

SAER MAEN ENGRAVING

CARN MEINI

MYNYDD PRESELI

JANUARY 2019

A brief note on the Saer Maen engraving

The engraving was discovered by Justin and Peter Williams on the 2nd January 2019 at the western end of Carn Meini. In the family we have named the engraving Saer Maen (Stone Mason). Peter (a geologist) was looking at a well exposed glacial groove when Justin spotted markings on the flat surface immediately alongside. Further investigation and photographs showed a very interesting engraving on a weathered, grey rock surface (Figure 1). Highlighting the engraving has shown the following features (Figure 2).

- Two circles, an outer and an inner.
- Within the inner circle, a partial oval that could be the outline of a face.
- A triangle, close to being equilateral, within the inner circle.
- Straight lines of various lengths and directions radiating from the centre.
- Possibly the remnants of three smaller circles on the perimeter.

Based on the weathering, the engraving has some antiquity and does not appear to be modern graffiti. It is well known that a circle is symbolic of completeness and eternity, whilst the triangle is a symbol of the Christian trinity. The radiating lines could be directional in nature. Could Saer Maen represent a religious/spiritual creation or an astrological chart of some sort?

The intriguing question is who did the engraving? It would take at least a day to mark out and carve using primitive tools. Three possibilities spring to mind amongst others.

- Bronze Age or Iron Age man living nearby in Foel Drygarn.

FIGURE 1





FIGURE 2

JUSTIN

