

HPCS 6003

WELSH AND CELTIC PLACENAMES

ASSIGNMENT TWO

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Examine the place-names of one area in Wales. What does their study bring to an understanding of the topography, history, and language of the area?

This essay investigates the placenames of the *Teifi* valley for characteristics of the landscape and the range of human activity and culture that is expressed through them. I attempt to identify the origins and the originators of the place-names encountered; and to peel back layers of linguistic change to reveal the impact of historical events, cultural, political, and religious movements that have defined the landscape we encounter today.

The methodology for the study of place-names was established in the first half of the twentieth century by scholars including Eilert Eckwall¹ and Kenneth Jackson.² It requires scrutiny of the earliest available records with awareness of the languages they may have been written in, and the linguistic changes that occurred in those languages over time. The name is broken down to identify the elements that comprise it, and comparison with use of the same element in other place-names allows confirmation of topological and social context and can indicate a date of first usage, which may be long before the first record. Eckwall established a classification of three types of place-names. 'Folk-names' are those named for the populations associated with a place; 'habitation names proper', are names that specifically relate to human habitation and 'original nature names' describe topographical features that occur naturally in the landscape, or that result from human activity.

The primary sources for Place-Names of the Teifi valley consist of Ptolemy's *Geography*³ compiled in the second century, extant in fifteenth century copies; the Ravenna Cosmology,⁴ a medieval copy of Roman records; the medieval 'Lives' of the Welsh saints⁵; the ecclesiastic records and other manuscripts produced in the scriptoria of the medieval monasteries and the estate records and maps showing the holdings of individual landowners

¹ Eilert Eckwall, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* Fourth edition, (Oxford: Clarendon, 1960)

² JACKSON, Kenneth, *Language and History in Early Britain*, (Edinburgh: University Press, 1953).

³ PTOLEMY

⁴ *Ravennatis Anonymi Cosmographia*

⁵ Texts compiled between the 8th and 11th century Accounts of significant figures and events in the sixth and seventh centuries compiled between the eighth and eleventh centuries.

in the middle-ages and early modern period. The eighteenth and nineteenth century produced innumerable new names and documents. The publication of Ordnance Survey maps began in the mid eighteenth century⁶ and provide the desk-based researcher with a quick way of finding place-names and verifying their topological propriety. The twentieth century saw the publication of books summarising the findings of the place-name scholars. For this survey, secondary sources consulted include Rivet & Smith's 1979 book *the Place-names of Roman Britain* for insight into the Roman influence on the placenames of the Teifi valley; Investigation of the Place-Names on the right bank of the Teifi valley, relies heavily on Iwan Wmffre's 2004 *The Place-Names of Cardiganshire*⁷; The left bank of *Afon Teifi* is in Carmarthenshire for most of its length and Pembrokeshire for the last few miles of the rivers course, the key source for these place-names is 2008 *Dictionary of the Place-Names of Wales*⁸ edited by Hywel Wyn Owen and Richard Morgan.

The twenty-first century has granted access via the internet, to many of the manuscript sources and documents on which this research depends. In this survey, extensive use has been made of the *Melville Richards Archive Place-Name Database*⁹; the *List of Historic Placenames in Wales*¹⁰ maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales; *Coflein*¹¹, the online database for the National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW), comprising the national collection of information about the historic environment of Wales. The online *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru*¹² has also been invaluable.

