconree is derived from Cathair Conraoi i.e. 'Cú Roí's stone fort'. In eastern Scotland, even up as far as Aberdeenshire, one finds Cadder and Catter forms as well as Gaelicised cathair forms e.g. Kathermothel from Cathair Mhaothail 'Muthil Fort'. Many of the cader forms in Wales are not just metaphorical, many do have defensive sites linked to them such as the prehistoric Caer Olau and later defences at Cader Ifan Goch, Conwy; also, the Iron Age promontory fort above the school in Pencader, Caermarthenshire, to name two.

It can be noted that more of the sites have fort or strongholds on them than topographic features forming cwm or chair shapes. The back-up argument is that a metaphoric use of cadair 'throne' use could be in place for a summit. A number of people now find it difficult to see how a Latin loan word such as cadair 'chair' would be so rapidly accepted as a term for what are important landscape features, unless there was a similar sounding term, although with a differing meaning, already there.

Cadeir: 'A chair, a throne'. This is generally taken to be present in the place-names listed below, though a number of problems remain. It seems surprising that a word adopted into 'high-status' British Latin and Brittonic should have been taken up quickly as a term for naming hills or other landscape features,' AG James **The Brittonic Language in the Old North** 2017 (Scottish Place-name Society Website).

Idris is still a fairly common personal name, to some the Idris here is a legendary giant; although it is probably Idris ap Gwyddno who was King of Meirionnydd that is remembered in the name. He may have died c.632 fighting against Oswald the King of Northumbria in the valley of the Severn. The summit is also known as Pen y Gadair; however, the local term for the pointed rock outcrop at the top is Y Cynr; the definite article 'y' emphasises the curn 'heap, mound; cone, pyramid, spire; rick'. Cader ydris 1573 Humphrey Llwyd Cambriae Typus, Caddorydric hill 1579 Saxton, Cadeir Idris 1586 William Camden, Caddorydrick Hill 1610 Speed, Caddorydrik hill 1645, Kader Idris 1646 Willem Janz, Kader Idris c.1700 Parochialia.

Mynydd Moel 855m SH 727136

Moel can generally be interpreted as being a 'bare' or 'rounded' and from the South, this reasoning would be quite apparent. The mountain would not be described as such from the North as it is part of a craggy scarp. Although, from this aspect the mountain has a prominent point; therefore, the moel 'pointed summit, pyramidal' interpretation should be inferred. There is a cairn 'platform' at its top is about 20m in diameter and has a prehistoric origin of unknown date. Y Mynydd Moel c.1700 Parochialia.

Cyfrwy 807m SH 703132

The word cyfrwy 'saddle' is a reference to the dip and rise up in crest of the scarp to the West of Cader Idris; the two mountains forming a saddle shape. The word cyfrwy is linked to the Breton *kevre* 'saddle' and the Old Irish *cyimrech*. Cyfrwy 1783 Thomas Pennant, Cyfrwy 1837 OS.

Mynydd Pencoed 791m SH 711121

Difficult to decide if the mountain has given its name to the farm below or visa versa. It may be that the farm name of pen 'top, end' + coed 'woods' has travelled uphill to now denote the mountain top. There are no large forests on the lower slopes today. The other name here is Daear Mawr giving a sense of an impressive open area of land. Mynydd Pencoed is the name associated with the mountain today; however, it is possible that the cliff name of Twr Maen was also associated with the peak at one time. Mynydd Pen 'coed 1837 OS.

Top Tritiryn 766m SH 705118

The OS has no name for this peak; this top is the point where the boundary of three farms meet; tri 'three' + tiryn – the diminutive of tir 'land, property'.

Mynydd Gwerngraig 683m SH 744141

Named after the farm, whose name was probably taken from the name of the craig 'rocky ridge' descending from the mountain down to the gwern 'alder marsh'. Alder was an important wood at one time, as it is the wood used for making clogs and huge amounts of the wood was shipped to the industrial cities for clog manufacture as the tree only grows well in damp western areas. Gau Graig, with both terms mutated, cau 'enclosed' + craig 'rock'; refers to the narrow cwm high up on one side of the prominent ridge, also known as Twll y Gwter. However, one sees Gau Graig as the name for the curving mountain ridge on the 1830-80 6" OS maps.

Maesglase 674m SH 823152

Named after the farm nearby, the original name of which was Maesglasfre; maes 'open land' + glas 'glaucous, grey' + bre 'bryn, ucheldir'. The name that is found for this peak on the old 6" OS maps was Maen Du 'dark rock'. Maesglasiure 1425, maes y glasseie 1570 Pant yr Aur Manuscripts.

Waun Oer 670m SH 785147

Gwaun 'high marshy ground, moorland' + oer 'cold; open, windy'; appropriate terms for an exposed area of rough mountain pasture. Gwaun 'moorland, upland', Old Welsh *guoun*, Cornish *goon*, Breton *geun*.

