

CARNEDDAU

There is a curious difference in the way the early paths through this upland tackled these high mountains; the passes would be so steep and difficult, it would be far easier to follow the ridges through the hills. The presence of these high ridgeways can still be seen in the routes taken by some of the marked footpaths.

Bwlch Cowlyd SH 716610

Named after the lake, Llyn Cowlyd; from a corrupted *cau* 'hollow, 'enclosed' + *-lyd* - an ajectival suffix. Llinne Colluid 1536-9 Leland, Llyn Cowloyt 1588 Wynnstay Manuscripts.

Bwlch Cyfrwy Drum SH 680635

The *cyfrwy* 'saddle' is on the *trum* 'ridge' separating Carnedd Llywelyn and Carnedd Dafydd. Adwy Cyfrwy'r Drum has also been given as the name by Hugh Derfel Hughes in his *Hynafiaethau Llandygai and Llanllechid* (1866); with the term *adwy* 'mountain pass or opening' being used instead of *bwlch*. He also gives the name Y Clawdd Lwyd; *clawdd* 'ditch, dyke', Middle Welsh *claud* + (*l*)*lwyd* 'grey'.

Bwlch Eryl Farchog/Bwlch y Garreg Lwyn SH 694633

The name Bwlch Eryl Farchog should not be located at this location; the local farmers and some old maps, give the name of the upper section of this pass as *Pen* 'head' + *y* 'the' + *waun* 'moor' + (*g*)*wen* 'white', Another name that was suggested for the spot was Bwlch y Garreg Lwyn.

There were probably other passes further up, from the upper parts of Cwm Eigiau to where is now marked as Penywaun-wen (SH 691639); the way up through the rocks may have had the name Hen Fwlch at one time, *hen* 'old, original' + *fwlch* 'pass'. Another name, seen as Bwlch Eryr y Kidony, in a 1570 document relating to a bond gafaal [a court relating to tribal land holding] for Cwm Eigiau, is probably a mis-transcribed form for Bwlch Eryl y Cidwm (*cidwm* 'wolf' or *cidymiaid* 'wolves' perhaps?).

Bwlch y Ddeufaen SH 712719

The *deu* 'two' + *maen* 'stone', are two ancient standing stones denoting the track-way through the mountains; improved at a later stage by the Romans. The slopes to the South are the location of a large number of pre-historic remains and show that this was a very well used and important location.

Bwlch y Tri Marchog/Bwlch Eryl Farchog SH 709628

Bwlch y Tri Marchog is what is seen on the OS maps, it is not the name for this pass, in the past there has been a mistaken assumption as to the name. The name should be Bwlch Eryl Farchog, the *marchog* 'horseman, mounted warrior' signifies anyone horseback, while the word *eryl* has two meanings; either, 'guard, lookout, watcher'; or, 'chase, hunt'. This error has been pointed out a few times over the years, but no change has taken place.

The Climbers Club Journal points out in 1964: '*Gresham stresses that the name has been corrupted on the maps to Bwlch y Tri Marchog, "probably in an attempt to explain the difficult word Eryl".*' In his *Archaeologia Cambrensis* article of 1939 C.E. Gresham also shows the links to the landscape of various names in the text, showing that the boundary description of the Aberconwy Charter 1198 comes up through the centre of Llyn Cowlyd, up to the bwlch at the head of the lake, then:

'..... Hence by the height of the rocks to the head of *Llithretewrath*. Hence by the height of that mountain, towards the west to *Bwlcherylvarthant*. Hence descending, by that valley, and by that stream descending through that valley, which is called *Frwt-du*, which is directly under *Carrec-*

gwenolyod, and descends into the river Eigiau'

The **Llithretewrath** is Pen Llithrig y Wrach and **Bwlcherylvarthant** Bwlch Eryl Farchog is the pass to its West; while the **Frwt-du** 'Ffrwd Ddu' is now known as Afon Ddu (not located on the OS maps) leads down from the pass then runs below the **Carrec-gwenolyod**, this is Carreg Gwenoliaid is now known as Gallt Cedryn and into the lane known as Llyn **Eigiau**.

Bwlch Tri Marchog 1840-80 6" OS, Bwlch Tre Marchog 1888-1913 6" OS, Bwlch Rhiw Farchog 1847 Map Degwm.

Bwlch Mignog SH 729604

This is not on the modern OS maps, here we have *mign* 'bog, marsh' + *-og* 'associated with'.

Bwlch y Gwryd SH 706689

Unless linked to *gwridd* 'red, ruddy', there is very little topographic resemblance for this Gwryd toponym to others of the same name, the location is a very shallow pass. On the first series OS map where it was between the Y Foel Lwyd spur of Drum and Pen y Castell. During peat cutting c.1890 a Bronze Age beaker was found at a grave site under a tumulus; the tumulus is no longer to be seen. Other possibilities for the toponym include, a derivation from the personal name Gwryd (possibly the 'leader/hero' commemorated by the tumulus), a link to the *gwryd* 'dawn' sense; or, a corruption of a possible *cwr* 'border, edge, limit' + *-id/-yd*? Bwlch y Gwryd 1838 OS, Bwlch y Gwrhyd 1840-80 6" OS.

Bwlch yr Ole Wen SH 655620

Named after the mountain Pen yr Ole Wen.