

CARNEDDAU

The Carneddau form the largest contiguous mountain mass in North Wales and are noted for their harsh winter conditions. During the Neolithic period these uplands were extensively populated during a period of climatic amelioration; deforestation and grazing of the land continued into the Bronze Age and there are a number of settlements and field systems to be found quite high up on the slopes. The term *Carneddau* is the plural of *carnedd* 'cairn, barrow, tumulus or mound' and reflect the presence of the many, now ruined and robbed, memorial cairns to the ancestors of these peoples on the hilltops and spurs of this mountainous region.

'Carneddau, which are common upon mountains in Wales, to have been, in the times of heathenism, intended as memorials of the dead.' Antiquae linguae Britannicae 1753.

Early archaeologists linked some of these cairns to gwylfa 'lookouts' or fortified strongholds of the Princes of Gwynedd. Hugh Derfel Hughes wrote in his *Hynafiaethau Llandegai and Llanllechid* (1866) '*..... cawn olion o wylfaau, (Watch places) megis ag y ceir ar Foelyci dichion mai carneddau oedd amryw ohonynt ar y dechrau.*' [we find traces of lookouts, (Watch places) such as are found on Foelyci it is possible that several of them were cairns at the beginning.]. Rhys Goch of Eryri believed Carnedd Llywelyn to be the grave of Rhica or Rhita Gawr and not the summit of Yr Wyddfa. Others proposed that a lower cairn was the memorial of Trystan ap Tallwch, the Sir Tristram of the Arthurian Romances.

Carnedd Llywelyn 1064m SH 684644

This mountain may be named after Llywelyn the Great (Llywelyn ap Iorwerth) 1173-1240. Initially a King of Gwynedd he eventually became the ruler of all Wales and using a combination of war and diplomacy he remained in power for 45 years. If not Llywelyn the Great that is commemorated here, it may be in remembrance of his grandson Llywelyn ap Gruffudd (Llywelyn ein Llyw Olaf) 1223-1282; the last sovereign prince of Wales. There is a burial cairn, probably Bronze Age, in a prominent position on the summit of Carnedd Llewelyn; it is still about 1.5m high and around 8m in diameter. Also, the Bronze Age sword found on the flanks of the mountain is just one of the artefacts from that period discovered on these hills. One wonders what the name of the mountain was before Llywelyn. Many were convinced that this was the cairn of Rhita Gawr. Carnedd Llewelin 1700 National Library of Wales Manuscripts, Carnedh Lyuelyn 1719 Glossarium Antiquitatum Britannicum, Karnedh Llewelyn 1722 William Camden Britannia, Carnedd Llewelyn 1795 John Evans Map, Carnedd Llewelyn 1838 OS.

Carnedd Dafydd 1044m SH 663630

This *carnedd* 'cairn' + Dafydd has its own conundrum as to which Dafydd. It might be named after Llywelyn ap Gruffudd's brother Dafydd ap Gruffudd 1238-1283 ; however, he only ruled for ten months. Therefore, it is probable that it is named after Llywelyn the Great's son Dafydd ap Llywelyn 1212-1246. A burial cairn, again probably Bronze Age, is to be found near the summit. It is a stone built circular cairn, even now measuring about 12m in diameter and up to 2m in height. It has been much disturbed in the past, including the construction of a ruined OS triangulation pillar and several drystone shelters. Karnedh Dhavydh c.1700 Parochialia, Carnedh Dhafydd 1719 Glossarium Antiquitatum Britannicum, Karnedh Dhavidh 1722 William Camden Britannia, Carnedd David 1795 John Evans Map, Carnedd Dafydd 1838 OS.

Pen yr Ole Wen 978m SH 656620

For most people, this name is made up of *pen* 'head, top' + *yr* 'the' + (*g*)*ole(ddf)* 'slope' + *wen* 'white, bright' is the probable translation of the name. Initiall, one can postulate that the original form of the nam contained the word *goleddf* 'hillside, slope'. After losing the initial letter 'g' quite easily due to lenition to make *oleddf*; at a later stage, in vocalised usage the ending in the *ole(ddf)* was also

dropped to form *ole*. For those living in the nearby valleys and cwms the high slopes of this mountain were the first to receive any early morning sunshine'; this would have been very apparent from the valley. Pen-yr-Oleu-wen 1838 OS, Pen yr Olau Wen 1840-80 6" OS.

