

FFOREST FAWR

The rocks of the area are similar to those of Y Mynydd Du and together with Y Mynydd Du, the whole area was designated as a Geopark in 2005. The limestone areas has some of the largest cave systems in Britain.

Carn y Goetre SN 945142

The word carn 'cairn, barrow, tumulus, mound, rock; heap, pile' could indicate any one of a plethora of features; there are cairns to the South. However, this area has a number of lime kilns and quarried faces and other rock strewn areas. Goetre is taken from the property shown as Goitre (940143), which can be seen at the foot of the hill, Goytre in 1832 on the OS map. This name is derived from the word coetref; coe(d) 'wood' + tref 'habitation', some form of dwelling in a wooded area.

Carreg Llem SN 893144

Carreg 'rock' + lem is the mutated form of llem 'sharp', which is a feminine form of the word llym. However, a confusion with a corrupted or mutated llam 'leap' may sometimes be present. Carreg Llem 1832 OS.

Carreg Llwyd SN 862154

This is a North facing carreg 'rock', in the shade for much of the day, hence llwyd 'grey'; or, the colour of the rock. Carreg Llwyd 1832 OS.

Craig Cerrig Gleisiaid SN 963217

The word gleisiaid 'grils, young salmon' is unusual for the streams would be so very high for it to have have salmon in it. Alternatively, some have stated that the name is a form of a slang term for the bluish grey rocks, resembling the cloaks of priests or monks. However, it is probable that a corruption of the word cleisiau, the plural of clais 'ditch, fissure, groove' has taken place; probably referring to the broken and gullied appearance of the steep northern face of this hill.

Craig Cwm Du SN 945213

Named after the vale below, see Cwm Du. This crag is a good example of a feature which is in the shadows; one that is looks du 'dark, black' and foreboding on most days, as it is located in a deep cwm.

Craig Penmailard SO 016097

The hill name is now Penmoelallt though the early OS maps of 1832 show the name of the hill and the farm (as was) as Penmailard; this is also seen in the name of this craig 'cliff' from 1892 onwards. Mailart is a derived variation on marlat 'mallard', a name which at one time would apply to any wild drake; from the Old French *malart*, *mallart* 'wild drake'. A slightly surprising name in the landscape if it is correct; perhaps it may be a feature resembling the head of a drake; or, was it an area where ducks were found? However, it is probable that there is something deeper in the name than just mallard; one must note the word mael 'prince, chieftan' and its variant form mail for example. Pen Mallard Hills 1729 Bowen Map of South Wales, Mynydd Penmailard & Penmailard 1832 OS.

Craig Rhiwarth SN 844157

There is an Iron Age Hillfort atop this craig 'cliff'; it is situated in an impressive location dominating the upper Tawe valley and the routes through the mountains. The terms rhiw 'steep rise, slope' + (g)arth 'ridge, promontory' are both very apt, as the name does denote the steep end of a prominent ridge. However, garth 'enclosure' could also be inferred because of the hillfort.

Craig y Fro SN 970207

In this area, the word bro has a meaning of 'vale, lowland' rather than the usual bro 'region, country,

land, neighbourhood'; therefore, the name has a meaning similar to 'valley crag'. Craig y Fro 1832 OS.

Y Garreg Lwyd SN 950129

This carreg 'rock' + llwyd 'grey, pale' as it is the colour of bare limestone outcrops that are to be found in this area. However, in other names it may infer other colours from fallow through to brown.

Y Glog Las SN 958144

This is probably clog 'cliff, rock' + glas – a colour term for the grey seen in limestone rocks, rather than the green, blue colours that the term glas is generally used for today. However, because of the circumflex above the letter o, in the OS map name this could lead to one to think of a link to clôt, clôt 'cloak, cover'; derived from either the Middle English *cloke* 'hood' or the Latin *cloca, clocca* 'cloak, mantle'.

Y Graig Llech SN 846121

This is a location of steep slopes above the river Nant Llech, there is no actual llech as in 'rock, slab, cliff' here; however, the river bed is slabby in some areas.

Saith Maen SN 862147

The word maen 'rock, stone' is quite straightforward, then one has to decide if there is saith 'seven' or saeth 'arrow'. Saith would be used to denote a grouping or alignment of seven rocks, as is to be found 3km away on the other side of the Tawe, at (833154). However, the 1832 OS maps have the name as Saethmaen and later Saeth maen.