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Love by Toponymy:
Dafydd ap Gwilym and Place-Names

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Although many place-names, some of them problematic, occur in the work of the great fourteenth-century Welsh poet, Dafydd ap Gwilym, the largest concentration of them is to be found in one poem, numbered 83 in Thomas Parry’s monumental edition of 1952, and entitled by him ‘Taith i garu’ (‘a journey to [make] love’). As will be seen from the ensuing discussion, perhaps ‘Teithau i garu’ (‘journeys to [make] love’) would have been an apter title. I give below a literal translation of the poem. (The forms of the place-names have all been modernised, as in Parry’s edition.)

A Lover’s Journey

Has anyone walked for a mistress’s sake
As far as I have walked, [subject to] love’s tyranny,
[Through] frost and snow (such sinfulness!),
[Through] rain and wind for the sake of her of bright countenance?
I received [in exchange] only a visitation of anguish:
No pair of feet had more trouble
Ever [in going] to Celliaw'r Meirch
(A splendid and profitable act of force) across Eleirch,
Immediately [coming] to waste land,
Both night and day, and [her] gift [of herself to me] no nearer.
Oh God, there is a man
Crying out loud in Celli Fleddym:
I gave voice for her sake,
I pledged [my] love towards her.
Byssal, of low and halting sound,

2 Other, more elegant, translations will be found in R. Bromwich, Dafydd ap Gwilym: A Selection of Poems (Harmondsworth, 1985), pp. 131–32, and R. Loomis, Dafydd ap Gwilym: The Poems (Binghamton, N.Y., 1982), pp. 176–78.
Of seething and enclosed course, a short and narrow river,
Very often, for her sake,
Would I go every day across it.
I would go, proud and free
(Intense was my pain) to Bwlch Meibion Dafydd
And away thence to Y Gamallt
And to Y Rhw for the sake of her lovely hair.
Formerly I would swiftly make for
Gafaeliwbch y Gyffilyan
To cast, in search of the fur-clad maiden,
A glance at the fair valley [below].
Neither here nor there shall she slip
By me furiously past.
I was assiduous and restless
Along Pant Cwvell in summer time
And around Castell Gwydion
In the aspect of a gosling where he might find rushes,
I ran past Adail Heilin
With the gait of a hoarse and weary hunting-dog.
I stood below Llys Ifor
Like a monk in a choir-niche.
Seeking, with no assurance of reward,
To meet with lovely Morfudd.
There is no hillock or deep declivity
On either side of the valley of Nant-y-glo
That I would not know, as the result of my passion and my excitement,
Without the book, [I of] Ovid's playful intent.
It is easy for me, even while sounding into my [closed] fist,
To come upon the true objective of gain, Gwernbwalyn,
Where I was permitted to see, beloved boon,
A slender girl under a jet-black mantle,
Where shall be seen for evermore,
Without growth of grass, without any trees growing,
The shape of our bed under lovely saplings,
A place of trampled leaves like Adam's path.
Woe to the soul if, without benefit,
Because of affliction and with no reward at all,
It goes in precisely the same way
As the wretched body went.

In the poem, Dafydd ap Gwilym appears to name fourteen places, italicized in the translation, where he and his first love, Morfudd, used to meet (see map, p. 42). Some of these fourteen names can still be identified; others remain tantalisingly obscure. I attempt below to summarize existing knowledge about the names, drawing most freely upon the researches of Dr David Jenkins and the late R. J. Thomas.

Dafydd ap Gwilym (flourished c.1330–1350) was probably born at Brogynin (SN 663847), a farm or farms straddling the river Stewi, then known as Bysaleg or Mysaleg. The river at that point separated the townships of Trefeurig and Tirymynaich, the parishes of Llanbadarn Fawr and Llanfilhangel Genau'r Glyn, and the commotes of Perfedd and Genau'r Glyn within the cantref of Penwedig in northern Cardiganshire. Most of the names which can securely be identified in the poem are within striking distance of Brogynin.

