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AWARENESS

Steve Freeman '90.

AWARENESS

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In the last 3 editions of Awareness we have placed considerable emphasis on the Corn Circle (or more correctly Crop Circle) phenomenon, believing that the explanations tendered over the past five years were flawed. Maximum observation of the 1990 cereal fields was advised, with the ever increasing possibility that circle formation could be a para-normal event.

This prediction has been widely borne out by the quantum leap forward of the phenomenon in 1990. Our increasing interest has been rewarded by experiences of incredible new formations appearing from late May to August in the usual Wessex area and further afield. We estimate 6 or more new shapes have "matured" enabling the origin to produce a host of "pictograms" with dumb-bells, rings, half-rings, spurs and other features.

Contact Int. Council members have "got on their bikes" and made their independent assessments of what is going on. It is hard to believe that some of the formations really do exist from drawings or photos, but we have witnesses to the major events from the President down. When you consider that 2 formations at least were 200-250 yards long - as high as the Telecom Tower - it is time to sit up and take notice!

The consensus now is that either we have the greatest ever manifestation of an unknown intelligence or the greatest hoax ever perpetrated! Either way, it is now essential that we find out the truth.

Is this really Ufology? UNIDENTIFIED it certainly is; FLYING seems likely but cannot be proven; OBJECTS there maybe, but with many hundreds of ground markings reported in 1989-90 it is most surprising that very few solid, shaped craft have been reported in connection. We cannot speak for everyone, but to some members of the Contact Int Council this is the most exciting development in years, and one that is not dependent on hearsay. Again, we don't wish to bore readers with material on a subject as controversial as this, so as we do on occasion we are enclosing a survey form asking for grassroots opinion on Crop Circles or Systems as they should accurately be titled from 1990. Please endeavour to make your comments using lateral thinking!

It was a great privilege to make several visits to circle sites during the season, and meet other enthusiasts. The sense of comradeship was incredible- just like it must have been in the last war- perhaps the circles themselves have something to do with it. Everybody was endeavouring to garner more information from fellow onlookers and exchange views. Whereas ideas on the symbolism of the shapes beneath them were being heavily promoted, actual origins were less readily discussed, but certainly nobody was promoting "wind vortices" as the answer.

We hope that the extensive coverage of the subject in this edition will be of value. Further updating will follow in the next Awareness.

Ending with more mundane matters - printing costs have been leap-frogging in the past year, plus another jump in postal charges this Autumn, so we regret that renewals, when due, will be £7 for 4 copies or £12 for 8 copies from receipt of this edition of Awareness. The overseas rates will be increased by a similar proportion.

The Editor

CROP CIRCLES/SYSTEMS - DEVELOPMENTS SUMMER 1990

The final tally for 1989 was 270 circles over the whole of the country. Around 75% of these were found in the "Wessex Corridor or Triangle" centred on the downland areas of Hampshire and Wiltshire. A triple ringed circle was discovered in late August/September - the final new development of 1989.

The expectations for 1990 were therefore extremely high and it turned out we were not disappointed. By early May, formations began to appear in greater numbers than ever before, and by the end of the month incredible new developments were taking place. Circles were now accompanied by rectangular features, multi half-rings, dumb-bells and spurs. In fact some of the formations were now "systems" or "pictograms" as they became popularly known. In spite of all the extra appendages the new shapes still remained perfectly symmetrical. The advent of these new features must have sounded the death knell of the plasma vortex theories promoted by TORRO. In fact this organisation arranged an international conference at Oxford Polytechnic on June 23rd to endorse their Crop Circle theories. From what we hear photographs of the latest formations with the rectangular features were kept well covered up. Later on outrageous claims were made purporting that the rectangles, spurs etc were added on to the ordinary circle formations by wandering hippies to make them more interesting! (I.E The circles were formed by plasma vortices, but the rectangular extras were added later!)

By mid-July the estimates coming in indicated over 300 formations had generated in Wiltshire alone. Unfortunately the excessive temperatures in late July and early August ripened the cereal crops so rapidly this year that the majority of fields had been harvested by August 10th. No doubt a great many formations remained undiscovered, but a number of farm workers reported circle sightings while cutting the crop and arranged for the press to photograph these before final harvesting. This was most likely to happen on very flat terrain where it was difficult to see indentations in the centre of the field from the roadside.

