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**THE QUARTERLY
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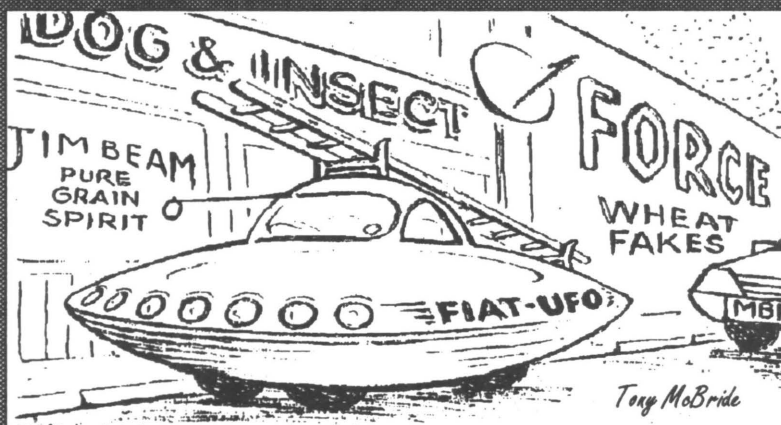
*including information from
THE*



CENTRE FOR CROP CIRCLE STUDIES



In this edition :



Hoax - or What?

Volume 2
Number 4



January
1992

The Quarterly Crop Circle Magazine

Editor
Bob Kingsley

Design & Layout
John Brocks

Consultants

Editorial Adviser: Alick Bartholomew. *Field Operations:* Richard Andrews, F.C. (Busty) Taylor, George Wingfield. *Research Panel :* Diana Clift, Montague Keen, Leonie Starr, Dr. Roger Taylor.

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For membership details write to: CCCS, c/o Specialist Knowledge Services, 20 Paul Street, Frome, Somerset. BA11 1DX

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Bob Kingsley can be contacted at : 58 Kings Road, West End, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9LW, UK

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INTRODUCTION

By

Bob Kingsley

Sixteen months have passed since the very first issue of *The Circular* in August 1990. I have no idea just how many copies have been distributed since then, but with the tie-up between the magazine and the CCCS in 1991 circulation certainly rocketed: the CCCS now has over 1,000 members and I have some 70 or so subscribers on my own books; for a project which started as a hobby it hasn't done too badly.

So it may come as a disappointment when I say that I can no longer continue to edit and publish *The Circular*. This edition will be my last. I explained some of my reasons to the CCCS Council at its meeting on 7th December. Put simply, my own circumstances have changed and I've no longer got enough spare time left to devote to the magazine as well as other, more private, concerns. Back in the summer of 1990 I was in the "happy" position of working only a couple of days a week on average, which left plenty of time for crop circles to fill; now (I suppose I should say "thankfully", although it's also a bit of a curse) nearly every weekday is spent earning a living - and my evenings and weekends are very precious to me.

It's a pity I have to drop it just as things are getting really interesting. In this issue CCCS Hampshire member Ken Brown puts forward ground-based evidence that clearly suggests hoaxing at Cheesefoot Head, while CCCS Agronomist Monty Keen outlines recent scientific findings that seem to refute much of the hoaxing speculation (as well as apparently knocking the plasma vortex theory into a cocked hat); in the Close Encounters (letters) section, Wallace Binns recounts his own eye-witness account of a crop circle from the sixties, while two other contributors discuss trends in science, arguing the toss between current objective methodology and the burgeoning field of quantum physics; Dragons' footprints stomp across Cornwall while the Mandelbrot Event haunts Cambridgeshire; and frustratingly, my own investigation into the Doug and Dave story has yielded plenty of hearsay but little concrete evidence to suggest it was anything more than a cheap, tacky publicity stunt. Quite a mixed bag, as always.

Although I'm no longer able to continue compiling *The Circular*, I certainly don't want to lose contact with you! The subject still holds a deep fascination for me and I hope that you will keep in touch by writing to my Woking address. (see page 2). I promise to reply to every letter I receive, sharing ideas and pushing information around the "circle network" to the best of my ability.

Once again, apologies are due for the late arrival of this issue (it was supposed to be a December edition!), but the delay gives you some idea of the pressures involved during the production process. The CCCS will continue to publish *The Circular* - but I beg you to bear with them, as the next edition is likely to be delayed too. The organisation has many plans laid which will provide you with plenty of information, but keep in mind that most members involved with publication are also undertaking the task in their spare time. (I'm afraid my "copability threshold" is much lower than theirs!)

I should like to thank those stalwarts who have supported the project from the outset - regular contributors like *Phil Corker* in Bristol, who provided inspiration for the magazine as well as contributing so much of his own material for publication; *Simon Burton* in Southampton, who opened our eyes to the work of Wilhelm Reich; and *John Langrish* in Hampshire, whose articles, maps and diagrams provided much valuable information about the dimensions and locations of formations. People like *Dave Probert*, *Simon Shavelar* and *Vinny Stroud* provided moral support when my spirits flagged; *James Chapman*, *Anthony Horn* and *Ray Cox* kept in touch with snippets of information that helped verify other bits of news. *George Wingfield*, *Busty Taylor*, *Richard Andrews* and other CCCS researchers freely supplied photographs and helped in so many other ways; *Alik Bartholomew* suggested layout improvements; the research panellists helped by keeping information coming.

Indeed, thanks are extended to *all* CCCS Council members; especially *Ralph Noyes*, who has been crucially important to *The Circular's* development. I reserve my final thanks for *John Brocks*, my partner in the project, who has had to put up with (amongst other things) my inability to make decisions, which resulted in constant copy-changes at the last moment - he has the patience of a saint and, I'm thankful to say, remains a close and valued friend despite the overwhelming amount of work I dumped on his desk. Thanks, John.

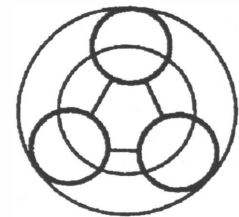
There are, of course, too many people to thank individually, but those few mentioned

above deserve particular praise - and if I've missed anyone, I apologise profusely!

Once again, I ask that you keep in touch by letter - there may be a chance for me to contribute to *The Circular* in future, by way of looking after a letters section (although it's not quite clear yet what format the magazine will take), so your continued contact would be appreciated. In any case, I'd welcome your letters - *and I WILL reply*.

So here's to the 1992 season. Perhaps we'll meet out there in the fields... until then, cheerio for now.

Bob Kingsley. 21st December 1991.



CENTRE FOR CROP CIRCLE STUDIES

First International Conference

on CROPCIRCLES THE ENIGMA FOR THE NINETIES

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King Alfred's College,
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A full programme of events with International speakers on the crop circle phenomenon.

Fabulous aerial films of the formations as they occurred in 1990 and 1991 will be shown, and there will be an opportunity to tour the 1992 formations.

For further information contact :

Beth Davis
11b Fitzwilliam Road
Cambridge
CB2 2BN
UK.

EVIDENCE OF HOAXING AT CHEESEFOOT HEAD?

By
Ken Brown

I've known CCCS Hampshire member Ken Brown for about nine months. We've spent many hours together discussing crop circles. I'd say he's a down-to-earth man with a strong desire to see the truth about the phenomenon uncovered. In September 1991, shortly after the Doug and Dave hoax publicity, he showed me the work he had been doing at Cheesefoot Head which concentrated on examining the underlying crop lays of three formations. At first I suggested waiting until another season had passed in order to gather more evidence to support his initial findings; Ken felt this would serve no useful purpose but rather keep interested parties in the dark. This argument persuaded me to publish. As editor, the only thing I've changed is the title: the question-mark is my addition. It makes me feel more comfortable!

Ken is troubled by his own findings and knows that some people will be upset by his interpretation of the evidence. Personally, I think it's too soon to draw any conclusions; The Circular maintains its open mind. You, of course, can make up your own.

Introduction

The implication of this article is that hoaxing is both an organised skill and more widely perpetrated than previously acknowledged. The complete information which backs this report has been shown to leading members of the CCCS, CPR, CERES and BUFORA research groups. My purpose remains to present all the facts as fairly as possible to all interested parties without favour, although I will be providing my own personal interpretation as a means to widening further discussion.

My Background

I joined the CCCS late in 1990, mainly to receive the magazine! After reading the first arrival and buying the available books I became completely hooked, so much so that I made strenuous efforts to develop an involvement at ground level. Early on I was lucky to be introduced to the Cheesefoot Head Monitoring Group, a loosely gathered, friendly bunch of well-informed people, based mainly upon the geographical

area to the east of Winchester in Hampshire, who meet regularly for lengthy discussions.

Like many other researchers who regularly walk out into the cereal fields during the crop circle hunting season I noticed narrow lines of flattened stalks, perhaps between three to five inches in width, which underlay and were completely hidden by the mainflow of crop, usually within the circles of a larger formation.

As the last few pictograms appeared around Cheesefoot Head during the later days of July and into August this year I became interested in trying to determine what these hidden lines of crop might represent. I therefore began to take photographs and measurements within three of the accessible formations, each of which, in its own way, now has a story to tell.

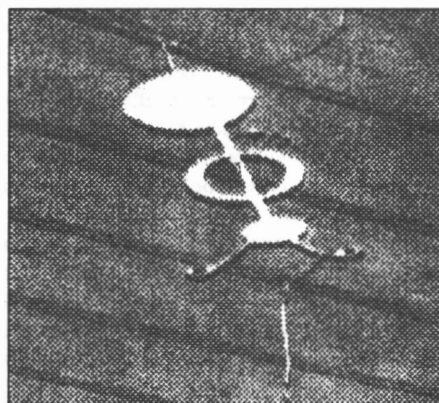
The Evidence

The photographs which illustrate this report are only a small proportion of the number taken. However, these few have been chosen as suitable illustrations of the whole. Interested researchers are welcome to examine my much fuller report and the original photographs (and negatives) if required.

CHILCOMB DOWN
2ND INSECTOGRAM
2ND AUGUST 1991.

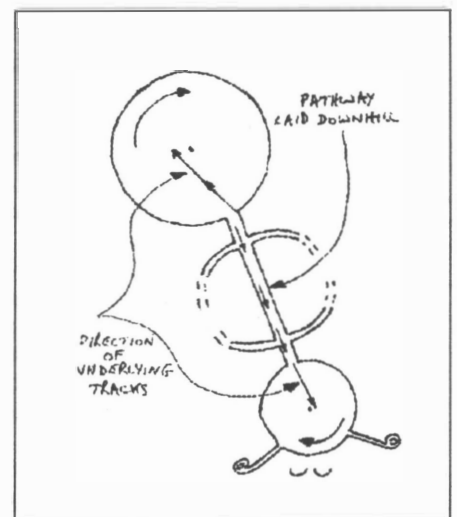
O.S. Landranger 185
Grid Ref: 5232 2872.

Crop: Wheat.



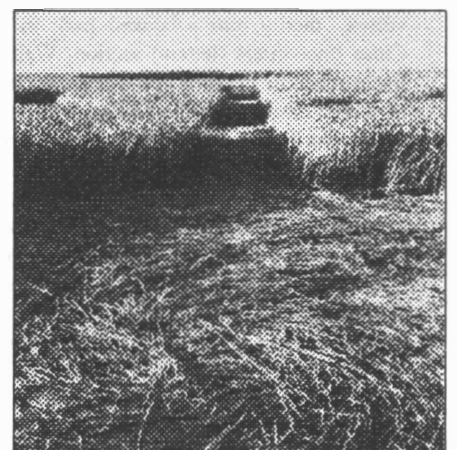
[Photograph inverted
for descriptive purposes]

Both top and bottom circles were laid clockwise with the linking pathway running downhill from the top circle to the bottom one. From both ends of this pathway a three- to five-inch wide straight line of crop stalks points inwards towards the left-hand side of the circle centre, *completely overlaid and hidden* beneath the full swirl of each circle. There is no doubt that these underlying lines of crop were laid down *before* the circles were formed over the top.



[The upper circle contains a line of hidden crop laying inwards from the pathway, that is, in the opposite direction to the pathway lay. The bottom circle has a similar hidden crop-line from the pathway towards the centre. See diagram]

Evidence No. 1: Bottom Circle Contains Hidden Crop-line



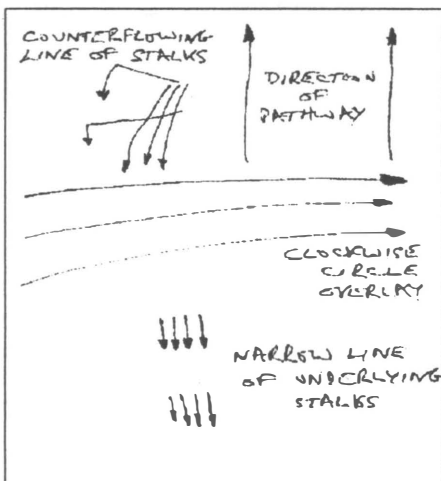
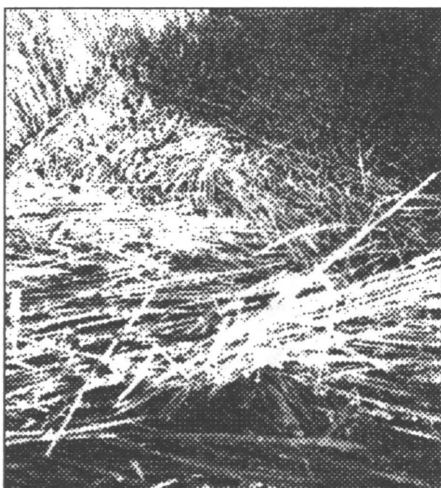
[Looking uphill from inside bottom circle. The hidden line of crop commences from centre point of pathway down towards centre. See Page 4 - bottom right.]



[Closer view of underlying crop-line running down from end of pathway (at top). My bunching has exposed the underlay.]

I believe hoaxers laid the pathway downhill, walked through standing crop, then proceeded to lay circle over inward track.

Evidence No. 2: Counterflowing Crop-Line In Pathway



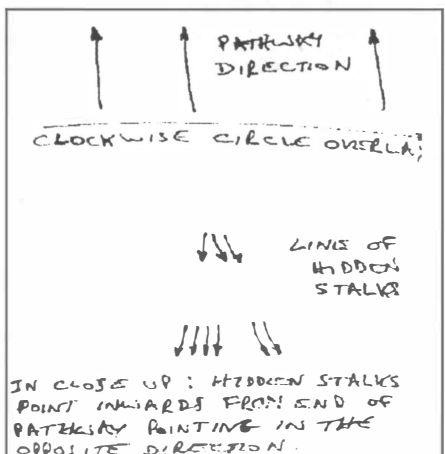
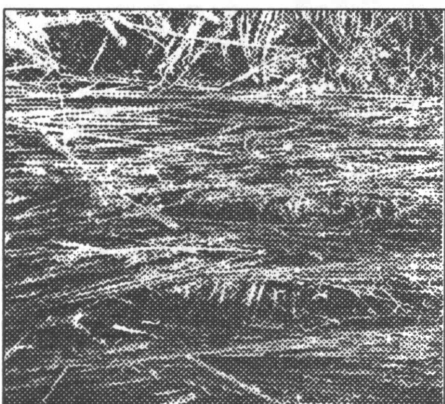
At the left-hand side edge of the pathway there is a narrow line of crop stalks pointing towards the top circle (and the camera). These stalks lie in direct opposition to the pathway flow. Note these stalks point directly towards the hidden line underlay within circle (see diagram).

I suggest that the hoaxers walked out the full length of the formation uphill, created the top circle, then laid the pathway downhill. However, they left evidence of their original uphill walk both within the pathway and underneath the circle.

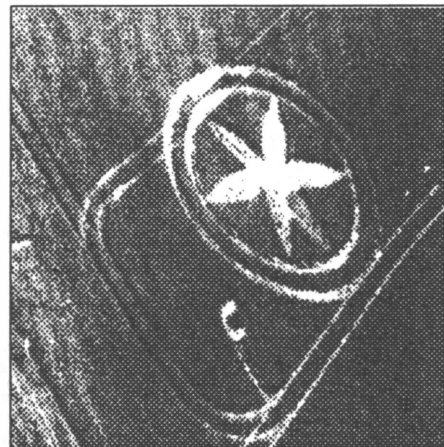
Evidence No. 3: Top Circle Contains Hidden Crop-Line



[Looking downhill from inside top circle. Underlying line of crop starts in from left-hand corner of pathway upwards towards camera. Their calling card is left again!]



CHEESEFOOT HEAD FLOWER FORMATION
16th AUGUST 1991.
O.S. Landranger 185
Grid Ref: 5280 2770.
Crop: Wheat.



This flower pattern, the second of three in 1991, was found at approximately 2.15 a.m. on the morning of Friday 16th August 1991 by two CCCS researchers. It was not there the previous day. This was a six-petal formation with uneven spacing between each tip, thus leading to a distinct lack of symmetry. There were three single petal edges also laid, perhaps indicating that this pattern was originally intended to have twelve petals on completion. It must be said that this particular flower formation has been viewed with varying degrees of suspicion by other researchers.

I visited this pattern many times and spent hours of painstaking analysis in an attempt to work out the sequence in which the six petals and all the edges and swirls were laid down. I was successful in establishing that there had been twenty-two separate movements of crop within the flower pattern alone (i.e. within the inner of the two rings), and that these were discernible by the crop stalks laying over or under the neighbouring swathe or line.

There were some complex anomalies to solve: for example, the small centrally-swirled circle showed (in the top surface layer) a distinct brushing-in to some of the petals, whilst at ground level there was evidence of the circle being laid down very early in the sequence. Some petal edges which were laid over the top of the swirl were themselves showing evidence of an early production. The central circle was therefore formed very early in the sequence of lays but returned to later for further involvement.

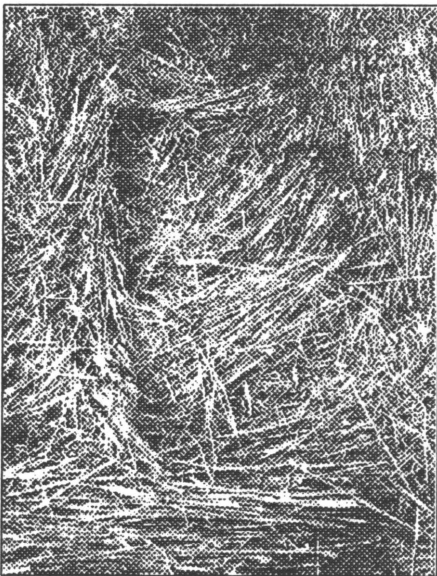
I translated these findings into a coloured pin-and-thread mock-up which I then took on subsequent revisits to the formation,

both before and after harvesting, to ensure that my determinations were correct.