⁶ <<https://ordnancesurvey.co.uk>>

⁷ Iwan Wmffre, *The Place-Names of Cardiganshire* (Oxford: Archaeopress, 2004)

⁸ Hywel Wyn Owen, Richard Morgan, *Dictionary of the Place-Names of Wales* (Llandyssul:Gomer, 2008)

⁹ Archif Melville Richards, Placename Database

< [Melville Richards Archive Place-Name Database - Search \(e-gymraeg.co.uk\)](http://MelvilleRichardsArchivePlaceNameDatabase-Search(e-gymraeg.co.uk))>

[Accessed 10th January 2021]

¹⁰ List of Historic Placenames <[Map - Historic Place Names \(rcahmw.gov.uk\)](http://Map-HistoricPlaceNames(rcahmw.gov.uk))> [Accessed 10th January 2021]

¹¹ <<https://coflein.gov.uk>> [Accessed 6th January 2021]

¹² <[Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru \(welsh-dictionary.ac.uk\)](http://GeiriadurPrifysgolCymru(welsh-dictionary.ac.uk))> [Accessed 10th January 2021]

The earliest probable record of Teifi, occurs in Ptolemy's *Geography* compiled in the middle of second century¹³. This first record and its treatment by later scholars introduces us immediately to the difficulties inherent in the study of place-names. Ptolemy distinguishes his work as a *Geographer*, that is, to provide an accurate representation of the shape of the world, the spatial relationship between the seas and the lands, the great cities, major rivers, 'and other outstanding things'¹⁴; as distinct from the work of a *Chorographer*, which is to record the details of a particular area and the names of all places of relevance in it. Ptolemy provides a geographically accurate location for Teifi with the description "TUEROBIS FLUVII OSTIA". In *The Placenames of Roman Britain*¹⁵ Rivet and Smith state that this form suggests no Celtic roots but Bradley¹⁶ suggested that the modern *Teifi* was intended. This assessment is dependent on a belief that Ptolemy's 'Tuerobis' is a corruption of 'Tuegobis'. Rivet and Smith explain that "whereas *r* of British remains in Welsh, *g* of British is in many phonetic contexts lenited or lost in Welsh, so that a form **Tuegobis* could indeed have produced Welsh *Teifi*."¹⁷ It may be possible that *Teifi* could be produced from **Tuegobis*, but there is no clear Celtic origin for **Tuegobis*. The *Dictionary of the Placenames of Wales*¹⁸ suggests a derivation of *Teifi* from the British **Tam-* meaning 'to flow', variants of this element are seen in *Tawe* (Br **tam-*, W *-wy*) and the *Tyf* of Cardiff. there is no clear Celtic origin for **Tuegobis*. Rivet & Smith conclude "it is likely the identification is right, but that Ptolemy's entry is more corrupt than has hitherto been thought."¹⁹

¹³ Ptolemy GEOGRAPHY PROPER REF PLEASE- GUGGENHEIM?

¹⁴ A.L.F Rivet, Colin Smith, *The Placenames of Roman Britain*, (London: Book Club Associates, 1979). pp.103-104.

¹⁵ A.L.F Rivet, Colin Smith, *The Placenames of Roman Britain*, (London: Book Club Associates, 1979) p.480

¹⁶ H.Bradley, 'Ptolemy's Geography of the British Isles', *Archaeologica*, XLVIII (1885) pp.379-96. This scholarly and sensible paper by the renowned philologist and lexicographer can be considered the beginning of the modern study of Ptolemy's Geography.

¹⁷ A.L.F Rivet, Colin Smith, *The Placenames of Roman Britain*, (London: Book Club Associates, 1979) p.480

¹⁸ Hywel Wyn Owen, Richard Morgan, *Dictionary of the Place-Names of Wales* (Llandyssul:Gomer, 2008) p.458.

¹⁹ A.L.F Rivet, Colin Smith, *The Placenames of Roman Britain*, (London: Book Club Associates, 1979) p.480

The earliest record after Ptolemy and a more familiar looking variant of Teifi, *teibi* is recorded in an eleventh century copy of the *Historia Britonum*²⁰, 'A History of the Britons', attributed to a Welsh cleric, Nennius (*fl.* c.800).