As well as the quantity of formations being reported, the sheer size of the new "pictograms" was becoming quite mind-boggling by mid-July. One in a Ministry of Defence field in the Vale of Pewsey was reported $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in length and the formation we discuss in detail on pages 8-9 the Alton Barnes "giant", was measured by us at just under 200 yards in length.

The new developments were kept out of the National Press until mid-July, but after one of the giant formations was shown in colour in 2 or 3 Dailies, there followed a rash of hoaxes and shadowy figures showing how they had been hoaxing circles for years. The Sunday Tabloids tried to outgun each other in producing the best tall story and photographs. Several organisations offered substantial rewards for anyone who could explain how the Crop Circles were formed. The Sunday Mirror had £10,000 available. It is not known if these monies have been paid out.

On July 25th a hoax was created in a field being continuously filmed at Bratton Wilts. The observers were so convinced they had captured circle formation, they immediately informed the BBC who put out news bulletins. Two hours later painful retractions took place!

Quite an exciting Summer -----

CROP SYSTEMS - THE POSSIBLE CAUSES 1990

There have been a host of explanations as to the prime cause of crop "circles" prior to 1990. Now that the "circles" are no longer a complete definition since many 1990 formations exhibit a multitude of combinations, or circles, rings, inverted rings and rectangular features forming what have been termed "pictograms", we have to reassess the validity of explanations proposed up to 1989.

The explanations are basically grouped into 3 schools of thought:-

- a) The Wind Vortex Theory as favoured by Dr. Meaden of TORRO - the purely scientific approach.
 - b) The Hoax. Somehow or other all the circle/systems are the result of human agency.
 - c) The Para-normal explanation. The formations are due to the design of some unknown intelligence which - may or may not be - a manifestation of UFOs.
- a) Wind Vortex Theory: The suggestion that all circles were the result of a natural phenomenon involving what was termed "a plasma vortex" began to recede as the formations became more and more complex. Within the limits of the writers' knowledge, the vortex is only truly representative in explaining random single circles. Geometrically perfect arrangements of 3,4,5 or more circles become difficult to account for. Add the presence of rings from 1986 onwards and the theory is struggling. The quantum leap of the 1990 shapes introducing rectangular features, just about destroys the original vortex theory. By definition a vortex must exhibit circular geometry and any attempt to explain 1990 "pictograms" possibly by action of natural vortices must really stretch the patience of a practically minded person.
- b) The Hoax: Throughout the history of crop circles, at the time of maximum exposure to the media a number of hoaxes ensue mainly perpetrated by the press itself or "Worzel Gummidge" characters adjourning from their local hostelry. The publication of the Alton Barnes "giant" in Today newspaper on July 19th started off a rash of motley "cowboy" revelations in the Sunday tabloids, mostly too pathetic to be described. The hoax perpetrated on July 25th 1990 by whom it is still not clear, except it was carried out knowingly in the Wiltshire field being videoed by "Operation Blackbird", and the directors of the Operation were sufficiently fooled in the first instance to inform the BBC that they had a major event. The embarrassing retractions that followed should be sufficient warning for any serious research operation to establish beyond doubt they have genuine data before informing even the most objective media source. Believe it or not - the July 25th hoax a "Worzel Gummidge" joke did the serious research of the mystery a favour in that it showed the complete pictogram type formations of 1990 are very difficult to hoax with any degree of perfection. The direct overhead photographs of the formations showed extremely



ragged edges particularly in the triple ringed circle. The long isolated rectangular strips were twisted and besides that were outside the "skill level" the phenomenon has reached. (see p.10) It was like comparing the work of Michelangelo with "Joe Bloggs"

Thus the conclusion to be made is that the multicomponent systems will become increasingly difficult to hoax. Of 12 formations visited by the writer in July/August 1990, none were considered to be hoaxes.

There is a wider view that the whole lot of formations are hoaxed by a roving "folk group" who spend all Summer in this activity. Could such a group reach the level of skill required to produce the 1990 formations and would they have the logistics to produce 100s of examples all over the Wessex region and some further afield?