Y Foel Grach 976m SH 689659

The word *crach* 'scabby' may be used to describe a skin problem or a scab; the term is also used quite commonly in the landscape to describe 'crusty ground, a poor patch of land', derived from the Brittonic **craccā-* 'scab'. This term could also apply to a rocky and barren hill (there is a rock outcrop at this summit); or, one with a dried out bog or peat with a crusty appearance. There is a Bronze Age cairn on summit of Foel Grach, its base is the rock outcrop on which stones have been piled to form a rough cairn which has been much disturbed.

Yr Elen 962m SH 673651

A difficult mountain name to be certain about; *elain* 'doe, young deer'; similar to Irish *elit* from the Celtic **elani*, could be present. Although Elen is a personal name (from Latin *Helena*) it may be that a corruption of an older name has taken place. The name of the mountain may have been preceded by the word Moel, as noted by Pennant; which could support a link to *elain* 'deer'. Otherwise, is there a link to the element **el-* 'angle, bend'; as the el- in elbow, reflecting its angular shape, as the mountain does form an inverted V? Moel yr Elain 1783 Thomas Pennant, Yr Elen 1809-11 Edmund Hyde Hall, Description of Caernarfonshire, Yr Elen 1838 OS.

Y Foel Fras 942m SH 696682

The Welsh word *bras* has a number of differing meanings, one can have *bras* 'thick, fat, strong'; however, *bras* 'difficult, rough' is probably present. Y Foel Fras 1838 OS.

Y Garnedd Uchaf 926m SH 687669

Although quite a high mountain at over 900m, this *carnedd* 'cairn' can only be termed as being the uchaf '*highest*' if one looked at the mountains from low down to the East. Another name for this mountain, recorded on an 1848 Tithe Map was *Carnedd Ladron*. A similar form, *Carnedd y Lladron* had been used previously by Thomas Pennant; *lladron* is the plural of *lleidr* 'thief, bandit'. If one looks at the footpaths on the present 1:25,000 OS map, his peak acted as a crossroads for a number of paths, these were ancient trackways that traversed the hills around here and perhaps a good place for some banditry. The name has been changed in 2009 to *Carnedd Gwenllian*. *Carnedd uchaf* 1795 John Evans Map.

Yr Aryg 860m SH 680673

It is probable that the initial element here is *ar(dd)-* 'high, height' coupled with *-ig* 'a diminutive ending (comparable to *afonig* from *afon* 'river' + *-ig*); rather than the alternative ending of a masculine *-ig* 'likeness to, associated with' similar to the *-og* ending. The explanations of an *ar-* 'on, upon' + (*g*)*rug* 'heather'; or, + (*c*)*rug* 'hillock' to make up the name are not very convincing.

Llwytmor 849m SH 687693

The colour that is usually associated with the term *llwyd* 'grey'; however, one could at one time describe a wanred or brown colour as being *llwyd*. Here, because of its aspect the northerly slopes are often shaded; therefore, *llwyd* 'dark, grey' + *mor* 'big, large' is probable. One should note that the second element is not *môr* 'sea', the word is a form of *mawr* 'large' and is comparable to Middle Cornish *mur*; Old Breton *mor*; Old Irish *már*; *mór* 'large'. *Llwytmawr* 1198 Aberconwy Charter, *Llwytmor* 1838 OS.

Pen yr Helgi Du 833m SH 698630

This *pen* 'top' + *yr* 'the' + *helgi* 'hunting-dog' + *du* 'black' was, according to legend, linked to a jet black hound, one without a single white hair on its body. It was only such a hound that could hope

to catch a witch that had transformed herself into a hare. The first OS maps of 1838 had the name as Pen helig; a reference to the *salix* tree group *helig*, *helyg* 'willow, sallow' usually found on poor wet ground. Another form of the name at one time was Pen Helyg Du. Pen helig OS 1838, Pen Helyg 1840-80 6" OS.

Bera Bach 807m SH 672678

Bera 'hay rick, heap, stack' + *bach* 'smaller, lesser' is applied to this, the slightly higher of the two Bera mountain tops. Apart from errors in compiling maps, mountains were usually viewed from lower down; even with the knowledge of their respective heights, perspective does make this seem to be the lower of the two. There are a number of prehistoric settlements in the flanking valleys of this mountain, some of which later became *hafotai* 'summer dwellings' for shepherds and some becoming sheepfolds. Bere Fach 1783 Thomas Pennant, Bera bach 1838 OS, Berre Bach 1840 Tithe Map.

