

Y GLYDERAU

This particular area is named after a heap or pile of rocks; the Glyder name given to this group of hills is a corruption of the term cludair or cluder 'pile, heap'. The rocky tops are the result of huge amounts of frost shattering; during the last Ice Age, the rocky mountain tops would have jutted out between long streams of glaciers, termed nunataks. The flanks of Tryfan are just a huge jumble of rock outcrops, gullies and cliffs and famously one of the few peaks where hands are usually needed to scramble up to its top. The cliffs of Cwm Idwal are also of great interest; one of the main areas where Botanical surveys were made as well as being the trigger for Darwin to realise that there had been glaciers in Britain at one time..

Carreg Wastad SH 626571

Carreg 'rock, stone' + gwastad 'flat, smooth, even'; when looking at this cliff one cannot help but notice its very even, straight top.

Castell y Geifr SH 637594

Castell 'castle' + y 'the' + geifr 'goats'; this is a slightly derogatory reference to a cliff where goats are still seen clambering across the ledges to this day. Clogwyn 'cliff' + y 'the' + geifr 'goats'; the Brittonic **gabro-*, Early Celtic **gabro-* are from an Indo European root **kapr-*. It is an important and common an element in a number of place-names.

Clogwyn Bochlwyd SH 657597

This clogwyn 'cliff', lake and cwm has had its name taken from the stream issuing out of the lake, this is flanked by rock outcrops, hence the boch 'cheeks' + llwyd 'grey'.

Clogwyn Du Ymhen y Gluder SH 646581

Sometimes more of an explanation was needed, especially if the descriptor was common; this Clogwyn 'cliff' + Du 'dark' + ymhen 'atop' + y 'the' + Gluder is close to the summit of Gluder Fawr. It is not a recently made up name as has been inferred, Edward Lhwyd mentions it in his book The Welsh Counties 1694.

Clogwyn y Geifr SH 638589

The name Clogwyn y Geifr is quite a recent name, made up in the 1930ies; there has been some confusion as to the names in this area though with competing references. The local name for the cliffs either side of Twll Du (Devil's Kitchen) appear to have been Castell y Geifr; or, only Y Castell; though some have the name Castell y Geifr for the cliff on Y Garn.

An old name in this area of cliff that was visited for botanical discoveries was Trigfylchau, Edward Lhwyd mentions 'near or one of the Tregvylchau or Treigfylchau' in the book The Welsh Counties 1694 , while in 1798 J Evans places the name firmly between Llyn Cwn and Llyn Idwal. If it is a name for the cliff, and not to passes, then tri 'three' + cyf- 'a strengthening prefix' + bylchau 'breaks, clefts' could apply to the three obvious vertical chasms in the cliff.

Clogwyn y Grochan SH 622572

This is a made up name, the locally used name at one time was simply Craig y Geifr. The clogwyn 'cliff' + y 'the' + grochan 'cauldron' name was probably made up in the 1930ies; probably to avoid confusion with other cliffs with similar names.

Clogwyn y Tarw SH 650596

Clogwyn 'cliff' + y 'the' + tarw 'bull'; from the flanks of Pen yr Ole Wen, the ridge is supposed to look like the back of a charging bull while the cliff itself are the forehead and horns. Bulls were revered in 'Celtic' mythology for their potency and their aggression. The word tarw, derived from the Indo European **tawros* 'bull' as is Gaulish **tarvos*, **taruos* 'bull', Old Irish **tarb*. Another little

cliff **Clogwyn Tarw 619577**, is not on the OS map.

Craig Cwrwgl SH 616615

The cwrwgl 'coracle' name probably denotes the bowl-like shape of glacial cirques such as this; though, there could have been small boats used on this lake before it became enlarged. There is also a legend of maidens on the lake in a boat; a common refrain.

Craig Ddu SH 619574

This craig 'rock' really is du 'black' due to the persistent wetness staining the rock; in periods of heavy rain, a number of waterfalls pour down the cliff face.

Creigiau'r Dena SH 667602

The stream below, named Dena(u) 'thin, slender' has given the cliff its name.

Dinas SH 615586

High up above Nant Peris there may well have been a small dinas 'stronghold' at this location; perhaps just a refuge in a time of strife. Archaeologists are finding more hillforts of various sizes all the time, there is also greater evidence that they were inhabited permanently.

Dinas y Gromlech SH 629569

The form Dinas Cromlech is also seen. A cromlech is a sepulchre made out of three or four massive stones placed on end as supports for an even larger stone placed on top. The name crom 'bent, crooked' + llech 'slab, stone' is thought to denote the arched nature of their construction, or at least the mound of earth which would cover them. During the 18th and 19th centuries, they were thought to have been altar stones upon which the Druids performed human sacrifices. One early form may have been simply as Y Gromlech, the early OS maps had Cromlech in 1838.

Drws Nodded SH 671585

Apparently a late and made up name, the initial element is rather odd considering its position; drws 'entrance, opening, pass' + nodded 'shelter, protection'. The shelter or protection could be found under the huge overhang of this striking cliff.

Esgair Fawr SH 619584

This is not named on the present OS map, this is simply esgair 'spur' + mawr 'large'. If no effort is made to record the names, particularly the supposedly mundane ones, then the chances are that these name could be lost forever.

Esgair Felen SH 633579

Esgair 'spur' + felen, which is the feminine form of melyn 'yellow'. This prominent cliff, high up on the flanks of the Gluderau is not yellow, when dry it has a brownish tinge to it. Esgair-felen 1838 OS.

Esgair Lwyd SH 621582

This esgair is quite a steep and rocky ridge, with many little cliff faces, the protruding rock gives the llwyd 'grey' colour.

Esgair Maen Gwyn SH 636564

Esgair 'ridge, spur' + maen 'rock' + gwyn 'white'; although the correct spelling is esgair the local pronouciation is 'esgar' or 'ysgar'. This cliff has been known as Scimitar Ridge, due to its striking shape; the whiter rock is on the opposite side of the scree gully.

Gallt yr Ogof SH 693594

Gogof is a different form of the word ogof 'cave'. The original meaning of gallt was for a wooded slope; this still applies further South, in North Wales the term came to be used more for a bluff or cliff. However, this particular bluff was quite wooded at one time. Gallt-y-gogo 1838 OS.

Rhiwiau'r Caws SH 645589

The name Rhiwiau'r Caws is recorded in the Botanical journal of Samuel Brewer in 1762; rhiwiau 'slopes' + caws 'cheese'; probably referring to the quartz veins crossing the upper areas of rock. There is also a Llwybr Caws, even higher, the llwybr 'path' is a striking quartz 'pavement' on the upper cliff below Gluder Fawr. The references to cheese is strengthened by the perception of the slabby nature of this cliff; resembling huge wedges of cheese, one on top of the other, known to climbers as Idwal Slabs.

Y Galan SH 633621

Cal, cala 'penis' linked to the Cornish *kal*, Breton *kalc'h* from the root **qel* 'to spike'. Y Galan 1888 OS 6”.