Craig Rhiw Erch 670m SH 817150

Craig 'cliff' + rhiw 'slope' + erch 'mottled, dark'; or, erch 'horrible, hideous'. Both forms of the element erch could apply to this location.

Tarren y Gesail 666m SH 711059

The word tarren is is pretty much a cover-all term it can be seen in the landscape denoting 'hillock, steep hill, scarp, rocky hill, rock, cliff' it has also been used for 'sand dune, a piece of poor land' is a term more usually associated with South Wales. Gesail 'armpit, nook, recess' can refer to a valley or a cwm, or even a cave in some cases; in this location it probably refers to the deep cwm of Nant y

Darren. Tarren y gessell 1591, Aran y Gesail 1796 Cambrian Register, while Arran y Gessel is the name for the whole of this long ridge, including the top of Tarren Hendre, on the 1834 Greenwood map. The name for this mountain has crept away to the north east on some editions of the modern OS maps. The other name that appears on the 1837 ordnance map, and perhaps the original name, is Y Briddell-arw; briddell 'hard lump of soil' + (g)arw 'rough' or even 'great'.

Craig Las 661m SH 677135

The mountain is named after the dark and shaded cliff on its northern side, this craig 'crag' + (g)las 'grey'. The mountain is also known as Tyrrau Mawr, tyrrau is the plural of twr 'heap, pile'; however, this may be a corruption of the term tyr(i)au, the plural of tŵr 'tower', referring to the large buttresses or towers forming the cliff. There is an old path named as Llwybr Cam Rhedynen that wends its way up to the col just to the East of this hilltop; this was not a Roman road as denoted on the early OS maps.

Cribin Fawr 659m SH 795153

This is the nearest name to the summit. The term cribin 'crest, rake', is a diminutive of crib because of the -in ending, can denote a 'ridge, escarpment' in the landscape. There is indeed a prominent cliff or scarp to be found here, on the old 6" OS maps, the name was far closer to the summit. Using the term mawr 'big, larger' would suggest that there was another cribin name in the landscape nearby at one time. Ygribin Fawr 1834 Greenwood Map.

Tarren Hendre 633m SH 683042

The original name was Trum Tair Tarren, this is seen on the 1837 OS map; the three tarren are the cliffs of Tarren Hendre, Tarren Cwm Ewin and Tarren Rhosfarch. Tarren can denote a number of features including 'hillock, steep hill, slope, rocky hill, cliff'; locally, the meaning is for a cliff. Tarren Hendre is the cliff to the North of the summit; this is named after the farm of Hendrewallog. To those that worked in the slate mines, this was the name for that part of the mountain. Tarren Rhosfarch is to the south, while Tarren Cwm Ewin is at (687040) and not marked on any maps. Hendre 'old or original dwelling', Cornish *hendra*; the term *hen* is used for a location that has been cleared for agriculture or settlement at an early stage. There are two large round-barrows at its top and a cairn, dated to the Bronze Age, they point to an important location in the past.

Twll yr Ogof 622m SH 659114

Twll 'hole' + ogof 'cave', the word ogof can also denote enclosed features such as 'cleft, gully'.

Carnedd Lwyd 616m SH 684135

The carnedd 'cairn, mound', Cornish *carneth* 'heap of rocks' + llwyd 'grey, dark' has a north facing cliff with a shaded aspect; this being termed 'grey'. The nearby name Tyrrau 'towers' + Mawr 'Large' probably refers to the prominent vertical ribs on the northern slopes.

Craig Portas 605m SH 802141

The craig 'crag' is the obvious summit cliff; the first series OS map of 1837 has the name simply as Portas on the mountain rather than as the name of a cliff. There is a portas, portais 'a portable breviary', this is a prayer book used in the Middle Ages and the name may refer to the open book shape of the cliff. Otherwise, one wonders if there is a corruption of portis 'door, gap, gateway'; either derived from the Latin *porta* 'gate, door' or Middle English *port(e)* 'gate, gateway' denoting the hill as being named after pass through the hills in this area. Indeed, paths used the ridge for travel through the hills. Portas 1837 OS.

Mynydd Ceiswyn 605m SH 773139

Mynydd 'mountain pasture' of the farm Ceiswyn, that had ownership of the area; the old name was Mwdwl Eithin. The mwdwl 'heap, stack, pile' + eithin 'furze, gorse' would infer a beacon; the name

here may signify a beacon hill or it may also refer to the mountain's shape. At one time if a signal needed to be sent quickly stacks of gorse would be piled up at prominent points, to be lit in times of emergency. Gorse was used because it is easily set alight, even in damp or wet conditions.