Pen Llithrig y Wrach 799m SH 716623

As written on the OS maps, the name can be translated to be Head Slippery the Witch. The word *llithrig* 'slippery, slithery, smooth' could denote a smooth rounded top and certainly *gwrach* 'old woman, crone, hag, witch, sorceress' may be associated with a bent or crooked shape. However, very close to *llithrig* in vocalised forms is the word *llethrig* 'slope, hillside, steep ascent'. Also, the term *gwrach* 'sheaves of bracken or straw', used on the top of a hayrick before thatching for the winter, could be present if the name is linking the mountain to the shape of a thatched hayrick.

There could also be a mystical or sacred connotation to this mountain name for some; the mountain is above the valley of Cwm y Bedol Arian 'Vale (of) the Silver Horseshoe'; in other words the old, 'bent' moon, the sign of a witch. Cwm y Bedol Arian is now the name for the standing stone, the valley name is now given as Cwm Tâl y Braich, named after the farm. Llithretewrath 1198 Aberconwy Charter, Pen-llithrig-y-Wrach 1838 OS.

Bera Mawr 794m SH 675683

This, the smaller of the two mountains with the name *bera* 'stack, pile', has a better position in that it looks higher and has a seemingly larger frontage when viewed from the valley. There is a *bera*, *bery* 'kite' meaning sometimes seen in the landscape as in Craig y Bera; however, it is almost certain that here the name refers to the large mass of the mountains rather than the bird. It was near here, probably hiding in one of the ancient settlement areas, that Dafydd ap Gruffudd's was captured, just above the Welsh royal home in Abergwyngregyn. Bere Mawr Thomas Pennant, Bera mawr 1838 OS, Berre Mawr 1840 Tithe Map.

Y Drum 770m SH 708696

The term *drum*, *trum* 'mountain or hill crest, peak, ridge' certainly suits this ridge top peak. The summit is also known as Carnedd Pen-y-Dorth Goch on the OS maps. The name on the early tithe map of 1840 was simply Dorth Coch. One wonders what shape the *torth* 'loaf' was, it could be used as a descriptor for many shapes, as not all loaves were formed in rectangular tins and many were conical. There are some impressive Bronze Age cairns on the top of this mountain, and a number of Bronze Age features and Bronze Age finds have been found on the lower slopes in the area. Drym yr garneth 1600 Baron Hill Manuscripts, Drum 1838 OS.

Y Drosgl 758m SH 664680

The term *trwsgwl*, *trysgol* 'rough, difficult, awkward' are some of the meanings of this topographic term and there are many examples of this word across Wales. Generally, one has to decide whether the term refers to uncultivated land or to land that was difficult to cross. It may be that the name referred to the patches of stony ground in the area. However, if one looks at a modern OS map, one can see an ancient track rising up from the Menai Straits, skirting round Moel Wnion to head up to

and traverse Bera Bach and Y Garnedd Uchaf. The steepest and most difficult part of this ancient routeway is on the flanks of Y Drosogl. This is the path followed by Thomas Pennant '... we proceeded on the sloping sides of the Trwsgwl, and near Carnedd y Filiast and Carnedd y Lladron...'. Y Drosogl 1838 OS.

Y Fawnog Ddu 738m SH 709654

The name for this hill on the early OS maps was Fawnog Du, the term *mawnog* 'peat bog, turbary'; this would certainly appear to be *du* 'black, dark', particularly if peat cutting was taking place. The other name still seen nearby is that of Gledrffordd, the term *cledr* has a number of meanings; if *cledr* 'stave, post, rod' + *ffordd* 'way, path, route', it may denote a track waymarked with posts or even a causeway created by laying posts onto the marsh. This is the name that appears on the earlier OS maps for this spot, it can still be seen a little further to the South, near the old route up to and over the mountains. Fawnog Du 1838 OS.

Carnedd y Ddelw 693m SH 708705

This is the name of the large *carnedd* 'cairn, mound of stones', which is about 20m wide, and at one time had a cist at its centre. A quite recent name, the word *delw* 'image, statue, effigy' may well refer to a gold effigy about 125mm in length that was said to have been found here c.1818. The effigy has long since been lost.

