

Y GLYDERAU

The Glyderau range of hills form a long dogleg ridge stretching from Mynydd Llandygai to Capel Curig and contain five high peaks. At one time, there was only one mountain termed Gluder; they were separated at a later stage. Tryfan is one of the most striking peaks in Wales; it is one of the few that needs some straightforward scrambling in order to reach its top. The summits show the tremendous shattering of the rocks that took place during the last glacial period. The eastern part of the ridge is particularly popular with walkers.

Y Glyder Fawr 999m SH 642580

Glyder Fawr is how the name is shown on the OS maps, but glyder is a misspelling, the correct form should be Y Gluder Fawr or Y Gludair Fawr. The original word cluder or cludair 'anything collected together to form a heap or pile' + mawr 'large'; the reference is to the huge heap of rocks making up the mountain. 'y Klogwyn du ymhen y Glyder' 1586 William Camden, Britannia, Cevn y Glyder 1719 Glossarium Antiquarium Britannicarum, Bryn y Gludair/Bryn y Gludr 1790 Penrhyn Manuscripts, Glider Fawr 1834 Greenwood Map.

Y Glyder Fach 990m SH 656582

Both of the Gludair/Gluder names reflect the fact that the flanks of these mountains are made up of a pile of rocky cliffs, huge jumbles of rocks and scree slopes. The terms mawr 'larger' and bach 'lesser' have generally been used even before the surveys could record the difference in height. However, as stated above, there was only one y Gludair or y Gluder name, meaning the huge mass of both tops was considered as one mountain. Gludar Bach & Glyder Bach 1781 Thomas Pennant, The Glydars 1809/11 Edmund Hyde Hall.

Castell y Gwynt 972m SH 654582

This Castle (of) the Wind is a rather romanticised and fairly late name, this top has an impressive rocky shape and its exposed nature makes it a blustery spot; castell 'castle' is a term probably borrowed from the Latin *castellum* or Middle English *castel*. In describing Waen Oer, the area between the two Gluderau Thomas Pennant wrote 'The shepherds make it the residence of storms, and style part of it Carnedd y Gwynt' 1781 The Journey to Snowdon.

Y Garn 947m SH 631596

Carn 'cairn, barrow, tumulus or mound', Breton *karn*, Cornish *karn*, Irish *carn* 'pile of stones'; it was from this word that the term cairn developed in English. Usually it is used in the names of hills and mountains where there is (or may have resembled) a pile of rough stones stacked up to form a pre-historic burial mound. When one sees the yr or y, in front of a placename, it is not a true proper noun, but a common noun made special.

Elidir Fawr 923m SH 612613

Elidir was fairly common personal name at one time, of a form similar to Eluet, Elitivae and Elit and are connected to the Welsh elain 'doe, young deer' as well as Old Irish *elit* 'doe'; all ultimately derived from the Celtic **elanī* 'doe, deer'. Apart from a personal name, there might be a link here to elain 'doe, young deer' + tir 'area, ground'. However, the name may be hiding an older inference, through **el-*, to the distinctly angular shape of the mountain. The Celtic **ol-īnā* 'angle, elbow'; Old Cornish *elin*, Old Irish *uilenn* 'angle', Mid Irish *uillind* 'elbow; angle', Breton *elin*, *ilin*. When looking at the mountain from the West it has a prominent elbow or wedge shape. The south western spur, which was called Carnedd Clippiau, has at its end the name Talcen y Lidir on the 1838 Tithe Map. Carnedd Elidir 1757 Lewis Morris, Llider Vawr 1781 Thomas Pennant, 'mountain called Lidir' 1828 Llawysgrifau Porth yr Aur, Lider Fawr 1834 Map Greenwood.

There is a rather unconvincing legend linking the naming of the hill as a commemoration to a prince

of the 'Old North' called Elidyr Mwynfawr, married to Eurgain, the daughter of Maelgwn Gwynedd.

Tryfan 915m SH 663592

It is almost certain that the combination of the Welsh element try 'very' + ban 'peak, top' is the correct interpretation for this sharp or pointed mountain. A mistaken interpretation, common at one time, had the meaning linked to the word tri 'three' + ban, because of the three peaks, and even as tri + fa(e)n (a corruption of maen 'stone'). A further erroneous explanation as tr(w)y 'through' + ban 'peak' in a sense of a passage through the hills, i.e. the valley, was espoused at one time. Tryvan 1646/7 Baron Hill Manuscripts, Trevaen 1781 Thomas Pennant, the Trivan 1810 Richard Fenton Tours in Wales.

Y Foel Goch 831m SH 628612 & Y Foel Goch 805m SH 678582

A common hill name, found throughout Wales. The word coch 'red, ruddy, bloody; brown' can be used to denote any reddish to brown hue, even a sallow or yellowish colour in some instances. For example, the general autumnal/winter hues of common vegetation such as bracken could be termed coch.