Evidence No 1: Single Petal Edge Laid First But Not Completed



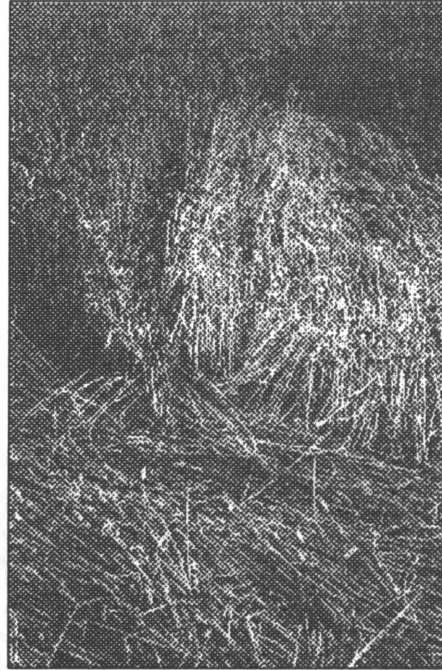
[The most clearly defined single petal edge - laid inwards towards centre (away from camera).]



[After harvesting, the same petal edge lays *underneath* the flow of the adjacent finished petal; therefore, it was laid down *early in the sequence but not returned to for completion.*]

This single petal edge lays *underneath* the flow of the adjacent finished petal; therefore, it was laid down *early in the sequence but not returned to for completion.*

Evidence No 2: The Petals Are Laid Down Differently



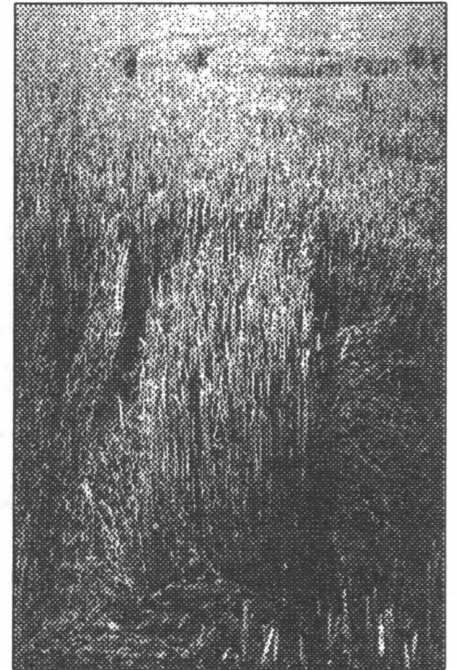
[Four of the six completed petals start their outflow from around the centrally swirled circle. This is one of the two petals which were outward from a straight line start adjacent to the much longer edge of the adjacent petal.]



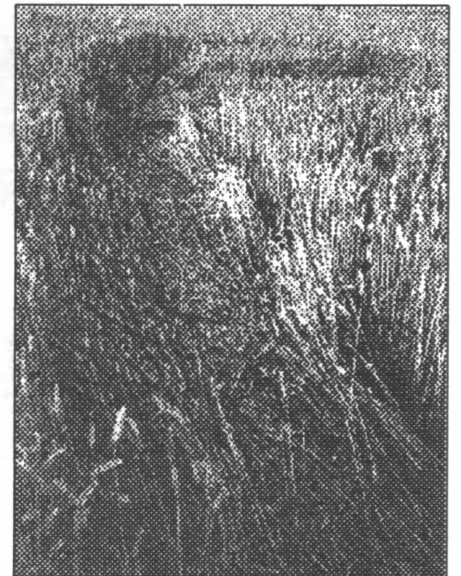
Evidence No 3: Counterflowing Crop-Line Along Petal Edges

Five of the six petals exhibited a narrow line of stalks along the right-hand edge directed inwards towards the circle centre in direct opposition to the general outflow of each petal. In addition, one petal had these crop-line counterflows at both sides of the petal.

Evidence No 4: Distinct Pushes Of Crop In The Eye

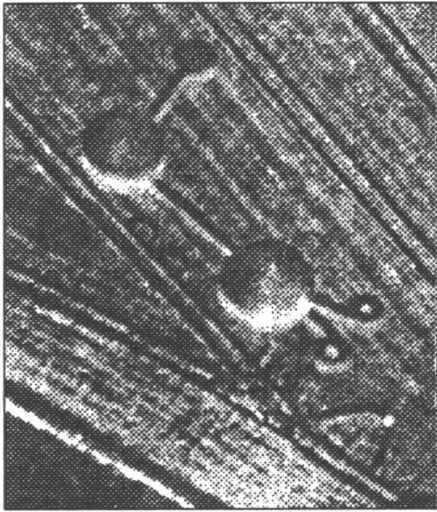


[It is evident that there are many distinct and separate pushes involved in the laying of this 'eye/antenna', which appeared on the same occasion as the flower.]



I believe that the whole formation exhibited a badly planned and executed lay which may well have been interrupted by the arrival at 2.15 a.m. of some CCCS researchers.

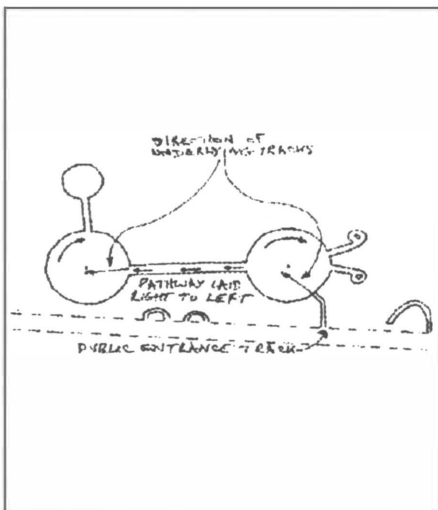
**CHEESEFOOT HEAD -
INSECTOGRAM**
17th AUGUST 1991.
O.S. Landranger 185
Grid Ref: 5273 2757.
Crop: Wheat.



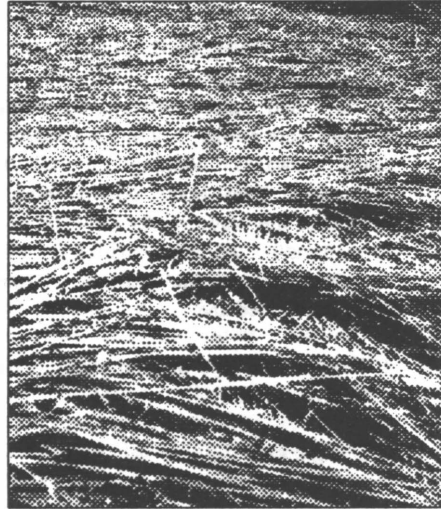
Both left- and right-hand circles were laid clockwise, with the linking pathway running right to left. The first and main public entrance into the formation was from the nearest tramline via a sixteen feet long trackway approximately eleven inches wide on entry to the right-hand circle.

From this *public entrance point* into the right-hand circle there was a three to five inch wide straight line of flattened stalks pointing inwards towards the left-hand side of the circle centre. In the left-hand circle, there was also a straight line of flattened crop stalks beginning from the right-hand corner of the joining pathway and again pointing inwards towards the left-hand side of the circle centre.

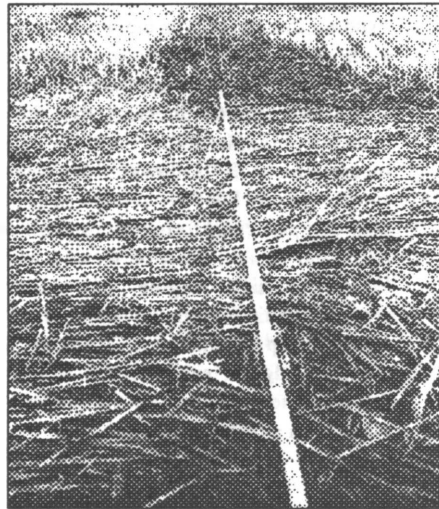
In both circles these narrow crop-lines were *completely overlaid and hidden* beneath the swirled crop of the clockwise lay. There is no doubt that these underlying lines of crop were laid down *before* the circles were formed over the top.



Evidence No 1: Left-Hand Circle Contains Hidden Crop-Line.



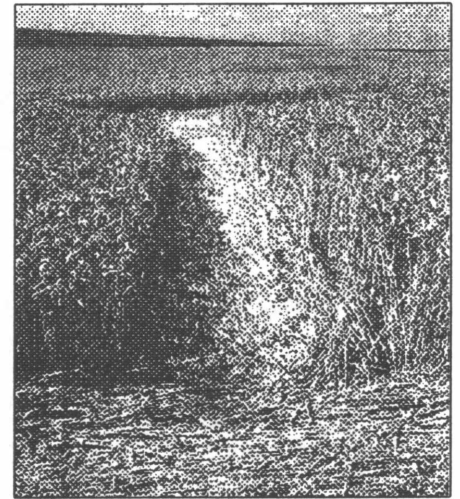
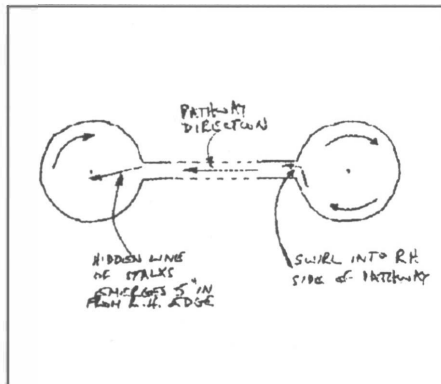
[Looking from circle centre back towards joining pathway at top. Hidden line of stalks points inwards towards camera.]



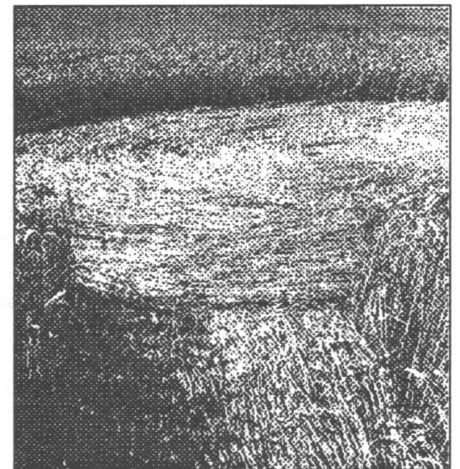
[Similar shot after harvesting. A tape is laid over underlying crop-line.]

Again, the hoaxers walk through standing crop towards a point where they stop to swirl a clockwise circle.

Evidence No 2: Crop Swirls Into Right-Hand Side Of Pathway. Then Hidden Crop-Line Emerges From Right-Hand Far End



[Crop swirl is pronounced into right-hand side of pathway.]



[Narrow line of stalks emerges from right-hand side and continues towards circle centre.]

I suggest that the hoaxers swirled the first right-hand circle, laid down the pathway, walked through the wheat and swirled the left-hand circle, then returned to widen the pathway.

Evidence No 3: Right-Hand Circle Contains Hidden Crop-Line Starting From Public Entrance



[Underlying line of stalks starts inwards from eleven inch wide public entrance. See Page 7]



[Larger view with entrance at top. I have bunched the circular lay in order to expose the thin line underlay.]

I believe that the hoaxers walked along the tramline, strode into the standing wheat and laid the right-hand circle first. On completing the formation they exited the same way, perhaps attempting to rearrange damaged crop behind them. The first viewers - two hikers, so I'm told - will have seen a faint track trace and used the same entrance, followed later by us all.

How The Underlying Crop Lines Are Laid Down

Do you remember that infamous report in *Today* newspaper on Monday 9th September, where Doug and Dave related how they strode into the corn, laid down their first circle, then walked sideways through the corn so as to clear a little path, then when it was long enough went back to the start from where they both laid down the corn pathway, making another circle at the end of the corridor the same way as the first one?

To me, this clearly describes how the narrow lines of underlying and counterflowing crop stalks were laid.

Why The Hidden Crop-Line Points To Left Of Circle Centre

I conjecture that one hoaxer moves through the standing crop, leaving a trackway of flattened stalks behind him, sufficient to be able to see and follow in the darkness. At his chosen spot he stops and commences laying a clockwise circle gyrating outwards. The first lay is concentric around a centre point which is necessarily a little to his right-hand side in the first movement. (This could also explain why a number of the dumbbell circles are slightly off-centre to the joining pathway) The hoaxers' incoming

trackway is then completely covered and hidden underneath the circular swirl.

How Widespread Is Hoaxing?

If, as I and others believe, the evidence detailed here points beyond any reasonable doubt towards hoaxing in all three formations, then grave doubts must also arise over the authenticity of all other crop formations which exhibit similar characteristics to the patterns examined. Thus implicated are:

1. Narrow line lays of crop stalks, whether hidden or on view;
2. Design; and
3. Geographical grouping by design feature.

Narrow Line Crop Lays

I submit that hoaxing is the prime suspect in each of the three formations because the narrow lines of crop stalks are laid in such a sequence and/or direction that the only plausible explanation must be that of human feet. It follows that wherever similar narrow lines of crop are in evidence then that particular formation, and all others of similar design, must be viewed with an extremely high degree of scepticism, whether the lines are laid hidden underneath a fuller crop lay (as in a circle), or found along an edge or side which is pointing in the opposite direction to the general crop flow (as in a pathway or box).

Design

- (i) If one flower appears to be hoaxed then all three flowers must bear the gravest suspicion.
- (ii) If all three formations exhibit the double semi-circle, signature as they do, then all patterns carrying the same 'D & D' identity are highly suspect. (Does anybody recognise 'D & D'?)
- (iii) The three formations include antenna(e) so all such are doubtful.
- (iv) Two of my three are based on the familiar dumbbell shape of two circles joined by a pathway (and we have examined already how easy that is to make), so all other crop formations - whether recent or past - which have the dumbbell as part of their pattern must logically carry the same weight of suspicion no matter how complex the remainder of the design might be - ladders, haloes or boxes included.

Summary

I have further extensive photographic evidence which throws suspicion on all the following designs:

FLOWERS
LADDERGRAMS
CURLYMEN
3 CIRCLES JOINED WITH PATHWAY
KEYS
CLAWS
INSECTOGRAMS
FISHES
FROGS
DOLPHINS
and all DUMB BELLS

This implies that the vast majority of formations at Cheesefoot Head during 1990 and 1991 have been hoaxed, and similarly that hoaxing has been widespread throughout Wiltshire, especially during 1991.

It is worth remembering at this stage that two of the three formations examined at Cheesefoot Head were beautifully laid with clean edges and precise patterning. They have already been exhibited in photographic or magazine format by some of the top researchers and by inference all three have entered the public domain as 'genuine'.

Phew! and Cor Blimey!

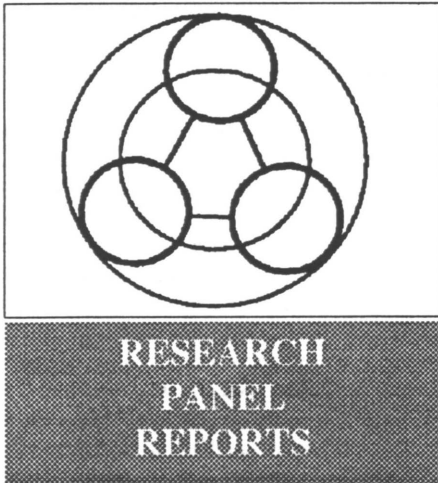
It has been a difficult decision whether to present this evidence as fully, fairly and widely as possible, or keep it hidden under the carpet and say nothing.

I think at this stage I should leave you to your own experiences and imagination to conjecture where this might be leading us. I have not set out to convert you from whatever viewpoint you hold, only to present some factual evidence which in my opinion seems to point in a particularly disturbing direction.

I still do not pretend to have an answer to the mountain of evidence showing that there are formations occurring where the structure of both soil and crop has altered, where noises or lights are experienced, which provide healing experiences, dowse strongly, exhibit bent not broken crop, and appear with grapeshot circles nearby.

I just think we should all exercise much more caution than hitherto before declaring a formation 'genuine', and please stop ridiculing Doug and Dave, for reasons which should now be obvious!

Ken Brown can be contacted by writing to Bob Kingsley (see Page 2).



Human Effects Working Group: Preliminary Findings

Diana Clift

While verbal accounts of unusual reactions to crop circles abound, it has proved remarkably difficult to pin people down to filling in our simple questionnaire outlining their experiences. Lucy Pringle has sent out dozens of questionnaires to those who requested them and yet so far only about thirty have been completed and returned. I am not suggesting that the anecdotal accounts are necessarily unreliable, but for the purposes of this survey I can only include a small selection of first-hand verbal accounts which I am confident are accurate. The following is a preliminary analysis of 43 accounts. Clearly with such a small sample, no firm conclusions can be drawn, but roughly the same pattern emerges from the numerous anecdotal accounts referred to above.

The most striking feature which emerges is that a large majority of the experiences were generally unpleasant. Only 19% experienced beneficial effects and these report a sense of well-being, calm, peace and - rarely - healing. Interestingly, some people experience unpleasant reactions to some formations and pleasant reactions to others and responses can even vary in different parts of the same formation.

The commonest reaction, reported in 26% of the accounts, is nausea. This is usually short-lived, disappearing within minutes or hours of leaving the circle. 21% report an uncomfortable feeling or emotion such as anger or fear - again, usually short-lived - and a further 19% reported tingling sensations and/or a sensation of an unusual energy. Barbara Davies described this as like 'being microwaved' while in the formation and afterwards she felt she was

radiating a kind of 'fizzy physical energy' which was noticed by her companion.

Headache was reported by 16% of respondents, usually just while they were in the circles, though some developed headaches immediately after a visit, sometimes for several hours. One interesting account was of a headache which faded away at about 10 metres from the formation, but reappeared as soon as the respondent returned. He repeated this four times and each time the headaches disappeared at about the same distance. Extreme fatigue after leaving crop formations was mentioned in six (14%) of the accounts. Sometimes this was accompanied by a need to eat. The fatigue sometimes lasted days after the event. Physical pain was reported by several people and we have one account of a young man experiencing what appeared to be a heart attack in the Barbury Castle formation. I have no details of this event.

Most reactions to crop circles were short-lived, but we have one account of headache, nausea and fatigue lasting for three weeks after the visit. Two people with ME reported a relapse in their condition occurring immediately after visiting a crop circle. Perhaps of most concern is one account of possible early miscarriage and one threatened miscarriage occurring immediately after a crop circle visit. I stress, of course, that this could well be coincidence, but it would seem to be a sensible precaution for women in early pregnancy to avoid crop circles.

This then is the data so far and interpretation requires a great deal of caution. For a start, the numbers involved are minute compared with the many thousands who have visited crop circles. However, I am confident that the actual numbers of people who claim to have experienced unusual sensations is very much higher than this for the following reasons:

1. Lucy has sent out dozens of questionnaires to people who have requested them because of an experience they have had, but then failed to fill them in and return them for whatever reason;
2. Everybody in crop circle research has anecdotal accounts of human reactions, mostly along the lines outlined above. I have not included these because second- and third-hand accounts are obviously unreliable and I do not have enough information;
3. Very few of the thousands of visitors to crop circles know about the CCCS research

panels. Our notices in *The Circular* clearly only reach those who are already unusually interested in the subject. This also means that our respondents so far are mostly people who had a prior interest in crop circles and often provide their own interpretation of their experiences based on their beliefs about the phenomenon;

4. The vast majority of the experiences recounted, including all but one of the questionnaires, were from women! (And the one exception was from George Wingfield's brother, whom one might expect would have a particular interest in the subject.) I don't find this altogether surprising. It is well known to psychologists that men are less likely to attribute such symptoms as mild headaches or fatigue to crop circles. It was only when I was writing this article that I myself realised that I had experienced mild headaches following at least three of my trips to crop circles last season, but at the time I attributed them to such factors as missing lunch, the trek across the fields carrying equipment, etc.

