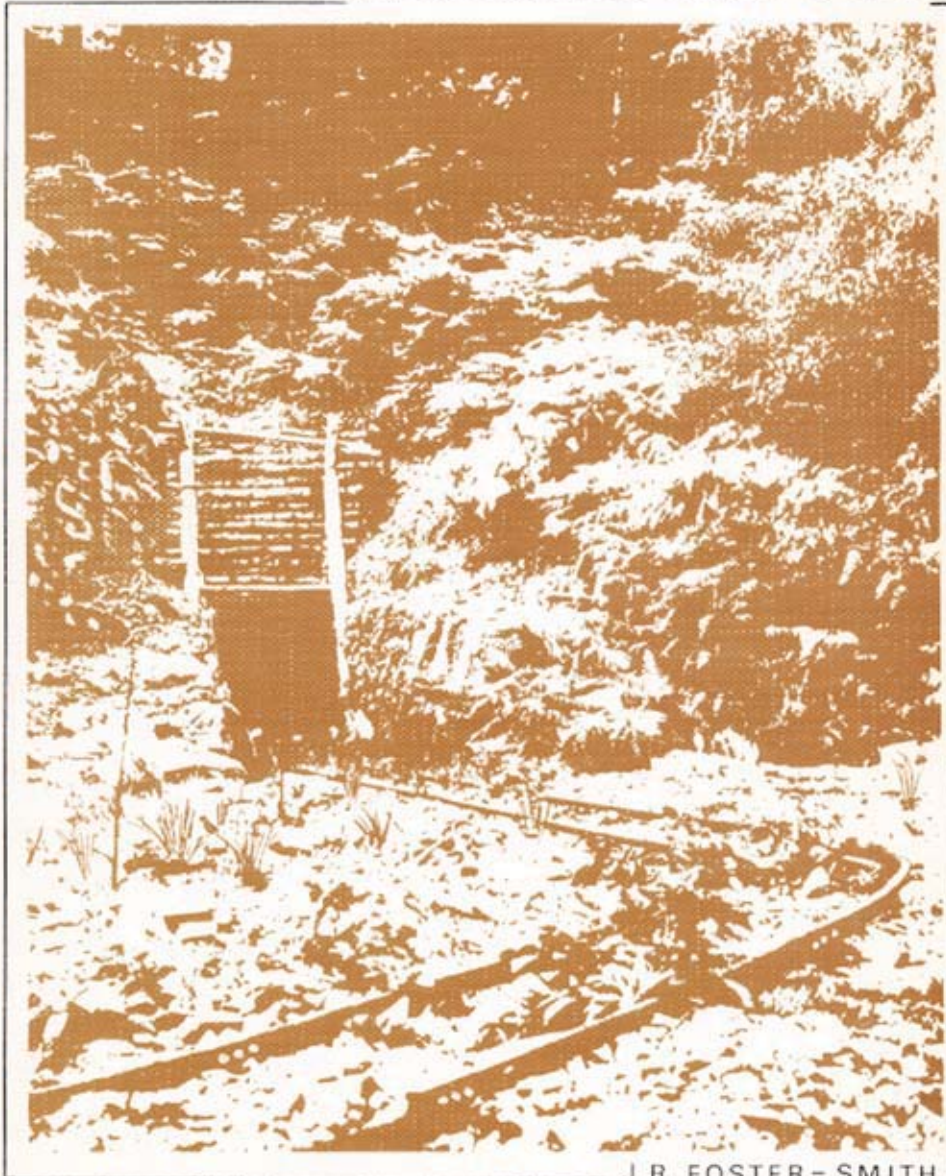


BRITISH MINING No. 6



The MINES of MERIONETH



J.R. FOSTER - SMITH

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THE MINES OF MERIONETH

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BRITISH MINING No. 6

THE NON-FERROUS METAL MINES OF WALES

THE M I N E S OF MERIONETH

CONTENTS	Page
INTRODUCTORY NOTES	1
GENERAL DESCRIPTION	2
DETAILS OF MINES	5
MINES NOT LOCATED	35
BIBLIOGRAPHY	36
INDEX	38

COVER DESIGN

GWYNFYNYDD No. 8 Level
by R.H. Bird

MAPS

Show location of each mine described in this work

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

To avoid confusion which may arise consequent upon the title alteration of Society publications, it should be noted that this and subsequent volumes in the series which may be published by the Society, will now be treated as separate monographs under the general title 'British Mining'. Discontinuity of numeration should not therefore be regarded as indicative of missing or duplicated parts of the work.

