

YR WYDDFA

There are some very big and impressive areas of rock to be found in this area, the mountain named Lliwedd is just one huge cliff face on one side; another huge jumble of mountain, scree slopes and cliff is Crib y Ddysgl. However, what is one of the most striking cliffs is the brooding mass of Clogwyn Du'r Arddu, the site of some of the earliest botanical searches in the mountains. These are very high cliffs and are covered with ice at times, the lower cliffs are still large and varied, with Dinas Mot being the most pronounced.

Castell SH 626513

There is an ancient *castell* 'stronghold' on the top of this particular crag. It would have made a good defensive site, dominating the valley floor as it does and with steep rocks on three sides.

Clogwyn y Barcut SH 629516

Clogwyn 'cliff' + *barcud*, *barcut* 'kite'; it is difficult to decide which bird is associated with the term as it can also denote a buzzard: *Buteo buteo* as well as a Kite; Middle Cornish *bargos*, Old Breton *barcot*.

Clogwyn Brith SH 641518

Clogwyn 'steep rock, precipice', the initial element is linked to Cornish *clog* 'craig serth', Irish *cloch* 'rock, stone'. The word *brith* 'mottled' could also be used to signify a broken and jumbled hillside of rock, scree and vegetation as well as an area of mottled rock.

Clogwyn y Bustach SH 651535

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. One often sees names that are linked to cattle because of their importance to early farmers of this landscape.

Clogwyn Coch SH 605555

Welsh is one of only five languages in the world which does not have a specific word for the colour brown. Coch is just one of the words which is used as a term for brown, but also orange. One should note that a robin does not have a red breast, it is an orange colour, the colour of a Red Kite is also not a true red.

Clogwyn Du SH 606533

This clogwyn 'cliff' is du 'black' because of its wetness.

Clogwyn Du'r Arddu SH 600595

The initial part of this name, *clogwyn* 'cliff' that is *du* 'black, dark' + *r* 'the' is straightforward enough. It is the rather unique *arddu* element that has caused trouble in the past. At one time it was proposed that the meaning was that of a forboding dread, of an *ar-* 'on, upon' + *du* 'black, dark, dreadful'. A later alternative produced *ardd* 'height' + *du* 'black, dark, dreadful', this is closer to the realisation of modern etymologists that *arddu* 'high, height' is a complete element in itself. The *arddu* element is derived from the Brittonic **ardu* 'height, hill', that developed at an early stage from the Celtic **ardwo-* 'high'.

In the past, statements such as '*Ar* signifies "ploughed land." *Arddu* to plough.' The Place-names of Wales, Thomas Morgan (1912) did not help matters.

Clogwyn Gafr SH 636556

This name records the presence of goats, this word is a singular form of *geifr* 'goats' i.e. *gafr* 'goat'; there are still many of them. Previously, on some maps and also in rock-climbing guides, it is erroneously known as Craig Fach.

Clogwyn y Garnedd SH 612544

This *clogwyn* 'cliff' + *y* 'the' + *carnedd* 'cairn' is directly below the summit of Yr Wyddfa; the *carnedd* could be a reference to the huge cairn that was once on top of the mountain or to the cairn shape of this pyramidal peak. *Clogwyn Karnedd y Wydhva* 1722 Britannia, E Llyud.

Clogwyn y Gwin SH 576536

Gwin is quite a common corrupted form of the word *gwyn* 'white, pale, light grey' recorded in the landscape. The word *gwinau* 'bay, reddish brown' could also be a reasoning; it is not very likely that the cliff is to be linked to the production of *gwin* 'wine' unless it was a place to collect the fruits of the Elder to make Gwin Ysgaw 'Elderberry Wine'; however, it could denote a ruddy colour.

Clogwyn y gwin 1673 Nannau Manuscripts, *Clogwyn-y-gwin* 1838 OS.

Clogwyn Llechwedd Llo SH 588564

Clogwyn 'cliff' + *llechwedd* 'slope' + *llo* 'calf', is once again a reference to the presence of livestock out in the mountains and were generally allowed to roam around the slopes looking for grazing. At night they were herded into folds, known as *buarth*, *bu* 'cattle' + *(g)arth* 'enclosure' at night to keep them safe from wolves. Many of these *buarthau* 'enclosures' can still be seen in the landscape as large, now ruined, circular stone walls. In some places sheepfolds took over what were probably on the sites of earlier cattle enclosures. The early farmers would have used wattle and thorn enclosures initially down in the valleys, then as they went up on the hillsides, they used stone.

Clogwyn Mawr SH 594586

Simply translated as Big Cliff. One should have noted that many cliffs in this area are denoted by the word *clogwyn* rather than by other possible terms such as *craig*, *carreg* or *(g)allt*. This may be because of the number of big steep cliffs here; however, it may well be due to the effect of a local preference for the term or the local dialect.