Mawnogydd Duon 597m SH 729073

This is the Eastern top of the long ridge of Tarren y Gesail. There is no name on today's maps and it was reduced to just Mawnogydd on the early 6" OS maps of 1887. Mawnogydd is the plural of the term mawnog 'peat bog'; the peat would be du 'dark'; conifer plantations now conceal any areas of peat. Tarren Cadian was another name for the top on the first series of the OS map. Mawnogydd Duon 1837 OS.

Mynydd Dolgoed 576m SH 797137

This is the mountain pasture for the farm, Dolgoed [dol 'meadow' + coed 'wood(land)'].

Y Graig Goch 574m SH 715085

Although quite simply termed (The) Red Rock, this is probably due to the bilberry and bracken on its rocky slopes rather than the redness of the rocks themselves. The very striking scarp is due to a huge mass of the mountain falling away into the valley below, sometime after the last Ice Age. This created the dammed ribbon lake of Llyn Myngul and it left a kilometre wide recess in the north western scarp of the mountain. The lake is now much lower than it would have been. Y graig Koch c.1700 Parochialia.

Boncyn Tyddyn Du 560m SH 726144

Boncyn is the diminutive of the word bonc 'hillock'; land which was owned by the farm of Tyddyn Du.

Tap Llwyd 550m SH 720065

Apart from the general use of tap 'projecting or overhanging rock' it can also be used in some areas for the outcrop of rock at the top of a steep slope + llwyd 'dark'. This is the name on the old OS 6" maps of 1887, it is part of the long ridge of Tarren y Gesail.

Pen y Graien 550m SH 659023

This name is to be seen on the early 1837 OS map, graien is a local variant on the word graian 'gravel'. It is marked as Tarren Cwm-ffernol on the modern OS maps; however, the tarren 'cliff' with this name is actually a little to the South at 660016, it is also the farm name.

Braich Ddu 546m SH 645121

Braich 'arm, ridge' is a word borrowed from the Latin *bracchium* 'something that extends out, spur, ridge' + du 'black, dark'. Many words in Welsh, as well as in other languages, were at one time given as being Latin loan words; they may not be seen as such now.

Mwdwl Eithin 545m SH 745109

This mwdwl 'stack' of eithin 'gorse' is a fairly common term in Wales for a hill with a tall 'stack' shape to it. To improve the land, the gorse would have been cut and cleared into a heap and burnt, the ashes then spread over the ground to improve fertility. There are other names here, Mynydd Dol-ffanog and Mynydd Hafotty refers to farms below; Ceiswyn is a farm a little further away. However, on the old 6" OS maps one finds Gallt Ystrad Gwyn.

Trum Gelli 535m SH 656016

Noted as Trum 'Gelli 1837 OS, the apostrophe shows that the definite article 'y' has disappeared but the consonant mutation remains. Trum 'ridge, spur' + celli 'grove, woodland'.

Mynydd Cedris 530m SH 708081

A name taken from the name of the farm, at (689082), a personal name to some Cedris or Cedrys; in the past, a corruption of Cader Idris to others. r. Cedris in 1766 in the Meirioneth Quarter Session Rolls. t. Kedris c.1700 Parochialia, Bwlch Cedris and Pont Cedris 1733; the first name to be found for the mountain on the maps was Cern Cedris 1837 OS.

Mynydd Ty Glas 526m SH 722085

Ty Glas is the name of the tyddyn 'smallholding' or farm below; ty 'dwelling' + glas 'grey' is probable.

Mynydd y Gader 517m SH 715152

This mynydd 'mountain' + y 'the' + cader 'stronghold' is not recorded on the modern OS maps; however, it is to be found on the 1837 map. In the Welsh Annals, Idris ap Gwyddno, the 7th Century King of Meirionnydd was supposed to have a hillfort or defensive site ('kadr') on the flanks of the mountain. In the *Annales Cambriae* he apparently either died by strangulation or by having his throat cut and not in battle against Oswald of Northumbria. This is a rather remote place for a hillfort; however, one should note the nearby, Craig y Castell 280m 693173 & Craig y Castell 252m 695157. Mynydd y Gader 1837 OS.

Moel y Geifr 515m SH 716051

The name for this mountain relates to the geifr 'goats' that would have been found in the area. Geifr is the plural of gafr 'goat' and is linked to Breton *gavr*, *gaor*, Old Breton *gabr*, Old Irish *gabor*. The name is now some way away on modern maps; also, on the early 6th OS maps it was noted as Moel y Geifr.

Mynydd Fron Fraith 514m SH 747117

The name of this mountain refers to the bron 'hillside, slope' which, due to differences in vegetation and or rocks appears to be braith 'pied or speckled'. This is the feminine form of the word brith 'mottled, variegated' and is seen here in its mutated form.