The only form of "hoax" explanation acceptable to the writer is the futuristic concept of "perverted science". Somewhere in an experimental laboratory of which there are many in the Wiltshire area mainly belonging to the Ministry of Defence, odd experiments may be taking place involving laser beams/holograms/computers/satellites and the like. An unknown side effect of these reactions may be to produce the circles/pictograms we are now looking at in wonder. One assumes that the reaction is accidental rather than deliberate, as government scientists would surely not damage private crops in the cause of science without agreement with the farmers. One has to look at the aerial photographs of the new pictograms to infer that the perfect geometry seen must suggest "computerisation".

c) The Para-Normal Explanation: As each succeeding year passes, the possibility that the crop circle phenomenon is only answered in the realms of the para-normal becomes more and more a probability rather than a remote possibility. The ideal answer in this category is that the markings are UFO landings, but as it is firmly established that no indentations or burn marks are seen inside the formations and the complete range of shapes is now so extensive we could only surmise that a range of UFOs as diverse as aircraft in the USAF say were all operating and landing simultaneously.

Of course the best answer is that UFOs are signalling to us by means of a maturing "code" proving the presence of an intelligence. With an advanced technology the markings could easily be created by Beaming down from above the ground. However, there are limited reports of UFO sightings associated with circle/system formations, and as one of the countries leading monitoring groups of UFOs Contact International has no direct evidence sufficient to press the point.

There has been reports of bobbling lights seen near to where formations develop and these manifestations may hold the answer to the mystery. At the time of writing we still await evidence from Operation Blackbird and their camera vigil, but with literally 1000s of pairs of eyes scouring the Wessex area from May to August in organised groups why is there still no definitive witness to the Birth of a formation? As far as we know all formations

generate in the hours of darkness, and the process takes a matter of seconds only. Reports from all night vigils that saw nothing occurring in darkness, but when daylight came up new formations were seen, are still coming in. With the total of 1990 formations at well over the 300 mark, the logic is that the origin is profound; wishing to impart a message to the human race, but still keeping its identity a secret, which it can accomplish by means of high technology unknown to us. Eliminating the possibility of aliens emerging from UFOs, we are left with some type of "spiritual intelligence" the likes of which we are only just coming to terms with. There are no precedents in books, cinema films, or TV dramas and we eliminate all pre-conceived ideas.

On the ground there are possible clues to what is happening. The formations are not benign - energy is detected by pendulum and hand dowsing. Psychics react strongly receiving telepathic communication and other feelings. Occasionally, strong electro-magnetic impulses are picked up. Clearly hoaxes created by trampling would show no such reactions.

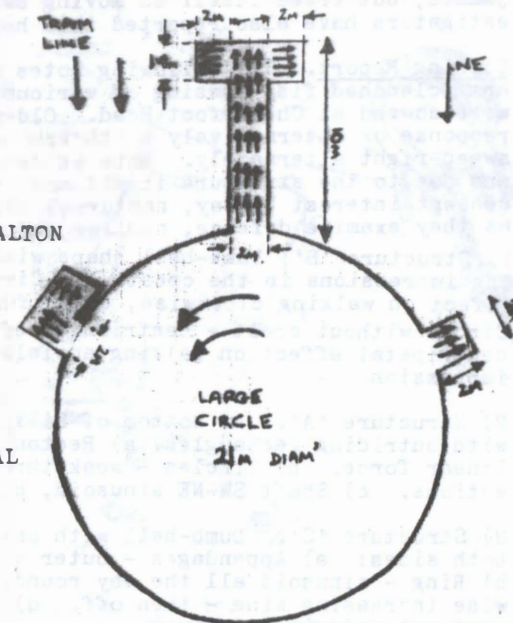
There has been a whole host of speculative interpretations of the pictogram formations. Ancient Sumerian scripts or pre-history zodiacal symbols are amongst the favorites. On a purely scientific basis, each succeeding pictogram merely utilises the different combinations of "skills" being developed by the originating intelligence. As shown in the separate account on page 10, it is estimated that around 18 "skills" are available which could produce countless thousands of regular patterns, all open to any interpretation that could be placed on them. For the time being Contact Int. will steer clear of suggesting any intelligent message is being laid down, although it is quite clear that if the origin so desired or had knowledge of our language, it has enough ability available to lay down a message in plain English!