THE MINES OF MERIONETH

Introductory Notes

In this volume the mines in the county of Merioneth alone are considered, but in the major work of which it forms a part, Wales has been taken by counties for convenience of description and each county has been given a separate volume, except where the number of mines in a given county is small. In such cases the county concerned is taken together with the nearest one which has a larger number of mines to be described. Included in this survey are all the identifiable mines and trials which have been worked for any of the following minerals or ores:

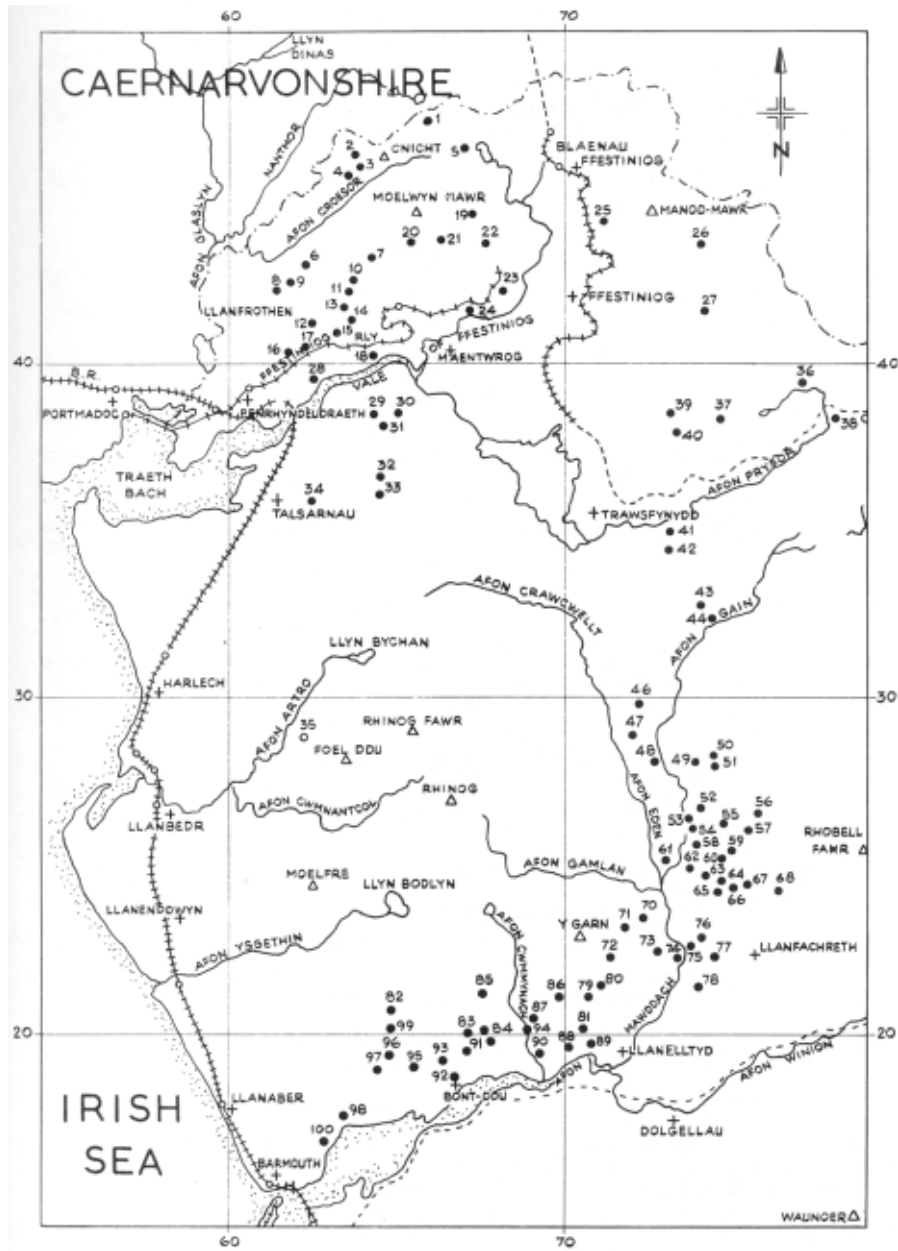
Lead ores	Gold
Zinc ores	Barytes
Copper ores	Witherite
Cobalt ores	Fluorspar
Pyrite, (but only where it is found in association with any of the above-named ores or minerals).	