Carnedd y Filiast 822m SH 620628

The carnedd 'cairn' is named with the mutated form of miliast 'greyhound bitch', these were mystic/ legendary animals and cairns could be associated with them. The name could also be a counterpoint to Elidir, if the term Elidir is a reference to deer. Otherwise the name could reflect the shape of the hill, reminiscent of the curved back of a greyhound. Carnedd y Filiast 1781 Thomas Pennant, Carnedd y Filiast 1838 OS.

Mynydd Perfedd 813m SH 622620

The word of interest here is perfedd 'amid, centre, heartland, interior'. It describes a location in the midst of others, an almost hidden place; or, towards the centre when viewed from a distance.

Elidir Fach 795m SH 603612

It has been said that this slightly lesser top was named Elidir Fach artificially, when it was decided that a balance was needed to the name Elidir Fawr on the OS map. As there was a Gluder Fawr and a Gluder Fach, further along the range; so it would be better if there was an Elidir Fach also. However, Thomas Pennant used the terms Lluder Fawr and Lluder Fach in his A Journey to Snowdon, published in two parts (1781 and 1783 respectively); this show that the names were in place long before any surveying.

Gallt yr Ogof 763m SH 685585

Gallt yr Ogof would be translated as the Bluff (of) the Cave, the top of the hill is actually a fair way up from the cliff forming the end of the spur. This cliff has a prominent deep cleft or gully and this is the ogof 'cave'. Gallt y gogo is the name for this mountain on the early OS Maps 1838 and this is still the local name for it.

Cefn y Capel 444m SH 709584

Cefn 'back, ridge' + capel 'small church'; named after the tiny but historical church in the hamlet of Capel Curig. At the western end of this ridge, at (697580) is a prehistoric long mound aligned east – west and over 20m in length. The word cefn is linked to Middle Breton *queyn*, Old Cornish *chem*, Gaulish *cebenna*; note that the Gaulish term is the derivation for the name Cevennes in France.

Moel Lleuci 410m SH 593659

The erroneous Moel y Ci (Hill the dog) form is seen on OS maps over a very long period; even though the Penrhyn Estate knew the correct form of the name, although misspelt. Lleuci or Lleici, is a common feminine name in the Middle Ages; today, the English form of Lleuci would be Lucy.

This name appears in the classic 14th century poem 'Marwnad Lleucu Llwyd', written by Llywelyn Goch ap Meurig Hen for his deceased lover. In the past, some have postulated a Moel Llyctir or Lleyctir; llyctir being land given as payment for a secular favour. Moylycki 1588, Moel y Ki, Moylike 1612, Moylyki 1614 all Penrhyn Manuscripts, Moel-Lyci 1781: the form Carnedd Moelyci is seen sometimes.

Parc Drysgol 404m SH 589644

On the first OS maps, the ridge between Rhiwen and Moel y Ci was called Drysgol-fawr; and Trysgol Fawr was the name on the tithe map. The trwsgol 'difficult, rough' is a fairly common term in mountainous terrain. The word parc 'a large area of enclosed land, field, enclosure'; is a word borrowed from the Middle English *park*, that developed from the Old English *pearroc* 'enclosed land, field, paddock'. Drysgol-fawr 1838 OS.

Rhiwen 401m SH 582644

It is recorded as Rhiwan on the 1838 tithe map, a form that reflects the local vocalisation of the name. Rhiwen [rhiw 'slope' + (g)wen 'white' (in its feminine form)] shows an opposite or counter location to Rhiwlas, now the name of a local village, one dark, the other light. Moel Rhiwen 1838 OS.

Y Foel Gron 353m SH 586623

Gron is feminine adjective of crwn 'round' and this would be quite an apt name for this fairly smooth dome shaped hill. However, the form Moel Gronw is seen on the first OS maps; this is the shortened form of the personal name Goronwy. The name Moel Goronwy is to be seen on the 1887 6" OS map and one also sees the name Foel-Goronwy for the small farmstead nearby (586624).

Pen y Bigil 292m SH 577622

If there is a connection to bigel, as in Llanfigel [llan Vigail 1536-9 Leland, Llanfigail 1556] and the name Maen Bigel on Ynys Mon, the likelihood is that the word bugail 'shepherd' is to be found. However, it must be noted that Bigl and Y Bigl are the forms seen on the earliest OS maps. There is a plant named bigl, pigl (borrowed from the Middle English *pigle*) Hounds Tongue *Cynoglossum officinale*. Otherwise, due to the pointed form of the hill, some support a link to the word pig 'prow, pointed top', borrowed from the Middle English *pik(e)*. Y Bigl 1840-80 6" OS.