Pen Trum Gwr 511m SH 651029

Trum 'ridge, spur' is linked to Old Welsh *drum*; Cornish *trum*; Irish *druimm* 'ridge, slope, mountain'. The term can denote a hill as well as a ridge or spur reaching out from a hill, the word cwr 'the part that narrows to a point', gives the sense of a tapered ridge, which suits this feature.

Moel Cwm yr Eglwys 508m SH 827157

Craig Buarth Glas is the name of the cliff on the northern slopes as well as the hill for some; or, this moel 'hill' takes its name from cwm 'valley' + yr '(of) the' + eglwys 'church'.

Crach Fynydd 508m SH 769127

Crach 'scabby, poor area of ground' + mynydd 'hill', a name that transferred down to the farmstead of Crach Fynydd.

Godre Fynydd 508m SH 756097

This is not a hill that is go(r) 'above' + dre 'settlement'; rather, godre 'base of a hill'; or, 'border, edge' with a figurative use for 'outlying area'. Another name for the hill is found on the old 6th OS maps as Y Garnedd Wen. Godre Vynydd c.1700 Parochialia.

Mynydd Rugog 504m SH 728093

The term here may be a mutated form of the word grugog 'heathery'; from grug 'heather' + -og 'a likeness to, association with'. Written as Mynydd Rigog on the early 6th OS maps, but only as Rigog on the 1837 map. Rugog Fawr c.1700 Parochialia; it may be that the hill was originally named after

the cliff along its northern flank, namely Craig Goch. However, the 'mountain' i.e. upland pasture is probably named after the farm Rugog (at 733097), as are many of the uplands in this particular area, this would allow an alternative interpretation. Locally, the name is interpreted as being Rhygog, a place where rhyg 'rye' is grown.

Trawsfynydd 493m SH 641109

The descriptor in this mynydd name is the term traws 'across, athwarth, transverse; through'. This hill lies above the ancient trackway of Y Ffordd Ddu, which follows a route weaving through the mountains with reasonable ease and keeping away from the steep coastal slopes.

Mynydd Braich Goch 486m SH 729073

Mynydd Braich Goch is the name given on this ridge line top. However, the name seen on the 1837 first series map is Cloddfa'r Geuwern. Cloddfa 'quarry, mine' + 'r 'the' + Geuwern 'enclosed alder-marsh'.

Moel Dinas 478m SH 842143

Above Dinas Mawddwy, as Foel Dinas, this hill does not seem to have any indication that there was a dinas 'hill-fort, stronghold' on it. However, due to the steep slopes on almost all sides it would have been a good site to gather, in times of trouble herds and flocks were driven to rough enclosures on hilltops.

Mynydd Rhyd-galed 475m SH 703041

This is named after the farm below; rhyd 'ford' + caled 'difficult, hard rough' and probably refers to a difficult crossing point on one of the rivers or streams nearby.

Mynydd Llwydiarth 470m SH 792127

Was this the Moel Llwydiarth recorded in the boundary description for a portion of land owned by Cymer Abbey. Moyllywydyath 1209 Cymer Abbey Charter.

Mynydd Cwmcelli 469m SH 804099

Cwmcelli was the name of a small farmstead on the slopes of this hill, with its name taken from the cwm 'valley' + celli 'groves'. The name was further up on the higher of two tops at one time. Cumkelly 1209 Cymer Abbey Charter, Ffridd Cwm Celli 1837 OS.

Mynydd Pennant 463m SH 665105

Pen 'end, head' + nant 'vale, valley'. Another hill named after the farm and/or the parish in which it is situated, the parish is named Llanfihangel y Pennant. Ffridd Newydd is the local name for the mountain.

Pen y Garn 458m SH 626108

The term carn 'a heap of stones' can indicate more than a man made feature such as a cairn. In the landscape the term can refer to a rocky top, a crag strewn hill or scree features or even a cairn shaped mountain. The word carn 'cairn' is linked to Breton *karn*; Cornish *karn*; Irish *carn* 'pile of stones' and Latin *cornu* 'horn'. Pen y Crug was the other name for this spot on the early OS maps; crug 'hillock, knoll; cairn'. There is an old triangulation pillar on top of what was probably an ancient cairn. Pengarn 1837 OS.

Moel Grochan 450m SH 769107

Scarred by slate quarries, which probably does not have a bearing on the name, this hill has the descriptor crochan 'crock, pot, cauldron'. However, the hill is noted as Moel Grychan in the Melville Richards Archive and in the archive as Kraig Mael grychan c.1700 Parochialia. Therefore, there is probably a link to crych 'wrinkled, curly, rough', perhaps connected to the numerous rocky

outcrops that can still be seen on the hillside outside of the quarried areas..

Y Foel Ddu 448m SH 697095

Another moel 'hill'; either with an aspect that is shaded or rocks that are du 'black' or 'dark'.