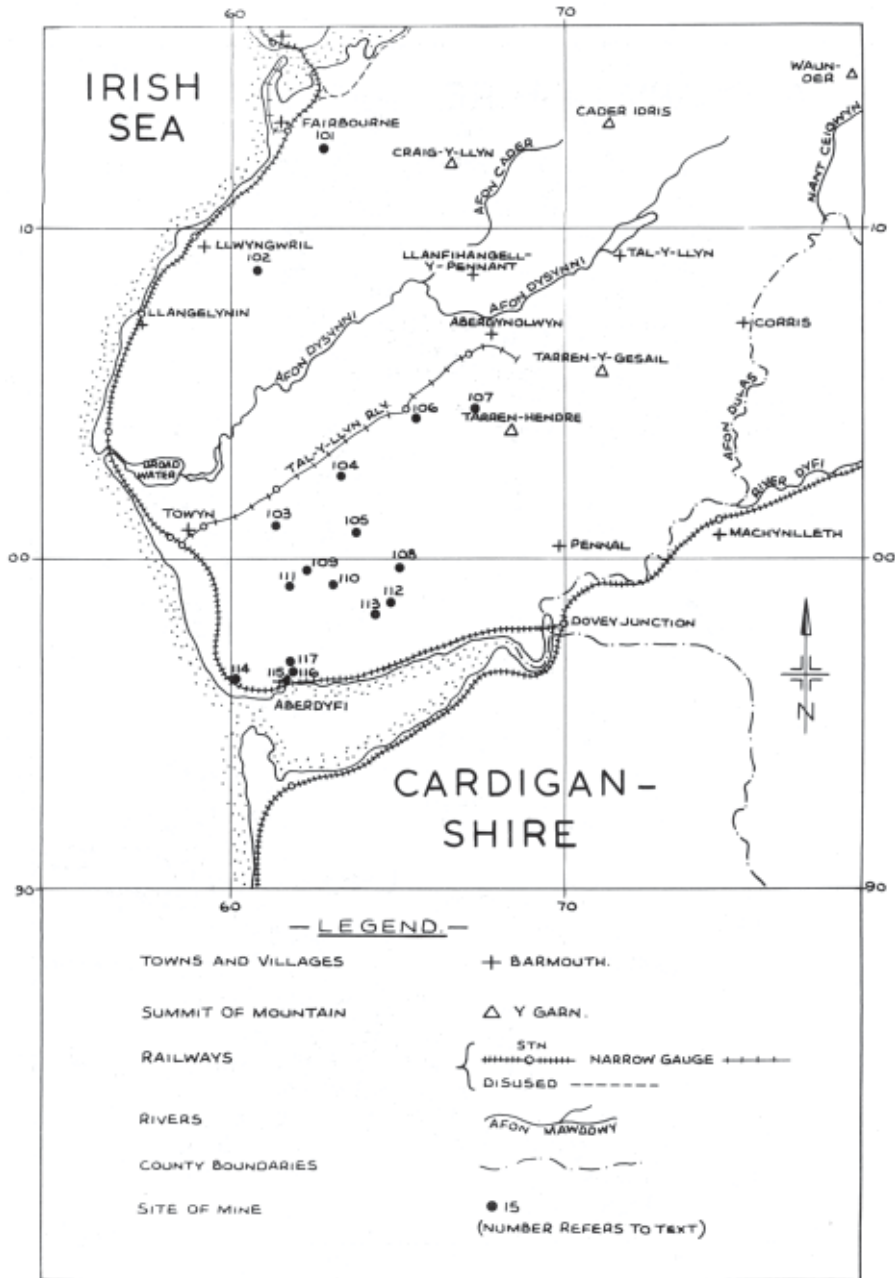
Mines or trials worked for iron or manganese ores, except when any of the above-named minerals are known to occur in the deposits worked, have been excluded from the survey.