1. (line 7) Celliau'r Meirch (the groves of the stallions): possibly to be equated with Ty'nygelli (SN 670837), a farm rather less than a mile south-east of Brogynin; it was apparently known in 1583 as Tyddyn Celliau'r Meirch or Tyddyn Celli'r Meirch. On the other hand, Dr


5 Aberystwyth, National Library of Wales [hereafter NLW], Department of Manuscripts and Records, Gogerddan Deeds (Old Schedule), part I, no 1602 (Tyth-keillie-r-meirch; but contrast ibid., part II (Index), Tythin keillie-r-marct); the deed referred to in the schedule is no longer in the collection. A farmstead
Jenkins has argued strongly that Celliau'r Meirch should be equated with Llety'r March Melyn (formerly at approximately SN 674858), which later became part of the farm of Troedrhiwseiri (SN 675851); as Dr Jenkins points out, Llety'r March Melyn would have been on Dafydd's route from Brogynin to Elerch (although it is not clear that the poet is naming these places in any particular order).  

2. (line 8) Elerch (possibly a personal name in origin): an upland township in the parish of Llanbadarn Fawr, now represented by the village-name Elurch (SN 684863), which is rather less than two miles, as the crow flies, north-east of Brogynin. If Dafydd were to traverse this township, he would soon find himself on 'waste land' (line 9)—indeed, in the foothills of the Pumlumon range.  

3. (line 13) Celli Fleddyn ("Bleddyn's grove"): the name no longer exists in the vicinity of Brogynin, but it is noteworthy that, in a Minister's Account for 1277–80, a terra filii Blethin is located in the commote of Genau'r Glyn; 4 moreover, in the Tithe Map and Apportionment of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn parish (1845), Bryn Bleddyn occurs as a field-name in the farm of Melindwr, township of Ysgubor-y-coed. (Melindwr is at SN 694692). This, however, would be a good six miles north-west of Brogynin. Mr Tomos Roberts, named Celiaw'r Meirch in Breconshire is recorded by R. F. Peter Powell, The Place-Names of Desyow Hundred (Pen-Pont, 1993), item 9,37. I should explain that the spelling of most name-forms in the text of the article (including early forms) has been normalized.


G. Pierce, Dan yr Iâr Bechg Cymry Cym Rhymni (Cardiff, 1990), p. 4.  


6 NLW DPM, Tithe Map and Apportionment of the parish of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, township of Ysgubor-y-coed, holding of Melindwr: Bryn Bleddyn was at approximately SN 689960.  

Archivist of the University of Wales, Bangor, has kindly drawn my attention to the fact that the Melville Richards Archive, of which he is curator, has a record of a Tydelyn Celli Fleddyn in Burgedin township, within the parish of Guilsfield near Welshpool in Powys: this would be rather more than forty miles' distance, by the most direct (and totally impracticable) route, north-east of Brogynin. The possible relevance of this will appear later.  

4. (line 13) Bysaleg: as already mentioned, this is the river which the holding of Brogynin almost certainly straddled at SN 663847. It is the most northerly of the two rivers which meet at SN 637839, to form (today) Nant Clarach. In Christopher Saxton’s map of 1578, the northern river is designated Massalak, the southern river Salek; today they are known as Stewi and Seilo respectively. The parish-name Basaleg in south-western Gwent, where Dafydd’s chief patron, Ifor ap Llywelyn, ‘Ifor Hael’ (Ifor the generous) lived in his mansion of Gwernyclea, is derived from Latin basilica.  

The twin forms Salek and Massalak, however, suggest that what we have here is a basic element *saleg* (possibly from Latin salic- ‘willow’; cf. maneg from manica ‘glove’), compounded, in the longer form, with the element ma- ‘open country’. The alternation of b- and m- is, of course, common. An objection to this derivation is that we already have a perfectly good native word for ‘willow’, belyg, from British *salisko*.  

