

## **53N 4W by Richard Glynne Jones**

At the 53N, 4W intersection, is to be found a small mountain lake. Along with its nearby twin, they are known as Y Llynau Diffwys (The Diffwys Lakes). This area of Northern Eryri (Snowdonia) comprises Y Moelwynion (the Moelwyn Mountains). The mountain to the right in the image is Cnicht.

The submitted image has been taken looking south towards the intersection which is just beyond the starburst on the left in the image.

The lakes in their mountain landscape, form part of what is probably an upland example of dead ice topography created at the end of the last period of glaciation. Dead-ice topography is usually seen in lowland or valley floor environments. This type of moraine is also referred to as "hummocky collapsed glacial topography" or "stagnation moraine." It is a rugged landscape that formed during deglaciation at the end of the last Ice Age, between about 12,000 and 9,000 years ago.

Dead ice was originally a part of a glacier or ice sheet, but at the end of the period of glacial advance the glaciers receded. Glacial ice melted in situ, leaving behind a hummocky terrain produced by the deposition of glacio-fluvial sediments, ablation till and flow till, between large blocks of melting ice. Such features include kettle holes formed when large chunks of glacial ice were left behind as the glacier receded the melting ice blocks created a depressions that now host lakes and ponds known as kettle holes or "kettle lakes". Kettle lakes are irregularly shaped in the manner of the original ice blocks that produced them. Kettle lakes are also sometimes referred to as pothole lakes. Y Llynau Diffwys are probably examples of upland kettle lakes.