Cwr Bach 443m SH 647033

The name on the 1837 OS map was Tarren y Barcut 'Kite Cliff', a name to be seen today a little to the North. On the 1887 map Cwr Fach was also recorded; this cwr 'the part that tapers to a point, extremity' is probably the correct form rather than gŵr 'man, person' seen in the present map name.

Mynydd y Tri Arglwydd 442m SH 813094

This hill of the tri 'three' + arglwydd 'lord(s)' may refer to the area being on the bounds of three principalities Gwynedd, Powys and Deheubarth. The lordships of the early middle ages were not necessarily ruled by benevolence; the speed with which some of them changed hands is an indicator of the conflicts and infighting taking place.

Esgair Berfa 430m SH 637095

This esgair 'ridge, spur' is cognate to 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. It has developed a peculiar second word or element in its OS name. It should not be translated as the word berfa 'wheelbarrow'; by looking at the earlier forms one sees that this top is being located amid others by the use of the term perfedd 'centre, middle, at the heart of'. Esgair berveth 1576/7 Maesyneuadd Manuscripts, Esger berveth 1632 and Esker perfedd 1650/1 Peniarth Manuscripts, Esgair Berfa 1837 OS.

Craig y Gamell 424m SH 850133

Named after the stream Nant y Gamell. Craig-'gamell 1836 OS.

Y Fedw-lwyd 424 SH 805094

The term bedw 'birch' can also refer to a grove or area of birch. Bedw Lwyd c.1700 Parochialia, Y Fedw-lwyd 1837 OS.

Bwlch y Cefn 410m SH 812129

The name on the early maps of the area was bwlch 'col, pass' + y 'the' + cefn 'back, ridge'; Mynydd Gartheinog is the one seen now, named after Gartheiniog farm.

Mynydd Ty'n y fach 409m SH 688097

Named after the farm Ty'n y Fach 1837 OS. The term fach here is probably linked to bach 'bent, hooked, enclosed' rather than bach 'small'. Mynydd Nant yr Eira is the local name given to the hill, this time it is taken from the farm to the South.

Tarren Cadian 408m SH 745069

Cadian is probably a local variant on the personal name Cadien. There is a Nant Cadian and Cwm Cadian below. Cwmcadyen 1292 PRO, Taren Cadian 1837 OS.

Moel Maes y Wern Goch 405m SH 714044

This is not moel 'bare rounded hill', rather a later usage of moel 'upland pasture, mountain'; it is more of a spur than a top, named after the farm. Maes 'field' + y 'the' + (g)wern 'marsh' which has a goch 'brown, red, sallow' tinge to it.

Moel Heulen 403m SH 776082

Heulen is an old personal name, heulen is also a singular diminutive of haul 'sun, sunlight' rather

than a variation on Heilyn. One should note that there is a Coed Rhyd y Biswail below, at (786074), this was a rhyd 'ford' that was somewhat reminiscent of biswail 'dung, slurry'. Could eulon, eulan 'dung, excrement' have a connection with the hill name, showing its origin?

Corlan Fraith 401m SN 631000

Corlan 'fold, pen' is generally a term where an area has been enclosed to retain livestock. Fraith is the mutated feminine form of braith 'mottled, speckled'. There are a number of prehistoric remains on its slopes and at the top is a ruined cairn with a dilapidated trig point. The exact age of this cairn is unknown. Corlan fraith 1837 OS.

Mynydd Cymerau 400m SH 786116

The use of the term cymerau is quite apt hereabouts, it is the plural of cymer 'meeting of waters/ valleys', and refers the joining of a number of streams near the farm Cymerau. The terms are quite common in the Welsh landscape and are cognate with Breton *kemer* [which gave the placename Quimper]; Middle Irish *commar* 'meeting of valleys, of rivers'.

Ffridd Llwydiarth 393m SH 796121

Ffridd 'mountain pasture', borrowed from the Middle English *frith*, Old English *fyrhoðe* 'wood, wooded slope'. Llwydyrath 1209 Cymer Abbey Charter.

Allt Lwyd 392m SH 614078

Allt 'bluff, crag, slope', Old Welsh *alt* + llwyd 'grey', comparable to Old Cornish *luit*; Old Breton *loit*. Unfortunately, one cannot expect colour names in the landscape to be consistent in their application, llwyd is one of the most varied 'grey, faint; pale, wan; russet, brown'. Iralltlhuyt 1209 Cymer Abbey Charter, Pen y Gorlan 1837 OS.

Mynydd Tymawr 390m SH 770075

This is the mynydd 'sheepwalk, mountain pasture' for the farm Tymawr [ty 'house' + mawr 'large'].

Mynydd Hendre Ddu 383m SH 803120

The mountain pasture of the farm Hendre Ddu. The hendre 'old dwelling' was the winter residence for the family and animals after the summer up in the hafod. Yr Hendre Ddu c.1700 Parochialia.