5. (line 20) Bwch Meibion Dafydd (the pass of the sons of Dafydd): in 1936, Dr Jenkins reported that ‘the elderly people from the area around Brogynin to this day call that stretch of road which leads from Brogynin over the hill to Elerch “Pen Bwch Meibion Dafydd”’ [the highest point of the pass of the sons of David', R.G.G.].  

In 1992, he amplified this statement by identifying two of the ‘elderly people’ as Edward Hughes of Brogynin-fach, and his own grandmother, Mary James (1852–1928): he also located Pen Bwch Meibion Dafydd more precisely as 'the summit of the steep hill which leads from Troed-rhiw-seiri to the crossroads Elerch/Llety Ifan Hen' (i.e. approximately SN 679856).  

11 Williams, ‘Masaleg, Basaleg’, BBCS, 7 (1933–35), 277.  
12 Jenkins, ‘Erwau personau a lleoedd’, p. 142.  
13 Jenkins, Bro Dafydd ap Gwilym, p. 38.
6. (line 21) Y Gamalt ('the crooked slope'); this is a fairly common Welsh place-name, but there is no instance of it, as far as I know, within easy walking distance of Dafydd's home at Brogynin. Y Gamalt at SN 895929 is some seventeen miles east of Brogynin, and another Gamalt at SN 955709 is rather more than twenty miles east-south-east. Both seem rather far to be the place mentioned in the poem, although Dafydd claims in another poem once to have walked 'yn gyst . . . no melten ddeunaw milltir' ('wetter than lightning for eighteen miles') in order to meet his love.13 Dafydd sometimes distorts the proper names he cites (see, for example, no. 8 below), and it is tempting to suggest that he is here referring to Y Geuallt ('the hollow slope') which, at SN 692825, is rather less than two and a half miles south-east of Brogynin. As it happens, Y Gamalt, rather than Y Geuallt, invests the line with proper cymbanedd drawus, providing a motive for Dafydd to have made such a change. See also the next name.

7. (line 22) Y Rhiw ('the road up the hill'); this is so common a place-name element that it is idle to speculate about it. Indeed, Thomas Parry does not capitalize the word Rhiw in his edition. There is a Penrhwnewydd ('the crest of the new road up the hill') at SN 670841, within a mile of Brogynin to the south-east, and this may suggest the existence of an earlier Rhiw or Henrhiw ('the old road up the hill').14

8. (line 24) Gafaelwch y Gyfylfæn ('the linking pass of the limit stone'); this was elegantly identified by R. J. Thomas as an embellished form of Bwlch-y-maan ('the pass of the stone'), a meeting-place of various mountain trackways at SN 701861, some two and a half miles east-north-east of Brogynin.15 By combining the first and last elements in the place-name with other elements, Dafydd creates a line of perfect cymbanedd groes. There are traces of a ring-barow at the site, and this was presumably marked by a standing stone, which, however, has now disappeared.16

13 Geuallt Dafydd ap Gwilym, p. 93.
14 There is an example of Henrhiw at SN 741801.
15 Thomas, 'Bwlch y Gyfylfæn', p. 255; there is another Bwlch-y-maan at SN 703947.

9. (line 30) Pant Cwcll ('cowl hollow'); the name, as such, has long disappeared, but, as R. J. Thomas first pointed out,17 a name similar to it occurs as Tal Pont Cacdul in an inspeximus dated 1337 of a charter dated 1202 by the Deheubarth prince, Rhys leuan, granting lands to the Cistercian Abbey of Strata Florida, together with a confirmation of that charter made before 1227 by Rhys leuan's cousin, Maelgwn leuan, who was also known as Maelgwn Fychan.18 (There is, in fact, respectable manuscript evidence for the reading Pont Cwcll in the text of the poem as well.)19 Dr Jenkins has argued convincingly that Tal Pont Cacdul or 'Tal Pont Cwcll' (literally 'the end of cowl bridge') is to be identified with the farm and village of Tal-y-bont at SN 655891: this is roughly five and a half miles north-north-west of Brogynin. At one time, I resisted the equation of Tal Pont Cacdul with Tal-y-bont, because I believed that most of the places named with it in the inspeximus should be located within the township of Tirymynach, which Tal-y-Bont is not (it is, in fact, in the township of Ceulan a Maes-mawr);20 it is now apparent, however, that this was an error on my part (see Appendix).

