

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 Clogwy'n 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' + barcut, 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 describes a clogwyn 'cliff' that is du 'black, dark' + 'r 'the'; however, the arddu is the element that needs to be studied. At one time it was proposed that *ar-* 'on' + *du* 'black, dark, dreadful' was correct; or, an *ardd* 'height' + *du* 'black, dark, dreadful'. However, the term *arddu* 'height' is not a combination of elements, it is derived from the Brittonic *ardu 'height, hill', that developed at an early stage from Celtic *ardwo- 'high'.

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 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'. 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. At one time 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, stone walls; also, many sheepfolds were probably the site of earlier cattle enclosures. The early farmers would have used thorn enclosures initially and they were up on the hillsides rather than in the wooded valleys, which were far more dangerous and did not provide pasture.

Clogwyn Mawr SH 594586

Simply translated as Big Cliff; by now 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 steep cliffs here; or, the effect of local dialect.

Clogwyn Melyn SH 625506

Melyn 'yellow' is another colour term used in Welsh to describe colour ranging from yellow through to brown; a very common colour term in the landscape.

Clogwyn Pen Llechen SH 642546

This crag has the term llechen 'flagstone, slate'; however, the term 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 parson, hence the name.

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, wen 'white, bright' + allt 'bluff, wooded slope'.

Craig Ddu SH 618526

This craig 'rock' is very wet, but the rock is also quite dark even though it faces south, the du 'shaded' meaning does not really apply here.

Craig yr Aderyn SH 640544

The name craig 'rock' + y '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.

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.

Diffwys Ddu SH 614560

Diffwys 'abyss' + ddu 'black, dark' is the correct name for this cliff, although Cyn Las is the name that has been given to this cliff by rock climbers over the years. The cyn '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 as 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 a Mr. 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. It should be noted that Mot is a common Welsh name given to dogs; is there a link between the Mot/Spot names to a legendary dog or beast? Or 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

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.