

Text Note

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 and their mountain landscape, form part of what is termed dead ice topography. The latter was created at the end of the last period of glaciation. Dead-ice moraine is also referred to as "hummocky collapsed glacial topography" or "stagnation moraine." It is a rugged landscape that formed as the last glaciers were melting at the end of the Ice Age, between about 12,000 and 9,000 years ago.

Dead ice is ice which was originally a part of a glacier or ice sheet, and as the glacier receded, it broke away ceasing to move. It melted in situ, leaving behind a hummocky terrain known as dead-ice moraine which is produced by the deposition of glacio-fluvial sediments and ablation till. Such features include kettle holes.

When a large chunk of glacial ice is left behind as a glacier recedes the ice itself can create a depression. It melted to fill it, creating a "kettle lake". 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 kettle lakes.

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