The fact that such symptoms can easily be overlooked set me wondering whether the scarcity of accounts of beneficial effects had something to do with the fact that reasonably healthy people are more likely to notice discomfort than increased well-being. For this reason I advertised for volunteers who suffered a chronic ailment (non-life-threatening) and would be prepared to carry out a test involving some objective measure of their symptoms before, during and after visiting a crop circle. I stressed that they should not hope for a cure as there was as much chance of them getting worse as getting better, and also that I was interested in all results, whether effects were observed or not. About forty people volunteered to carry out this experiment, but so far I have had only one reply. I hope to get a better response next season.

Another experiment we attempted involved testing brain electrical activity inside and outside crop formations. Geoffrey Blundell, who designed the EEG apparatus and Dr. Daniel Benor carried out this study on volunteers Jo Holland and Giovanna Hartley at Rockley. Both of them experienced strong subjective reactions to the formations but the EEG patterns were too complex for analysis. We are very grateful to our volunteers for taking part and to Una Dawood for her help setting this up at short notice.

All this leads me to conclude that if we could carry out a much larger and more representative survey - e.g. by interviewing all visitors leaving a crop formation - that

we would get a substantial number of accounts of physical or mental effects. However, it must be emphasised that accounts of effects are not in themselves evidence that crop formations are responsible. The power of expectation can be hugely influential. If I were to interview hundreds of people leaving Madame Tussaud's waxwork Museum I would probably get several people reporting headache, nausea and fatigue. And if I, by carrying out such a survey, were to plant the suggestion that Madame Tussaud's just might cause such reactions, I suspect I would get still more reports.

Interestingly, the formations referred to in our survey include one or two which Chorley and Bower claim specifically to have hoaxed: e.g. the insectograms and the formations having the 'eyebrows', or, as Doug and Dave would have it, the 'double-D' signature. We still don't know for certain whether these were man-made, but if such reactions are experienced in known hoaxed circles we must assume that other factors, such as allergies to the crop or agrochemicals applied, expectations or indeed coincidence could be responsible for at least some of the observed effects. One newspaper account of reactions to the famous (or infamous) Wessex Sceptics' hoax this summer mentions that a clairvoyant taken to the formation complained of nausea.

However, the latest evidence from the USA studies on plant and soil abnormalities in crop circles suggests that some at least are caused by a brief burst of high intensity radiation of an unusual type forming short-lived radioactive isotopes which might possibly contribute to the symptoms noted. One would expect - if such radiation was a factor - that effects would be greatest early on and would probably tail off with time. This is not apparent from our findings, though again I stress that they are a tiny sample. One would also expect that there might be some long-term chronic effects observable among our CCCS field officers and others who are frequently first on the scene and visit hundreds of formations in a season. I do have reports of chronic physical ailments and mental/behavioural effects amongst experienced field workers, but it is impossible at this stage to establish if there is a direct link. Investigating crop circles in the current sceptical climate is a stressful business. All field workers are overworked and exhausted during the season and they face a barrage of criticism and sometimes ridicule from the media which could easily affect health.

There is a lot more to be done in this field. For instance, we also want to hear from

those who have sighted UFOs or lights, or heard noises in association with crop circles or who have observed unusual behaviour in animals.

Lucy Pringle and I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this survey and to request more contributions. If you would prefer to 'phone in your experiences rather than fill in a questionnaire we would be delighted to hear from you:

DIANA CLIFT : 0483 417922
93 Peperharow Road
Godalming
Surrey GU7 2PN.

LUCY PRINGLE : 0730 63454
5 Town Lane, Sheet
Petersfield
Hants GU32 2AF.

Crop Research

Montague Keen

Scientific Advance Towards Identity Of The Force!

The resolve of the CCCS to probe the crop circle mystery in a methodical scientific manner is already yielding fruit, although it has to be acknowledged that it is mainly transatlantic in origin. By the end of the year there was impressive evidence that short-lived but intensive bombardment by *deuterium nuclei* is a major causative agent in the formation of crop circles. But not the only one.

The evidence - some of it complex, all of it intriguing and important - is being summarised in a special CCCS publication (ready early in 1992) entitled *1991: Scientific Evidence for the Crop Circle Phenomenon*. It represents a landmark in the Centre's efforts to help probe the mystery without trying to prove a cherished theory or ignore inconvenient facts.

Uncertainty about the hoaxers' activities and art unquestionably inhibited research during the 1991 season. Since I had originally been critical of the virtual absence of investigation into the crops themselves I was asked to look after this area. With the help of several advisers, but without a clear idea of precisely what to look for in either crops or the soil, I drew up a lengthy questionnaire which field workers were supposed to complete with the help of farmers. Not a great many did and the task of analysing the reports is still one which demands considerable time and expertise.

In the light of what has since been discovered, however, there promises to be major changes before next season.

One of them will be in advice on sampling. I circulated a note about this to some CCCS colleagues, explaining the importance of taking samples as soon after the formation date as possible and before the risk of damage from deliberate or inadvertent trespassers, or even the farmer and his or her staff. The longer the gap between formation and analysis dates, as I pointed out, the less valuable and evidential the results; and unless we could be sure the flattened crop was both part of a genuine formation and had not been walked over, laboratory tests would be meaningless, wasted and misleading.

Hence the extreme caution in sampling, which in England yielded little of value save for some startling information obtained early in the season from samples of barley which CCCS Council member Barbara Davies got her biologist friend Kay Larsen to examine. He found severe, abnormal, nodal swelling, with consequent disruption of the cellular tissue. It was consistent with the delivery of a short but intense energy wave.

An interested US biophysicist, Lefty Levengood, having in early January sought grain samples from Pat Delgado and found a rare malformation in the seed head, then began a series of tests on samples sent from UK circles first by Pat Delgado and later by the young American researcher Mike Chorost, who investigated a number of formations with me (and others) and who was also primarily responsible for attracting the interest and harnessing the valuable expertise of an atomic physicist, one Marshall Dudley, working at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Several soil samples, with controls taken outside the formations, were sent to him for analysis. The results emerged only after the Doug and Dave hullabaloo in early September. So striking were they that I immediately arranged to visit Dr. Levengood's laboratory in Michigan to discuss them in the light of comments from some of my advisers.

Levengood's findings showed a genetic aberration known as *polyembryony* in a number of samples; nodal swellings which revealed under high-powered magnification a severe distortion of minute holes in certain of the cells in the nodes or joints of affected plants, and - from one of the rarer examples of sooty/blackened crops in parts of a West Country ring - evidence not of normal scorching/burning but of reduction of the outer cells into carbon through a short-lived but intense burst of energy.

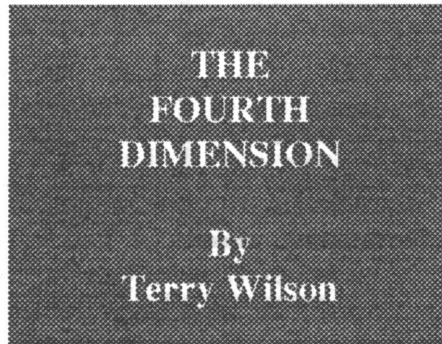
This is proving consistent with discoveries by Dudley and his colleagues in Tennessee, where soil samples were put through a counter to check for emissions of alpha and beta particles of radioactive isotopes. This evidence was initially confusing, but it unquestionably revealed differences - in some cases, striking - between emission rates from the controls, representing normal background radiation, and those from the circles. More detailed investigation into soil from the most significant of the samples, taken from the Beckhampton Firs Farm formation of July 31/August 1 (the dolphin pictogram), has revealed evidence which became available in England just before Christmas and is commented on in reasonably non-technical detail in the forthcoming booklet. In essence the Tennessee workers found clear evidence of the existence of several short-lived radioactive isotopes inside the formation. None was present in the control. All have been identified. A major piece of scientific detection work is pointing to a common origin. They had only one feature in common: all could have been formed by the impact on elements already in the soil of bombardment by deuterium nuclei. This is one of the radioactive isotopes derived from hydrogen and linked to heavy water.

Further analytical work has now increased the probability that more isotopes which decay to half their potency within a few minutes are formed as a result of the same radioactive bombardment, thereby raising the question of health risks to those entering formations within the first few hours. More advice and guidance on this important aspect will be given by the CCCS before the next circle season. The (British) Government has been alerted and invited to co-operate.

We can be pretty certain that deuterium bombardment is not *the* flattening force, however. Could it be Terence Meaden's plasma vortex? Conceivably ... but to create a *dolphin*??? This work delivers the *coup de grace* to the hoax theory, though the media will be loath to recognise it. It leaves the plasma vortex hypothesis even more tottery. It imposes on the CCCS an obligation to produce a field guide for members giving as much information and guidance about all aspects of circle investigation as we can encompass. It increases the importance of getting all competing parties to co-operate to agree procedure, standards and methods in collecting and processing information, and in taking, storing, packing and delivering samples of soil and crops.

This is by no means the only area to be covered by the projected guide. We aim to

have sections on surveying, photography, co-operation with farmers, equipment, hoax recognition, and a note of crushed plant behaviour, among other useful information. The aim is to make it loose-leafed for updating as we learn from past mistakes and try to catch up with the elusive - and apparently developing - phenomenon.



Terry Wilson lives in Buckingham, Buckinghamshire. His article looks at crop circles from an angle not often considered: the fourth dimension.

Introduction

One night in 1828, a Frenchman sailed upstream on the beautiful, starlit river Nile. One can imagine the sense of awe felt by all present as the boat approached the ancient temples of Egypt, hauntingly illuminated by the moon. One can picture the small party of people wandering across the sands to their destination. Once inside the temple the Frenchman, Jean Champollion, probably cried out in joy as he realised that he could understand the meaning behind one of the most enigmatic of all puzzles. Champollion had deciphered the mysteries of hieroglyphics.

One could conceivably envisage a repeat of history, were Champollion alive today. Perhaps travelling one night along the valley of the river Kennet toward the ancient monuments of Wessex - Silbury Hill, Avebury - and crying out in joy as he realised his understanding of the newly-formed, moonlit writing we term 'pictograms'.

I cannot claim to emulate Champollion with respect to crop circles but perhaps the ideas laid out in this article may prove of value on our path towards an understanding.

Interpreting Designs

Crop circles come in many shapes and designs. Many times people have scratched their heads and asked themselves, in some

bewilderment, what they represent. One branch of cerealogy is adamant that there is no meaning behind these strange patterns because there is no intelligence influencing the designs. To me this is not merely unlikely, it is unequivocally false and is proven false by the few examples of a phenomenon known as 'monument mimic' (it happened again in 1991, with a map of the Avebury stone complex pushed into a cornfield about three miles away).

So, 'What mean these marks?' Well, some mean nothing. The phenomenon of imperfect rehearsals illustrates this. Some, as we see, are mimics of land features. Others may be partial designs (e.g. the 'oZo' figure), or prototypes for things yet to come. Some seem to be deliberately designed so as to disprove our theories, but there are two recurrent designs which do not come under such exemptions, namely the dumbbell and the quincunx (or quintuplet). If there is meaning to be found it will lie in these annual patterns.

Most see the dumbbell as a symbol of transition. Mind to matter; Old Age to New Age; or even (as one circle is usually ringed), Saturn to Earth. But the transition intended is explicable by the recurring sets of troughs, usually numbering four. Notice also that the quincunx consists of one large circle with four satellites. How does this theme of 'number four' fit in?

There is little special about the number four. Mars is the fourth planet of our Solar System, but is not ringed. However, we have all heard the number four used in conjunction with the mysterious concept of the fourth dimension. Could those dumbbells represent transition from three to four dimensions?

The Fourth Dimension

Not many people are sure of exactly what is meant by the term 'the fourth dimension', although many folk use it to explain all manner of phenomena. Let me attempt to explain this difficult concept.

This page is a two-dimensional medium. On a page, I can point this way: ^, or this way: >, but I cannot draw an arrow pointing to 'up' (i.e. out of the page), even though that is the direction in which my pen exists.

Imagine a colony of people who exist only in two dimensions and who live on the surface of this paper. They may ponder the ink and explain it by saying 'the ink comes from the third dimension'. This satisfies some of them, although they find it

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impossible to imagine what 'up' actually is. To them it is almost impossible even to conceive of a third dimension.

One of them may say: 'This arrow points in a direction ^ and this one points at ninety degrees to it: >.' Another of them, a profound philosopher, may say: 'But there is a third arrow which points at ninety degrees to both of these at the same time.' This angers the first one, who challenges the philosopher to draw it, or to point to it, which of course he cannot do, but he knows in his mind that it does exist. It is, of course, the arrow coming out of the page, which is at ninety degrees to any arrow the page people could draw.

We, in our three-dimensional existence, can define a fourth dimension as 'a direction simultaneously at ninety degrees to all three arrows and, indeed, at ninety degrees to any direction we may point to.' It is at ninety degrees to north; ninety degrees to west; and ninety degrees to 'up', all at once. But I cannot point to it.

Effects of the Fourth Dimension

Let us now suppose that a three-dimensional human encountered this colony of flat persons. Were we to plunge a finger into the surface area of the page, the page people would merely see a roughly circular area of flesh (in cross-section, of course [which would appear to them, as all things must do, as a *straight line*, perhaps with subtle changes indicating curve or angle - bjk]), which they could only describe as 'having come from nowhere'. Withdraw the finger and hey presto! It has dematerialized into nothingness.

Perhaps you may wish to speak to the page people. They would hear your words, but be at a complete loss to explain from where they emanate. You would also have the

ability to influence the page with your finger by toying with the flat, two-dimensional,

objects sliding them about or making them 'vanish' by picking them up.

I use this two-dimensional model as a way of illustrating the strange effects experienced by people when

encountering a higher dimension. How does this tie in with crop circles? Let us see...

If we, in our three-dimensional world, were contacted by members of the fourth dimension, we would experience baffling - indeed, mind-boggling - phenomena similar to those experienced by the colony of page people. Just as we can move their two-dimensional objects in two dimensions, so our three-dimensional objects could be manoeuvred by a four-dimensional entity. By moving objects such as corn in three dimensions, the effects are visible, but to move corn in the fourth dimension (in the same way that we pick up the objects of the page people) would cause it to disappear. (See reports of earth holes, bare patch circles, etc.)

The entity itself would have the option of remaining invisible to us as we cannot physically move our heads to look in the direction in which it lays, or even point to it. Hence, we would see our corn laid flat, perhaps in an instant, by an 'invisible, intelligent force field'. Furthermore, sounds coming from this would-be visitor could vibrate our air. We may hear strange, enchanting sounds, apparently from nowhere, or seemingly coming from within us, the like of which we have never heard. We may describe them as a bell-like trilling noise, depending on their nature. At times, they may sound like knocks or electrical crackling, but as to where these sounds originate, we are confounded.

It would be possible for them to show part of themselves to us. They would apparently disappear and appear at will, able to change size or rapidly move position. They could manifest themselves in any region of space. An observer, who watched them 'dip their finger' into our world would likely describe unidentified aerial objects which seem to fly - UFOs. This could possibly explain why UFOs are so frequently seen in conjunction with crop circles.

In short, many of the more inexplicable aspects of cerealogy would be explained by assuming that the circle makers live in the fourth dimension. As page people could not comprehend the centre of the world, whose surface never ends, so we cannot imagine the centre of a boundless universe. Perhaps it lies in the fourth dimension?

Contradicting the Scientists

It has oft been said that it would be impossible for an alien civilization to travel the vast distances required to visit our planet. Einstein's relativity imposes a universal speed-limit, i.e. the speed of light. But the concept of a four-dimensional universe would facilitate movements of vast distances without breaking this law.

It takes page people so long to travel in a flat plane, but we three-dimensional observers can 'dip' into the page at almost any point. It could be that a four-dimensional entity is, in a sense, all around us, yet usually invisible to us. It could produce pictograms in Australia, the USA, Japan and Britain in a single night. Of course, they would not inhabit a planet any more than we inhabit a page, but could possibly view the entire surface of a sphere such as the Earth all at once.

As three-dimensional life-forms we always try to explain things in terms of our own three dimensions. Flat page people could not be made of atoms, as atoms impose a third dimension. So a parallel can be drawn, leading us to conclude that four-dimensional entities are also non-atomic. We know what 'red' means, yet it is not made of atoms. We find it so difficult to comprehend light, magnetism, gravity and so on, because we chauvinistically think in terms of quantum mechanics.

Epilogue

In 1972, Mr. Bryce Bond found himself engulfed in an 'invisible forcefield' below Silbury Hill. A voice, apparently inside his head, said: 'Be at peace. You are standing in the middle of our craft. We are not of your dimension.' The wheat around him was falling, meanwhile, into a spiralled circle. This becomes so much easier to understand when we bear in mind the implications of the fourth dimension.

Acknowledgement

A debt is owed to Carl Sagan and his book *Cosmos* which served as inspiration for this article and is highly recommended.

THE CORNISH 'DRAGON' FOOTPRINTS

By
Barbara Davies

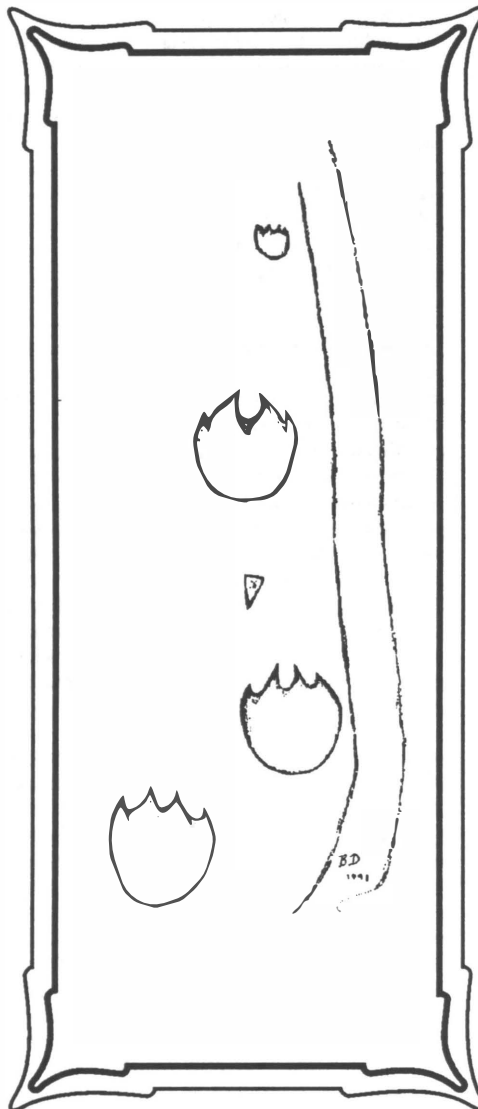
CCCS Council member Barbara Davies lives in Cornwall, from where she sends this account of a formation which was overshadowed by events in Wiltshire.

