# What is the Longest Place Name in Wales?

(материал к презентации «The longest place name in Wales»)

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Санкт-Петербург

2016

# *Материал «What is the longest place name in Wales?» является частью проекта «Уэльс прекрасный», который можно использовать к презентации «The longest place name in Wales» как дополнительную информацию на уроках страноведения.*

*Материал дан на английском языке и будет полезен обучающимися для подготовки проектных работ.*

**What is the Longest Place Name in Wales?**

**Llanfairpwllgwyngyll** or **Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll** (pronounced [[ɬanˌvair puɬˈɡwɨ̞nɡɨ̞ɬ]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_Welsh)) is a large village and [community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_%28Wales%29) on the island of [Anglesey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglesey) in [Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wales), situated on the [Menai Strait](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Menai_Strait) next to the [Britannia Bridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Britannia_Bridge) and across the strait from [Bangor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangor%2C_Wales). It is alternatively known as **Llanfairpwll**, **Llanfair PG**, or **Llanfair­pwllgwyngyll­gogery­chwyrn­drobwll­llan­tysilio­gogo­goch**.

At the 2001 census the population of the community was 3,040, 76% of whom spoke [Welsh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welsh_language) fluently; the highest percentage of speakers was in the 10–14 age group, where 97.1% spoke Welsh. By the time of the 2011 Census the population had increased to 3,107, of whom 70.62% were able to speak Welsh. It is the [sixth largest settlement on the island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Anglesey_towns_by_population) by population.

At 58 letters long, it is the longest official one-word place name in Europe, but misses out on the world record to Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokai-whenuakitanatahu, a mountain in New Zealand which has 85 letters.

The longer name is said to have been the brainchild of a cobbler from nearby Menai Bridge, and translates in English as: St Mary's Church in the hollow of white hazel near a rapid whirlpool and the Church of St Tysilio near the red cave.

A settlement has existed on the site of the village since the [Neolithic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neolithic) era (4000–2000 BC), with [subsistence agriculture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subsistence_agriculture) and [fishing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishing) the most common occupations for much of its early history. The island of [Anglesey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglesey) was at that point reachable only by boat across the [Menai Strait](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Menai_Strait). The area was briefly invaded and captured by the [Romans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Britain) under [Gaius Suetonius Paulinus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaius_Suetonius_Paulinus), temporarily abandoned in order to consolidate forces against [Boudicca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boudicca), then held until the end of Roman Britain.

With the withdrawal of the Roman forces, the area fell under the control of the early [medieval](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medieval) [Kingdom of Gwynedd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Gwynedd). Under this [feudal system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feudal_system), the residents worked small farms for the king. The rural nature of the settlement meant that the village had a population of only around 80 in 1563.

With the introduction of estates in the 16th century, much of the land was absorbed into the Earldom of Uxbridge, which later became the [Marquisate of Anglesey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marquess_of_Anglesey); the inhabitants became [tenant farmers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenant_farmer) on [enclosures](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enclosure). In 1844, for example, 92% of the land in Llanfairpwll was owned by just three individuals. The population of the village boomed, with a population of 385 in the 1801 census and 83 houses, most of them in the old village (Pentre Uchaf, Upper Village).

In 1826, Anglesey was connected to the rest of Wales by the construction of the [Menai Suspension Bridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Menai_Suspension_Bridge) by [Thomas Telford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Telford), and connected with [London](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London) in 1850 with the building of the [Britannia Bridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Britannia_Bridge) and the busy [North Wales Coast railway line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Wales_Coast_Line), which connected [London](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London) to the ferry port of [Holyhead](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holyhead). The village decentralised, splitting into Upper Village (*Pentre Uchaf*), which was made up mainly of the older houses and farms, and the new Lower Village (*Pentre Isaf*), built around the railway station and consisting mostly of shops and workshops. The village became a hub of commerce, as the railways and road network brought traders and customers from across north Wales.

**Significance of the name**



Illustration of a sign showing the name and English translation



Postmark from the village

The long name was contrived in the 1860s to bestow upon the station the feature of having the longest name of any railway station in Britain, an early example of a [publicity stunt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Publicity_stunt). The village's website credits the name to a cobbler from the nearby village of Menai Bridge. According to Sir [John Morris-Jones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Morris-Jones) the name was created by a local tailor, whose name he did not confide, letting the secret die with him. The current postmark shows the name Llanfairpwllgwyngyll, but there are contemporary examples of the longer name seen below.



St Mary's Church

This village was originally known as Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll, but was given its long name in the 19th century in an attempt to develop it as a commercial and tourist centre.

http://wikitravel.org/en/Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwyllllantysiliogogogoch

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3405192/Hotpoint-refuse-deliver-dishwasher-Welsh-village-Britain-s-longest-place-don-t-think-exists.html#ixzz44fa4KuJi>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Llanfairpwllgwyngyll