

MOELWYNION & MIGNEINT

The pass of Bwlch Carreg y Fran was more important at one time. There were other passes through the Migneint; however, they were far more difficult propositions, if not dangerous, in the winter.

Bwlch y Battel SH 637469

Probably not the word borrowed from the Middle English *batayle*, *batel* 'battle'; although local stories do hint at a skirmish here. Instead, on the 1832 O.S. map, the name of the pass was Bwlch Badell, and the word *padell* 'bowl, pan' refers either to a bowl-shaped pass or perhaps the base of an ore kiln.

Bwlch Clorad 1726ft 526m SH 680544

A plant which is common in the valleys; its tuber was sought after by pigs, hence its being known as Pignut or Earth Nut: *Conopodium majus*. This was a valuable source of food in periods of strife.

Bwlch Ehediad SH 666524

It is difficult to decide if *rhediad* 'flow, watershed', as seen on the present OS map is correct; or, the name seen on the early 1838 OS map Bwlch-ehediad. The word *ehediad* 'birds' could be present, as the pass leads to Cwm Edno - *edn* 'bird', plural *ednod* 'birds, fowl'.

Bwlch Stwlan SH 660441

The name Stwlan is seen on the present day maps; a name that has been the subject of many interpretations. Bwlch Stol Elen; Bwlch Drws Elen and Bwlch Julian are just some of them. The early OS map name is Trwstyllon; this spelling was also used by Thomas Pennant and it may be a corruption of the word *trwstan* 'difficult, awkward'. The 1840-80 OS series of 6" maps gives the name erroneously as Trwst y Llon. The element *trwst* 'noise, tumult; thunder' is of interest, coupled to an *-ell* ending perhaps; as it would be similar to what is seen in the river name Trwstiog, Trystion (that rushes down a gorge near Cynwyd). The Trwstyllon name could easily be describing this tumultuous stream crashing down the hillside from the lake. Bwlch Trwstyllon 1838 OS.

Bwlch Sugn SH 604482

Sugn 'marsh, mire' is used quite often as a descriptor for boggy ground, Bwlch y Sygyn is the name seen on the OS map.

Bwlch Maen Pig SH 674531

Maen 'stone', rather than *main* 'narrow' + *pig* 'beak, point'; or, the word *main* used as an old plural of *maen* 'stone'.

Bwlch Rhiw yr Ychen SH 675542

Rhiw 'slope, ascent' + *yr* 'the' + *ychen* 'oxen'. According to legend, it was over this pass that the oxen dragged the Afanc over to Yr Wyddfa; one finds the names Llygad er Ych and Cerrig er Ych in the Aberconwy Charter. The pass has been used for centuries, at one time it was an important trackway through the mountains. The eastern slopes of this pass show the zig-zagging and braiding of the paths used in tackling this pass.

Bwlch y Gorddinan SH 701489

Bwlch y Gerddinen was the original name for this pass between Blaenau Ffestiniog and Dolwyddelan, not Crimea Pass. The name derives from *cerddinen* 'mountain ash, rowan'; linked to Cornish *kerden*, Breton *kerzin*, *-en*, Irish *caorthainn*.

Bwlch y Maen SH 640419

The *maen* 'stone, rock' is probably a reference to the rocky flanks of the bwlch rather than a particular stone or standing stone that can sometimes be associated with passes.

Bwlch y Re SH 609487

The word *gre* 'group, herd', particularly of horses is to be found here; Breton *gre*, Old Irish *graig* 'horses, herd'. In the Summer, horses tend to look for high spots or places with a breeze to lessen the numbers of flies that pester them.

Bwlch y Rhosydd SH 660461

Rhosydd is the plural of the word *rhos* 'moor'; Middle Breton *ros*, Irish *ross*, Old Welsh *ros* from the Celtic **rostos*.

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