10. (line 31) Castell Gwawn ('Gwawn's castle');21 this is another name which has long disappeared, but which occurs as Castell Gwauun in the inspeximus mentioned under the preceding place-name. Dr

17 Thomas, 'Dafydd ap Gwilym', pp. 34-5.
21 A likely identification of this Gwawn or Gwgon is proposed in Truodedy Ymys Prydein, edited by R. Bromwich, 2nd edn (Cardiff, 1978), pp. 389-90 and 533-54; J. Lloyd-Jones, Geirfa Barddoniaeth Gymnar Gymraeg (Cardydd, 1950-63), p. 676, tentatively equates the Castell Gwauun of the poem with a place bearing the same name near Aberaeron; in the first edition of the O.S. One-Inch map (1834), this occurs at approximately SN 460634 as Castell Cadwuan (it has since disappeared into the sea); cf. D. L. Jones, 'Aberaeron before the Harbour Act of 1807', Ceredigion, 9 (1980-83), 363-87, especially pp. 367-68.
Jenkins believes this is to be equated with the farm-name Carregadwgan (‘Cadwgan’s rock’) at SN 694903, which is about four miles directly to the north-north-east of Brogyn. Dr Jenkins’s case is strengthened by the fact that we have evidence elsewhere for the alternation of the name-forms Gaggon and Cadwgan. It would be still further strengthened if an earthwork of some kind were to be found in the vicinity of Carregadwgan (to justify the element Castell rather than Carreg). On balance, then, I think Dr Jenkins is right, and that my objection to his argument (namely, that Carregadwgan is in Ceulan a Maes-mawr township rather than in Tirymynaich: see no. 9, above) can no longer be sustained.

11. (line 33) Adail Heilyn (‘Heilyn’s building’): the name, as such, no longer exists, but in the Minister’s Account for 1277–80 mentioned under no. 3 above, reference is made to terra Heilin filii Hovelli in Genau’r Glyn commote. There is ample evidence that there was once a holding named Tydlyn Bronheilyn in the township of Henllwy within the parish of Llanfihangel Genau’r Glyn, a holding which may later have been amalgamated with the farm of Brynllwy. Brynllwy is at SN 620888, which is rather less than four miles north-west of Brogyn.

12. (line 35) Llys Ifor (‘Ifor’s court’): no such name exists today in the vicinity of Brogyn. It inevitably brings to mind the home of Ifor ap Llwelyn, Dafydd’s chief patron, which, as already mentioned, was at Gwernyclefa in the parish of Basalac, near Newport in Gwent. Thomas Parry thought that the occurrence of the name in the cywydd was no more than a coincidence, and that it refers to a North

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23 No such earthwork is listed in Cardiganshire County History, I, 239–71 ('Gazetteer of hillforts and enclosures').
25 NLW, Department of Manuscripts and Records [hereafter NLW DMR], Gogerddan Deeds (Old Schedule), no. 164 (Tythun bron Heilyn ... situate in Henllwy, 1655), also nos 170, 255, 348, 1115 and 1619. Compare NLW DPM, Tithe Map and Apportionment of the parish of Llanfihangel Genau’r Glyn, township of Henllwy, holding of Brynllwy ([fields called Rhos bronheilyn and Cae bronheilyn]: the fields were at approximately SN 621895. I have not yet been able precisely to locate Tydlyn Bronheilyn.