Bryn Brith 383m SH 664154

Brith 'speckled, mottled, multicoloured' is a good term for a bryn 'hill' with rock outcrops; or, a patchwork of vegetation. It is therefore a common term in the Welsh landscape. Brith 'mottled, stained' is linked to Breton *breiz* from the Celtic **mriktā* 'mottled'.

Mynydd Penlan 380m SH 793088

Penlan is the name of the farmstead, it can still be seen.

Mynydd Fron Felen 380m SH 764075

This would have been the mountain pasture of Fron Felen farm. Bron 'breast, brow', while the felen element shows a local vocalisation of the word melyn 'yellow, sallow'.

Pared y Cefn Hir 380m SH 664154

On the early OS map, this is the name for the whole length of this long ridge; however, the name today is a little out of place, to the North East of the prominent hillfort. Pared 'wall, cliff' is an obscure Welsh word, cefn hir describes a 'long ridge'. There is a complex hillfort that goes along the ridge for about 600m, it uses the natural outcrops to create a very strong defensive site. Pared, or sometimes parwyd, is a term borrowed from the Latin *parēt-* and is sometimes seen in French and Spanish cliff names as *paret(e)*.

Coed Mawr 378m SH 815119

Coed 'wood(s)' + mawr 'great, large' is another name that hints to the greater presence of woodland in the past.

Y Grug 376m SH 809103

The term grug 'heather, ling' can refer just to the vegetation or an area 'heath, heathland'. Its covering of heather must have made it stand out as inferred by the definite article 'Y'. It is now covered by a conifer plantations.

Mynydd y Foel 374m SH 802112

This construction of the hill-name is probably due to it being named after a farm or smallholding that itself has been named 'Y Foel' after a hill.

Mynydd Cefn Caer 358m SH 702033

Cefn 'back, ridge' + caer 'fort, stronghold' is a name that conjures up a similarity to a defensive site. The word caer is linked to Cornish *ker* 'town', from the Brittonic word **kagro* 'a settlement within an enclosure'. Keven Caer 1603, Mynydd Cefn-caer 1837 OS.

Camlan 353m SH 849125

Here one finds cam 'curved' + glan 'river bank, slope, mountain' perhaps describing the curve in the river around the farm Camlan Uchaf, but any of the cam elements might suit. The element cam is very common in the landscape; cognate to Cornish *cam*; Breton *kam*; Old Irish *cam* 'curved'. One sees the name Rhiw Pen-hafan for the hill on the 1887 6" OS; also, the hill was common land at one time.

Bryn Dinas 346m SN 646999

Bryn 'hill' + dinas 'stronghold', Old Welsh *din* 'a fort', Brittonic/Gaulish **duno*. There are a number of prehistoric remnants on this hill ranging from a barrow, cairns, cists and tumuli; their exact number and location have not yet been defined.

Mynydd y Foel 342m SH 631022

This is the name seen on the 1837 OS map, it is not named on the modern maps.

Moel y Ffridd 342m SH 833118

The ffridd 'intake' is the lower enclosed part of the mountain, Welsh *ffridd* is borrowed from Middle English *frith*.

Mynydd Esgairneiriau 340m SH 789094

Esgairneirion has also been suggested for the name in the past. The esgair 'spur' can be seen running down, past the farmstead of the same name. The name is probably derived from a linked to a corruption of anner, annair 'heifer' (or one of its plurals *anneiredd*), rather than a personal name similar to Aneirin; or, *aneiriau* 'shame'? Esgeyranneired [Esgeyrannery] 1200 Record of Caernarfon, Esgeiraneryn 1209 Cymer Abbey Charter, Escair aire c.1700 Parochialia, Mynydd Esgair-Aneurin 1887 6" OS.

Mynydd Cwmgerwyn 333m SH 807109

The valley below is labelled Cwm Gerwyn on the present OS maps and one would initially assume that it is the personal name Gerwyn that is to be found here. However, the name may be derived from a cerwyn 'bowl, tub' that refers to the shape of the steep sided and enclosed valley. Otherwise, the word gerwin 'rough, severe, harsh; terrible' might be closer to the original meaning. Looking at the form noted as Cwm Garwrhyn on the 1887 6" OS, one might even offer garw 'rough, difficult' +

rhyn 'stiff, rough, fierce'; or, the element rhyn 'promontory' (seen in the word penrhyn 'headland') cognate with Old Irish *rind*, *rinn* 'point, peak, summit, promontory'. Kinnygerhwyn 1209 Cymer Abbey Charter.

Mynydd Crwper 333m SH 800068

Crwper is borrowed from the Middle English *croupere*, *crouper* 'crupper, hind quarters, rump'; this may have been reminiscent of a rump.

