

## MOELWYNION & MIGNEINT

This area is quite extensive, stretching from the craggy slopes of Cnicht and Moel Dyniewyd to the West to around halfway across the Migneint in the East. Apart from the striking band of steep cliffs forming the South facing scarp of the Moelwyn, the remaining cliffs are surprisingly quite small. However, due to the hardness of the rocks, some of these outcrops are very steep indeed. The area is famous for its slate quarries, although many are underground they are still called quarries; the waste slate was carried in trucks that would tip over at the end of the tracks. These 'tips' are the most obvious feature of slate quarrying here. There are also some large area of forestry on some hills and slopes of the upper Conwy.

### Allt Fawr SH 684473

The *allt* 'cliff, wooded slope' + *fawr* 'large' is the extensive hillside of rocky slopes and steep vegetation above Gloddfa Ganol mine; it is also the name for the hill.

### Allt y Ceffylau SH 678469

The *allt* name here is more inclined to be designating as (*g*)*allt* 'slope, wooded slope' name rather than the usual North Wales 'cliff'. *Ceffylau* 'horses' is the plural of *ceffyl* 'horse', a word that is linked to Old Irish *capall* 'work horse', Gaulish \**kaballos* 'horse'. The horse was revered by 'Celtic' peoples because of their speed and the prestige gained through their ownership. Ponies are still to be found out on the mountains in some areas.

### Carreg Alltrem SH 740507

This *carreg* 'stone' has a *allt* 'cliff, steep slope' + *trem* 'visage, aspect, appearance'. It is certainly a steep little cliff.

### Carreg Blaen Llym SH 666441

Here the *carreg* 'stone' is designated as having a *blaen* 'end, head' + *llym* 'sharp'. There is also a very similar cliff name as found at Carreg Flaenllym SH 689464.

### Carreg y Foel Gron SH 746427

*Cron* is the feminine of *crwn* 'round'; by looking at the early OS 6" maps of 1840-80 one sees that the *carreg* 'cliff' almost totally encircled this little hill, before quarrying took it away. The name is associated with this round cliff rather than a curved hill-top.

### Carreg y Frân SH 737448

One can see the term *brân* 'crow' in many landscape names, particularly cliffs; the term does cover a number of differing birds of the genus *Corvus*, including crows, rooks and ravens. In mountainous terrain with no trees, paired ravens often use one particular rock from which to look out upon their territory, there will seem to be one or two ravens always on this rock.

### Cerrig Cochion SH 662512

*Cochion* is the plural form of *coch* 'red, brown'; the plural form must be used as the initial locator *cerrig* 'stones' is a plural.

### Clogwyn Brith SH 665467, SH 794545

The cliffs are a mixture of rocks, scree and various forms of vegetation, hence the use of the word *brith* 'mottled'.

### Clogwyn Candryll SH 723443

This is a good name for a *clogwyn* 'crag' on Manod Mawr, with many outcrops and huge amounts of scree below; as the term *candryll* 'broken, shattered', quite literally *can(t)* 'hundred' + *dryll* 'piece, fragment' could describe the scree.

### **Clogwyn Garw SH 726445**

Just round from Clogwyn Candryll is another area of very rough and difficult ground with a lot of scree; the word *garw* 'rough, rugged, craggy' would apply very well here.

### **Clogwyn Gottal SH 648488**

There seems to be a number of possibilities for this rather rare name form. The meanings might be connected to: *cotel* 'small pointed field', a word borrowed from the English *cottel(?)*, *cottle* 'a band or wall'; a term similar to the Cornish *cotelle* 'wood'; or, a corruption of *cot* 'dwelling, shelter'?

### **Clogwyn Maen Coch 749459**

*Clogwyn* 'cliff' + *maen* 'stone' + *coch* 'red, ruddy, brown', if there is a red stain to the rock, then there are a couple of explanations. One might have an iron oxide mineralisation in the rock itself; which happens a lot in slate in areas such as this; otherwise, if water flows down from an area of peat bog, this would also produce a reddish stain.

