

MOELWYNION & MIGNEINT

This area is quite extensive, stretching from the craggy slopes of Cnicht and Moel Dyniewyd to the West to around halfway across the Migneint in the East. Apart from the striking band of steep cliffs forming the South facing scarp of the Moelwyn, the remaining cliffs are surprisingly quite small. However, due to the hardness of the rocks, some of these outcrops are very steep indeed. The area is famous for its slate quarries, although many are underground they are still called quarries; the waste slate was carried in trucks that would tip over at the end of the tracks. These 'tips' are the most obvious feature of slate quarrying here. There are also some large area of forestry on some hills and slopes of the upper Conwy.

Allt Fawr SH 684473

The allt 'cliff, wooded slope' + fawr 'large' is the extensive hillside of rocky slopes and steep vegetation above Gloddfa Ganol mine; it is also the name for the hill.

Allt y Ceffylau SH 678469

The allt name here is more inclined to be designating a 'slope, wooded slope' name rather than 'cliff'. Ceffylau 'horses' is the plural of ceffyl 'horse', a word that is linked to Old Irish *capall* 'work horse', Gaulish **kaballos* 'horse'. The horse was revered by 'Celtic' peoples because of their speed and the prestige gained through their ownership.

Carreg Alltrem SH 740507

This carreg 'stone' has allt 'cliff, steep slope' + trem 'visage, aspect, appearance'; it is certainly a steep little cliff with some interesting rock-climbs.

Carreg Blaen Llym SH 666441

Here the carreg 'stone' is designated as having a blaen 'end, head' + llym 'sharp'. There is also a very similar cliff name as found at **Carreg Flaenllym SH 689464**.

Carreg y Foel Gron SH 746427

Cron is the feminine of crwn 'round'; by looking at the early OS 6" maps of 1840-80 one sees that the carreg 'cliff' almost totally encircled this little hill, before quarrying took it away. The name is associated with this round cliff rather than a curved hill-top.

Carreg y Fran SH 737448

One can see the term bran 'crow' in many landscape names, particularly cliffs; the term does cover a number of differing birds of the genus *Corvus*, including crows, rooks and ravens. Paired ravens often use one particular rock from which to look out upon their territory, there will seem to be one or two ravens always on this rock.

Cerrig Cochion SH 662512

Cochion is the plural form of coch 'red, brown'; the plural form must be used as the initial locator is a plural.

Clogwyn Brith SH 665467, SH 794545

The cliffs are a mixture of rocks, scree and various forms of vegetation, hence the use of the word brith 'mottled'.

Clogwyn Candryll SH 723443

This is a brilliant name for a clogwyn 'crag' on the sides of Manod Mawr with many outcrops and huge amounts of scree; it is candryll 'broken, shattered', quite literally can(t) 'hundred' + dryll 'piece, fragment'.

Clogwyn Garw SH 726445

Just round from Clogwyn Candryll is another area of very rough and difficult ground with a lot of scree; the word garw 'rough, rugged, craggy' would apply very well here.

Clogwyn Gottal SH 648488

There seems to be three differing possibilities for this rather rare name form. The meanings might be connected to: cotel 'small pointed field', a word borrowed from the English cotel (?); a term similar to the Cornish *cotelle* 'wood'; or, a corruption of cot 'dwelling, shelter'?

Clogwyn Maen Coch 749459

Clogwyn 'cliff' + maen 'stone' + coch 'red, ruddy, brown', if there is a red stain to the rock, then there are a couple of explanations. One might have an iron oxide mineralisation in the rock itself; which happens a lot in slate in areas such as this; otherwise, if water flows down from an area of peat bog, this would also produce a reddish stain.

Clogwyn Spot SH 729489

In his Caernarfonshire place-name book of 1928, Professor J Lloyd-Jones refers to the name as being linked to a dog; however, there may be some form of reference in the name to pothan 'wolf cub'. Otherwise is it just a very recent name for being mottled, there is a borrowed sbot 'spot, blemish'?

Clogwyn y Benar SH 736515

Takes its name from the hill, which would have been pen 'top, head' – mutated to ben + ardd 'high, height'.

Clogwyn y Bustach SH 673448

Clogwyn 'cliff' + y 'the' + bustach 'bullock' is probably a reference to the presence of cattle. The cattle were very hardy and able to be kept outside, even in the harshest winters. This may have been a favoured spot as it is relatively sheltered below the cliff.

Clogwyn y Geifr SH 684423

Another cliff named after the geifr 'goats' seen there out on the mountain side. At one time people made use of the feral goats by keeping the goat kids tethered up. One by one the kids were taken to a kind of stone igloo with the hole left at the top. The goat mothers would come down to feed the young and jump down through the hole into the igloo. Unable to get out the goat would be allowed to suckle her kid, but after a while, a door was opened and the goat taken out for milking.

Clogwyn yr Adar SH 693516

A steep little cliff with trees and some clefts for nesting make this a great place for birds to nest, which may be the reason behind the initial naming of this crag.

Clogwyn yr Hicia SH 736512

The term hiciad 'notch, groove' refers to a break in the clogwyn 'crag'; the break or notch probably refers to the chasm where the little waterfall comes down the hillside near the middle of the clogwyn.

Clogwyn yr Oen SH 675449

With the name as clogwyn 'cliff' + y 'the' + oen 'lamb' one would suspect that this was an area where lambing, or at least young lambs were present. However, looking up at the cliff, quite high up, one can see a part of it resembles the head of a lamb.

Craig Blaen y Cwm SH 744480

This craig 'crag' + blaen 'head, end' + y 'the' + cwm 'valley' is perfectly described by its name as being at the top end of Cwm Penamnen.

Craig Ddu SH 697538

A South facing cliff with the name Craig Ddu; therefore, the name does not indicate a dark shaded location as so many du names imply in the landscape. The cliff is black because of seepage.

Craig Glanconwy SH 794554

This seems to be quite a late name; glan 'shore, bank, side' + Conwy, is obviously the name of the river below. However, it is seen in 1761 Caernarfonshire Records Office documents as Craig lan Conwy.

Craig Goch SH 752444

The craig 'rock' of this long line of cliffs is not particularly 'coch' red; however, apart from screes, the slopes are covered with heather and bilberry which do stand out in their winter colours as deep browns and purples.

Craig Llyn Llagi SH 652483

A crag named after lake of Llyn Llagi; llagi may be linked to llac, llaca 'mud, mire 'pool, borrowed from the English lac 'lake'. Craig-y-Llyn-llagi 1838 OS.

Craig Nythygigfran SH 687459

This craig 'rock' is named after the nyth 'nest' + y 'the' + cigfran 'raven'; their nests are usually a large untidy collection of twigs and branches, sometimes lined with tufts of wool. They love to nest on steep cliffs and return to the same site for many years.

Craig y Clogwyn SH 617470

Craig 'rock' + y 'the' + clogwyn 'cliff'; this denotes an area of rock above a scarp which forms the cliff.

Craig y Dyniewyd SH 613475

Dyniewyd is the plural of dyniawed 'steer, young bullock', named after the hill Moel Dyniewyd. It is quite usual to find local stories explaining the cattle and sheep names on some cliffs because of the supposed death of an animal after a fall.

Craig yr Wrysgan SH 680456

Gwrysgen is the feminine singular of the word gwrysg 'branches, reeds, bushes'; perhaps there were more trees or bushes on it at one time.

Y Garreg Bengam SH 610453

This is a fairly straightforward name as the carreg 'rock' does feature a Pen 'head, top' – mutated to ben + cam 'bent, crooked'.