



Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Wildlife Trust

Background information about Llyn Celanedd (Spinnies Aberogwen Nature Reserve name change consultation)

Historical information has come to our attention, providing evidence for a name change from ‘Spinnies Aberogwen’ to ‘Llyn Celanedd’. It is the Trust’s policy that “Where a property has an English name the Trust will endeavour to determine and use its Welsh name”. We are proud to be rooted in our local area, and reflect the culture, geography and wildlife that make North Wales so special. We support the idea of reviving Welsh place names, and fully embrace the close relationship between people and their local environment.

Historical, literary and geographical information suggests that Llyn Celanedd was a pool on the winding course of the Afon Ogwen before it was straightened to create the estuary we see today. For this reason, we are looking for your response to the change of name, along with the positive views we have already received from many local people and organisations.

We have leased our nature reserve from the Penrhyn Estate since 1985, and it was called Spinnies, Tal y Bont on the land registry. In the absence of another name, we changed it in the 1990’s to Spinnies Aberogwen to reflect its location with a Welsh name. The reason Llyn Celanedd is being proposed now has a fascinating historical context.

The first written record of the name Llyn Celanedd, which means lake of dead bodies, is in 1866, where Hugh Derfel Hughes in “Hynafiaethau Llandygai a Llanllechid Antiquities” records that “*Aberogwen was also remarkable as the place where the Fronllwyd Slates were unloaded from the crates and loaded onto the ships, 300 years ago. The old ogwen bed went through Llyn Celanedd and past the door and this is where the wind oyster beds of Hugh Hughes esq. who currently lives there were cultivated*”.

Over many centuries prior to that (from 1237), there are several references to the importance of Capel Ogwen (just to the south-west of Spinnies Aberogwen) as a place where the bodies of the deceased of the Penrhyn aristocratic family were held before being carried across the Menai Strait to a sacred burial ground at Llanfaes Friary. This was established eight hundred years ago by Llywelyn the Great, Prince of Gwynedd. “*Penrhyn always had the right of ferrying over from the place to the coast of Anglesey, and this claim continues to this day, for which a rent of ten shillings is annually paid by a boatman.*” Williams, W. (1806). A Survey of the Ancient and Present State of the County of Caernarvon.

In 1237 it was recorded that the body of Siwan, the wife of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth and daughter of the king of England was taken from Llys Llywelyn, Abergwyngregyn for burial in a sacred garden by the beach in Llanfaes.

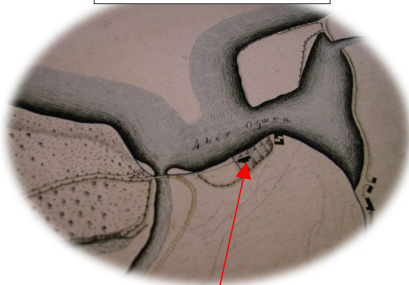
Lying as it does on an estuary, the relationship between river, sea and land has changed over time, and so pinpointing the site’s geographical history is not an exact science. However, old maps show a very different course of the Afon Ogwen, prior to its straightening sometime in the 1820’s to 30’s. The original location of Llyn Celanedd looks to be a pool on a winding meander of the River Ogwen in Aberogwen. At that time, the river reached the Menai Strait where the coastal car park lies today. Historic maps show Llyn Celanedd to be in the same place as the current Spinnies, Aberogwen lagoon we are familiar with today. Along with Llyn Celanedd, we have been told of names for other ponds on the Afon Ogwen: Llyn Gwreiddiau, Llyn Du, Llyn Deintur, Llyn y Dderwen Gam, and Llyn Cerrig Melyn. A return to the name Llyn Celanedd would bring back the most coastal of these river pools and feels more

appropriate than the more recent 'Spinnies Aberogwen', which means a small area covered with trees at the mouth of the Ogwen.

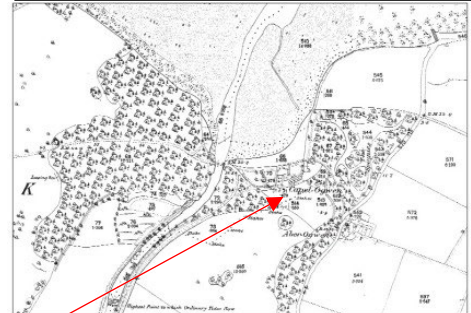
Detail from the Penrhyn Survey
Map by George Leigh 1768.



Extract of 1828 map of Penrhyn Park



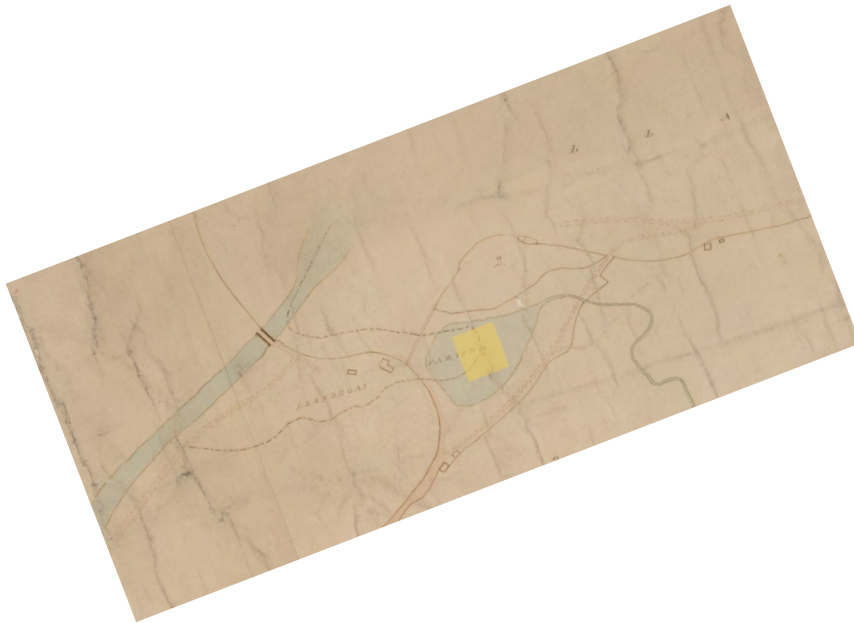
A 1910 map showing Aberogwen after the
course of the River Ogwen had been
straightened



Capel Ogwen



"Survey book containing plans of the Penrhyn estate in the counties of Caernarvon and Denbigh, north Wales belonging to Richard Pennant Esq." It is available digitally and can be viewed [here](#). This gives a breakdown of all the fields and lands owned by the Penrhyn Estate that feature in the map PENRA/2205 and the similar one of Llanllechid PENRA/2203 and other maps surveyed of the area in 1768



Tithe Maps of Wales - 1839



Map circa 1820 (Penrhyn Office) showing Llyn Celanedd at the bend in the Ogwen River before its course was straightened