I first saw the Footsteps in mid-July 1991. I was on my way to continue my CCCS cropwatch duties in Wiltshire, but was already feeling tom - things were happening down here - one or two events elsewhere, like Newquay, but thick and fast around Callington, on the very border of Cornwall and England (we think of these as separate nations down here - even natives of Plymouth are sometimes asked for their passport!).

George Bishop, who found them, told me that there had already been at least one event near Callington in August 1990, at Dupath Well - at the very place *and date*, we discovered later, of the printing of last August's crop circle article in *Kindred Spirit* by CCCS founding member Richard Beaumont! Now, in 1991, numerous classic plain circles and dumbbells were appearing in an area only a mile in radius near Callington, and being fully photographed and documented by George and the Plymouth UFO Group. As the season went on, I felt it became a reflection of the Wiltshire and Hampshire situation: the circle-makers seeming to respond more and more actively and precisely (both geographically and in choice of symbols) to the time, imagination and energy which particular people, or groups of people, had put into studying their creations. In fact, I had already, by the end of the 1990 season, begun asking not just 'Why that shape?' but 'For whom?' Sometimes the answer seemed to be a group, sometimes an individual, like Busty's famous Celtic Cross. Most of the founding members of the CCCS, indeed, as well as other circle researchers, seemed to have at least one 'personal' circle by then - I found, for instance, that a number of different individuals and groups felt a strong link with the appearance of the famous Alton Barnes 1990 pictogram.

Looking back, the latter was the first dragon connection with the circles for me, as one of the founders of the Oak Dragon holistic educational camps. In 1988, when we were camping at Alton Barnes in one of Tim Carson's fields (since he was one of a handful of farmers brave enough to let a bunch of New-Agers use his land), a number of participants at the camp felt already so drawn to the then new and exciting phenomenon of the circles at nearby Silbury Hill that the quincunx pattern was consciously and precisely invoked in a powerful dance workshop. (Although he was unaware of the workshop, having left before it, Michael Green was one of our teachers at the camp, and actually slept in the Oak Dragon caravan, 'Poppy', which Tim Carson inherited and towed up the hill to guard the gate when the famous 1990 pictogram drew thousands of visitors!) For me, the synchronicity

of this was startling, although, unlike Michael, whose first reaction was to see the formation as a dragon, I originally could only see it as a strikingly accurate astrological forecast, of which I have written in more detail. I must admit, however, that its outline had a quite extraordinary resemblance to the rampant beast on the Oak Dragon banner which had flown above our camps a few hundred yards away in 1988 and 1989.



Then I found that a great variety of other people, for other reasons, felt an equally personal relationship with the 1990 Alton Barnes pictogram - and others since. This psychological reaction seems to be a significant feature of the whole phenomenon - not only perception is involved - a Rorschach effect - but the widespread reports of individuals' strong emotional connection with particular formations. The proliferation of connections such as these

began to seem more than coincidence to me, so, when a minute circle unnervingly appeared in grass in my own garden this May, just before my birthday, I felt I had somehow won my Brownie-badge - though its size subtly reflected the caution with which I both had and hadn't put out a wish for one!

I didn't think of dragons at first when George told me over the 'phone that in a neighbouring field to a dumbbell, strange prints had appeared, like those of a dinosaur (or maybe, as to Hamish Miller - to whom they also felt 'right' - a 300-foot duck!) with a definite left-right left-right effect and, as it were, a tail-mark between. A few days earlier, a friend (a sober-minded, retired botanist new to the whole phenomenon, who knew nothing of what was going on at Callington) had asked me if I knew anything of huge footprints in the corn: he had either seen or dreamed them - he wasn't sure. With Ian Roberts (a senior engineer), who happened to be visiting me, a friend of his and Nancy Hill (an experienced dowser), I went up to meet George and several of the (sceptically-minded) Plymouth UFO Group. Most of us were well familiar with the crop circle phenomenon by then. First we were shown the dumbbell - for me, fresh from Beckhampton, a pretty standard experience. Then we were introduced to the 'footprints': unconventional though they were, all of us were strongly convinced that there was something extraordinary here, though with an energy different from the usual manifestation of the circle-makers.

The marks were strongly squashed to the ground at the heel end but, after broadening somewhat, tapered gently at the 'toes' or claws into the standing corn, with a slight inward curve - like reversed horseshoes with deep nicks at the wide end. The first three, the largest, were about five feet broad and eight feet long to the 'claw' tips - and between them, like a signature, the 'tail' print - a neat isosceles triangle isolated in standing corn, in which the stems were laid with extreme precision as though to balance the irregular, lumbering appearance of the giant footprints. I went to stand in the largest one (originally the line of corn between it and the tramline had been unbroken, but George and Hamish had since made a tiny break through). I was immediately struck by the sense of a physical, *organic* presence. No duck, I thought. George remarked that on the morning when he first found them, very fresh, he could feel heat rising from the ground, warming his legs, in contrast to a standard circle, which felt cold and dry to him. I subsequently experienced this heat effect when I visited the first 'dolphin' formation at Lockeridge (30th July), where Jurgen Kronig and Roland Pargeter called my attention to a stream of ground-energy (about six inches wide) which lay diagonally downhill from the centre. It was physically warm, like a hot-water pipe. (Next year, I think a thermometer should be part of every crop watcher's kit!) However, by the time I



stood in the 'footprints', which were by then several days old, there was only the sense that a very heavy being indeed had been there before me.

George pointed out that the effect was unlikely to be wind-damage - the weather had been, for Cornwall, pretty quiet, and anyway the corn lay directly *into* the prevailing wind - south-west. Cries of excitement came from some of the rest of the party - further upfield they were discovering more and still more of the prints in different sizes, some very small but similarly shaped! I returned to stand in the biggest footprint - I liked the feel of it - and asked George where the tracks were heading. 'Well, that's Stowe's Pound over there.' This was something of a throwaway line, like 'Oh, Silbury Hill'. Stowe's Pound, with the massive flat boulders of the Cheesewring, is one of the best-known prehistoric sites in east Cornwall - high on the moors right on the Michael Line. On the hilltop nearby, piercing the clouds above the Hurlers (three lined-up stone circles), the outsize Caradon transmitter sends TV signals to half of Cornwall. The prints were heading from the east towards this high spot.

Over and over again I come upon this triple interface in relation to the circle-makers - on the ground, a high density of ancient sites; in the air, microwaves and radar being continuously transmitted from a particularly strong local source (e.g. St. Mawgan airport was literally the other side of the hedge from the ringed circle which appeared at Newquay in May); and thirdly the human commitment which I mentioned above. The Barbury Castle formation (which appeared in the same week as the footprints) could be said to offer a visual model of this triangular connection.

I next went to Callington in August, to meet Richard Beaumont and George at a beautiful formation - three anticlockwise circles set triangularly, very like the famous petroglyph at Newgrange, the triskele, with which my thinking over the past four years has been closely connected. Though it was clearly visible from the road I entered the wrong gate and lost myself in a couple of neighbouring fields before I got to it. As I trudged along the wrong side of the stone wall I passed several heaps of loose soil and wondered idly whether it was foxes or badgers that were responsible. Finally I came to a fresh print, distinguished by its broadness and the fact that, unlike a fox or cat, all its toes face forward, like a bear's: a badger! They looked very like something much bigger that I had seen not far from there. When I eventually joined the others,

George said that, well, yes, he had been thinking 'bear' too - giant bear. Or maybe, as Richard remarked, the hedgehog/badger theorists had something after all (one just had to believe in Brobdinagian badgers)!

After visiting the triskele we checked up on the dumbbell and footprint fields. Richard and his partner were also convinced that there was a noteworthy phenomenon here.

George took us from print to print, circle to circle, building up, via a nice clear example of helicopter-damage for comparison, to the *piece de resistance* - an immaculate circle which appeared while he was inspecting the next field - *when he found it, the corn was still settling*. No wind, no people, no spaceships! Meanwhile, the dragon/bear footprints had proliferated confusingly: there was by now a Pied Piper effect of big ones, small ones, short ones, long ones, broad ones, narrow ones, leading up to and back from the moors - the latest, often overlapping the earlier ones, were heading back east towards England, in what looked like the end of another world-tourist season. Among them was at least one Man Friday - a human-type print eight or ten feet long.

One thing I feel quite sure of: the marks were unlikely to have been made by trespassers. The corn stood stiff and unbroken between most of them and the tramlines. George was extremely discrete over whom he told of them and he and his friends were monitoring them at all sorts of irregular hours. Also, human beings, or a troop of large animals, would have found it very difficult to make such a variety of irregular but *similar* shapes - some were too small to step in, while others looked as though considerable pressure had been involved, different from what I have seen created by wind-damage. 'Over fertilization' of the field also seems an unlikely explanation, unless the farmer uses footprint-shaped spreaders of many different sizes!

It is also interesting that the marks appeared in the same fields (rich in prehistoric connections) as the steadily growing number of circles that George was studying - indeed he might not have noticed them if it hadn't been for these. I would almost certainly have failed to spot them. Therefore, it seems quite possible to me that Callington was not the only place where the effect appeared: something similar was glimpsed, but not verified, from the top of a bus a few miles away at Trelurefoot - where I have been expecting an 'event'. There has also been some very odd-looking 'wind-damage' in Devon and Somerset lately: I spent a lot of time driving up and down the A38 and A303 this summer and several times I paused to take a second look at crop-markings which, for me, had a numinous feel that others completely lacked - like the hunch which, after a few days crop-watching, began to be a fairly reliable indication that there had been an 'event' nearby. Without more evidence, this is of course a purely personal impression, but with George, too, it was mainly a subjective response which made him look carefully at the 'footprints' - so how much have we been missing? How can we improve our monitoring skills?

A MANDELBROT IN CIRCLES

By

Beth Davis

Beth Davis is a founder member of the CCCS and lives in Cambridge. A lecturer in landscape and building history, Beth works as an Historic Buildings Officer for the local authority.

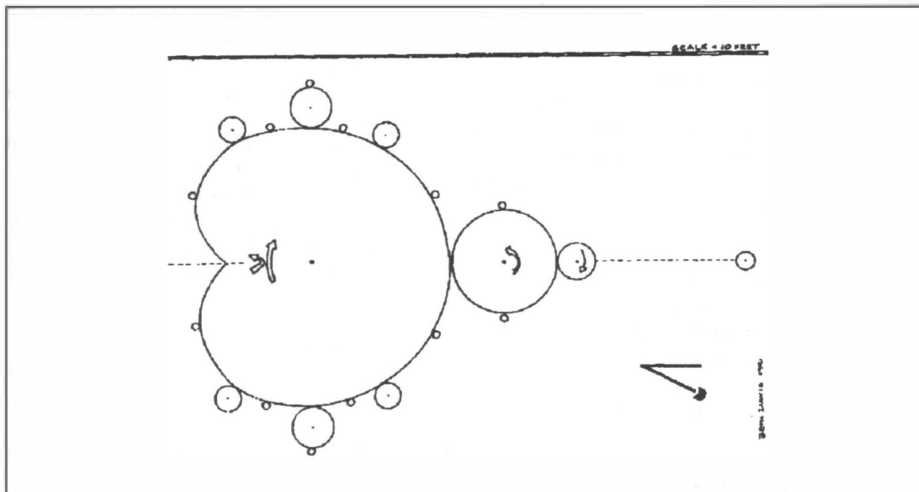
This most beautiful formation was the first to have a recognisable modern form. It was discovered by a pilot, Mr. Cherry-Downes, on 12th August 1991 when flying to work with his brother. He said they could see the formation some distance away and flew over and around it in sheer amazement. Neither of them had seen anything like it before. It wasn't there the previous evening when they had flown home towards Newmarket.

The formation was found near the village of Ickleton in Cambridgeshire, ten miles south of Cambridge and just two fields away from the ancient trackway of the Icknield Way. It was in almost precise alignment with a simple clockwise circle that had appeared in the neighbouring parish of Fowlmere in June.

The heart shape, geometrically termed a cardioid, had two pendant circles and perimeter circles symmetrically arranged like jewels. Between the larger circles on the perimeter were small circles that could barely be seen from the air. Connected by a tramline to the formation was a small circle below the pendant circles.

The neighbouring farmers had been harvesting in the adjacent fields that week and were unaware of the formation until the news was broken on the Tuesday. Chris Bates, a farmer and former helicopter pilot, flew over the formation with a friend taking a cinefilm that was later to be used by John Macnish in his video film of the season (*Cropcircle Communiqué* - Circlevision). The general view was that this formation could only have been discovered from the air and its proximity to Duxford Airfield may have been calculated. The field was on the cresting of a hill rising from a shallow valley. In the lane by the field boundary it was impossible to look into the standing wheat to see any unusual feature.

Neighbouring farmers Dick and Mary Wombwell and their family visited the formation several times. Dick Wombwell told me later how overwhelmed he had been when he first saw it: 'The corn was laid down in a clockwise manner, each stem was bent over the same height above the ground, the stems were not crushed and the ears of corn were intact. The seed was still in the husk even though the crop was about ten days from harvesting.' Mary and her daughter-in-law noticed the single stems of standing wheat



between the circle formations: 'No-one could have made this in the dark! And if there were any lights to aid them we would have seen them.'

The news broke in the local press on the Thursday. A *Daily Mail* reporter who had taken photographs of the formation at the invitation of Mr. Cherry-Downes had not printed them. The formation was first described as heart-shaped, but was quickly recognised in Cambridge to be a replica of a Mandelbrot Set, incomplete as it was without the 'solar flares'. The Mandelbrot Set is regarded as the most complicated object in mathematics. The fractal formula for this had been in existence since the 1920s, and each Set has a significant numerical basis. In the 1960s Benoit Mandelbrot began to use high-powered computers to draw fractals. When told of the formation he said 'he was very pleased to hear of the theory taking root...' 'I don't think it is the work of extra-terrestrials. I can't wait to see what the next one will look like.'" (*Sunday Telegraph*, 25th August 1991.)

The response generally in Cambridge was that it must be a hoax. It was rumoured in the press that six engineering students had made it and then after the summer recess, when the students returned to Cambridge, other claims were made. Montague Keen appealed through the *Varsity Magazine* (a 10,000 circulation) asking any student who had hoaxed the formation to come forward to explain (in strictest confidence) how they had created it. So far there has been no response.

On the Friday after the formation had been discovered I went to the field with some friends after work; we followed the farmer's directions, crossing two stubble fields in the car to the Mandelbrot. The sun was sinking fast and the light was intense, the flattened wheat gleamed and the standing wheat was silhouetted like a lace curtain about its rim. The division between each part of the formation was clearly defined by standing single stems of wheat.

I visited the site again on Saturday with George Wingfield and, his family and again on Sunday to finish the survey. George flew over the formation on Sunday and other friends used a microlite. None of us knew then how precious this time was to be!

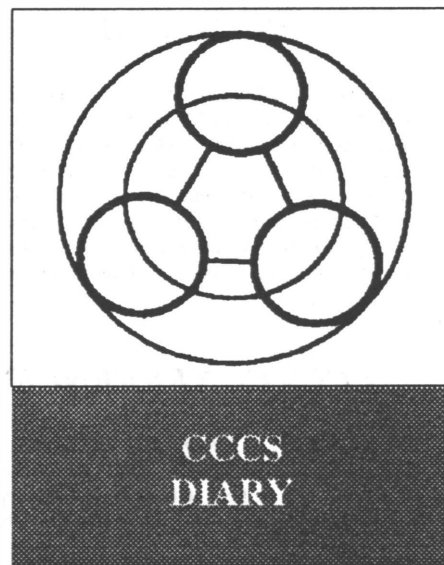
The formation was subtly different from the Mandelbrot Set. It was very uniform in its

arrangement around the perimeter of the cardioid. Each major feature was separated by thirty-degree angles from the centre; there were twelve radii. The tiny circles which measured less than two feet were an exception. The whole formation was slightly lop-sided: the lobe of the eastern side was larger than the western. The bands of laid wheat were deflected around the 'cleft' and were broadened as they formed each lobe. The bands around the node formed a true circle. The perimeter band had strands of wheat swept into the clockwise sweep of the perimeter circles. The 'attached' small circle (along the tramline) is an important element of the Mandelbrot Set - it is the 'seed' for similar formations.

The formation showed all the characteristics familiar to crop circles. Growing between the laid stems of wheat were tiny arable weeds: heart's ease, scarlet pimpernel and fumitory. Mr. Wombwell commented on this much greenness and thought the growth of these small plants had been accelerated.

On Monday 9th August the wheat crop was harvested. The ground plan of the Mandelbrot survived. Later in the week contractors came in to bale the straw and the bales were left in the field for collection. On the following Saturday Peter Wombwell noticed smoke from a fire in the field. He telephoned the fire services and hurriedly got the ploughman working for the owner in an adjacent field to plough around the Mandelbrot to contain the fire. Peter Wombwell could not explain how the fire had started but the flames were fanned across by the prevailing wind into the Mandelbrot formation. It did not look like an accident. After the fire the Mandelbrot could still be seen clearly from the air. Later in September I found no evidence of the fire in the deeply ploughed field.

Some of the aerial photographs taken of the Mandelbrot formation have been compared with the Mandelbrot Set. Their overlaid plans have featured in magazines and recently published books. It has amazed me to see how compatible these reconstructions are to the mathematical original - the distortion of ground levels and perspective together have enabled almost perfect matches to be made. Yet from my survey measurements I know they cannot be true! This variable dimensional quality from the air is something I have only just recognised. It is similar to a computerised creation - it is Virtual Reality!



ESSEX BRANCH

There will be a pre-season public lecture at the University of Essex, Colchester, beginning at 7.30pm on Saturday, 7th March 1992. Guest speaker **GEORGE WINGFIELD** will discuss *The Evolution of the Circle Phenomenon* - to include all the latest startling scientific evidence and many colour slides and aerial photographs. Refreshments available at the Students' bar. Admission: £3.00 (public); £2.00 (CCCS Members and students).

To order tickets in advance contact **NEIL DURANT**, Quincies Cottage, The Gore, Rayne, Nr. Braintree, Essex CM7 8RL UK. (Phone: 0376 25479.)

CORNISH BRANCH

The CCCS now has a branch in Cornwall. CCCS Council member **BARBARA DAVIES** is your contact. Write to Barbara at: The Old Stables, Lescrow, Fowey, Cornwall PL23 1JS UK for more details. A meeting, including a talk by **GEORGE WINGFIELD**, has been arranged for 1st February 1992. Barbara can tell you more.

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME

10th January 1992: *The 1991 Crop Formations: An Interpretation Of Their Meaning*. With **MICHAEL GREEN**, Chairman, CCCS.

7th February 1992: *Some Metaphysical Aspects Of The Crop Circles*. With CCCS Research Panellist **LEONIE STARR** and CCCS Field Officer **RICHARD ANDREWS**.