Cerrig Gleision 678m SH 730615

Cerrig 'rocks' + *gleision* – this is the plural of *glas*, here referring to the 'grey, grey-blue' of the *cerrig* 'rocks' rather than *glas* 'blue' or 'green' is the colour associated with this word.

Y Gyrn Wigau 643m SH 677654

Wigau is the plural of the word *gwig* 'wood, forest, grove'; there could have been woods up to about 600m at one time, the height of vegetation such as bracken shows the probable treeline. One then has to decide which meaning of *curn*, *cyrn* 'heap, mound; cone pyramid'. From a Westerly viewpoint this is certainly a cone shaped hill rather than a rounded mound or heap. At the foot of its southern slopes is a large area of prehistoric enclosures and structures, extending over an area, nearly 500m in length by about 250m. It was given erroneously as Gyrn Wigan 1838 OS, just having Gyrn Wigau is also incorrect.

Pen y Castell 623m SH 724689

Pen 'head, top' + *y* 'the' + *castell* 'castle'. The description of a hill with a *castell* 'castle' term is fairly common; however, along this ridge we have three terms for strongholds or fortifications. This location Pen y Castell is the highest; the next one down is Pen y Gadair (SH 738693); the lowest is Pen y Gaer (SH 750693). Although there is no *castell* 'castle' fortifications at this location, the resemblance of this hilltop to a fortified site is enough for the term to be used in the name. Pen-y-castell 1838 OS.

Tâl y Fan 610m SH 729727

All fairly straightforward, the word *tâl* 'end, brow, front' describes the position of this hill at the end of the ridge while Welsh *ban* describes a 'peak, top'. However, an older meaning may have lingered here, with the term describing 'promontory, ridge, spur'. This spur also sheltered a number of prehistoric sites around its base. Talyfan 1810 Richard Fenton Tours in Wales

Pen y Cowlyd 610m SH 733622

Pen 'head, top' + *y* 'the' + *cowlyd* - it is quite possible that the last element is simply a personal name. However, in the past *cawn* 'reeds, reed-grass' + *llwyd* 'grey' could be inferred from the lake; or it may be that the words *caw* 'band' + *llwyd* have combined to denote a grey or brown band (of cliffs?). "ad stagnum Cawlwyd" 1198 Aberconwy Charter, Cowlyd 1746 Caernarfonshire Record

Office, cowlid/cowlyd 1803 Carter Vincent Manuscripts.

Y Foel Lwyd 603m SH 720724

Y 'the' + *foel* is the lenited form of the *moel* 'bare hill' or 'conical hill' + *llwyd* 'grey', it forms one side of an upland pass, named Bwlch y Ddeufaen. The pass was important as the route of an ancient trackway to skirt the mountains, later used by the Romans. 'Foel-lwyd 1838 OS.

Moel Wnion 580m SH 649697

This hill is a very good example of the *moel* 'bare round hill' descriptor; its slopes are very smooth and rounded. The second part of the name is the lenited form of the personal name Gwnion; the personal name is probably derived from *gwyn* 'white' + *-ion* 'very'. The summit is the site of a much disturbed Bronze Age cairn. It must be noted that *gwnion* is also one form of the plural for the word *gwyn*. Moelwynnion 1783 Thomas Pennant, Moel Wnion 1838 OS.

Braich y Gwenoliaid 580m SH 727640

Braich 'arm, ridge' + *y* 'the' + *gwenoliaid* – plural of *gwennol* 'swallows'. Creigiau'r Gwenoliaid was also a local name for the location, it could also be correct, but there is no evidence of any name on the OS maps. The only name that appears near the summit on the maps is Craig Ffynnon; although, the name Carrecgwenolyod appears in the 1198 Aberconwy Charter.

Yr Orsedd 559m SH 694714

The meaning of the word *gorsedd* 'throne' does probably occur in the landscape and this is the meaning that many people associate with the word. However, what is forgotten is that there may be a far more probable landform connection to the term in *gorsedd* 'mound of earth, tump, knoll, hillock'. Also, *gorsedd* 'barrow, tumulus, grave' could be inferred. Yr Orsedd 1838 OS.

Pen Bryn Du 557m SH 698711

This *pen* 'top, end' + *bryn* 'hill' + *du* 'dark, black', is just part of the ridge coming down from Drum and not a distinct peak.