CROP CIRCLES/SYSTEMS. "WENDOVER TAP" BUCKS

FORMED LATE JULY? 1990
POSITION LEFT OF WENDOVER - HALTON
ROAD A.4011
O.S. ref 085 873 SHEET 159

TWO ADDITIONAL TINY SPURS
MAY FORM PART OF THIS SYSTEM.

SYSTEM IS NOT QUITE SYMMETRICAL
SOIL - GREY LOAM,
TERRAIN SLIGHTLY ROLLING.



THE WINCHESTER-CHEESEFOOT HEAD FORMATIONS 1990

An amazing array of Crop Circles/Systems formed at this well known mecca for circle creation between May 17th and late June, within a distance of 2 miles from the start of the A272 east of Winchester. It could be called a mini "solar system" with no less than 8 formations - each different - found in various fields along the road. The field known as the "Devils Punchbowl" with a panoramic view from the top of the hill was "visited" on May 17th. There was what appeared to be a single ringed circle except that the ring was situated almost midway across the circle and could be termed an inverted ring of standing corn in a standard circle. This particular field has been an attention grabber almost continuously over the past ten years with many new shapes appearing there. A week later, May 24-25th, the first formation with rectangular features was born (see diagram A). The other formations then appeared up to the end of June.

A Contact Int. survey of the area took place on Sunday July 15th. The party was accompanied by a psychic. The following comments were made by the psychic who became extremely emotional after spending some time in formation 'B' :-

Psychic's Comments.

- Smelt burning immediately on leaving car about 100 yards from formation 'B'.
- Received telepathy inside the circles of 'B' but could not point to a source. Telepathy very strong.
- Felt very emotional - tremendous elation - like a loved one returning from the war.
- In an emotional state cried out "it's not for us"
- Felt healing power was present.

During our visit to the formation one of the cameras being used jammed, but freed itself on moving away from this field. Other investigators have also reported this happening.

Dowsing Report. The following notes are for Michael Soper's rigid arm/ clenched fist dowsing of various formations. Four structures were dowsed at Cheesefoot Head. Older looking formations showed no response or alternatively a "threshing" impression (sweep-left, sweep-right alternately. Note we cannot tell whether the effects are due to the structure itself and its geomantic placing, or subsequent interest by, say, nocturnal UFOs examining the sites - just as they examine defence, nuclear and power plants.

1) Structure 'B'; Dumb-bell shape with triple crest; a) weak threshing impressions in the crest. b) Circle with crest - centripetal effect on walking clockwise, centrifugal on walking anticlockwise. Circle without crest - centrifugal effect on walking clockwise, centripetal effect on walking anticlockwise. c) Joining shaft - no impression.

