

YR ARENIG

This is an area of high hills but with large expanses of generally undulating moorland, rocky areas are not extensive but there are some substantial crags on the flanks of Arenig Fawr. There are some fairly unique names to be found in the area, unfortunately many will have been lost as people have moved away from the uplands. One can see from the ruins scattered about the hills that they were far more densely populated at one time; many names and stories will have been lost. The forestry in the area dominates much of the upland and has changed its character totally.

Carreg Lefain SH 844370

Carreg 'stone' + *llefain* 'to shout out, to cry out'; therefore, an echo rock. This name form is to be found in a number of places around Wales.

Cerrig Chwibanog SH 831301

The word *chwiban* 'whistle' is probably used here to do to the noise of the wind blowing through the rocks; another meaning one would not usually associate with the word is a hissing sound. However, there are old sheepfolds in the area and there was an important track through the hills in this upland vale; therefore, the whistling could refer to shepherds or drovers going past at one time.

Cerrig Lladron SH 774436

Lladron is the plural of *lleidr* 'thief, robber, bandit'; Cornish *ladron* 'thieves'. Kerrig y Lhadron c.1700 Parochialia, Cerrig-y-lladron 1838 OS.

Cerrig Llwynogod SH 778433

Llwynogod is the plural of *llwynog* 'fox', its name is derived from its tendency to live in woodland areas i.e. *llwyn* 'grove, wood' + *-og* 'association with'; Middle Welsh *lluynauc* 'fox'. Cerrig Llwynogod 1840-80 6" OS.

Cerrig y Bala SH 794412

This is probably not *bala* 'outflow', although there may have been a small lake or pool at one time, as seen in the Pwll Hwyaidd 'duck pool' name nearby. A *bala, bela or bele* 'weasel, polecat, marten' is likely; but at one time, even a *bala* 'wolf' meaning could also be inferred. Cerrig-y-bala 1838 OS.

Cerrig yr Ieirch SH 758426

Ieirch is one form of plural for the *iwrch* 'roe deer' see below.

Cerrig yr Iwrch SH 826292

Iwrch 'roe deer, roe buck': *Capreolus capreolus*; was found extensively throughout Europe. Leland mentions Eryri as abounding in deer; the name probably refers to a location where the deer were particularly prevalent. One Middle Welsh form is *yurc* 'hart'; comparable with Old Cornish *yorch*, Old Breton *iorch*, Gaulish *Iurca* from the Indo-European root **iork-*. Cerrig-yr-eirch 1838 OS.

Clogwyn Carreg yr Holtt SH 818319

This is probably a reference to a distinct *holtt* 'crack, cleaved, split' feature in the *clogwyn* 'cliff'; or, a *carreg* 'rock' at this location. Frith Garreg yr Holtt c.1700 Parochialia.

Craig Aderyn SH 764374

Aderyn 'bird' is a common enough name, but as to which birds it refers to is difficult to know. There is also a chance that there is a mythical or shape reference to the name which has long since been forgotten.

Craig Wen SH 847374

Although this is a North facing cliff it has been termed as being (*g*)*wen* 'white'; the general

colouring 'pale, grey' should probably be seen as a reference to the rock colour and mosses.

Craig y Ffolt SH 784346

Ffolt 'sheepfold'; both *ffolt* and *fald* are borrowed from the English *fold*. In the earliest years of shepherding the sheep would not have been allowed to remain out in the open at night due possible attack by foxes or wolves. They were herded into folds at night, to be taken back to the pastures in the morning. One effect of this was that the sheep who did not naturally stay in one area developed an instinct to stay in a particular area, well some of them at least. It is only over a great many generations that sheep become used to one side of a mountain or valley and tend to stay there; this is known in Welsh as *cynffin* 'habitual, acquainted'. This is the reason why upland farms are always sold with their stock; if totally new stock were to be brought in there would be no reason or 'instinct' keeping them there. A large sheepfold can be seen in a sheltered spot below these rocky outcrops.

Craig y Garn SH 895413

This is generally rocky ground rather than a large *craig* 'cliff'; Coflein is unsure as to whether this is a modern *carn* 'cairn' or not. Kraig Garn & Kraig y Garn c.1700 Parochiallia, Garn 1838 OS.

Craig yr Hyrddod SH 825379

The word *hyrddod* is a plural of *hwrdd* 'ram'; *hwrdd* also has a second meaning 'blow, thrust, violent push', just like the English word *ram* being the action of the animal. When not indulging in the mating season, the rams tend to stick together as a separate group away from the rest of the sheep and this might have been one area they preferred. The ram was a revered 'Celtic' symbol of virility and renewal, it was also associated with sustenance, guardianship and leadership to name a few.

Pen Tyrrau SH 833385

Pen 'head, top' + *tyrrau* 'heaps, piles' - the plural of the word *twr*; this description could be used figuratively to describe areas of cliff and rock one on top of the other. However, one sometimes finds there to be a confusion with *tŵr* 'tower' in some of the names, the plural of which would be *tyrau* or *tyriau*.