Craig Wen 548m SH 729603

This *craig* 'rock' is probably connected to the many *gwen/gwyn* 'white, bright' names which link to describe a sunlit hillside or south facing flank. The Welsh term for white i.e. *gwyn* changes to (*g*)*wen* after a feminine noun such as *craig* 'rock'.

Moel Eilio 546m SH 747659

Moel 'pointed or conical hill' + *Eilio* or *Eiliaw* – a personal name, an alternative forms of the name *Eliudd*, *Eilydd*. There was a saint with the name *Sant Eliud* [his 'llan' or other connected sites were usually known as *Teilio* (*Ty* + *Eilio*)].

Y Gyrn 542m SH 647688

There are a number of meanings for *curn*, *cyrn* 'heap, mound, cairn; cone, pyramid; rick'; from its shape it is almost certain that this name denotes 'a cone'. The use of the definite article *y* at the start of the name turns a common feature into a special name for the local population. Gern 1783 Thomas Pennant.

Y Foel Ganol 533m SH 688715

Not really a *moel* 'hill' but a spur. It has the usual meaning for *canol* 'central, mid-point', this one lies between Y Foel Dduarth and Yr Orsedd.

Pen y Gader 507m SH 734694

The location of this *pen* 'top', as part of a ridge leading down from y Drum is interesting and also

important. The upper part of the ridge has a little summit or top named Pen y Castell (SH 724689); further down another summit has this name i.e. Pen y Gader. The final summit/top on the ridge is the ancient hillfort of Pen y Gaer (SH 750693). Thus, in its descent, the ridge has three tops with three differing defensive site meanings in a row; namely, *castell* 'castle', *cader* 'stronghold' and *caer* 'fort'. This strengthens the argument that the reasoning behind this particular name, is the [for some – a postulated] **cader*, **cater* 'stronghold, stone fort' meaning; this 'defensive site' meaning is now given in the dictionaries under the word *cadair*.

The forms Bryn y Gader Chwith (1775) and Bron y Gader Chwith (1795) are to be seen for a farm below in the Caernarfonshire Records Office. Pen y gader 1838 OS, Pen y Gader AO 6" 1840-80. The form Pen y Gadair is only to be found on the more modern OS maps.

Cefn Cyfarwydd 502m SH 752631

Cefn 'back, ridge' + *cyfarwydd* 'well known, acquainted'. Although *cyfarwydd* could be used here in a sense similar to *cynefin* 'mountain land on which the flock has been settled'? It is not likely to be a corruption of *cyfar* 'agreed tillage, co-ploughed'. Cefn Careadwydd 1838 OS.

Crimpiau 475m SH 733595

In the landscape, the word *crimp* is probably borrowed from the Old English *chrimphau* 'serrated'; or, a later English form. It can denote a number of features 'ridge, spur, ledge' as well as 'undulating'; all of these features are to be found on this hill.

This is probably a very recent name as it does not exist on the initial edition of the Ordnance Survey maps of the area, either 1" or 6" versions. The 1st edition 1" maps of 1838 has the name Clogwyn Mawr along the ridgeline. While this same ridgeline is named as Ganallt on the early Tithe Maps; this is very probably a miscopied or misnoted form of the name Geuallt. There was a dwelling of that name and one still sees the names Creigiau Geuallt and Nant y Geuallt on the maps today. The Clogwyn Mawr name is also still to be seen on the maps; however, there are two locations one cliff at the Northern end of the ridge, while the other is found at its South end. The term Crimpiau does not appear on the OS maps until the 1937 series of 1:25,000, even then it is on the side slopes and not as a name for the top.

Penmaenmawr 472(?)m SH 703754

Pen 'head, summit' + *maen* 'stone' + *mawr* 'greater'. There is not much of this hilltop left now; quarrying for kerbstones and gravel has taken away a great deal of the top section of the mountain, including what was once an impressive Iron Age hill-fort and settlement. The top of what was termed Pen Dinas or Braich y Ddinas 'fort summit or fort ridge' was a very prominent landmark at one time. Penmayne Maur & Penmain Vaure 1536-9 Leland.

Llefn 443m SH 641686

Llefn is a form of the word *llyfn* 'smooth, even'; a good description of this small rounded hill.