Held at: Kensington Central Library, Phillimore Walk, London W8 7RX. Lectures begin at 7.30 pm. Tickets: on the door, £3.00 to the public and £2.00 for CCCS members.

CCCS AGM

The 1992 Annual General Meeting of the CCCS will be held on 28th March 1992 at: London Business School, Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4SA. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. Tickets: on the door, £3.00 to the public and £2.00 for CCCS members. (You will be getting the papers in a few weeks' time; there will be a star speaker for the afternoon session and an open-forum discussion.)

CCCS CONFERENCE

Crop Circles: The Enigma For The Nineties is the title of the first CCCS International Conference, to be held at King Alfred's College, Winchester, on 17th, 18th and 19th July 1992. For further details, write to **BETH DAVIS**, Conference Secretary, 11b Fitzwilliam Road, Cambridge CB2 2BN UK. (Enclose s.a.e. for reply.)

WORKSHOPS

These special full-day events have been organised by local CCCS members to provide an opportunity to discuss *in depth* the crop circle phenomenon within a small group and to assess local events from a local perspective. There will be opportunities to hear more about dowsing and similar subjects. Places are limited, so you are advised to get in touch without delay.

8th February 1992: **GEORGE** and **GLORIA WINGFIELD'S** workshop will be held at Heam House, North Wooton, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Tickets are £10.00 in advance. A buffet meal will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own packed lunch if you wish. Write for more details to the above address (enclose s.a.e. for reply) or ring 0749-89257.

29th February 1992: **BETH DAVIS** has organised a workshop which will be held at The Friend's Meeting House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge. Tickets are £7.50 in advance. Write to: Beth Davis, 11b Fitzwilliam Road, Cambridge CB2 2BN, or Montague Keen, School Barn Farm, Pentlow, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 7JN. (Enclose s.a.e. for reply.)

LECTURE AT FARNHAM MALTINGS HAMPSHIRE

LUCY PRINGLE has been instrumental in organising a series of highly successful lectures at this splendid venue. On the last occasion, **GEORGE WINGFIELD** provided an insightful overview of recent events, while special guest **MICHAEL BENTINE** showed how important - and enjoyable - it can be to approach our erstwhile serious subject with good humour! Full credit to Lucy for her efforts, which not only provide the public and membership alike with a chance to hear more about crop circles, but also go along way towards helping with the difficult task of raising funds for research.

The next Farnham Maltings lecture has been booked for 16th April 1992. Guest lecturers: CCCS Hon. Sec. **RALPH NOYES** presents *Shifting Paradigms*, while biologist Dr. **RUPERT SHELDRAKE** discusses his book *The Presence Of The Past*. Tickets will be on sale at the door, but to make sure of a seat ring Lucy Pringle on 0730 63454.

LAST-MINUTE NOTES FROM RALPH NOYES HON. SEC. CCCS

Elections to the CCCS Council

Under our provisional constitution twelve people were elected last March to serve on the CCCS Council on the understanding that four would stand down each year and that there would be a postal ballot to fill the vacancies. The four standing down this time - chosen by lot (the only fair way we could think of!) - are: Richard Andrews, Robert Davison, Michael Green and Ralph Noyes. All four will be eligible to offer their names for re-election. In addition, as Bob's editorial makes clear, he is, to our great regret resigning from the Council to give more time to his affairs. So there will be an additional vacancy to fill. Anyone who is currently a member of the CCCS can run for election to fill these vacancies. If you would like to do so, please send me your name, together with the signatures of two CCCS members who are sponsoring you and a statement about yourself and your policies in not more than 300 words, written exactly as you wish it to appear on the ballot paper. *This must reach me by not later than 6th FEBRUARY.*

The Circular

Without Bob Kingsley's energy [*and John Brocks' patience and skill - ed.*] the CCCS wouldn't have had its own (very necessary) magazine during the past year. Bob stepped into the breach at extremely short notice under pressure from the CCCS Council and he has served the CCCS selflessly, converting his private-venture magazine into the CCCS's official journal. We are sad indeed that he must now leave us. But *The Circular* will continue, inheriting from Bob the title which he has now made so well known.

CCCS Publications

We're urgently looking at ways and means of publishing as quickly as we can the exciting results which are emerging from research and from all the material you've been sending us over the past year. This is a mammoth and costly task. We'll be putting as much information as we can in each issue of *The Circular* but there is far more to be got into print than can possibly be funded from membership subscriptions alone or contained in the magazine itself. We're therefore planning a series of booklets for sale to as wide a public as we can reach (with special concessions to CCCS members whenever possible).

To get this going Lucy Pringle, the CCCS's Hon. Treasurer, has set up a special Publications Account from which we'll be funding

publications. All profits will be ploughed back into this account in order to fund further booklets. In addition, some CCCS members are being outstandingly generous, either by lending money (interest free and unsecured!) to the new account, or by risking their own cash in order to launch publications. Pat Palgrave-Moore has made an excellent start with his beautifully produced *Crop Circle Classification*; and Monty Keen is backing the remarkable booklet (due out very soon) which is mentioned in his article elsewhere in this issue.

Other booklets are in hand and we shall be launching them as soon as we can find the funds. They will explore:

- * The many strange effects (lights, sounds, photographic anomalies) which have now been reported from circle sites and circle-haunted country;
- * The curious pattern of distribution of the circles by major types of formation;
- * The peculiar history of the subject and its tantalising relationship with events reported by UFOlogists from decades past;
- * The indications now appearing from careful analysis of "floor patterns" in the circles that a very unusual kind of process is taking place;
- * The remarkable effects which the circles seem to have in many cases on humans and animals.

In addition to all this we are urgently planning a handbook (or field guide) for use by all serious researchers during the coming season. This will be a costly and difficult project. But we're determined to launch it in good time so that the striking results we've got so far can be followed up by well-founded research in 1992.

We'd welcome any comments you have about this programme - *and if you're willing to risk some cash on an interest-free loan to the Publications Account, we'll immortalise you as a CIRCLES ANGEL on the fly-leaf of CCCS Publications!*

Cropcircle Communiqué

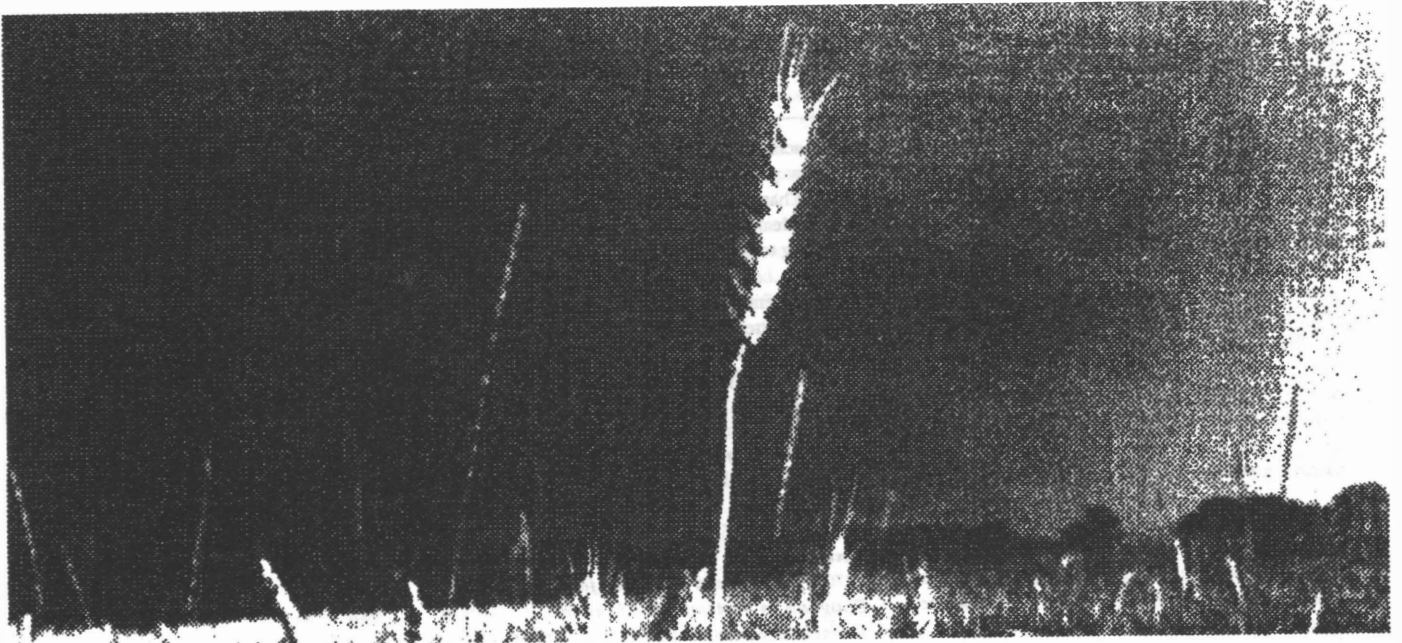
While you're waiting for the presses to roll with these CCCS publications you can't do better than buy John Macnish's beautiful and startling video, *Cropcircle Communiqué*. It will give you 75 minutes of a highly professional overview of the phenomenon, including clips of some very strange occurrences.

On any of the topics covered by these notes (except *Cropcircle Communiqué*, which should be ordered from: Circlevision, Whitton Paddocks, Whitton, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 3DB UK; price £14.99 (VHS/PAL format); allow 30 days for delivery; cheques/postal payable to Circlevision), please write to:-

Ralph Noyes
9 Oakley Street
London
SW3 5NN



Hoax, Hi-Tec, Poltergeists, Plasma Vortices or Prophecy for Mankind ?



Cropcircle c o m m u n i q u é

Circlevision present "CROPCIRCLE COMMUNIQUÉ" a one hour video investigating the mysterious phenomenon of the crop circles.

This in depth documentary contains the most spectacular aerial sequences of the major crop formations of the last three years and exclusive high quality video shots of UFO's.

Please rush me a copy of Cropcircle Communiqué.

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £14.99 (VHS PAL format)

I enclose a cheque/postal order for \$35 (VHS NTSC format)

Name.....
Address.....

(Allow 30 days for delivery)

Please make cheques/postal orders payable to Circlevision.

Please cut out and return to the Circlevision address

In depth interviews with the experts.
Illuminating interviews with the hoaxers.
Explanations of the theories.
The UFO link.
The pre-historic link.

Circlevision, Whitton Paddocks, Whitton,
Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 3DB ENGLAND



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH CIRCULAR READERS

Some letters offered for publication.

The Charlton Crater : Crop Circle Present

Dear Mr Kingsley: I can add a little information to the report that something odd happened in a potato field at Charlton, Wiltshire, in July 1963.

The event was reported by radio and I went to the site as soon as possible. On a road near the farm there were a few trucks, including a BBC team with radio trucks, etc. One of the BBC team told me that the event had caused quite a sensation and that the 'boffins were baffled'.

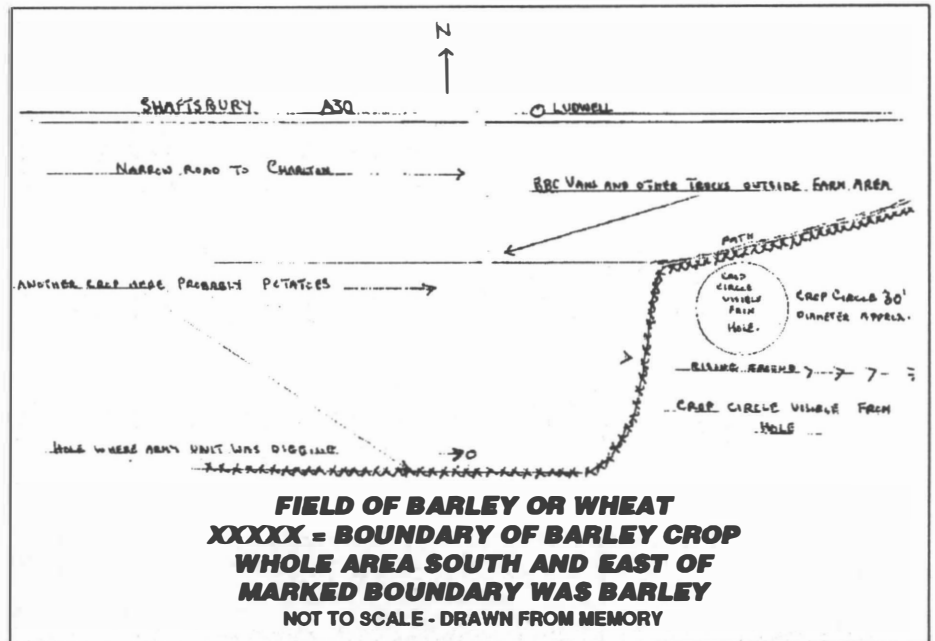
It was reported that some holes had been discovered by the farmer and they had apparently been made by something like gigantic shooting-sticks whose points had penetrated into the earth several feet. I went to one of the holes where an Army unit was working with a metal detector, picks and shovels. There was no sign of a bomb but the excavated earth could have contained some form of pyrites or other type of mineral. I am not a geologist but I saw that the earth contained some form of mineral. This hole was a few feet from a corn crop, but I cannot remember whether it was barley or wheat.

Between one to two hundred yards away (as far as I can remember) there was a slight rise in the ground and, from the hole where the Army was digging, there was a corn circle (not a ring) where the crop had been pressed down.

Midway between the hole and the corn circle, at the edge of the crop, I came across an individual who was sketching. He informed me that he had arrived on the scene before the soldiers could trample the crop down further. His sketch and description was as follows: the corn stalks at the rim of the circle were upright, but the ears of the crop and the stems had been bent over at approximately ninety degrees and then twisted anti-clockwise. The impression given was that something had pressed the crop down and that there had been some force which had then bent the top of the crop stems down and had 'swirled' them anti-clockwise. Another team was working in the circle but I did not enter it myself as I had no wish to cause further damage to the crop.

One of the BBC men told me that in the next two or three days I would hear reports on the radio stating that a) it was an unexploded bomb; b) it was a meteorite, etc. This was to confuse the public presumably. Had any meteorite landed in the tinder-dry crop in the corn circle I should have thought that there would have been some indication of heat-effects. There were none.

I travelled back to Hampshire via the A272 and stopped at Bramdean, a village just east of Winchester and not far from the recent com-



circle activity around the Chilgrove area these last few years. I was told that something similar to the Charlton incident had happened at a farm in Bramdean and that Army trucks had been seen travelling to the farm.

This answers your question asking why was the crop not flattened. It was; I saw it...

Yours sincerely,
Wallace Binns.

Wallace's report of a crop circle at Charlton in 1963 is astonishing because apparently it was not mentioned in Robert Chapman's original description of the event in his book Unidentified Flying Objects (Mayflower 1970), which was detailed for us by Peter Boughan in September's Circular. As soon as I received Wallace's letter I wrote to him asking if he could clarify some things. This is his reply:

Dear Bob: 'Holes' (plural) were mentioned by some of those on the site but I only saw the one where the Army unit was working. The crop circle was plain for all to see. Those mentioning 'holes' spoke of a large tripod pattern but where the other holes were, I have no idea. I do remember thinking at the time that if the tripod was a kind of landing gear for whatever made the crop circle, then the tripod was out of all proportion to that which made the crop circle.

The traces of the original scooped earth were soon obliterated by the Army throwing the earth from the hole into the depression made. There was no sign of the potato or barley (or wheat) crop being flattened around the hole where the Army unit was digging. The two crops met at the barley crop boundary and if the farmer's report is correct, then whatever did the scooping must have performed this activity partly over the potato crop and partly over the barley crop, i.e. where the two crops met. Barley (or wheat) and potatoes each need a field of their own for sowing and gathering purposes.

Something pressed the crop circle down quite neatly and the circumference of the circle was

quite distinct. Whatever layering there might have been was spoilt by another small Army unit wandering around inside the crop circle.

I cannot confirm that there actually was more than one hole but some of those on the site were quite certain that there were. I found the reports about a tripod puzzling in view of the distance between the hole I saw and the circle itself.

If there really was just one hole, then whatever made the hole merely wanted samples of barley (or wheat) and potatoes and obtained them with the one scoop. There are, as you know, hundreds of reports all over the world of crops etc. vanishing for no apparent reason.

I enclose a sketch which will clarify matters a little. May I say that I am only too glad to help.

Yours sincerely,

Wallace Binns
Emsworth
Hampshire

Another Historical Crop Circle?

Dear Mr. Kingsley: I have been interested in crop circles since my tutor at Swansea University, Dr. Hugh Price, informed me of their existence some five years ago. Now I'm at Manchester University researching for my thesis leading to a Masters in Philosophy.

Might it be an interesting feature for readers to submit any evidence they may have for the oldest recorded corn circle whether it be a pamphlet or chronicled tale?

I would like to start the bid with this example I found in Lewis Spence's *Myths and Legends of the North American Indians*. It tells of Algon, a Chippeway hunter, who whilst out on the prairie discovered what is called a circular pathway worn by many feet. He decided to hide in the grass to find out who made these strange circular tracks in the wild grass. Hearing a sound of music growing louder, he saw in the air an osier*

car carrying four pretty women. They entered/landed in the ring and danced beautifully - the youngest especially - and Algon promptly fell in love with her. He tried to approach but the women fled to the car and it soared away. The youngest woman had second thoughts and returned to the Indian hunter and they were soon married. The visitor gave birth to a son but was homesick and so made a willow basket and used it to return home. Algon was grief-stricken and stayed by the circle, which had remained all this time, until his wife eventually returned and took him with her.

I'm not going to make any comments about the story except to say that it doesn't sound like a fungus ring and does sound like a good example of one of the more common corn rings.

Yours,

Mark Stephen Jones, BA (Hons)
Dept. of Philosophy
Manchester University
(Written April 1991).

**Osier: any of various willow trees, whose flexible branches or twigs are used for making baskets, etc. (Collins Concise.)*

Viewpoint 1: The Philosophy Of Science.

Dear Mr. Kingsley: As a scientist with several years experience in high energy physics research at post-doctoral level I have a considerable interest in the recent 'crop circles mystery'. I would like to commend the work of the CCCS and suggest that the approach of this organisation is scientific in the highest sense.

I feel it is important to draw a clear distinction between the terms 'scientific' and 'mechanistic', a confusion that has arisen due to the fact that, for over three hundred years, since Isaac Newton and Rene Descartes, the underlying philosophy behind science was 'mechanism'. 'Mechanism', as recent scientists such as Fritjof Capra and Rupert Sheldrake have pointed out, is a metaphysical theory (with no rational basis) which sees the universe as a huge machine understood in terms of particles of matter subject to eternal universal laws. It is these laws that the scientist attempts to unravel.