Seventy-four miles separate the source of the Teifi at LlynTeifi, one of the Teifi pools in the Cambrian mountains and the mouth of the river at Aberteifi. In between there are numerous examples where 'Teifi' is present as an element that acts as a qualifying noun in compound names. Llyn Teifi is a straightforward toponym easily translated to 'Lake Teifi' or 'Teifi Lake'. Cae bach dan teifi, is a field name that appears in the 1841 tithe records for the parish of Caron, Cardigan.²¹ In this quadruple element name, the first two elements 'enclosed land, field' + 'small' define the space; the last two elements 'under, below' + teifi, locate the space. The form is noun + adjective, adjective + noun. The name describes exactly what we see on a map, a small swampy field adjacent to Afon Teifi; in the landscape, it is literally under the river. A short distance upstream we have 'cae lan teifi' which we can translate to 'field' (of) 'river-bank' (of) Teifi; or Teifi 'river-bank' 'field'; 'lan' is a lenited form of 'glan' meaning riverbank. These names, coined in modern Welsh, are fairly transparent and adequately serve the purpose of identifying small local topological features. They correspond to Ekwall²²'s classification of original nature names, and the form described as improper compounds by Andrew Lias in his 1994 book, *A Guide to Welsh Place-Names*²³.

These tithe records contain the work of Ptolemy's *chorographer* and in England from the middle-ages to the early modern era, they symbolised the wealth and power of the landowner. In Wales the poet, not the mapmaker mapped the extent of his patrons' power.²⁴

²⁰ Nennius *History of the Britons (Historia Brittonum)* trans. J.A. Giles, (Project Gutenberg; NetLibrary, 2000).
< <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1972/1972-h/1972-h.htm> >

[Accessed 10th January 2021]

²¹ Alfred Thomas, 'The parish of Caron in the county of Cardigan', (1842)
< https://discover.library.wales/permalink/f/1eskrbt/44NLW_FED4541956 >

²² Eilert Ekwall, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* Fourth edition, (Oxford: Clarendon, 1960) p.xvii

²³ Anthony Lias, *A Guide to Welsh Place-Names*, (Llanrwst: Gwasg Carreg Gwalch, 1994) p.

²⁴ J.E.Caerwyn Williams, *The Poets of the Welsh Princes* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 1994)

Returning to Ptolemy's *Geography*, the section detailing the western coast of Britain includes the record

"Mouth of the river *Tuerobis* 15°55°"

If *Tuerobis* is Teifi, then this entry relates to Aberteifi. 'Aber' is 'the mouth of the river' + 'Teifi'. The first element is a common noun, and the second element is a noun qualifier, the name is another 'imperfect compound' type name. This is a very common form of placename in Wales, however the fourteenth century *Hendregadredd* manuscript²⁵ demonstrates an occurrence of these elements in reverse. 'Teifi Aber' appears in a poem composed by Cynddelw Brydydd Mawr (c.1155-1195) and alerts us to an older convention of word order in place-names of Wales. Cynddelw was a court poet, and the use of archaic language was a feature of Welsh court poetry²⁶. The Welsh court poets considered themselves guardians of an essentially aristocratic tradition stretching back to the seventh century poet Taliesin.

Names demonstrating the same form, such as Gwynfryn (= 'white' + 'hill'), or Gwawrfryn (= 'dawn' + 'hill') composed of an adjective followed by a noun where lenition of the second element is automatic are considered 'proper compounds'.²⁷ Andrew Lias writes that names formed in this pattern are often of an earlier date. The converse, noun + adjective, improper compound form became common at some time in the post-Roman period, before the migrations to Brittany, as both forms are common in Breton place-names. Of course, names of this form may also be modern inventions copying earlier forms, which highlights the necessity of referring to the earliest recorded version of a placename and comparing all available spellings.

²⁵ Cynddelw Brydydd Mawr in *Hendregadredd*, NLW MS 6680B c.1300, p.116

²⁶ J.E.Caerwyn Williams, *The Poets of the Welsh Princes* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 1994).