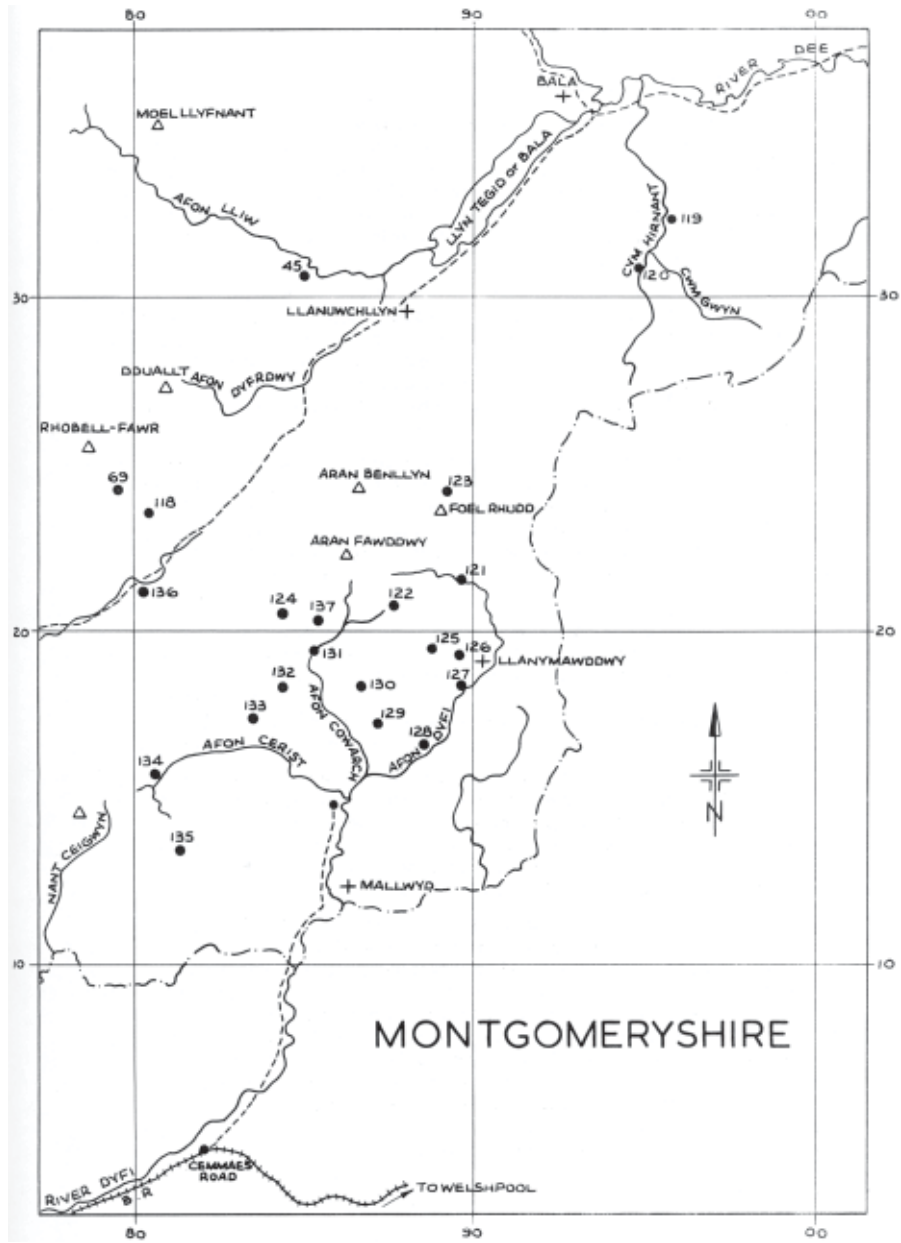
In order to make the list of mines as useful as possible for reference purposes, the National Grid Reference of each site, taken to a point as near to the centre of operations as possible, is given, together with the name of the parish in which the mine occurs. All the mines described are numbered, also for quick reference, and maps are included to show the situations of the mines. Following the above information alternative names by which mines have been known are also given, and these are followed by a short description of the workings and their history, together with any output figures which have been found.

At the end of the detailed descriptions will be found a list of the names of mines which occur in old reports, but upon which there is insufficient information known to make even an approximate plotting of their sites possible.

A short bibliography dealing with the history of mining in the county or counties described will appear at the end of each section. In this connection the reader is referred to the excellent bibliography of works dealing with metalliferous mining in Wales which can be found in "Mining for Metals in Wales", by F.J. North, and published by the National Museum of Wales in 1962.







The following volumes in this series have already been published by the Society:

The Mines of Denbigh,
The Mines of Flint,
The Mines of Anglesey & Caernarvonshire (British Mining No. 4).

The following, which complete this monograph series will appear as soon as possible:-

The Mines of Montgomery & Radnorshire,
The Mines of Cardiganshire,
The Mines of S. Wales Area.

Of Related Interest:

The Llandudno Copper Mines, C.J. Williams
(a Monograph in preparation).