Craig Ysgiog 325m SH 684104

The hill is probably named after the stream Nant Ysgiog, that flows down its Western slopes. There is another location with the name Ysgiog in Breconshire, on the tithe map and the OS map of 1837 the name of this farm was given as Ysgoiog. The -iog is an ajectival suffix, while the word ysgo has two possibilities here 'slope, slant'; or, 'bent, curved'; does either sense relate to the topographically to the stream Nant Ysgiog. Opposite the farm of Gwastadfryn, the stream (unnamed on the OS maps) curves round in a big arc; heading down North-west to turn gradually to a South-west flow. If not, there may be a hidden shortening or corruption of a word such as llysg 'slime, mucus' + -iog in the name.

Y Darren 324m SH 825078

Of the many meanings for the word tarren, here the meanings would probably be one from 'knoll, steep hill, slope'.

Pen Moelyn 320m SH 670155

Here the pen 'head' + moelyn 'bare, bald' probably refers to a hilltop bare of trees.

Bryn Dinas 320m SH 642997

There are cairns and a tumulus on this bryn 'hill'; however, no dinas 'stronghold' has been found. It was labeled as Mynydd Bychan 1837 OS.

Ffridd Cocyn 313m SH 625043

Here is a hill with a name that certainly reflects its shape. Ffridd 'moorland, rough mountain pasture', but one that is shaped in the form of a cocyn 'heap, pile, stack'.

Ffridd Rhyd y Biswail 312m SH 793068

Named after what was once the smallholding Rhyd y Biswail [rhyd 'ford' (of the biswail 'dung/slurry'), which is no longer there.

Mynydd Pant Coch 312m SH 781059

A mynydd 'sheepwalk, upland pasture' named after a farm Pant Coch [pant 'hollow' + coch 'red, brown'].

Ffridd y Glyn 306m SH 816081

The word ffridd 'intake' is the lower part of mountain pasture but is enclosed, usually by stone walls. It is borrowed from the middle English *frith* 'to enclose'.

Llanfechan 304m SH 772056

It is probable that the name here was llain 'strip, patch (of land)' + fechan 'small'.

Craig y Merwydd 296m SH 645135

The word merwydd is a corrupted form of the morwydd 'mulberry'; however, it may well have been a personal name, as seen in Merwydd fab Moridred.

Mynydd Rhiwerfa 288m SH 665067

Today the hill name is given as that of the nearby farm Rhiwerfa; although Gamallt can be seen to the North. Gamallt is made up of the elements cam 'crooked, curved, bent' + allt 'slope', a good name because of the big bend in the northern slope of the hill. Gamallt was the only name in the 1837 map.

Y Foel Wyllt 288m SH 633046

It is likely that the word (g)wyllt 'wild, tempestuous' in this name probably refers to an uncultivated area rather than other dictionary meanings. The hill was called Moel Craig Eryr, this 'Eagle Rock' gives an inkling that there were eagles to be found in the area at one time. At one time eagles were to be found across the Brittonic Isles, including White Tailed Eagles. 'Foel-wyllt 1837 OS.

Trefcaereinion 282m SH 830091

This toponym is made up of three elements, tref 'dwelling' + caer 'fort', and the personal name Einion. There is little evidence of a tref or a caer at present.

Craig y Castell 280m SH 693173 & Craig y Castell 252m SH 695157

Craig 'rock' + y 'the' + castell 'castle'; a common name in the landscape in general throughout Wales. There are two defensive sites they are in fairly close proximity to each other, Castell Craig y Waun is another name for the higher of the two. Both have double stone walls and both are likely to be Iron Age sites and one would have expected them to be termed caer rather than the later word castell 'castle'. A gold torque was found near Llyn Gwernan (706160) in 1823, it was a spiral twisted rod of nearly 107cm in length and weighed 248grams. Was one of these sites the *cader 'stronghold' of Idris.

Cefn Llwyd 279m SH 824076

The cefn 'back, ridge' + llwyd 'grey' would have been shaded on its northern slopes.

Moel Ty'r Gawen 279m SH 623076

This is the moel 'mountain pasture' for the farm Ty'r Gawen; the last element refers to either cawen 'bur-reed'; or, a variant form of cawnen 'reed, reed-grass'. There has been a corruption of tŷ'r 'house (of) the' to read as tyr, which is incorrect. Tyddyn y Gawen 1647, Tir y Gawen 1683 a Turgawen 1771 Peniath Manuscripts, Foel Ty'r Gawen 1837 OS. The Foel Tyr Gawen seen on the present OS map series is incorrect.

Tyddyn Briddell 270m SN 650983

Named directly from the farm below; the tyddyn 'homestead with a small landholding' + priddell 'hardened soil, sod'.

Mynydd Llwyn Gwern 270m SH 767047

The mountain pasture of a farm named Llwyn-gwern [llwyn 'copse, grove' + gwern 'alder'].