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13. (line 40) Nant-y-glo (‘coal stream’ or ‘coal valley’): there is a farmstead known as Cwm-y-glo, almost certainly originally Cwm-y-gro, at SN 682853, less than half a mile east-north-east of Troedrhiwseiri (see no. 1). Dr Jenkins believes that Nant-y-glo was the original name of ‘the small valley which runs from Cwm-y-glo past Troedrhiwseiri within a mile of Dafydd’s home at Brogynin’; another possibility is that Nant-y-glo was simply a calque on Cwm-y-glo or Cwm-y-gro, since the elements nant and cwm can be virtually synonymous. Alternatively, of course, one might think, as Ifor Williams did, of the well-known industrial valley of Nant-y-glo in Gwent, some fifteen miles north-west of Ifor ap Llwelyn’s home at Gwernyclefa.

14. (line 44) Gwernytalwrn (‘the alder-grove by the piece of open ground’?): again, the name is no longer attested in our extant sources, although Dr Jenkins points out that there is a Penytalwrn near Ponterwyd—it is, in fact, still the current local name of the George Borrow Hotel (SN 746855)—and it may be apposite to add that the stream which flows past the hotel to join the river Rheidol nearby is named Gwernog: the George Borrow Hotel is some five miles

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26 Gwasith Dafydd ap Gwilym, pp. xxxvi–xxxix.
28 Jenkins, Bro Dafydd ap Gwilym, p. 39, referring to an important deed of 24 January 1541/2 discovered by him in the Gogerddan Collection (as yet uncatalogued) at NLW DMR: tydlyn [c]um y gro. All later examples seem to have Cwm-y-glo: cf., for instance, Green, NLW Calendar of Deeds, II, 188 (Cwm-y-glo, 1745) and passim. See also the editor’s remarks in Gwasith Dafydd ap Gwilym, p. xxxvi.
29 Jenkins, Bro Dafydd ap Gwilym, p. 39.
south-east from Brogynin. Because of the distance involved, Dr Jenkins is unhappy about this identification, and it may be worth pointing out that there is a cluster of talwern names near Goginan, focusing on SN 697816, which is no further than some three miles south-south-east of Brogynin. Mr Tomos Roberts has discovered in the Melville Richards Archive a place bearing the exact name Gwernytaurwn in the township of Llystynwallon, in the parish of Llansilin near Oswestry; but as this would be well over forty miles north-east of Brogynin, very much as the crow flies, it does not at first sight seem likely that this is the place mentioned by Dafydd.

If the more conservative interpretations suggested above are accepted, it is open to us to conclude that very few of the places mentioned in the poem are more than six miles’ distance from Brogynin, and that the poem can, therefore, be read as a celebration, by Dafydd, of the places on his home ground where he and Mordudd used to meet. Even the last eight lines, with their rueful references to the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Eden (as described in the Old Testament pseudograph), and to the ubiquitous medieval ‘Debate Between Body and Soul’, do no more, according to this interpretation, than introduce a note of pensiveness regarding the eventual outcome of their infatuation. Recently, however, a totally new interpretation has been put forward by Professor Emeritus R. M. Jones, in which he attaches much more weight than has been hitherto customary to the last eight lines, and proposes that the poem should now be read primarily as an elegy by Dafydd for Mordudd. That it is like no other elegy from the Welsh Middle Ages cannot be regarded as a decisive objection to this interpretation, since Dafydd is like no other poet from the Welsh Middle Ages, particularly as regards the quality and exuberance of his imagination. If Professor Jones’s interpretation were to be accepted, it would at once permit the identification of Llys Ifor (no. 12) as Ifor ap Llwyelyn’s home at Gwernyclep, of Nant-y-glo (no. 13) as the famous valley in Gwen, and even of Y Gamallt (no. 6) as that at SN 955709, north of Rhaeadr in Powys, since this might well have been on Dafydd’s route south to Gwernyclep. Not even Mr Tomos Roberts’s Tyddyn Celfi Fleddyn in Guilsfield parish (see no. 3), nor his Gwernytaurwn in Llansilin (see no. 14), need be entirely ruled out under this interpretation, since Dafydd and Mordudd could conceivably have met in those places also: it appears that he was familiar with the Wrexham area, and she, of course, was a native of Penyffyn in Merionethshire. The image evoked is that of Dafydd searching restlessly throughout Wales (although most desperately on his own home ground) for some remembrance of Mordudd, haunted all the while by recollections of expulsion from Eden, and by intuition of possible final condemnation: if the soul has followed the same course as the body, what will be its fate? So attractive is Professor Jones’s theory that I am inclined to accept it, at least until a Llys Ifor is discovered in the vicinity of Brogynin.