MERIONETH

General Description

Merioneth does not contain any of the major Welsh orefields, judged by the standard of production. Nevertheless it is far from being an unimportant county from the point of view of metalliferous mining. Indeed in some respects it has earned a reputation, perhaps even a notoriety, far more widely known than some of the counties with a greater production of ores to their credit, at least so far as the mines of the so-called Dolgellau Gold Belt are concerned.

In spite of the fact that no major orefield occurs within this county however, non-ferrous mining fields of lesser extent exist, in addition to the fairly numerous and widely spread small deposits of a more isolated nature which have received attention in past times. Examples of the larger groups of mines may be sited in those situated near Penrhyndeudraeth, those centres around the Vale of Cywarch, (or Cowarch) and those of the Dolgellau Gold Belt itself.

Most of the known ore deposits occur in normal fault-fissure veins, or in veins associated with lines of shear; but some deposits have been found to exist as impregnations of country rocks, such as that which was so successfully worked for copper ore and gold at the Glasdir mine, near Dolgellau. The Turf copper works at Dolfrwynog is not considered here, since it is not considered to be a true ore-deposit in the sense of these notes.

The ore deposits of Merioneth are all situated in rocks of Silurian or older ages, and those of the Dolgellau Gold Belt are in Cambrian rocks, the gold values being generally restricted to a particular horizon in those rocks. This fact was not recognised in the earlier workings, which probably led to much of the unjustified optimism about the scale of possibilities for gold mining in the area during the nineteenth century.

So far as the origin of the ores is concerned, it seems unlikely that all the deposits could have originated from one emanative source, but the evidence is far from being complete. It seems far more likely that the mineralising fluids were introduced to the host rocks from purely local emanative sources in each mining area, though no mineral zoning can be definitely established for individual centres.

The most common mineral in the ore deposits in this county is pyrite, and the other primary minerals of importance are, galena, sphalerite, chalcopyrite, any or all of which are often associated with their alteration products of the oxidation zone in the shallower parts of the veins. The most common gangue mineral is quartz, while calcite is also fairly common

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MINES

Note: An asterisk before the name of a mine in the following list indicates that the name is an alternative one for a mine rather than the principal one adopted in the text.

The names of mines are listed against their corresponding county numbers and the page upon which the notes on that mine appear in the text.

	County Number	Page
* ABERDOVEY	111	29
ABER HIRNANT	119	30
AFON CWM PANDY	104	27
AFON GAIN	44	14
AFON GWRIL	102	27
AFON STWLAN	19	9
ALLT-GOCH (Dolgellau)	64	18
ALLT-GOCH (Towyn)	117	30
BALKAN HILL	116	30
* BEDD-Y-COEDDWR	50	15
BENGLOG	118	30
BERTHLLWYD	70	19
* BLAEN-Y-CWM	38	13
BOD-Y-FUDDAU	41	14
BONCYN	128	32
BONT-DDU	92	25
BRAICH-Y-RHIW	105	27
BREICHIAU	30	11
BRONDANW	8	6
BRON-YR-AUR	138	35
BRYN CASTELL	82	22
BRYN-COCH	65	19
* BRYNDINAS	108	28
BRYN-DWYRD	28	11
BRYNHYFRYD	13	7
BRYNMAWR	18	2
BRYN-PRYDYDD	76	20
BRYNTIRION	11	7
BWLCH-COCH	99	26
BWLCHGWYN	68	19
BWLCH-Y-FFORDD	48	15
BWLCH-Y-PLWM	12	7
CADWGAN	56	17
* CAEFALI	15	8
CAEGWIAN	96	26
CAE-GWYN	46	14
* CAE-HIR	91	24
CAE-MAB-SEIFION	87	23
CAE-MAWR	73	20
CAE-MUR-HYWEL	97	26