Y Foel Dduarth 441m SH 681714

This *moel*, which could be seen as being a pointed or a rounded hill has the descriptor *du* 'black, dark' + (*g*)*arth* 'mountain ridge, promontory, hill'. This is comparable to the Old Irish *gart*, though this itself may be derived from the Welsh term; rather than *garth* 'enclosure, garden', comparable to Old Irish *gort*, Breton *garz*. Y Foellduarth 1838 OS, Moel Ddiarth (sic) Myrddin Fardd.

Cras 440m SH 652708

A low summit at the end of a ridge extending down from Moel Wnion. The word *cras* 'crusty, burnt, dried up' is probably used because of thin soils where pasture dies off in periods of drought. Ycras 1390 Conway Parish, Y cras 1403.

Moelfre 435m SH 717744

There are a number of moelfre names around Wales, nearly all of which are quite prominent positions. The first element is probably *moel* 'bare, barren'; however, the second element is the lenited form of *bre* 'hill, height'; or, 'promontory'. The *bre* element is cognate to the Middle Irish *bri*, also seen in Gaulish **briga*; they are ultimately derived from the Indo-European **bh₁ergh₁* 'great, tall, hill'. moylvrey 1577 Mostyn Manuscripts.

Clip yr Orsedd 429m SH 712747

While the word *clip* 'cliff', which is linked to German *klippe*, is fairly straightforward; the term *gorsedd* -, lenited to *orsedd*, has a number of possible meanings. Either, *gorsedd* 'mound of earth, tump, knoll, hillock; barrow, tumulus, grave'; or, *gorsedd* 'throne'. Clip-yr-orsedd 1838 OS.

Waen Bryn Gwenith 414m SH 747674

Waen 'level upland' + *bryn* 'hill' + *gwenith* 'wheat'. The lower south-facing slopes of this hill may have been warm enough for growing a hardy wheat during the Neolithic period. Otherwise there may be a reference to either Gwenith Ysgyfarnog 'Hare's Wheat' (Buckwheat): *Fagopyrum esculentum*; or, Gwenith y Brain (English Stonecrop): *Sedum anglicum* - a common mountain plant. Incorrectly as Bryn-gwynedd 1838 OS. Bryn Gwenithe 1589 Baron Hill, Bryn Gwenith 1746 Caernarfonshire Records Office.

Moel Faban 409m SH 634679

Moel 'round hill' + *Maban* - a personal name. At one time *Maban* or *Mabon*, this personal is the name probably derived from the Celtic god *Mapon(a)*. There was also a giant of this name. There is an extensive Bronze Age cairn cemetery along the ridge line of this hill; further down on the south facing slopes one can find one of the settlements that probably used these cairn fields. Compare with *Lochmaben Stone*, *Clochmabenstane* 1398, on the banks of the Solway. Moel Faban 1838 OS.

Craig Celynin 407m SH 747734

The *craig* 'rock' is named after the 6th century St Celynin; the church of Celynin [Llangelynin] is at (771736). This area, up to and around the hill, would have been quite heavily settled at the time of the early church period in Wales.

Pen Ardda 402m SH 761665

Pen 'head, summit' + *ardda(u)* - the plural of the word *ardd* 'hill, height, high rock', cognate with Cornish *arth* 'height'. This is probably the Ardeu mentioned in the Aberconwy Charter 1198; some of the other examples are, Ardev 1278 Litterae Wallia, Arthe 1563/4 Conway Parish Register, Arthey 1583 Wynnstay Manuscripts, Arddey 1650 Porth yr Aur Manuscripts.

Mynydd Deulyn 400m SH 759613

This name reflects the fact that the mountain is between two lakes, *dau* 'two' lenites into *deu* 'two' + *(l)lyn* 'lake'.

Pen y Gaer 390m SH 750693

Pen 'head, summit' + *y* 'the' + *caer* 'fort'. This is the lowest part of a prominent ridge but the hillfort on this summit would have been in a very strong position. Overlooking the valley of the Conwy, with three embankments augmenting the steepness of the slopes around it, it would have been a difficult proposition for an attack.

Craig Hafodwen 381m SH 732754

Craig 'rock' + *hafod* 'summer dwelling' + *(g)wen* 'white', a feminine form of *gwyn*; the term *hafod* is commonly found in the mountains where the shepherds would have at one time moved up with their

flocks to their summer pastures. Many of these summer dwellings later became permanent habitations. Craig y fodwen 1838 OS.