Appendix

The charters of Strata Florida Abbey deserve the same kind of detailed attention as has already been given to those of Aberconwy and Cymer, and what follows is a preliminary comment on a minor

31 Jenkins, ‘Enwau personau a llleoedd’, p. 142; Jenkins, Bro Dafydd ap Gwilym, p. 39. Mr Erwyd Howells, whose knowledge of the locality is unrivalled, was good enough to confirm for me the equation of Pentwgalw with the George Borrow Hotel.

32 NLW DPM, Map Volume 37, ‘Maps of the Gogerthian Estate in the several counties of Cardigan and Montgomery the Property of Mrs Margt Pryse 1792’, fol. 58 (fields called Cae dan y talwern and Cae rhag y talwern); cf. NLW DMR, Gogerddan MS. AA 1, ‘A Particular and Valuation of the Estates of Pryse Pryse Esqr: in the parishes of Llanbadarnfawr, Llanfihangel Gere’r Glyn, Llanganfelin and Machynlleth, in the counties of Cardigan and Montgomery, 1805’, pp. 34–35; and NLW DPM, Tithe Map and Apportionment of the parish of Llanbadarn Fawr (1847), township of Melindwr, holding of Blaendyffryn Isaf.


problem arising from those charters, a problem that has already been touched on briefly above. According to the printed calendar, the inspeximus mentioned in the remarks on names 10 and 11 contains, inter alia, the following list of places:77

Y Morfa Bychan, Tref Meas, Stryn y Ky, Tywarben, Penwedid bau cwn, Llanvesiith, Argoi y Guinweyn, Tal pont Cucilha, Castell Gwav warmed, Castellan.

If obvious errors of transcription are corrected, and the spelling, punctuation and capitalization normalized, the sequence of names reads as follows:

Y Morfa Bychan, Tref faes, Sfan-y-ci, Tywarchen Penwedig, Bancarw, Llanfesyll, Argoed y Gwewn, Tal Pont Cwccwil, Castell Gwaw, Castellan.

Of these names, Y Morfa Bychan and Tref faes are readily identified as granges belonging to Strata Florida by reference to the invaluable Atlas of Cistercian Lands in Wales; moreover, Sfan-y-ci is probably to be equated with the grange designated 'Allt Wer and Morfa Ankir' there (although the second of these names poses an obvious problem).78 Tywarben Penwedig is the original name of the large tract of land which became known as 'Doverchen Grange' and suchlike, and which was coterminous with the township of Tiryrmynach in the parish of Llanfisangel Genua'r Glyn.88 I once held the view that all the names following Tywarben Penwedig in the document were places within Tiryrmynach township, but this is clearly not the case. The excessively rare place-name Bancarw may indeed have denoted a place within the township,86 but Argoed y Gwewn is probably represented by the two

78 D. H. Williams, Atlas of Cistercian Lands in Wales (Cardiff, 1990), pp. 57 and 96. It is clear from H. Owen, Peniath MS. 118, fos. 829–37. Introduction, transcription and translation, *Y Cymmerador, 27* (1917), 115–52 (p. 138), that 'Bwlch Sahhn y ci' lay south of the river Ystwyth, probably near its mouth, and it may tentatively be suggested that the present Tan-y-bwlch (SN 582794) and Pen-y-bwlch (SN 581879) indicate its location.
80 Cymry Aneirin, edited by I. Williams (Caerdydd, 1938), pp. 221–22; C. Gresham, 'The Aberconway Charter', pp. 151 and 153. There is a Bancar