²⁷ Anthony Lias, *A Guide to Welsh Place-Names*, (Llanrwst: Gwasg Carreg Gwalch, 1994) p.22

The work of other poets included in the *Hendregadredd* manuscript offer further variants of the name, *Aber Teiur*²⁸ from Gwalchmai (fl.1203-1223)²⁹ and *Aber Teiuy*³⁰ from Einion ab Gwgon (c.1215)³¹. Such orthographic variations are explored in detail by Kenneth Jackson in his book *Language and History in Early Britain*.³² Changes in pronunciation resulted from the interplay of British-Latin and the vernacular. Jackson asserts that the earliest Welsh texts were created in the sixth century. The literary tradition grew with the early Celtic church and utilized an orthography based on the pronunciation of British spoken Latin. He concludes that this orthography remains stable to the present day but that the influence of the Roman church from the eighth century onward introduced “Continental confusions of spelling between *v* and *b*, *i* and *e*, *u* and *o*, *ti* and *si* and so on.”³³

Several other twelfth century records listed in the *Dictionary of Welsh Placenames*³⁴ name the same place something quite different. ‘Karadigan’ in 1130 and ‘Kerdigan’ in 1194. ‘Cardigan’ is an anglicised form of the Welsh *Ceredigion*, which is comprised of two elements, *Ceredig* a personal noun, and the suffix *-ion*, the combination translates to English as ‘territory of Ceredig’. Ceredig is one of the eight sons of Cunedda the legendary fifth century founder of the dynasty of Gwynedd³⁵ *The Dictionary of the Place-Names in Wales* gives two ninth century records for Ceredigion “*Corticiana regio* c.850 [11th cent.], *Cereticiaun* 807 [c.954] corresponding closely to the modern county of Ceredigion.”³⁶

The entry for *Aberteifi* in *Placenames of Cardiganshire*³⁷ states

²⁸ *Hendregadredd*, NLW MS 6680B p.18

²⁹ Lloyd, D. M. ‘EINION ap GWALCHMAI (fl. 1203-1223)’ *Dictionary of Welsh Biography*, (1959)
<<https://biography.wales/article/s-EINI-APG-1203>> [Accessed 10th January 2021]

³⁰ *Hendregadredd*, NLW MS 6680B p.52

³¹ J.E.Caerwyn Williams, *The Poets of the Welsh Princes* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 1994) p.77

³² Kenneth Jackson, *Language and History in Early Britain* (Edinburgh: University Press, 1953) pp.70-75

³³ Kenneth Jackson, *Language and History in Early Britain* (Edinburgh: University Press, 1953) p.74

³⁴ Hywel Wyn Owen, Richard Morgan, *Dictionary of the Place-Names of Wales* (Llandyssul:Gomer, 2008) p.70.

³⁵ J. E Lloyd, ‘Cunedda Wledig’ *Dictionary of Welsh Biography*, (1959).
<<https://biography.wales/article/s-CUNE-WLE-0380>> [Accessed 10th January 2021]

³⁶ Hywel Wyn Owen, Richard Morgan, *Dictionary of the Place-Names of Wales* (Llandyssul:Gomer, 2008) p.70.

³⁷ Iwan Wmffre, *The Place-Names of Cardiganshire* (Oxford: Archaeopress, 2004) p.1.

“the town of was built between 1110 – 1136 by Anglo-French invaders of Ceredigion [1991 R.A. Griffiths] and became the centre of Anglo-French influence in Cardiganshire, as well as becoming the county town.”³⁸

The Anglo-Norman contraction ‘Cardigan’ came into existence with the founding of the town as an administrative centre of ‘Cardigan shire’ about three hundred years after the Welsh original was first recorded. The poems of Gwalchmai and Einion ab Gwgon found in the Hendregadredd manuscript were composed roughly a hundred years later. The two poems are in praise of Llywelyn Ap Iorwerth, ‘Llywelyn the Great’, prince of Gwynedd³⁹. Within the confines of obligations to the English crown, Llywelyn brought much of Wales under his control between 1194 and 1240. He married king John of England’s daughter Joan, in 1205. He captured the Castle and gained control of Cardigan in 1212, lost it in 1223 and captured it again 1231. Understanding the origins of ‘Cardigan’ we can see why the poets would choose to identify the town with a name unconnected with the language of the invaders.