	County Number	Page
CAE'N-Y-COED	62	18
CAERWYCH	32	12
* CAETHLE	111	29
* CAMBRIAN	90	24
* CAMBRIAN CONSOLS	90	24
CASTELL-CARN-DOCHAN (CARN-DOCHAN)	45	14
* CATHERINE AND JANE CONSOLS	15	8
CEFN-COCH	71	20
CEFN-DEUDDWR	54	17
CESAILGWYN	86	23
CEUNANT	67	19
CLOGAU	84	22
CNICHT MOUNTAIN	3	6
CORBET DOVEY	115	30
COWARCH	131	33
CRAFNANT	35	12
CRAIGWEN (Dolgellau)	95	25
CRAIGWEN (Mallwyd)	133	34
CWM AFON (CWM AVON)	24	10
CWM CROESOR	4	6
CWM CYNFAL (Ffestiniog)	27	11
CWM CYNFAL (Towyn)	103	27
CWM DYNIEWYD	126	32
* CWM EISEN	51	16
CWMHEISIAN	51	16
CWMHEISIAN-ISAF	52	16
* CWMHESIAN	51	16
CWM-LLECHFRAITH	91	24
CWM MYNACH	85	23
CWMORTHIN	5	6
CWM-Y-FOEL	1	5
CYFANNEDD-FAWR	101	27
CYNWYD	137	35
* CYWARCH	131	33
DOLDDINAS	40	13
DOLFRWYNOG	59	18
DOLGOCH	106	28
DOL-Y-MOCH	23	10
* DRWS-Y-NANT	118	30
DYRYSGOL	122	31
DYSRNANT	108	28
* EAST CAMBRIAN	81	21
* EAST CLOGAU	94	25
EAST CRAIGWEN	132	34
EAST GWYNFYNYDD	50	15
FFRIDD-DDU	42	14
FFRIDD-GOCH	66	19

	County Number	Page
FFRIDD-HAFODWEN	110	28
FIGRE (VIGRA)	93	25
FOEL CYNWCH	78	21
FOEL-DDU	72	20
* FOEL-GOCH	138	35
FOEL-ISAF	79	21
FOEL-ISPRI	81	21
* FOEL-REIDE	123	31
FOEL-RHUDD	123	31
FOEL-TRAIAN	69	19
FOEL-WEN	55	17
FOEL-Y-FFRIDD	139	35
FRIOG	63	18
GALLT CEFN-DEUDDWR	61	18
GALLT-Y-MAEN	121	31
GAMALLT	26	11
GARTH-GELL	94	25
GEFAIL-Y-MINERS	36	13
GELLI GAIN	43	14
GELLI-GEMLYN	74	20
GLASDIR	77	20
GLOYW NANT	127	32
* GREAT CAMBRIAN	90	24
* GREAT COWARCH	131	33
* GWYN	49	15
GWYNYFYNYDD	49	15
GYRN	33	12
HAFOD-BOETH	14	8
HAFOD-OWEN	57	17
HAFOD-UCHAF	7	6
HAFOD-Y-MORFA	88	23
HENDREFORION	83	22
* IMPERIAL	81	21
LLAFAR	39	13
LLWYNON	98	26
LLYN BARFOG	112	29
LLYN STWLAN	19	9
LLYN TECWYN	29	11
MAESAFALLEN	120	30
MAESTRYFAR	90	24
MANOD-BACH	25	10
* MARINA GOLD	50	15
MELIN-LLYN-PAIR	111	29
* MOEL ESBIE	81	21
* MOEL REIDE	123	31

	County Number	Page
MOEL TECWYN	29	11
MOELWYN	22	10
MOELWYN-BACH	21	9
MYNYDD-BACH	60	18
MYNYDD CAE'N-Y-COED	58	17
* NANTDDU	22	10
NANTYCYNOG	109	28
NELLE GWYNNE	107	28
* NEW MORGAN	49	15
NORTH CNICHT	2	6
* NORTH DOLFRWYNOG	57	17
* NORTH WALES CONSOLS	90	24
PANORAMA	100	27
PANT-MAWR	20	9
PANTYWRACH	16	8
PENMAEN GOLD	47	15
PEN MAIN	136	35
PENNANT	134	34
* PENNANT AND CRAIGWEN	133	34
PENYRALLT (Cowarch)	130	33
PENYRALLT (Ffestiniog)	15	8
PRINCE EDWARD	37	13
* PRINCE OF WALES	88	23
* PRINCESS ALICE	118	30
PRYSOR	38	13
RED DRAGON	125	32
RHIW-GOCH	17	9
RHOS-LWYD	135	35
* St. DAVID'S	(84	22
	(93	25
SOVEREIGN	89	24
TALSARNAU	34	12
* TALSARORA	34	12
TAN-LAN	9	7
TRAIAN	6	6
TYDDYN-GWLADYS	53	16
TYDDYN-Y-BRIDDELL	113	29
TYLLAU-MWN	124	31
TY'N-Y-BENRHOS	75	20
TY'N-Y-DDOL	10	7
* UNION	80	21
* VIGRA (FIGRE)	93	25
* VOEL	81	21
* WEL LINGTON	83	22
* WEST CLOGAU (Cwm Llechfraith	91	24
WNION	80	21
Y-CEUNANT	129	33
YR-HORON	114	29