Clogwyn Melyn SH 625506

Melyn 'yellow' is another colour term used in Welsh to describe colour ranging from yellow through to brown. Therefore, although it is a very common colour term in the landscape, it is sometimes difficult to pin down what colour was being referenced.

Clogwyn Pen Llechen SH 642546

This crag has the term *llechen* 'flagstone, slate'; however, the term *llech*, *llechen* can also be used to denote the smoothness of the rock, and this is a particularly smooth slab of rock.

Clogwyn y Person SH 617554

Apparently, the first ascent of the ridge leading along from the top of this cliff was made by an unknown cleric; all they knew of him was that he was a Parson. Hence the name *person* 'parson'.

Clogwyn y Wenallt SH 647527

This is probably due to the cliffs aspect, from the valley it would have been the first to catch the sun; therefore, *(g)wen* 'white, bright' + *allt* 'bluff, wooded slope'.

Craig Ddu SH 618526

This *craig* 'rock' is very wet and the dark rock becomes very *du* 'black' due to the colour of the lichen that can survive well in this moisture. Even though it faces south, the *du* 'shaded' meaning does not really apply here.

Craig yr Aderyn SH 640544

The name *craig* 'rock' + *yr* 'the' + *aderyn* 'bird' could be simple enough as a place where birds

congregated. However, the word *aderyn* is the singular of *adar* 'birds'; this could allow for a likeness in form to a bird, a local legend concerning the crag, or even mythological connotations long since lost. Unfortunately, the presence of a large raven or eagle nest would probably be enough to give the cliff its name.

Crib y Ddysgl SH 615552

A huge chaos of cliffs rocks and scree slopes. Known locally as Y Grib Ddesgil; with *desgil* as a variant form to *dysgl* 'dish, bowl', a word borrowed from the Latin *disculus*. The *crib* 'crest' forms the lip of the *dysgl*, that is, the bowl shape of the glaciated *cwm* or *cirque*.

Not as: '*Krib y Diskil* – Called so corruptly perhaps for *Krib y Distilh*; for water drops down this *precipice*' *Camdens Britannia* (1722) E Lluyd.

Diffwys Ddu SH 614560

Diffwys 'abyss' + *ddu* 'black, dark' is the correct name for this cliff, although *Cyrn Las* is the name that has been given to this cliff by rock climbers over the years. The *cyrn* 'cone' + (*g*)*las* 'grey' proper is the spur end above, when viewed from the valley it does resemble a cone.

Diffwys Ddŵr SH 621561

Diffwys 'abyss' + *ddŵr* 'water' is the correct name for this cliff; although the name *Craig y Rhaeadr* is the one which rock climbers usually associate with the cliff. The general wetness of the cliff gives it a dark forbidding appearance.

Dinas Fach SH 632560

This *dinas* 'fort' + *fach* 'little', is only a small crag in comparison to *Dinas Mot* nearby.

Dinas Mot SH 626564

This impressive cliff forms a natural counterpoint to *Dinas Cromlech* on the opposite side of the valley. There is a local legend that the *Mot* in question was a giant that inhabited this *dinas* 'fortress'. The *Mot* name is rather curious at it is a name that is usually used as a dog name in Wales; some have linked it to a giant, others to a supposed mythological beast guarding *Annwn* 'the otherworld'.

The name is to be seen as *Dinas Spot* in an article written by John E Jones (Ioan Gwynant) in the *Herald Cymraeg*, August 1914. Brought up in one of the houses that were located at *Gorffwysfa* (now *Pen y Pass*), he walked up and down the valley a great many times and the names in the article were those he was familiar with. As stated above, *Mot* is a common Welsh name given to dogs; is there a link between the *Mot/Spot* names to a legendary dog or beast? Otherwise, is there a link to Irish/Gaelic *mad/mat* 'dog, mastiff, wolf', still seen in the modern *madadh* 'wild dog' as in *madadh-ruadh* 'fox'.

Gallt y Llyn SH 620502

Gallt 'bluff, cliff, wooded slope' + *y* 'the' + *llyn* 'lake'; the lake in question being *Llyn Dinas*. However, the cliff is known locally by the name *Craig y Llyn*, this was to be found on the 1888-1915 series 6" OS Maps.

Llechog SH 598538, SH 607568

Llech 'slab' + *-og* 'tendency to, association with'; this term can describe a smooth faced crag; or, a crag with angled slabby facets; the latter applies here.

Muriau Gwelltog SH 551567

Muriau 'walls' + *gwelltog* 'grassy, abounding in vegetation'; this really is a cliff with a lot of vegetation.

Y Diffws SH 548574

This is a variation on the word *diffwys* 'precipice' has developed from the element *di-* 'without end' and *affwys* 'abyss'; giving a sense a steep bottomless cliff.

Ysgar SH 631556

It is difficult to decide whether this is in fact *ysgar* 'part, portion'; or, a corrupted form of the word *esgair* 'ridge' as the name is for a rocky spur leading down from Crib Goch. However local vocalisation of the name would support the latter.

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