In Eckwall’s system of classification, Aberteifi is an original nature or topographical name that is applied as a habitation name. Cardigan was one of three stone castles in the Teifi valley in the middle ages. The remains of eleven motte and bailey castles are found along its banks.⁴⁰ The presence of the element ‘Castell’ is often an indicator of proximity to one of these sites, though it can refer to older, iron age defended enclosures or even a prominent rock. Cross referencing with the archaeological record and satellite imagery is of great assistance in clarification of this issue.

³⁸ *ibid.*

³⁹ Pierce, T. J., (1959). ‘Llywelyn ap Iorwerth’, Prince of Gwynedd. *Dictionary of Welsh Biography*.
<<https://biography.wales/article/s-LLYW-API-1173>> [Accessed 10th January 2021]

⁴⁰ COFLEIN, the online database for the National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW).
<<https://coflein.gov.uk>>

Llywelyn also attempted to introduce primogeniture in place of the traditional practice of partible succession which had caused so much strife between the Welsh Princes. In 1238 at the Abbey of Strata Florida Llewelyn's extracted fealty to his son Dafydd, from sub-ordinate Welsh lords. The Abbey at Strata Florida was founded by Cistercian monks in 1138 and flourished through the patronage of Rhys ap Gruffydd. The name is an Anglicized version of Ystrad Fflur, meaning 'vale' (of) (afon) Fflur, the Fflur is a small tributary of the Teifi a short distance from the site of the Abbey. It is believed that this is the original site of an earlier religious cell.

Cardigan is recorded as a qualifying element in many other names and has been in use alongside Aberteifi to describe the town for a thousand years. On first and second series ordnance survey maps Cardigan Bay, Cardigan Bar and Cardigan Island describe physical features of the landscape and use 'Cardigan' as a locative adjective. Cardigan Island has other toponyms. In Placenames of Cardiganshire there is an entry for *Ynys Aberteifi*, 'Island (at the) mouth (of the river) Teifi'. The earliest record relating to this place, Longleat MS 624 records Hastiholm for this place in 1268. Wwfre cites R.A. Griffiths to assert "The meaning of Hastiholm is 'horse island' (1991 R.A. Griffiths:113) and is a name of Norse origin, like so many other English names of islands off the coast of Wales." The full list of variants is included here to illustrate the variety of languages present in the records of some of the places in this study.

"Ynys Aherteifi -(SN 1 59-5 1 5)[ynys + tn. Aberteifi (1-a)]; [əniS,aber'tejvi L. Williams, ə'riniS p.c. C.M. Phillips] Hastiholm 1268 Longleat MS 624, Insula 1280Ext p. 112, 'pastura' Insule 1300 in 1936 M.Rhys p.81 , Insula de Kardigan 1302-03rent n.2, Insullis in Mare 1328-29 in Suppl.AC clxxii, Insule de llond 'infra mare' 1433 BM Doc. p.6, Cardigan Insula 1578map C.Saxton, Cardigan Island 1610 map J. Speed, Cardigan Island 1652 Nouadd M3S, Cardigan

Isle 1811 N.Carlisle s.v. Cardigan, Cardigan Island OOS1814, Ynys

Aberteifi 1926 TS 25/06/26.”⁴¹

English, Welsh, Latin, French and Norse have all played a part in the history of this name at different times and for different purposes.

The archaeological record reveals that Ynys Aberteifi was subject to human activity in the Iron age (c.800BC- 74AD)⁴². ‘Cardigan Island Defended Enclosure’ is the name used to define on The Schedule of Ancient Monuments, two defended enclosures that occupy the whole of the island. This new placename was first recorded in 2011. Demonstrating that new names are always being created in response to a requirement to identify a particular place for a particular purpose.