At the turn of the century, the general theory of relativity showed that this approach was inadequate at large cosmic scales and the discoveries in the 1920s of quantum mechanics further exposed it as inadequate for the exploration of nature at the atomic and nuclear scale. Quantum mechanics showed clearly that:

1) Nature is not deterministic but probabilistic, that simple cause and effect relations do not hold in nature;

2) Matter is not the 'real' stuff it was assumed to be but a surface manifestation of more abstract, underlying 'fields' or 'wave functions';

3) Objective 'reality' does not exist since the observer of nature is inextricably linked with his/her observation;

4) The holistic approach to natural phenomena was more appropriate than the reductionist approach at the atomic level, the Schrodinger equation being a fine description of the hydrogen atom as a whole, neglecting the fact that the nucleus can be 'reduced' to a bundle of quarks.

The mechanistic approach, then, is at best a simplifying approximation to problems within a limited range of scales of nature. As a philosophical basis of science it is no longer adequate. The attitude of most scientists to the paranormal (the Wessex Sceptics, for example) and their interpretation of consciousness as a by-product of material processes would appear to stem from a lack of awareness of this fact. The status of paranormal events and consciousness in science is now an open question in view of the above observations. It therefore concerns me to see so frequently in print the implication that anyone open to the paranormal or interested in mystical or spiritual experience is somehow 'non-scientific'.

The comments of Dr. Meaden are typical of this attitude. His approach to crop circles is 'mechanistic', not 'scientific' as demonstrated by the fact that he has approached the problem with preconceived ideas of an outdated philosophy. This is in contrast to many of the articles I have read by investigators who seem to combine a discerning eye with an open mind. This, in my opinion, constitutes a truly scientific approach.

I hope that this letter will help to break down the barriers that seem to set the approaches to the crop circle mystery labelled as 'scientific' and 'paranormal' in conflict. I hope I have shown that it is the mechanistic approach which is in conflict with others and not the scientific.

Yours sincerely,

John Cole MA Caritab;
D Phil (Theoretical Physics);
MA (Linguistics)
Lancing
West Sussex.

Viewpoint 2: The Appliance Of Science

Dear Bob: Science took a battering in the September *Circular*, not only from those contributors who made disparaging remarks about it, but also from its supposed champion, Dr. Terence Meaden. The core of Meaden's theory of plasma vortices is fully scientific; however, it is frequently betrayed by its creator who has a tendency to state, in the most dogmatic of terms, that it is established fact. Scientific evidence for the existence of plasma vortices is still entirely lacking, and when Meaden ignores this fact - as he did in his article in *The Circular* ['Major Developments in Crop Circle Research 1990', September 1991, pp. 9-11] - and writes as if his theory is proven, he abuses science and brings the discipline into disrepute.

Considering the way in which his mind is so entirely made up, it was particularly galling to hear his claim 'that all truly open-minded, unbiased people who have properly studied the facts accept...a natural atmospheric origin for the circles effect'.

Abuse of a different kind was provided by a number of contributors when passing their opinions of the scientific method. The complaints fell into two categories: that science is unable to account for crop circles (pp. 7, 8, 15 and 19); and that science is not open-minded (pp. 15, 19 and 22). While the latter charge may be true of individual scientists, neither is an accurate description of science in general. To the extent that mainline scientists have paid any attention to crop circles, for few have, they have concluded that hoaxing is a sufficient explanation, while a small number have favoured the vortex theory. With the successful hoaxes of 1991 there is no longer any doubt that hoaxing is *capable* of accounting for every formation yet seen. That many people feel unable to accept science's explanation is not sufficient grounds for claiming that science *has* no explanation.

Patrick Palgrave-Moore, Neil Rushton and Dave Probert all make the claim that science is closed-minded. This frequently heard calumny owes its origin to a misunderstanding of the way science works. Science aims to provide detailed descriptions and explanations of every phenomenon in the universe. In short, it is interested in establishing the exact truth about everything that exists. It is no part of science to deny the existence of something that does exist, or to misrepresent any aspect of anything that exists. Science is about establishing facts where they can be known, and in the absence of total knowledge, it attempts to come to conclusions based on relative probabilities. Ideally at any moment in time, the prevailing scientific theory constitutes the most likely explanation for any given phenomenon, *based on the available information*. In crop circle research, no new evidence has been brought to light that throws doubt on any current scientific theory or description of the world. If such evidence is produced, then scientists would be the first to show interest. In the absence of such evidence, scientists are altogether justified in identifying purposeful designs in the comfields with the activities of the only known creature with sufficient intellectual attainment, namely: man.

It is not that scientists are closed-minded when they draw this conclusion, but simply that the facts are on their side. Any scientist who goes beyond the known facts and declares that all formations are hoaxes (the evidence does not exist to permit such a definite conclusion) is closed-minded. However, such an aberrant viewpoint has nothing to do with science.

Finally, Ralph Noyes challenged 'hard science' to lay its predictions on the line. The hoax theory can make no reliable forecasts about the form of future formations since the proposed causal agent is not merely unpredictable but can deliberately choose to flout any predictions made. The theory, however, can make one clear prediction: no formation will ever appear in a well-monitored area that is beyond the capabilities of a small group of hoaxers in a short summer night. In remote areas a group might work on a pattern for days (that is, nights), without detection. I hope no hoaxers see this as a challenge, as I, for one, do not doubt their abilities.

Peter Williams
East Sheen
London

Beckjord Bites Back

Dear Sirs: Kudos to Bob and John for an even better *Circular*. Since I was mentioned in several letters [*Circular*, September 1991] concerning my decodings attempt in the June 1991 issue, I hope I may respond...

I address myself to Stacy and Staverton on the decoding attempt. I need to remind Stacy, with whom I have debated this issue for nine months, that Barry Fell states that Scribes often write the letters upside-down, sideways or in mirror-image. Thus, such things as two bars being *Liki* ('like', or 'equals') can occur when Stacy would like to use 'W', or 'weights'.

It is true, the decodings are a subjective attempt, and one must choose the letters that seem to contribute overall to the best general sense of a possible message. If a decoding results in gobble-de-gook, then one must retrace one's steps and re-arrange until some sense results. Then, scholars can debate for years what was *really* said, and Fell himself debates with others in his Epigraphic Society on decodings he has made from Canada.

Thus this decoding attempt was never intended, as I wrote in my article, to be hard, fast and absolute. My goal was to stimulate dialogue and other attempts to decode, and I am gratified that Staverton has attempted to do just that. Each to his own. I do not accept 'Earth Mysteries' as some sort of an authority that I am bound to, and nobody has ever proven that earth mysteries exist, nor what they mean. It is just as one mystic at the Glastonbury Conference said suddenly: 'Hermes was in charge of regulating fire on the Earth and had created man's use of fire...' - a statement out of the blue, without basis nor foundation in fact. We don't know whether Hermes ever existed, nor, if he did, what he really did. Yet, this man stated this, *as if it were fact*.

However, I am pleased that Staverton did try - but he should note, however, that in the Barn Field circles (This is a bad place to camp) the investigator Don Tuersley was said to have fallen ill. Good thing he did not camp there as well. Other [1990] decodings were done after publication of that article.

For 1991, the smaller of the new Alton Barnes circles, a large circle joined by a bar, to a smaller one, gives :

R (large circle) N (bar) A (small circle)

which can be *RUNA* or *RUNES*, which in turn can be 'secret writing', which indeed this is. In fact, rune-like symbols were channelled in August and separately created near the Milk Hill basin, also in August.

Number 2 for 1991 was the Hanover area German circles (not the hoaxed ones). My subjective interpretation of these (available to writers who send 2 one-pound coins for photocopying and postage) is 'A TRIAL BY THE LAWS, SAY THE SECRET WRITINGS, AND AS A SIGN OF THIS, THE DRAGON LINGERS ON. (Further) THE DRAGON FROM PEGASUS FROM THE OUTSIDE COMES TO GIVE A TRIAL TO THE EARTH-GLOBE.' If this is correct, it may explain the many circles

found close by the White Horses on hillsides, and this may be the attraction - not the eddies from hills postulated by Meaden.

Sincerely,

Jon Erik Beckjord
reply to: Crypto-Phenomena Museum
PO Box 2534
Malibu
California 90265
USA.

Correspondence about these decodings is now closed. Please write directly to Jon Erik if you'd like to continue following his work.

Electrical Communication

Dear Bob: The circle makers appear to have an electrical component, as seen in television and radio interference during circle formation. They also have a humming sound component and a phosphorescent or luminescent glowing quality. In addition, a 'parapsychological' or 'supernatural' effect is mentioned. I would like to open communication with persons who have experienced any of these.

I am also interested in communicating with any persons inside or outside the UK who have an interest in expanding the knowledge of the electrical side of circle makers. I am experienced in electronic analysis and can provide some suggestions about how to go about beginning your own electronic research, especially if you want to do it on a small or no budget.

I would also like to correspond with those who might like to delve into the circles photographically, and can provide some suggestions about experiments you might get started with. Please write to:

Larry Grant
68 Lochmoor Circle
Sacramento
California 95823
USA

Light Directory

Dear Friend: A New Age group in Essex is endeavouring to compile a directory of Light Centres and potential Light Centres groups in Great Britain for eventual circulation. Any information welcome. Please write to:

P.O. Box 1297,
Halstead,
Essex
CO9 2LW.

Kansas City Circles

Dear *Circular*: The *Kansas City Star* has carried two articles on a circle flap that occurred on the night of September 14, 1990. The first report dealt with a 50-foot circle near Bates City, Missouri. The second dealt with three more circles that were reported to the *Star* after the original report was printed. One was to the south-east of the city and the other two were to the west of Kansas City.

The circle near Bates City, which is to the east of the city, was in a sorghum field as was the one to the south-east; the other two were in pastures. In all four cases, just as in the English reports of this nature, the vegetation was flattened in a uniform pattern. There were no obvious indications of soil or crop contamination nor was it obvious that a microburst or other vortex wind pattern was involved. The *Star* did not speculate beyond that except to point out that there were no claims of a UFO being seen at the time.

The *Star* did mention one of the anomalies of the case in passing which is that the Bates City circle had expanded from its original shape to an irregular area the size of a football field! This event alone would distinguish it from most of its British peers. But there is more. Two witnesses heard something on the morning of September 13. One, a retired school teacher, heard what he describes as 'a loud sweeping sound as over cement' that seemed to be moving towards the north-east, which would be in the direction of Bates City as it passed over his farm which is located on the highest point in the county. There was no motor sound. It seemed to be an updraft although no light objects in his house were disturbed. Somehow, he was elated by the sound which lasted some two seconds. He then called his neighbours across the road.

The neighbour in question is an environmental biologist who just happened to be home that morning. She also heard the sound which she could only describe as a non-motorised 'whoosh'. She was embarrassed she could not find a more scientific adjective for the sensation. She pointed out that all of them on the hill top were more familiar with low-flying aircraft than they wished to be as a result of their proximity to Whiteman AFB. Troop-carrying transports pass that low on occasion, but the motor sounds are unmistakable. There seemed to be an upward air pressure with the sound, but no light objects in her house were disturbed. She went outside and looked in all directions from her hill top vantage point but saw nothing. She had no further thoughts about the matter until the morning of September 15 when she saw helicopters in the air to the north-east, over Bates City.

After spotting the aerial activity, she went to the site with her husband, who is also an environmental biologist, and her neighbour, the retired school teacher. She and her husband both noted there was an extraordinary lack of insect activity in the field but could draw no conclusion from that fact. The retired teacher showed her a 'find' from the field which further pointed up the biological dimension of the phenomenon: he had found a frog that was still green but totally desiccated - devoid of bodily fluids. She also noted that the stalks of sorghum were softened at the base which would cause them to fall for lack of support. She saw no indication of trampling of the crop which would inevitably cause breakage of the stalks. She said: 'If I wanted to generate this condition experimentally, I would subject the plants to infra-red radiation which would heat the soil and weaken the stalks at the base only'.

The investigator then found that other Great Plains states had similar but yet distinguishable phenomena in the same time frame. In South Dakota, there had been a rash of healthy grass circles formed of a gray powdery substance. He

was able to obtain a sample which proved to be a fungus of the sub-kingdom *Mycota*, which among other things, is to be found in the alimentary canals of insects. Then he found that in North Dakota there were grass circles that appeared to have been grubbed. The conventional UFOlogical explanation here, of course, is robotic sampling. Also to be found in North Dakota, are 100-foot circles which have been burned off. Farmers burn off fields to produce ash as a fertilizer. It then occurred to the investigator that the entire circle phenomenon might relate to biochemistry, rather than robotics and an attempt to communicate with *Homo Sapiens* by an 'unknown intelligence' as some circle researchers have theorized. That concept is certainly cogent considering that some of the circles are as complex as pictograms!

The investigator's model is that of a 'spacebug'. That is, a transparent insectoid bioform whose behaviour is shaped by chemical needs and capabilities that are unlike those of primate life-forms. The geometric marchings and constructions of social insects would then be a precedent for the patterns in the fields. The circles could be formed using chemically generated infra-red energy for the simple purpose of foraging the insect life at the base of the fields. They would then be insectivorous (insect-eating) 'insects'. Ash would be used for fertilizing their camouflaged hives and fungus their waste products. Their 'message' would then be that they wish to join our forest web ecology!

The best way to confirm this hypothesis would be to make insect counts in the circles as soon as they form. Alternatively, we could try to band one. The attempt would surely prove interesting since they appear to have ESP powers as well as prodigious chemical powers...

Maurice Schwalm
Kansas City
Missouri
USA.

Predicament

Dear *Circular*: I will not begin to address the subject of who or what is creating the formations in our crop fields because I feel that it is a very complicated affair and the answer will probably surprise or shock us all in the end! What I will do is put forward my own theory as to why the formations are occurring in cultivated crop fields.

Towards the end of August along with some friends I went to look at a simple formation I had heard about near Brighton in Sussex. I looked at it from a good vantage point called Devil's Dike, where an information board is on display to explain the history of the area. It made reference to ancient man cutting down the trees, enabling primitive crop cultivation and grazing land for animals.

Most scientists agree that trees play a very important part in maintaining a delicate balance of oxygen and carbon dioxide on our planet - and that the planet is in severe trouble!

My suggestion is that the formations are being created in crops for the following reason: they are drawing our attention to the fact that nearly all of

the formations appear in cultivated crops which used to be thick forest or woodlands, and it is due to us exploiting every possible inch of land that the planet is in its current predicament.

Martin Noakes
Crawley
West Sussex.

The Living Earth

Dear *Circular*: The 30 million species on Earth, with all their diverse communities, make up a system in which each can make its voice heard... so why not the Earth?

Many people refer to the Earth as 'The Living Planet', which is very correct, but how do we define 'living'? Basically, the definition of a living thing is that it grows, it shows some form of intelligence and as it ages it slows down and then eventually dies.

The Earth grows through the motion of volcanic eruptions which destroy but also lead to sustaining new life, similar to the way our bodies repair and replace damaged areas with new cells. Her face changes with the continuous movement of the land through earthquakes and landslides. As for intelligence, well, there is nature, which is very complex indeed. 'Everything has a place and there is a place for everything.' Once you take something out, then it will not work properly. Who controls nature? It is not us. Could it be Mother Nature?

My message is that the Earth is alive, just as you and I, with a consciousness - but in a different form. If the Earth was dead then she would resemble something like the moon, a lump of rock.

All life on Earth, whether it is animal or plant life, communicates in its own way. It could be in the form of sound, movement, colour or smell. How would the Earth communicate? She doesn't have the use of hands (only the people that represent her); she does have movement, sound, colour and smell - not forgetting beauty. Does she show her anger by causing earthquakes and volcanic eruptions? Does she make monsoons, typhoons and tornadoes when she is sad? Or does the sun shine through clear blue skies when she is happy? Such a lot of questions; maybe we already know the answers. I believe the Earth is communicating to us and the rest of creation by the use of symbolism that we see forming in crops all over the world.

The symbols and the duality of nature are reaching to the heavens to transmit their energies out to the skies which are desperately breaking down their chemical composition. Rings will spring up in many unexpected places. They may appear through rock formations (as has been claimed in the Japanese underground) 'and even in water through the synergy of currents'. This quote is of David Icke from his book *The Truth Vibrations*. In an article in the *Cerealogist* (Spring 1991) by John McEwen: 'It is built in the Great Salt Lake which the early Mormon settlers believed to be joined to the Pacific by a hidden channel. The suction produced by this connection with the sea explained the mighty whirlpools which sometimes form on the lake's surface...' Could this be the same circles forming on water?

There are many interesting theories on what the symbols stand for. A lot of them resemble ancient religious symbolism and that of cosmology. No matter what you believe them to be you must agree that the phenomenon has made thousands of people look at their world today and the world of the past. I would not dismiss Dr. Meaden's theory of the wind vortex. He could be partly correct but his investigations are hindered by the closed mind of modern science. If only he would look further than the last page of his textbook.

The Earth needs our help; whether you send that help spiritually or physically, no matter - time is running out. I believe we are seeing in some of the crop patterns a connection with the Book of Revelations in the *Bible*.

I wish everyone success in their search for the answer and I also wish the CCCS, *The Circular* and all related magazines good luck in their endeavour to inform the public of the message before us.

Yours faithfully,

Joseph Loudon
Flat 7, 263 Bath Road
Southcote
Reading
Berkshire. RG3 2BH.

PS Please print my name and address as I would like correspondence.

Middle Ground

Dear Bob: The majority of people with little interest - or a very mild interest - in the crop circles phenomenon will have cause to accept either a meteorological answer or hoax. This also applies to some researchers and those with a keen interest. The *Equinox* TV feature gave roughly equal time to three solutions, the third being the 'Intelligence/Paranormal/Earth Energy' answer, or whatever we like to name it - and which, due to its nature, cannot provide methods for which any scientific or rational explanation can be formulated.

Whilst we are presented with a dichotomy - a growing awareness, perhaps, that the intuitive/spiritual has as great a place (if not greater) in the universe as the rational/analytical, we are, with the circles phenomenon, offered three classifications of possible cause. I am asking if it is possible to maintain all three. I don't know - but can we rule it out?

It must be obvious - and I believe is now accepted by Dr. Meaden and the Japanese team - that all circles and all pictograms and any others could not all be the work of a plasma vortex or any other form of purely random and natural phenomenon. Likewise, all the hundreds of circles, rings, pictograms, etc. cannot ALL be the work of hoaxers either - even if we also mean those, if they exist, who are developing a New Age form of landscape art, not for hoaxing's sake, but for art's sake. For one thing we have to take into account such anomalous phenomena as unusual light and sounds, effects on animals and humans, and dowsable energy forms, etc.

Is there a good reason why the simple circles, rings, quintuplets etc. could not be the work of

the plasma vortex while the more intricate pictorial designs like fish, insects and curls be the work of hoaxers; whilst in the centre is a whole host of others - dumbbells, etc. - holding, say, a middle ground and having the very connection with some other energy form, be it Earth energy interacting with an 'intelligence', or some other energy from above? Anyone glancing through Pat Palgrave-Moore's *Crop Circles Classifications* should be immediately impressed with the huge number of varieties of forms that there have been and yet, in this middle category there are numerous small varieties on a general theme. Too numerous but too small to be either a result of the vortex? Too numerous and too small to be all hoaxes?