Y Foel Lus 362m SH 733762

Both the Welsh *llus*, Cornish *lus* have the meaning 'bilberry, blaeberry'; while Irish *lus* 'a plant' denotes vegetation in general. However, it has been postulated that the name is a corruption of the English word *loose*, to describe the screes found on the slopes of this hill. Foel Llys 1838 OS.

Cerrig y Ddinas 312m SH 753739

Cerrig 'rocks'+ *y* 'the' + *dinas* 'hillfort'. This would have been a difficult fort to attack, with up to four embankments atop the precipitous crags and steep slopes. *Cerrig* is the plural of *carreg* 'stone', it can sometimes refer to cliffs as well as rocks; or, does it refer to the stonewall built material of the embankments.

Towards the end of the Roman occupation in North Wales and especially after the exit of 'Imperial' troops; there was a good deal of trepidation regarding the raiding along the coast by various brigands from Ireland and the Old North. Some of the raids became attempts at takeover and land settlement, which was successful in some places. Coupled to the seaborne attacks, there were also local looters and robbers roaming about as well; most of the early 'kings' combating these were themselves probably not much more than the brutal leaders of semi-permanent and savage war bands. Because of this uncertainty, fortified farms and hamlets developed and many hill forts were reoccupied, with some forts showing some parts being re-designed and strengthened.

Maen Esgob 300m SH 749759

The *maen* 'stone'+ *esgob* 'bishop' in question may have had a peculiar form, perhaps similar to that of an episcopal hat (mitre); or, it may be a stone to mark the boundary of the bishop's land. There was land in the area belonging to the diocese of Bangor. A prehistoric settlement is to be seen nearby.

Y Grinllwm 287m SH 777624

The elements here are *crin* 'withered, brittle, shrunk, crinkled' + *llwm* 'bare, barren' would be a good name for very poor ground with a tendency to 'burn' the vegetation in dry periods. Also, the drying out and cracking of the peat and mud in marshy areas could also be described as such. Early Irish *crin* 'dry'. Crinllwm was written as Clunllom on the 1838 OS map.

Alltwn 255m SH 746774

Allt 'bluff, slope' + (*g*)*wen* 'white', the southern flanks of this steep sided hill would have been very sunny. The hillfort on its summit would have dominated the pass of the Sychnant.

Craig y Fedwen 252m SH 756763

Craig y Fedwen is the form seen on the OS maps. *Craig* 'rock' + *y* 'the' + *bedwen* feminine singular of the word *bedw* 'birch': *Betula pendula*. The word *bedw* is linked to Old Cornish *bedwen*, Irish *brethe*, Celtic **betu*; from the Indo-European root **buet*, both meaning 'incense' or 'sap', as in the Latin *betulla* 'bitumen of the birch, pitch'.

Mynydd Garthmyn 251m SH 805564

Either named after the farm Garthmyn, or visa versa. With two elements to it, both with multiple meanings that could apply to the location. The first element, *garth*, is either: a) 'mountain ridge, promontory, hill; wooded slope, woodland, brushwood, thicket, uncultivated land'. Or: b) 'enclosure, garden'. If the second element is not a corruption of *maen* 'stone, rock' the it might possibly refer to *myn*: which could give either i. 'place, location'. Or: ii. 'kid, young goat'. 'tyddyn garthmayn uchaf' 1531 Mostyn Manuscripts, Garthmin 1789 Maenan Manuscript. Garth-myn 1838

OS.

Penmaenbach 245m SH 748780

The word *bach* here refers to the fact that this is the 'lesser, lower' of these two distinctive headlands termed *pen* 'end, head, top' + *maen* 'rock'. The old routeways followed a course inland rather than try to negotiate the precipitous slopes found on these two hills. Penmenuechan 1586, Penmen Vaughan Mount 1698 John Ogilby, Pen Maen bychan 1722.

Mynydd y Dref 244m SH 760778

This is the nearest *mynydd* 'mountain, hill' to the *tref* 'town' of Conwy. Its strategic position has meant it has been an important site for centuries and it is the site of an Iron Age hillfort. The hillfort of Castell Caer Seion or Castell Caer Leion is quite large, measuring 320m by 100m, it it also had a 'citadel' on the inside and over 20 circular structures.

Cogwrn 203m SH 757767

As a landscape name, the meaning of *cogwrn* is 'knoll, heap, pile', and this is exactly what is to be found here. Kay yn y kogwrne 1499, Kay gogwrn 1515 Penrhyn Manuscripts.

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