### **Clogwyn Spot SH 729489**

In his Caernarfonshire place-name book of 1928, Professor J Lloyd-Jones refers to the name as being linked to a dog meaning; or, a dog named spot. A link to dogs some form of reference in the name to *pothan* 'wolf cub', there is another cliff with a similar name, see Clogwyn Pot. It is very doubtful as a recent name for being mottled, even though there is a borrowed *sbot* 'spot, blemish' term in Welsh? There is a *pot* as a variant on the word *pwt* 'a little, a scrap, small'; also, *poten* 'stomach, big belly'.

### **Clogwyn y Benar SH 736515**

Takes its name from the hill, which would have been *pen* 'top, head' lenited to *ben* + *ar(dd)* 'high, height'.

### **Clogwyn y Bustach SH 673448**

*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. This may have been a favoured spot as it is relatively sheltered below the cliff.

### **Clogwyn y Geifr SH 684423**

Another cliff named after the *geifr* 'goats' seen there out on the mountain side. At one time people made use of the feral goats by keeping the goat kids tethered up and milking the mother when they came back to feed the kids.

### **Clogwyn yr Adar SH 693516**

A steep little cliff with trees and some clefts for nesting make this a great place for birds to nest, which may be the reason behind the initial naming of this crag.

### **Clogwyn yr Hicia SH 736512**

The term *hicia(d)* 'notch, groove' refers to a break in the *clogwyn* 'crag'; the break or notch probably refers to the chasm where the little waterfall comes down the hillside near the middle of the *clogwyn*.

### **Clogwyn yr Oen SH 675449**

With the name as *clogwyn* 'cliff' + *yr* 'the' + *oen* 'lamb' one would suspect that this was an area where lambing took place; or, at least young lambs were present. However, the reason is quite different, as looking up at the cliff, quite high up one can see that part of it resembles the head of a lamb.

### **Craig Blaen y Cwm SH 744480**

This *craig* 'crag' + *blaen* 'head, end' + *y* 'the' + *cwm* 'valley' is perfectly described by its name as being at the top end of Cwm Penammen.

### **Craig Ddu SH 697538**

A South facing cliff with the name Craig Ddu; therefore, the name does not indicate a dark shaded location as so many *du* names imply in the landscape. The cliff is black because of seepage.

### **Craig Glanconwy SH 794554**

This seems to be quite a late name; *craig* 'rock' + *glan* 'shore, bank,(be)side' + Conwy, is obviously the name of the river below. It is seen in 1761 Caernarfonshire Records Office documents as Craig lan Conwy.

### **Craig Goch SH 752444**

The *craig* 'rock' of this long line of cliffs is not particularly *coch* 'red'. However, apart from screes, the slopes are covered with heather and bilberry which do stand out in their winter colours as deep browns and purples.

### **Craig Llyn Llagi SH 652483**

A crag named after lake of Llyn Llagi; the Llagi may be linked to *llac*, *llaca* 'mud, mire 'pool, borrowed from the English *lac* 'lake'(?). Craig-y-Llyn-llagi 1838 OS.

### **Craig Nythygigfran SH 687459**

This *craig* 'rock' is named after the *nyth* 'nest' + *y* 'the' + *cigfran* 'raven'; their nests are usually a large untidy collection of twigs and branches, sometimes lined with tufts of wool. They love to nest on steep cliffs and return to the same site for many years.

### **Craig y Clogwyn SH 617470**

Craig 'rock' + *y* 'the' + *clogwyn* 'cliff'; this denotes an area of rock above a scarp which forms the *cliff*.

### **Craig y Dyniewyd SH 613475**

*Dyniewyd* is the plural of *dyniawed* 'steer, young bullock', named after the hill Moel Dyniewyd. It is quite usual to find local stories explaining the cattle and sheep names on some cliffs because of the supposed death of an animal after a fall.

### **Craig yr Wrysgan SH 680456**

*Gwrysgen* is the feminine singular of the word *gwrysg* 'branches, reeds, bushes'; perhaps there just was one prominent tree or bush sticking out of a cleft at one time.

### **Y Garreg Bengam SH 610453**

This is a fairly straightforward name as the *carreg* 'rock' here does have a feature that is *pen* 'head, top' – lenited to *ben* + *cam* 'bent, crooked'.