farm-names Argoed-fawr and Argoed-fach in Cynull-mawr township, also in Llanfisangel Genua'r Glyn parish,84 and Castellan is represented by the farm- and township-name Bron Castellan in Llanbadarn Fawr parish.85 There is no reason, therefore, why Tal Pont Cwccwil and Castell Gwaw should not lie outside the limits of Tiryrmynach township, as noted in the comments on names 9 and 10 above. Llanfesyll remains wholly baffling; there is no Welsh personal name Mesyll (or Besyll) and it is tempting to suggest an emendation to Llan + Mechyll or Mechell:89 it is true that he was a Gwynedd saint, but so was St Cynfelyn, the patron saint of Llangynfelyn, which is the parish adjoining Llanfisangel Genua'r Glyn to the north.90

in Denbighshire, SJ 110666, originally a township in Llandyrnog parish: Richards, *Welsh Administrative and Territorial Units*, p. 9. For evidence that the present Pen-cwm (SN 648850), a mile north of the village of Penrhyn-coch, was once *Pen-amban-cwaw*, see T. I. Jeffreys Jones, *Exchequer Proceedings Concerning Wales in tempore James I* (Cardiff, 1955), p. 96 (Trythyn y maen llyd aw a' r warr Kwm Banier, 1605–6); Green, *NLW Calendar of Deeds*, 11, 246 (Trym-y-cwm-bankir, 1747); NLW DPM, Map Volume 38, 'Court Grange Estate' (Pen cwm bankir House, 1778); NLW DPM, Tithe Map and Apportionment of the parish of Llanfisangel Genua’r Glyn (1845), township of Tiryrmynach (Pen y cwm).
84 At SN 657882 and 656879 respectively; both farms are included in the same Tithe Apportionment, township of Cynull-mawr.
85 NLW DPM, Tithe Map and Apportionment of the parish of Llanbadarn Fawr (1847), township of Broncastellan: the farm (at SN 633840) is no longer named in the O.S. 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 maps, although it appears in the first edition (1837) of the O.S. One-inch map. It may be noted that Rhosellan (SN 597855) was apparently once Rhoscastellan (see NLW DPM, Cardiganshire, Solander C, Clarach, Rhoscastellan) and it seems likely, therefore, that Nantcellan (SN 599843) was once *Nantcastellan*.
87 Miller, *Saints of Gwynedd*, p. 105; R. G. Gruffydd, ‘Why Cors Fochno’, *Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion*, 1995, 5–19 (at pp. 9 and 15–16). I wish to thank the chief editor of *Nomina* for his very helpful comments and suggestions, and Mr Ian Gulley for drawing the map.
English Place-Names in Lap-

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As the editors of the Surrey volume of the English Place-Name Survey observed, 'Lap' names in English present a difficult problem. Early volumes of the English Place-Name Survey postulated an unattested personal name, Old English (OE) "Hlappa or "Hlappa, as the first element of place-names like Lapal (Worc), Lapworth (Warks), and Lapley (Stafs). The origin of such a personal name, however, is unknown, and an alternative suggestion preferred by many scholars is OE leppa 'a lap, the skirt of a garment', apparently used in a topographical sense to refer to a detached portion of land, or to land on a boundary. This interpretation was cautiously advanced by the Surrey editors to account for Lapcombe (Surrey) and 'one or two other of the Lap-names.' It has been adopted with rather less caution by later scholars. Oakden, for instance, confidently derives Lapley (Stafs) from OE leppa, commenting that 'the same [element] is found in Lapworth Wa . . . and in many other names,' and dismisses the possibility of a personal name as 'much less likely.' Ekwall's Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names suggested an unattested personal name *Leppa, a possible side-form of Leppa, as an alternative to leppa in Lapley (Stafs), and gave *Hlappa for Lapal (Worc), Lapford (Devon) and Lapworth (Warks). More recently, Mills's Dictionary of English Place-Names offers *Hlappa as a probability for Lapford (Devon), but presents leppa without discussion for Lapley

3 PN Surrey, p. 220.