Mynydd Gwyn 269m SH 834090

Apart from the colour white, the word gwyn could infer a number of other meanings 'pale, grey, wan; bright'. As one sees the valley of Cwm Llechwedd Gwyn below one would suspect that the sunlight slopes would be termed gwyn 'bright'. Mynydd-gwyn 1836 OS.

Mynydd Glandulas 264m SH 761040

This mynydd is a 'sheepwalk, upland pasture' and is named after a farm Glandulas [glan 'shore, bank' + the Dulas river].

Y Foel Goch 263m SH 727023

Once again the common occurrence of moel 'hill' and coch 'red, brown. Moel Goch 1837 OS.

Y Foel Lwyd 261m SN 627974

The foel 'bare topped hill' + llwyd 'grey, dark'; however, at some sites the colour could be a reddish brown, at one time cochlwyd was one term for a brown colour in Welsh.

Cefn Llandybo 259m SH 834098

This cefn 'back, ridge' does not have an ecclesiastical llan 'church'; however, the original meaning of the term llan 'enclosure' may be present, perhaps denoting a field. Dybo is probably a variant form of the name Dyfan, linked to the Irish form of the name Dubán.

Mynydd y Llyn 256m SN 656986

The hill is named after the nearby llyn 'lake', Llyn Barfog.

Mynydd Graig Wen 254m SH 615116

There is a pre-historic enclosure to be found at the top, these enclosures would not necessarily be defensive sites, although they may be viewed as being similar. In many cases enclosures were places where the gathering of livestock would take place, whether at night or in times of danger of attack by others.

Moel Eirin 253m SH 740046

The name here could easily be a corruption of the personal name Eurin, Euryn rather than referring to the presence of eirin 'plum, damson, sloe' on its slopes. esgair valyryn 1550/1 & Eskair velyrin 1560/1 Esgair/Pantperthyn Records.

Craig yr Aderyn 233m SH 640544

The name craig 'rock' + y 'the' + aderyn 'bird' shows that this rocky spur is a spot where birds nest, or, resembles a bird with outstretched wings to some. This little hilltop has a striking area of cliffs; the hill is also topped by an Iron Age hillfort, what would have been a commanding location. Craig Aderyn 1837 OS.

Y Graig Fach-goch 214m SH 608013

Fach Goch is the name of the farm, at (607016), the craig 'rock' name refers to the rocky outcrop near the summit. The farm name probably refers to bach 'nook, angle, corner, bend' + coch 'red, brown'; rather than bach 'small'.

Braich y Golwydd 200m SH 709012

Braich 'arm, ridge' is a very common term across Wales, colwydd could derive from an old form of coel, côl 'pole' + (g)wydd 'tree, wood', with coel linked to Irish *cuaille* 'post, stake'; not colwydd, the plural of colwydden 'neck of venison'. Otherwise, the corruption of collwydd 'hazel', Old Cornish *colwiden* 'hazel trees' may be the best alternative. Braich-y-golwydd 1837 OS.

Craig y Barcut 198m SH 606003

As can be seen, the term barcud, barcut 'kite, red kite, buzzard' can refer to a number of birds. The European Red Kite: *Milvus milvus* is once again quite a common bird in the area after being persecuted to near extinction. In the 1970ies the last stronghold of these birds was in the uplands of Ceredigion.

Cefn y Gader 192m SH 824062

Once again the use of a cader form is to be seen in the name. It may refer to a possible *cader 'stronghold' term in use, as there could have been some form of defensive site here. The hilltop is above very steep slopes looking out over the Dyfi valley where a number of important route ways

met. However, it could be argued that a corruption of cadair 'chair' or cadair 'dwelling' has taken place, as there is a shallow 'cwm' in the cefn 'ridge', the possible landscape feature forming the cadair leading up to a farm of that name.

Pen y Clipiau 180m SH 845106

Clipiau is the plural of the clip steep slope'; a word borrowed from the English *clip* and is cognate with the German *klippe* cliff'. Pen-y-clipiau 1836 OS. Compare with Clipiau, Llanaelhaearn.

Tâl y Gareg 178m SH 574035

Tâl 'end, front' + y 'the' + garreg 'stone' - carreg in its mutated form; note Cornish *tal*, *tol* 'brow, front'. This is the prominent hill to the North of Tywyn, and the name is seen on the 1887 OS map. There was no earlier reference on the 1837 map; however, one sees Tal y Cerrig as the farm name. The 1887 map also records the presence of a beacon and the summit is named Beacon Tâl y Gareg; this gave rise to the English name Beacon Hill. Talegarrek 1308, Tallygarreg 1610 Peniarth Manuscripts.

Moel Caethle 169m SN 607987

There is a small iron age hillfort at the summit and the hill is named after the farm below. Catheleigh 1509 PRO, Mowl Caethle 1837 OS.