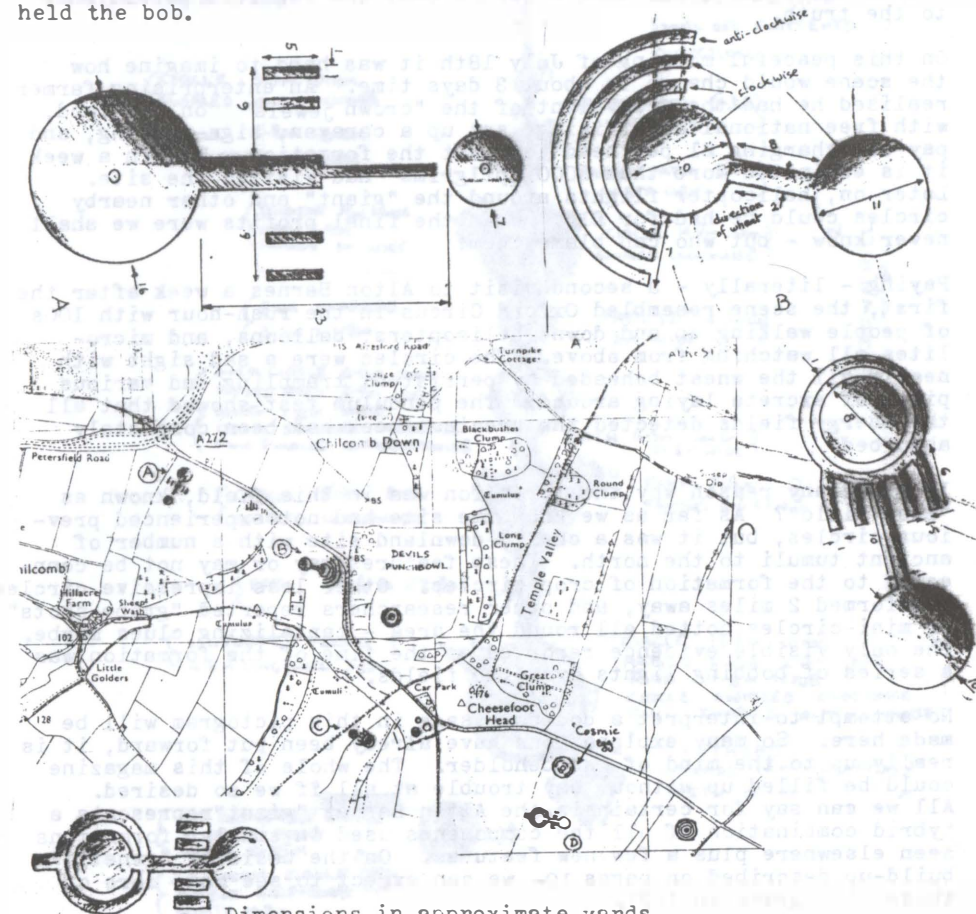
2) Structure 'A'. At bottom of hill in same field as 'B': dumb-bell with outriding rectangles. a) Rectangles - strong impression of linear force. b) Circles - weak threshing impression in both directions. c) Shaft SW-NE sinusoid, but weak.

3) Structure 'C'. Dumb-bell with one ring and double appendages on both sides: a) Appendages - outer upward force, inner downward force, b) Ring - sinusoid all the way round. c) Ringed circle : anticlockwise increasing sine - then off. d) Other circle: anticlockwise - even out, odd inward force.

4) Structure 'D'. Dumb-bell with one ring and appendages pointing towards ring (4 of them) : a- Appendages - strong vertical wave along length. b) Nothing on shaft. c) Unringed circle - clockwise direction stronger on outer edge; anticlockwise - blocked. d) ringed circle - clockwise - sinusoid, anticlockwise - fine detail thrown out.

What can be made of these impressions? The weak "threshing" impression records the mechanical process by which the circles were made. The other stronger impressions may indicate what the different symbols are intended to represent. The two circles in 1) gave an impression of turbine blades, left-handed and right-handed. 2) was too weak to mean much. 3) appears to represent another kind of machine - but what? 4) also needs thought and I shall report back.

Evidently, much more thought is needed before the exact meaning of the impressions, some of them very strong, is gained. Note that the symbols which gave the strongest responses also gave a very positive movement of the suspended pendulum regardless of which person held the bob.



Dimensions in approximate yards.

D Drawings - thanks to the "philosopher" at Cheesefoot Head.

THE ALTON BARNES "GIANT" PICTOGRAM

The diagram opposite is probably the climax of the 1990 crop formations - an absolutely mind-boggling combination of every feature so far developed by the origin. These ground markings must rank, arguably, as the most complex ever found anywhere in the world.

Our measurements indicate that the total length of the formation is approaching 200 yards, although accuracy is difficult to achieve with all the features piled up together to form an amazing "pictogram"

The formation was formed on the night of 11th-12th July, and first examined by Contact on July 18th. On witnessing it for the first time in the early morning sunshine, one was left speechless and overwhelmed, but with the nagging thought - "what if this gets into the newspapers?" Indeed it did. On July 19th TODAY produced the first aerial picture and the Daily STAR had it in full colour on the 20th. There followed a veritable bout of mass-hysteria from the tabloid press up to the end of July with claims of "how its done" coming thick and fast, none of which bear the remotest resemblance to the truth.