I would not presume to understand where the division between the meteorological category and the 'middle' category might be, or that between the 'middle' category and the hoax category - and perhaps I would like to have my cake and eat it. Please, by all means, someone tell me it's all wrong. But I suggest we are still faced with a living, non-random interaction between human beings and a vital web of forces working through what we term the material world, and because we do term it material or physical, and have no scientific understanding of it, tend erroneously to believe that that is all there is.

Kind regards,

Ray Cox
Halesowen
West Midlands.

Dowsing Questions

Dear Sir: While having an interest in the crop circle appearances over several years, my first visit took place recently to the pictogram at Newton St. Loe, Bath. In return for the admission fee I received a diagram illustrating the circles and other shapes.

Remembering that T. C. Lethbridge had stated that a pendulum would react to a letter written in ink from an unknown person, to my amazement, on testing, similar results could be obtained from the diagrammatic pictogram, i.e. 1) the pendulum rotated on circle circumferences in the same direction as the lay of the corn; 2) in rectangles etc., the pendulum swung to and fro. Subsequently, the same results were obtained from my own diagrams of other crop circles.

May I ask therefore of the crop circle dowsing experts whether I am deluding myself, or if these phenomena are a known but closely guarded secret? Perhaps they could also enlarge upon the possibility of map dowsing for crop circles.

Yours faithfully,

David Warfield
Bristol.

Old Samples

Dear Sir: In 1983 I obtained samples of barley from inside and outside one of the crop circles at Cheesefoot Head, just off the A272 near Winchester. I noted that most of the grain from inside the circle was missing from the ears, but

the husks were undamaged. Wildlife, I would have thought, would have stripped the husks had they eaten the grain when it was laid to ground level.

I stored the samples, of both standing and laid-down ears, in a tin and forgot about them for six years. On rediscovering the tin in 1990, I noted a curious thing: both samples from the laid-down circle area had assumed IDENTICAL 'S' shapes. The sample taken from the standing corn (still containing its grain and long barley-whiskers) had assumed a simple 'C' shape. On examination today, the samples appear not to have changed in almost two years.

As a matter of interest, I wonder if any of your members or associates have eaten any grain from a genuine circle, and to what effect?!

Yours sincerely,

B H. Baily,
Ferdowen,
Dorset.

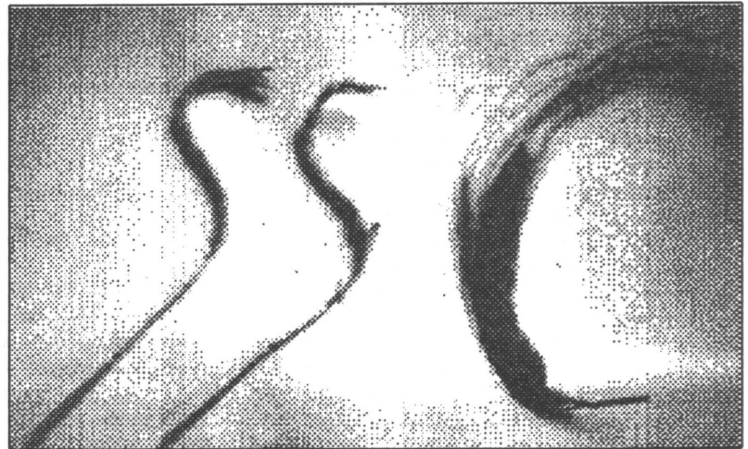
Passing The Time

Dear Bob: I would like to thank the circle makers - who or whatever they may be - for giving me something to doodle during my lectures.

Great magazine - thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Head
(Student - Humberside Poly)
Hull.



The Centre for Crop Circle Studies is producing a Collector's Series, the first to be published in the New Year.

1991: SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE for the CROP CIRCLE PHENOMENON

By MONTAGUE KEEN



A behind-the-scenes, careful analysis of crop and soil samples from several of the formations in England which has revealed startling new evidence. The lessons for the 1992 season are clear: we have a litmus-test way of determining hoax from genuine.

I wish to buy copies of 1991: Scientific Evidence for the Crop Circle Phenomenon at a special price of £2.95 (+ P & P 55p) before 8th February 1992. I enclose a cheque for £ payable to 'The CCCS'. I wish to be kept informed of the titles in the Collector's Series as they are published: (Indicate) YES NO

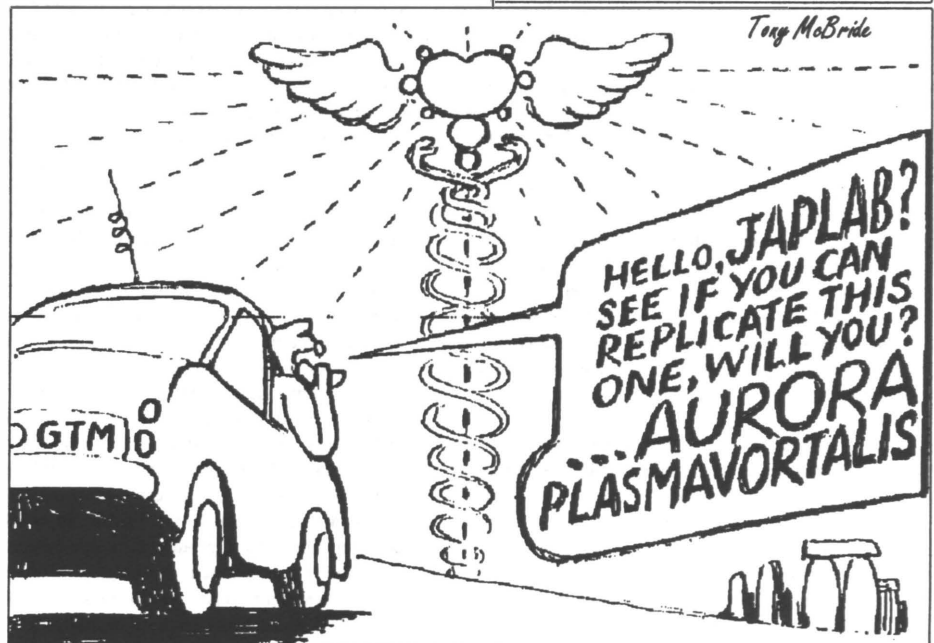
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CCCS Publications
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CB2 2BN
UK.



HOAX - OR WHAT?

By
Bob Kingsley

Events during the 1991 season caused a stir. Suddenly, it wasn't so easy to be sure about what was real and what was hoaxed. Most people were inclined to dismiss claims that *all* crop circles were hoaxes, while others were no longer so certain. Many began to think that at least some of the more complex formations of the past few years were hoaxes; some thought there was a disinformation campaign on the go. All this bafflement was brought about by *The Men Who Conned The World*. I promised you an update, so here goes - but be prepared for some convoluted twists and turns.

Clearly there were many aspects of the infamous claims made by Doug Bower and Dave Chorley that did not hold up under scrutiny. Paul Fuller's *Crop Watcher* magazine went into the story in some detail, listing points both for and against their claims (No. 7, September/October 1991).

More intriguing to my mind was the matter of 'MBF Services', the mysterious copyright holders of the Doug and Dave story according to *Today* newspaper (Monday 9th September, page 13). When questioned by several callers about the nature of MBF's business and involvement in the story, ebullient Assistant Editor Lloyd Turner became uncharacteristically reticent. At first it was not open to discussion; then it was described as a 'PR company' that was looking after the publicity; later, it turned into a 'private newsagency' - but throughout, Turner insisted that he alone was handling all enquiries.

Doug himself denied any knowledge about MBF when I spoke to him a week later, although he seemed to know precisely where in the article MBF had been mentioned:

BK: What's MBF Services? Because I notice the story was copyright to MBF Services on the Monday. Can you give me anymore information on that?

DB: Cor - s'news to me. Where's that? *At the end of the article?*

BK: Mm. On the first day's story - it's copyright...

DB: You'll have to ask *Today* about that. I wouldn't have a clue.

[*My emphasis.*]

Meanwhile, the effusive Mr. Turner had also told me that Doug and Dave obligingly replicated several formations for the newspaper during its 'week-long investigation' and these were created prior to the published hoax in Kent; Doug later denied this when I spoke to him - he said that the only formation they made for the newspaper was the one that 'fooled' Pat Delgado.

Doug said Dave rang the paper on Tuesday 3rd September (having been turned down by another newspaper from the Mirror Group the previous

week); a journalist visited them on Wednesday (4th); they made the hoax formation on Thursday (5th), then visited Pat Delgado at his home, unannounced, with journalist and photographer in tow, on the following Sunday (8th), a period of six days, during which time two days - Friday and Saturday - are unaccounted for. But evidently the paper was satisfied after the Thursday 'hoax' which, even being generous, only totalled about 48 hours of 'investigation'.

A caller who spoke to Mr. Turner just before I did was given a phone number on which he could speak to Doug and Dave directly - and he did, again before I managed to. (I was refused a number at first but given the same Winchester exchange number by *Today* a few days later.) The caller spoke to Doug, who allegedly said he was prepared to answer questions about anything to do with crop circles. But when asked specific questions about certain formations, the answers he gave were evasive, several times alleging that the formations in question were not made by them. He also said he knew nothing about any MBF Services. (This was a week before I asked him the same question in a telephone conversation that began with Doug saying I could ask him anything I liked 'as long as it doesn't go anything further than what's already been in the newspapers'.)

Several researchers began looking for more information on MBF Services. I went to Companies House in London, where the records of all incorporated companies in England and Wales are held for public scrutiny, and conducted a search. (Scotland has its own office.) There is no company registered under the name 'MBF Services', although there are several that employ the initials 'MBF' in their names. One of them, MBF (MacFarlane Business Forms) Limited was in Scotland - incorporated back in the 1940s under a different name and now part of a bigger corporation called MBF Group Limited. Another one looked more promising due to its location (the West Country), recent incorporation (1990) and type of business (scientific research and development). There was no telephone number given.

I'd been harbouring the thought that Doug and Dave were probably part of a publicity campaign for a book or something and, indeed, when I'd put the question to Doug, he'd confirmed that a book was likely to be forthcoming. Now I wasn't so sure. Meanwhile, the circle grapevine was providing plenty of speculation: favourite was that Doug and Dave were 'Government Agents' intent on sowing the seeds of disinformation. After all, the story was planted at just the right time, following hard on the heels of the Glastonbury 'Comference' that weekend, which spent a good deal of time discussing media attitudes and disinformation campaigns; there was a TV documentary in the making (since shown as part of the *Equinox* season on Channel Four) which would also provide a superb launch-

pad for more disinformation since it would have to carry something about hoaxes if a big enough fuss was made about them. (It did. The producers encouraged the Wessex Sceptics to create some hoax circles with a garden roller and then got the farmer to entice Terence Meaden and Busty Taylor into the field by being, shall we say, 'economical with the truth': he pretended he thought they were definitely genuine. See various reports in *The Crop Watcher* issue mentioned earlier.) Maybe, said the grapevine, someone high up in circles research was about to 'spill the beans'; who would even listen, let alone believe them, now?

The identity of the *real* MBF Services has proved to be a hard nut to crack - indeed, it still refuses to yield. It is a matter of public record that there is a company with a similar (but not identical) name of 'MBF Consultancy' which is, in fact, one man (with his wife as fellow Director), described on the incorporation papers as a 'scientist', who lives in the west country; he uses an accountancy firm in a nearby town as a mailing address for his consultancy. The initials refer to the name of his farm home. When an investigator asked some local people about the owner of the farm, they described someone well-heeled who, they thought, conducted much of his business in Scotland.

Curiouser and curiouser. As this came to light, one of my contacts hinted darkly that there was an 'MBF' somewhere up north that was on a 'restricted' list of companies not kept for public review at Companies House and which was using the front of 'rubber stamp manufacturers' as cover for some kind of covert Government connection. He gave me the names of two of their Directors. He had also heard that references to various MBFs had recently been removed from Companies House. So I checked again, only to find that they were all listed as before. While there, I ordered the details of MBF Limited from Scotland. They arrived a few days later.

MBF Limited manufactures, amongst other things, rubber stamps and other office paraphernalia; two of the names of the Directors matched the names I had been given a few days previously (one is now retired). This information was not 'restricted', so I can only assume my informant must have been mistaken about that point.

There seems to be no reliable evidence that links Doug and Dave with the Government, or that shows any connections between said Government and any of the MBF companies. And because it is merely hearsay, I'm forced to ignore some curious information that came my way during investigations: you'll remember how *Today* had also described MBF Services to a caller as a 'private newsagency'? Well, I'm told that they also said its office was in Shepton Mallet - which, by coincidence, is the same West Country location as the mail-drop address for MBF

Consultancy. The caller alleges they were told at first that it did not have a telephone number, which struck the caller as rather odd for a news agency. Hanging up and calling again, they allegedly spoke to a person who remembered seeing a number for MBF Services on a piece of paper on a desk and retrieved it for them. It was on the Winchester exchange, nowhere near the supposed location of its offices. On ringing the number, the investigator found it to be disconnected. So they rang the British Telecom engineers who checked the line. It was, they said, a curious thing, but that number had been connected to a private residence even though the number was allocated to a list of 'special exchange' numbers.

I was surprised to find that the Winchester number given for MBF Services (the 'private news agency') was the same number I had previously been given by *Today* on which to speak with Doug and Dave. (In fact, I eventually only spoke to Doug's wife Ilene on this number, who told me this was 'a friend's house' where they had been staying for a few days. She gave me another number, on which I spoke to Doug the following Monday, the 16th September, at his picture-framing shop in Southampton).

This remarkable catalogue of events can have nothing whatsoever to do with an associated snippet of hearsay that came my way concerning the methods apparently employed by Government agencies engaged in planting disinformation in sensitive areas of operations. They would firstly, I am told, set up a 'private news agency' with an office in the locality. Then they would target certain media outlets that they know will carry their disinformation without questioning its origin too closely. A 'special exchange' phone number would be allocated on the local exchange and routed through to somewhere like Whitehall in London. The caller could then be convinced they were talking to someone 'local'. Once the disinformation was in the system, the agency would fade into the background again. Make of this what you will. (Careful - maybe it, too, is disinformation.)

I must also say that there is no evidence thus far that suggests Doug and Dave are anything other than sincere in their belief that all crop circles are hoaxed, and that they started the phenomenon in 1978. That's what Doug said, anyway (at least, I think that's what he was getting at):

BK: So basically, Doug, you're saying that *all* crop circles are hoaxes, are you?

DB: Well, as I say, a lot of wind damage looks very much like a circle - er, you can look at storm damage in a field and you'd be surprised how similar it would look - but, er, I mean, there's nothing in the world, a whirlwind or anything else, could make such a clean-cut, er, pattern.

What about that 'hoax' formation they made for the paper? It looked good in the photograph, but the news programmes on the TV that same Monday evening showed them creating a second 'demonstration' with a ragged crop lay that wouldn't have convinced anyone. John Macnish's video *Cropcircle Communiqué* (Circlevision) contains previously untransmitted material that highlights this. Why such a discrepancy in

performance? Engrossed in idle speculation one day, I thought that maybe the 'hoax' wasn't a hoax at all. Maybe it was a genuine formation, and that was why Pat thought it was real. But it was only speculation.

I asked Doug if there was a video of them making the hoax. He said there wasn't. And as for the wheatfield for the 'hoax':

DB: Well, there was no other corn about. We were lucky to find that, really.

Too true. If yet another snippet of hearsay is true - contending that one of the journalists working on the story knew the farmer concerned (which, of course, is open to question) - then perhaps luck didn't come in to it. And further, I'm sure there is no truth in the rumour that the farmer is acquainted with one of our Cabinet Ministers, whose country residence is just a mile or so away from the farm. A leading agronomist has also said that in his opinion harvesting of the wheatfield must have been *deliberately held back* because at that late stage in the season it would have been well over-ripe. If this was the case, I feel the farmer would not have risked losing the income from the field without good reason.

Hoaxing is now top of everyone's list for discussion. You will see, in Ken Brown's controversial article in this edition, that he thinks there is good cause to conclude that some of the Cheesefoot Head formations might have been created by the foot of man. And once again I must inject a little heresay, for there is a tale concerning a person who, while at Cheesefoot Head, was approached by two men who drew attention to one of the flower formations in that locality. The two men, I'm told, were later identified as Doug and Dave.

And yet...there is more to this than meets the eye. How, for example, do we account for the anomalous background radiation readings found in soil samples taken from some of this year's more complex British formations, analysed in America and outlined in Montague Keen's report in this issue? This survey would seem to provide evidence that mitigates against hoaxing - at least as far as the analysed formations are concerned. Some of the evidence comes from formations also containing underlying pathways which, using Ken Brown's logic (see article in this issue), indicate hoaxing. And we cannot dismiss the anecdotal accounts of strange lights and sounds that continue to proliferate; John Macnish's *Cropcircle Communiqué* video contains footage of a small object filmed hopping over the wheat and apparently moving with purpose as it examined a formation at dusk.

The *Equinox* TV programme showed the Wessex Sceptics creating a crop formation with a garden roller, at night and apparently with no lights. It was good enough to fool a couple of researchers - although they were helped psychologically by the farmer who played the producer's game and enthused over the circles, thus bolstering their expectations with well-intentioned lies. (He also removed some evidence left behind by the hoaxers: a ball of twine which, had it been left there, would have given the game away immediately.) Still, "Q.E.D.", some would say. But what does this really show us? Only that, given time, humankind has found a way to

imitate the original crop circle effect. This should not surprise us, but nor should it blind us to the fact that (despite what Doug and Dave say) crop circles were appearing long before anyone could be bothered to copy the ground effects.

So as far as I can tell, the jury is still out.



*Diane Brooks is a Canadian journalist and crop circles researcher. A member of the CCCS, she travelled to Wiltshire in 1989 (under the auspices of an Indian tribe) to verify correlations she had discovered while researching a book dealing with earth energy and aboriginal wisdom - definitive correlations involving tribal customs of the Celts and those of the North American Indians. She was amazed to encounter the identical images of North American Indian tribes, especially the Hopi, proliferating in the crop formations around Stonehenge and Avebury. In her forthcoming book, *Signs In Our Time*, she outlines her belief that the evolving crop patterns are a pictorial testament to the history and wisdom of tribal peoples the world over.*

As a student of aboriginal teachings - particularly Native North American - who has studied Earth energies and her meridians (her ley lines as they are called in contemporary usage) as viewed by primordial cultures, I am well aware of the 'dragon paths' or 'restless serpents' of ancient lore. These are the areas where disturbed terrestrial energies have shown themselves since time immemorial.

In earliest folklore and teachings of native tradition worldwide, botanical 'anomalies' occurring along these energy pathways were well known to be distinct indicators of the state of the Earth's health, so to speak. To ancient peoples throughout the world, whether they be the Huna of Hawaii, Mongols or Mayans, or African, or Indian tribes, such intrinsically creative formations - as are 'cropping up' in all their possibly unprecedented glory in Britain's seed crops - were, and are, said to reveal the presence of dangerously disruptive forces within the generative system of Mother Earth. The more elaborate the display, the more gross the disturbance in her life force. Through their long experience, all indigenous peoples and keepers of the ancient wisdom regarded such markings as signs of attempts at purification of the Earth Mother. Nature's own efforts at subduing the dragon, so to speak.

