

RHINOGAU

The pass that is most associated with this range of hills is the prominent gap of Bwlch Drws Ardudwy, it can be seen from many angles and dominates the whole landscape. Ardudwy was the name of the commote and although there are other important East-West and actually easier passes through the hills, this is the one that people remember.

Bwlch Coch SH 749157

This pass name is not on the present maps, though it is seen in the farm name Bwlch Coch Isaf. It was on the route of what was an important road at one time, coming from Dolgellau and heading to the West. It is marked on John Evans' 1795 Map of North Wales.

Bwlch Cwmmaria SH 623186

Breuan is the old name for the cwm here; this is either breuan 'hand mill, quern' or breuan 'carrion crow, raven'. Either could be possible because the birds are found all over Eryri and the gritstone rocks of the area was used for grinding at one time. Bwlch Cwm-breuan 1837 OS.

Bwlch Drws Ardudwy SH 665282

This is the drws 'door' that gains entry through the mountains to Ardudwy. The two Rhiniogau 'door-posts', one on either side, form the door. It seems that drws was an old word for a pass, when this was forgotten, there was a tendency to add the word bwlch to the old name.

Bwlch y Llan SH 670177

This is named llan 'church' as the path skirts round the hills to Llanaber.

Bwlch Du SH 673359

The du 'dark, black'; however, the word du could also be used figuratively to describe a sense of foreboding or difficulty.

Bwlch Gwilym SH 658329

Gwilym is a personal name; linked to Breton *Guilherm*, French *Guillaume*.

Bwlch Rhiwgyr SH 627200

Rhiw 'slope' + gyr 'to drive' (animals) 1796 Cambrian Register has the name as Bwlch y Rhiwgur 'the pass of the fatiguing ascent' with gur 'pain, anguish'; Bwlch y Rhiwgur is the form seen in the 1838 OS maps.

Bwlch y Tyddiad SH 657300

This is probably a mis-spelling of tudd 'mist, murkiness' + -iad. It could also be postulated that the word here is tyddia, a variant form of oetyddia 'to ask parents of a girl for her hand in marriage', being used as a reference to the closeness of the pass to the lake of Llyn Morwynion - morwynion 'young (unmarried) women'. Bwlch Tyddiad is the form seen on all the OS maps.