On this peaceful morning of July 18th it was hard to imagine how the scene would change in about 3 days time. An enterprising farmer realised he had the equivalent of the "crown jewels" on his land, with free national advertising, set up a caravan, sign-posting, and pay-box charging £1 per head to visit the formation. Within a week it is estimated more than 5000 "pilgrims" had visited the site. Later on, helicopter flights around the "giant" and other nearby circles could be had for £15. What the final profits were we shall never know - but who can blame them!

Paying - literally - a second visit to Alton Barnes a week after the first, the scene resembled Oxford Circus in the rush-hour with 100s of people walking up and down; helicopters, balloons, and micro-lites all watching from above. The circles were a sad sight with nearly all the wheat beheaded by persistent trampling and various piles of excreta laying around. The pendulum test showed that all the energy fields detected the previous week had been completely absorbed.

Is there any reason why the formation was in this field, known as "East Field"? As far as we know the site had not experienced previous circles, but it was a chalk, downland site with a number of ancient tumuli to the north. These features may or may not be connected to the formation of crop circles. Other less impressive circles had formed 2 miles away, and other researchers reported "grape-shots" or mini-circles dotted all round the area - tantalizing clues maybe. The only visible evidence reported at the time of the formation was a series of bobbing lights over the fields.

No attempt to interpret a coded message in this pictogram will be made here. So many explanations have already been put forward, it is really up to the mind of the beholder. The whole of this magazine could be filled up without any trouble at all if we so desired. All we can say for certain is the Alton Barnes "giant" represents a hybrid combination of all the components used in smaller formations seen elsewhere plus a few new features. On the basis of "genetic" build-up described on pages 10- we can expect to see many more of these pictograms in 1991.

ALTON BARNES "GIANT"

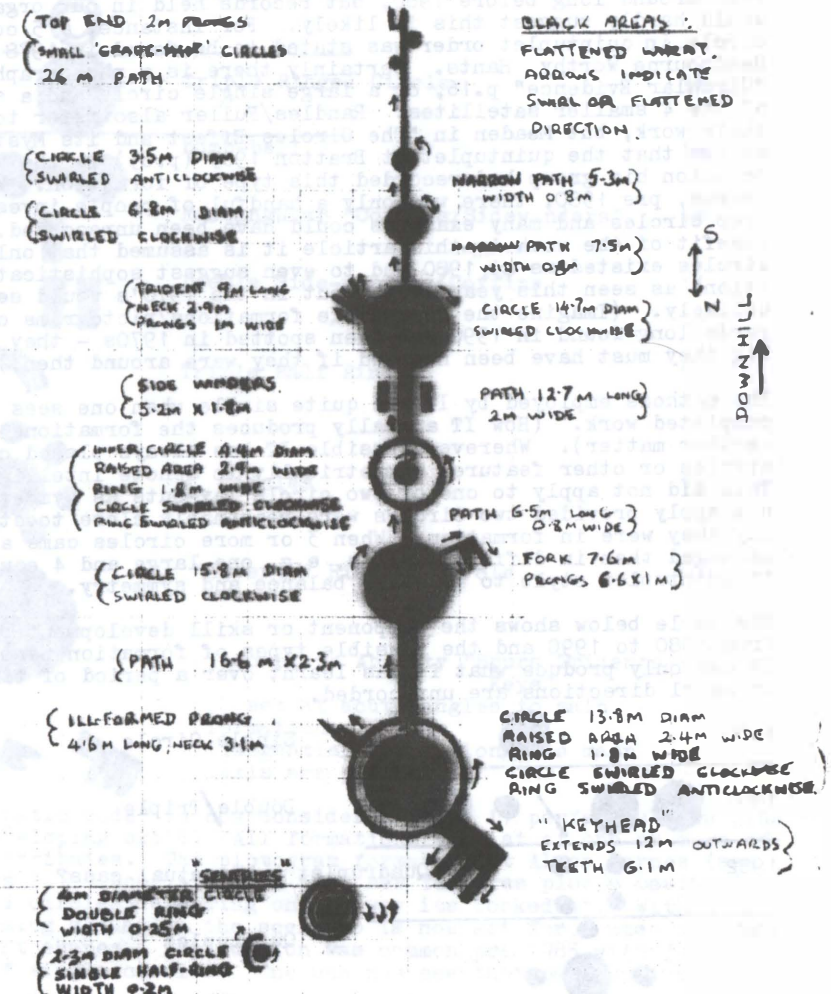
FORMED 11-12 JULY 1990 NIGHT

CROP: WHEAT GROUND: CHALK

MAP REF O.S. 628 113 SHEET 173

TOTAL LENGTH OF JOINED FORMATION = 167m = 549 FT
" " " COMPLETE " 2180m = 591 FT.