Returning to the earliest extant records of the Teifi valley and the names of places in it, takes us to the Ravenna manuscript and Roman records of *Bremia*⁴³ at Cae'r Castell, Llanio. A site one mile upstream from Afon Brefi's confluence with the Teifi.

In the 1979 book *The Placenames of Roman Britain*, A.L.F Rivet and Colin Smith offer Kenneth Jackson's derivation of *Bremia* to mean ‘on the bank of the roaring river’ *Brem* (British) - to roar– *Brefu* (Welsh), cognate with Latin *fremo*.⁴⁴ The addition of the Celto-Latin suffix, ‘*ia*’ specifies a place on its banks. Rivet and Smith present Bremenium at High Rochester, Northumberland and Brementenacum, at Ribchester in Leicestershire, as Roman forts elsewhere in Britain containing the same element. Outside Britain, the earliest

⁴¹ Iwan Wmffre, *The Place-Names of Cardiganshire* (Oxford: Archaeopress, 2004) p.36

⁴² [Cardigan Island Defended Enclosure, Y Ferwig, Ceredigion \(ancientmonuments.uk\)](http://ancientmonuments.uk/Cardigan_Island_Defended_Enclosure,_Y_Ferwig,_Ceredigion)

⁴³ *Ravenna* 106₂₅, (= R&C 54):BREMIA

⁴⁴ Kenneth Jackson *Language and History in Early Britain*, (Edinburgh: University Press, 1953) p.153

(medieval) sources refer to the town of Brentonico in the Tyrol as *Brem(e)tonicum*.⁴⁵ These examples add weight to the suggested derivation.

Cae'r Castell and Llanio also present intriguing clues for the place-name researcher. Cae'r Castell gives a straightforward 'field of the castle' but the first piecing together of this location with that of the Roman *Bremia* in Ravenna only began in the twentieth century. Meyrick misidentified this site, stating in his *History of Cardiganshire* (1810)

"Llanio-issa was formerly the ancient Loventium of the Romans, and a considerable station on the great western road called Sarn Ellen, between Maridunum, or Caermarthen, and Penallt, near Machynlleth."⁴⁶

Loventium does not appear in *The Place-Names of Roman Britain*, but it does appear on the Ordnance Survey second edition maps,⁴⁷ at two locations. This one and one in a similar situation close to Afon Bran, in the Parish of Llandingad Within, Llandovery, Carmarthenshire.

The name Llanio implies the presence of a church, the *Dictionary of Placenames in Wales* defines the element thus:

⁴⁵ A. Holder, *Alt-celtischer Sprachschatz*, 3 vols. (Leipzig, 1896-1907), III p.928

⁴⁶ WILLIS-BUND, J.W. 'Reports on Llanio and on Church Restoration', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* (1888) p.301
<https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/Archaeologia_Cambrensis/UPTJAAAAAYAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Cae%27r+Castell+Llanio&pg=PA302&printsec=frontcover>
[Accessed 10th January 2021]

⁴⁷ List of Historic Placenames in Wales
<<https://historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk/placenames/recordedname/422bf789-8206-47f6-a673-c312177d960a>> [Accessed 10th January 2021]

“fem. 'enclosure, yard; church; parish' Llan., Lan-, Uam., Lam.,
Bwlch-lan, ~Croes- lan , Henllan (2), Henllan Amgoed, Landimore.
Llawhaden, Penrhiw-lan, Twynllannan, Ynys Uanddwyn”⁴⁸

This is a common element in Welsh place-names and is found in names of many places in the Teifi valley in the form *llan* + personal name of a saint. There are many examples of this type of two element place-name in the Teifi valley. Amongst them, Llanwenog⁴⁹, near Lampeter was first recorded in 1284. The two elements are Llan +Gwenog, (common noun + proper noun). Gwenog is taken to be a female saint of the early Welsh church. Another example is Llanybydder⁵⁰, first recorded as Thlanebethair in 1319. The name comprises the elements *Llan* +*y+ ?byddar*, pl.*byddair*, apparently presenting the ‘church’ (of) ‘the’ ‘deaf saints’. In *Placenames of Cardiganshire*, Wwfre speculates that Llanio is a name of this form, because its significance makes it likely that an early religious community would have been associated with it.