As we now know, two of the largest of Earth's energy pathways - her dragon line meridians - run through and intersect in England in the very area of the raft of circle phenomena, both ancient and contemporary, in the region of Stonehenge and Avebury monoliths. What is causing the elaborate pictograms in Britain's seed crops - whether the Earth Mother herself or something

else in the cosmos, as legend and lore suggests - is a moot point. What matters here is not only their cause, but the potential of their meaning. (These and the mysterious figurative, insectoid, fish-like and various other patterns of yet another kind, clearly reminiscent of a variety of biological life-forms - as they are currently manifesting in all their bizarreness - indeed also exist, with their own distinctive meaning, in the legendary and artistic record of aboriginal peoples the world over.)

In Germany, much recent work and research has gone into slaying disturbed earth energies, the dangerous dragons of Arthurian lore. At Turnich, several kilometres from Cologne, where I travelled in pursuit and investigation of earth energy and circle phenomena (after departing England's Salisbury plain in 1989), large granite slabs with pictograms *created on them* are thrust like legendary swords of King Arthur into carefully located 'acupuncture points' in the diseased body of the Earth.

At first I thought this premise ridiculous. Even with what I knew and believed to be true from my North American Indian, Chinese, and Celtic geomantic (earth energy) studies. Until, that is, I placed my hands about these huge 'needles' in the Earth as I was told to do by my educators. There was no denying the turbulence with which they had come in contact, and would hopefully intercept and redirect. In this specific area in Turnich, the energy currents are so geomantically awry that a count can no longer live in a century-old castle he owns situated over them. I was to be further convinced of the reality of the alleged negative forces at work: being somewhat of a sensitive to these invisible forces, I was notably stricken when attempting to evaluate, for my German hosts, the energies emitting from especially gross areas of 'dis-ease' previously pinpointed for treatment. Thankfully since, never having encountered such aberrant energies before, I have learned to protect myself more fully by not literally throwing all of my own into the spirit of this work.

Most incredible of all, the artist and a team of geomantic scientists who had carefully calculated (their finely drafted and detailed blueprints went on for yards) the points where these granite acupuncture needles would be inserted - and the symbols to be represented on their stony surfaces - told me that without the symbols etched into the stones in this way, there would be no healing. No subduing and redirecting of these chaotic energies, selected as they were for the process described as 'Die Erde Heilen'.

(I can't help but wonder if this was what the gigantic monoliths of Stonehenge were for, so geometrically and mathematically - and astronomically - precise in their placement as they are. Will we ever know why - or how - the ancients placed them there? Were they to heal the Earth? Are today's detailed and gigantic formations symbols created by some invisible Intelligence, perhaps that of the Earth herself, on her body to heal her? Perhaps Nature, or something that exists in Nature beyond Earth, something beyond our puny imaginations, has, in the past, and is once again attempting to do so.)

Yet I found all of this almost impossible to believe; a huge credibility gap existed, and still

does, in my thinking here. Indeed it does sound, and admittedly is, so esoteric; geomancy is an esoteric art to say the least. Yet Nature herself is esoteric. She has revealed to us that she has many mysteries beneath which her secrets are hidden. As she has, and continues to reveal, in the evolving art forms stretching out across the Wiltshire landscape.

Again many are taking exception to the use of the term 'evolving' in relation to the pictograms proliferating in the English countryside. But I have watched them evolve from simple circles to swastikas, Celtic crosses, complex circular events, elaborate linear geometric patterns and on to figurative ones, and on and on to include what has been referred to as the Mandelbrot event. And to someone like myself, schooled and steeped in our Native Indian mysticism and imagery - specifically that of the Hopi - I have indeed watched in wonder as step by step they progressed in the selfsame way the Hopi migration symbols did at the time of their last great Emergence. The complex circular marking which Britain's crop circle researchers are calling the Mandelbrot is the unifying symbol of the Earth herself, the harbinger symbol of Emergence.

Nowhere indeed is the precedent of England's aesthetically beautiful crop patterns more obviously on permanent record than in Native North American Indian art - both historical and contemporary. Ancient art forms - of not only the Hopi, but also the Navajo and numerous other tribes - are rife and rich with these amazingly mysterious and often complex geometrical and figurative pictograms. And their dramatic reappearance in our own time on the identical dragon paths of the ancient tribal Celts - who lived on that continent during the same time these images were born in the tribal cultures of our North American Indian Brotherhood - is so powerfully and pressingly suggestive of the fact that, as Hopi elders are telling us, the times, rather than a-changing, are re-occurring.

We have much to learn from our Native brothers and sisters in their holistic way of viewing the Earth - the Earth Mother - as a living organism in their relationship with it, a paradigm rapidly gaining new ground in our twentieth-century consciousness as the Gaia hypothesis. When we view the Earth in this way, the rivers and the seas become its blood and body fluids; minerals, marl and crystals, perhaps, all parts of its central nervous system. The bowels of the Earth erupt and spew; its creativity blossoms.

The patterns now forming in the seed crops on the Salisbury Plain - and elsewhere - could well represent the observable effect of a naturally-occurring geological phenomenon. Nature reveals amazing design in her creation. Consider the snowflake and the many and varied forms of these as only one example of her artistry. Swirling energy vortices emitted through the Earth remain a favoured explanation for the enigmatic crop formations. Along these lines, their markings could be thought of as pockmarks, beautiful whorls and swirls on the epidermis of the land where Earth's troubled energies percolate like bubbles to the surface in places short on fault lines or volcanoes for release. Yet the mysterious, almost mystical, shapes that have and are continuing to increasingly evolve make even this

theory almost equally difficult to embrace as any other - at least when considering it alone, but certainly not when combined with another. As I will expound upon further on.

It is noteworthy that circular crop formations - as well as unexplained luminous and aerial phenomena - are known to take place along these major ley lines of the Earth. Admittedly, in considering the UFO theory we are dealing with a second unknown, one even more elusive than the circles themselves in providing any provable evidence as to their source. But on this we must also remain objective, as Delgado and Andrews, authors of *Circular Evidence*, are doing.

A good many of the flattened crop circles and formations have reportedly occurred (according to Delgado and Andrews, and several eye-witness accounts) in association with unexplained lights in the sky observed the night before a new discovery was made. Given information UFO witnesses worldwide are providing, that the craft some of them have allegedly seen appear to be able to pass through the Earth in a dematerialize-materialize fashion - lending credence to the Hollow Earth theory and the notion of UFOs having an *intra* terrestrial origin - could be these markings represent their emergent or entry points. I might add that much Native North American legend, lore and prophecy - and much of it highly sacred, and until recently just as highly secret - exists in support of at least an association with the UFO theory in solving this enigmatic puzzle. In any event, the frequent witnessing of UFOs in conjunction with crop pattern events possibly suggests that, should they exist - and again here we are dealing with yet another mystery - if not made by them, UFOs could be just as interested in them as we are.

What these extraordinary patterns represent, whether swirling energy vortices surging to the Earth's surface like giant whirlpools, or UFO landing sites, remains decidedly unknown. Whatever they are, by their complexity and similarity of their design to primordial art and hieroglyphs, as well as earliest Sumerian writing, we can't help but surmise that these strange signs in our time could indeed be indicating that whatever transpired during that earlier chapter in Earth's history is, as Native wisemen are telling us, now recurring in our own.

At this time - or this time around - our North American continent's more detailed pictorial imagery of the distant past is proliferating on the English landscape, whilst the more simple circular events that obviously occurred at the time of the Celts of that same time period is seemingly being replicated here. (Unlike our Native Indians, the Celts never recorded the more complex circles and symbols - unless they are buried beneath the crop patterns, as my upcoming theory describes.) Our prairie wheat fields and those of the American midwest are exhibiting the less complex yet steadily evolving circular crop formations initially experienced in England's Wiltshire area. It will be interesting indeed what our next growing season will 'visit' upon us.

It has been put forth that marl may be a factor in these formations. There is indeed one of the world's largest profusions of marl, or chalk, in this same ley line area of elaborate crop patterns in England. Marl is an excellent insulator. In

viewing the Earth in the inherently Indian way, with ley lines as her central nervous system, we come to another interesting premise: could it be that this mineral indeed acts as a myelin sheath, a 'neurological insulator', around whatever constitutes these, her major nervous system pathways? My earliest study of circle phenomena began at home in my own country. And similarly, near a village called Marlbank, situated on Canada's largest ley line and named after the huge vein of marl that runs through it, a plethora of circle events have transpired over the years. The ley lines and whatever they are composed of, assuming it is something conductive existing deep within the Earth rather than merely this insular marl per se, seem likely to me to be the dominant factor.

But the marl has made me wonder about another - as far as I know not yet put forth - distinct possibility. Could the source of these amazing markings be archaeological? The ancient Celts are thought to be the originators of the Glastonbury Zodiac and other such imaginative artworks created in gargantuan size along the Wiltshire landscape. Could they, or some civilization that pre-dated them, also have created other profound artistic imagery such as that appearing in the crop patterns and which still lies deep within the Earth beneath them?

Could some technique or material these would-be ancient artisans long-ago employed, leaching up or combining in some way with the chalk, be marring or harming the vegetation in some intrinsically organic way to manifest the same designs in the currently maturing crops? Or could energy emitted along these energy currents in the Earth be duplicating their artistic imprint by some naturally-occurring electrical process through the marl?

I feel this could be on the right track. But closer to the truth and still along archaeological lines, I have developed what is to me an even more worthy hypothesis as to what is causing these images 'cropping up' in England's fields: I conjecture that actual architectural structures, much the same in design and size to the Native Indian kivas (a kiva is a place of worship and ceremony) unearthed here, lie deep within the Earth. And that such huge underground places of worship, also built so long ago by Britain's tribal peoples, are interfering with the flow of emerging terrestrial energies and thereby 'etching' their structural designs on the surface.

It is undeniable, the formations on the English countryside resemble closely the geometric and other designs in the architecture of the numerous underground kivas of our North American Indians. Not only the circles, the rings, the passageways, the satellite structures, but even the dumbbell shape was a common theme in kiva construction.

Thus, in solving the crop formation mystery we may have to ascribe to more than one theory as I have presented here and outline more fully in my book. Considering the premise put forth in the above paragraph, the disturbed earth energy or swirling (earth) energy vortex theory, this archaeological theory, and - to be fair and objective, even the UFO theory - come into play. (Legend and lore suggest the protective design of their kivas derived from such a source.)

The Hopi claim we are living in the Fourth World of Creation, that three complete cycles of creation on Mother Earth have gone before. Their last Emergence involved a great flood with continents washing beneath the seas; the previous one a polar shift; the one before, a cataclysm of fiery volcanoes. These, their sacred stories, we have called legends. This is indeed their verbal history. Their 'legends' are their verbal history. No history is safer than that which is sacred and secret - and oral. When your history is passed down from wise elders to elders - in song, dance, ceremony and stories - no-one can burn the records of your peoples like Constantine ordered much of ours to be destroyed in the burning of the library at Alexandria.

Until the sixties, this Hopi world view was highly secret. To the Hopi, as with *all* aboriginal cultures, this has been *both* highly secret - and sacred. But bit by bit they are now revealing it to us. The circle is the symbol of Creation. With its added four directions in the cycle of life it constitutes the sacred Medicine Wheel, as did the identical Celtic cross from that earlier time. The swastika remains a highly sacred symbol to all the indigenous cultures that revere it; it marks the time when the four completed directions start turning at a central point of high energy, with different meaning ascribed to a counter - or clockwise rotation. To the Hopi this is an exceptionally important sign.

I have watched and anticipated - and anticipated. I dared not predict nor project - but I waited. Then news reached me back in Canada that British crop circle investigators were saying 'insectograms' or, amusingly, 'laddergrams' - complex formations clearly resembling the insectoid-type of the Hopi - had appeared on their English countryside. My notion of this being a reappearance of the Hopi claims - and creations - at the time of the last Emergence was virtually undeniable. Their resemblance to the upright, walking, insect-like figures of the Hopi story of Emergence is uncanny, unmistakable. In the Hopi myth of creation, the 'Ant People' were their constant helpers at the time of the Emergence into two of the previous worlds. Their significance in the legendary and pictorial history of the Hopi peoples is mystifying. (However, there is yet another meaning to be attributed to such insect-like figures in their current prophetic teachings.)

It is reported from England pictograms have a


distinctive community flavour, an inherent propensity for different types to appear over different geographical areas. Such was the case with Hopi petroglyphs at the time of the last Emergence, each symbol being a distinctive signature for that clan in their great migration of the Fourth World. The most detailed of the insectoid - or any - symbol pattern 'given them' they would call the 'Kachina Sign', *the spirit of the invisible forces of life*. Out of respect for the Creator, no clan would use this most sacred, most evolved, Kachina version of a symbol from which their less patterned clan symbols were derived. And lastly, the ladder and the number of its rungs indicated certain stages to be completed by mankind - and the Earth - on the evolutionary 'Road of Life'.

So artful, breathtakingly beautiful and mysteriously mystical to us are these symbols appearing on the surface of the Earth that they indeed speak an ancient message. What they are saying - and who or what is saying it - clearly impresses us as an Intelligence. Perhaps that of the Earth Mother herself. Whatever these lovely formations are, we and our Native peoples - just as the Celts of old would have been with a flurry of great rings proliferating on their fields - find ourselves in awe of them and respectful of them. To preserve such images from their ancient past, the Hopi - and other of our Indian tribes - drew them and spoke of them, creating their stories and ceremonies around them. They are preserved and honoured in the design of their sacred kivas and in their Kachina symbols. The Celts, using the only material they had to preserve their ancient memory, erected monoliths about them - although we may never know how they got them there. And we, in a spectacular reappearance in our time, have photographed, computer-imaged and analysed them.

Now we need only to analyse their meaning. What have appeared in the British Isles are, indubitably, in my rather informed opinion, the sacred Hopi images as they are shown to have evolved millennia ago. And no-one unaware of the secret culture of the Hopi could have replicated them, could have hoaxed them, in this intrinsically sacred way. In them we have a pictorial testament to the history and wisdom of tribal peoples the world over. And a key to a much-needed, if not urgently required, understanding of the needs of the Earth Mother and our Native peoples' way of living in a sacred manner in relationship with her.

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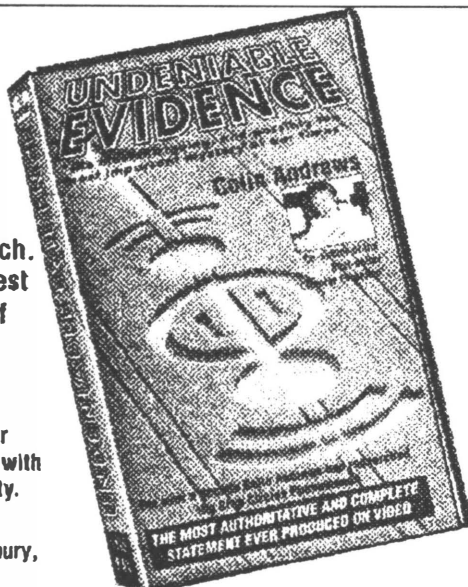
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WHY FARMERS CHARGE By Polly Carson

Polly Carson of Alton Barnes replies to some silly criticism in the tabloid Press.

On the morning of July 12th 1990 we found ourselves to be the unwilling hosts to the most complex crop pictogram yet discovered and since then we have been accused (mainly in the Press) of "cashing in" on the crop circle phenomenon. The following is an explanation of our actions.

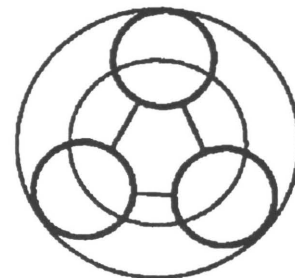
Immediately following the arrival of our 1990 pictogram, we were inundated by members of the public, the world's Press and circle researchers - all wanting to walk in the pictogram. Nothing we did would keep them out. Notices were torn down, fences broken and our crops trampled. For eight days this continued with no let-up in the numbers of people arriving. The pictogram had chosen 350 acres of very dry wheat as its backdrop and when we saw that people were smoking, we realised something had to be done. We had begun to feel (and still do) that people had a right to enter the circles - they didn't belong to us - but that, undeniably, we had a right to protect our livelihood, the growing crop.

So we decided to install someone at the entrance to the field to guide visitors down the tramlines and to insist on no smoking. In order to do this we had to pay a wage and in order to do that, we had to charge an entrance fee - the now familiar £1 per head. We did not charge anyone who was under 18 years. The response was tremendous. Everyone seemed to appreciate having someone available to discuss the circles with and to answer their questions and, having actually paid to enter, they were no longer trespassers and knew they could legitimately stay in the circles as long as they wished. It also took the pressure off the other farmers in the area who preferred their circles to remain unvisited.

The visitors then asked for souvenirs - "Haven't you got any photographs?" Of course we hadn't -

we hadn't even thought of it! Other people had, though, and there was no end to the number of little entrepreneurs contacting us wanting us to sell their key-rings, photos, paper-weights, etc. So we started to, as well. (What would you have done?) Eventually, we made our own T-shirts and sold out very quickly. We had other offers, too. People wanted to bring burger bars, tea stalls, etc., to the site and would have paid us handsomely, but somehow this was turning the whole thing into a three-ring circus and just didn't seem appropriate. There were other opportunities, too: the unsuspecting foreigners who, having travelled a great distance just to see this sight would probably have paid anything at the gate - but who were not taken advantage of.

In 1991, we were better prepared. We produced our own photographs, key-rings etc., and cut out the middle-man. We also setup the caravan straight away. People will continue to want to experience this phenomenon at first hand, and why shouldn't they? We have to respond to that demand; we hope the way we have chosen will suit everybody and be understood (even by the Press!).



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If you have never seen the logo above for The Circular - this means you missed the first year of the magazine. The Circular published 3 editions in 1990 prior to its association with the CCCS. The early days saw very small print runs which means that a lot of the magazine's first discoveries, theories & contributions have been missed by many. The original magazine has been much sought after and gained an almost 'underground' status. Responding to demand The Circular is releasing a limited number of Compendium Editions of the first year - offering wider readership to some of its early articles. It was this material that brought the magazine notoriety for breaking new ground. The Compendium also includes some previously unpublished material that had to be reluctantly dropped due to lack of space. The Compendium of Volume One will be available until March 1992 only. Numbers printed will be in direct proportion to orders. Please allow 30 days for delivery.

The Circular Compendium of Volume One contains over 50 pages packed with news from the 1990 Crop Circle season including : A Code of Conduct, Two Opposing Views of Circle Origins, An Eye-Witness Account of Circle Formation, The Alton Barnes Pictogram in Detail, Jenny Randles Has Her Say, The Art of Circles, What is TORRO?, The TORRO Conference, Dr. Meaden and the Strange Attractor, P.D. Ouspensky on Symbolism and 1990's Last Grand Design.

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