“Llanio was a *maenor* in the parish of Llandewi and the lordship of Pennarth makes it probable that there was some kind of Christian settlement in the vicinity, possibly a precursor to Llandewi.”⁵¹

Wwfre suggests two possibilities for the attribution would be *lo*, derived from the Biblical Latin *Iobus*, corresponding to English ‘Job’ this form occurs in the middle Welsh *golud lo*, alternatively, it could derive from an unattested personal noun **law* a variant of attested *lau*. If the name is not derived in this way, it may be that it is a variant of the attested personal noun Llanio.

⁴⁸ Hywel Wyn Owen, Richard Morgan, *Dictionary of the Place-Names of Wales* (Llandyssul:Gomer, 2008) p.xiv.

⁴⁹ Hywel Wyn Owen, Richard Morgan, *Dictionary of the Place-Names of Wales* (Llandyssul:Gomer, 2008) p.285.

⁵⁰ Hywel Wyn Owen, Richard Morgan, *Dictionary of the Place-Names of Wales* (Llandyssul:Gomer, 2008) p.288.

⁵¹ Iwan Wmffre, *The Place-Names of Cardiganshire* (Oxford: Archaeopress, 2004) p.510.

The settlement name Llandewi Brefi is also a name of this form *llan* + Dewi + Brefi = the church (of) Dewi (on the river) Brefi. The root of *Brefi*, is the same as that of the Roman Bremia, that is British 'Brem' meaning 'rushing river'. The earliest textual record of this settlement occurs in the medieval Latin, *Life of St Cadog* c.1100 (1200), as 'Ciuitate Breeui'. All later records, and there are many, include the element pertaining to the church and the early Welsh saint. The material record in the form of six stones inscribed with christian symbols, dated between the sixth and ninth centuries, attests to the importance of the site in the early Welsh church.

Five hundred metres above the village of Llandewi Brefi and the Roman remains of Bremia, is *Crug*. This single element name is defined as 'mound' in the *Dictionary of the Placenames of Wales*, and amongst other things 'tumulus' in the GPC. Crug is a turf covered round cairn on a flat hilltop with panoramic views and bears testament to human activity in the Teifi valley in the Bronze age. A farm of the same name is situated below the cairn. The same name occurs in the parish of Y Ferwig where it is the name of a farm and the fields associated with it. It is on a northwest facing slope overlooking Cardigan Bay a short distance east of the Teifi Estuary, below an unnamed, cairn.

Below the summit at Crug above Llandewi Briefi is *Bigwrn Fach*. The first record is from the late nineteenth century and I considered the possibility it was reference to Custers last stand, a joke played by the people conducting the second series Ordance Survey. However, *Bigwrn* can mean 'beacon' or 'knuckle' giving a two-element name meaning 'small beacon' or 'small knuckle' which describes accurately the appearance of this marshy rise below the summit.

This study of the place-names of the Teifi valley has revealed an area of fast flowing rivers, mountain lakes and ancient rocks. It has demonstrated that placenames have been created

in at least four languages and contain codified evidence of the relationships between the cultures of the peoples who named them. It has also highlighted the importance of intertextual analysis and an open mind.

“it is necessary to pay attention to the latest accounts of our own time and, both in setting out what is now reported and in judging what had been reported previously, to decide what is worthy of belief and what is not.”

Ptolemy (Geography I, 6).

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