SCALE 1:1000




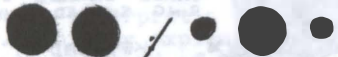


CROP FORMATIONS - A GENETIC BUILD-UP?










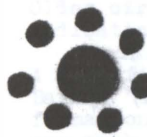


The developments of the 1990 season have been so startling that all previous years formations have paled into insignificance, but on further analysis there is an undeniable build-up of circle building skill by 'IT' (For convenience the prime cause of the phenomenon is denoted 'IT'). Over a period of 12 years IT has matured from creating single circles to the level of 1990 wherein we now see 18 distinctive components. All the 1990 formations are combinations of these "components" or "skills" in various sizes or thicknesses. The whole process is akin to genetic development in living matter with single cells multiplying and then mutations forming.

Detractors of this theory indicate that "multi-formations" have been around long before 1980, but records held in our organisation would hardly suggest this is likely. For instance, a 5 component circle in quintuplet order was stated to be found in 1978 at Headbourne Worthy, Hants. Certainly there is a photograph in "Circular Evidence" p.16, or a large single circle and a statement of the 4 smaller satellites. Randles/Fuller also refer to this in their work, but Meaden in "The Circles Effect and its Mysteries" states that the quintuplet at Bratton 1983 (p.65) is the first occasion his group had recorded this type of formation. Well of course, pre 1980, there was only a handful of people investigating crop circles and many examples could have been unrecorded. For the benefit of the work in this article it is assumed that only single circles existed as at 1980 and to even suggest sophisticated formations as seen this year were about in the 1970's would seem highly unlikely. (Imagine the incredible formations/pictograms over 200 yards long found in 1990 not been spotted in 1970s - they are so big they must have been noticed if they were around then!)

The methods employed by IT are quite simple when one sees the completed work. (How IT actually produces the formations is another matter). Wherever possible IT has always placed component circles or other features symmetrically to denote intelligence. This did not apply to one or two circle lay-outs as symmetry did not apply provided two circles were reasonably close together to say they were in formation. When 3 or more circles came along, IT arranged them in different sizes, e.g. one large and 4 equal smalls in quintuplet style to maintain balance and symmetry.

The table below shows the component or skill development by IT from 1980 to 1990 and the possible types of formation permissible, IT can only produce what it has learnt over a period of time, sizes or swirl directions are unrecorded.

		SKILLS
1980		Single Circle 1
1981		Double/Triple 3
1982		Quadruplet - no actual case? 4
1983		Quintuplet 5

		SKILLS
1984		5
1985		5
1986		Single Ringed Circle 6
		Ringed Circle + Spur 7
1987		Lone Ring 8
		Double Ring Circle (+ conjunction with quintuplet) 9
1988		Double Ring 10
1989		Triple Ringed Circle 11
1990		Dumb-bell 12
		Rectangular "Coffins/Sidewinders" 13
		Double Side-winders/Coffins 14
		Triple Half Ring 15
		8 Circles 16
		"Inverted" Ring in Circle 17
		Incomplete Ability "Spurs Tridents Keys" 18

The "genetic code" is now considered to be 17 perfect skills plus an 18th developing skill. All formations consist of one or more of these attributes. The pictogram formation at Alton Barnes (see drawings 2.9) consists of 6 1990 new features plus a basis of 6-8 standard circles depending on the way its looked at. With such a mushrooming situation the scenario is now set for a mass of different shapes. Replication was common pre 1985 with just 5 arrangements of single circles. One can now see that mathematically the sky is the limit.

- e.g. 2 skills from 18 = 153 Possible Shapes
 3 skills from 18 = 816 Possible Shapes
 4 skills from 18 = 3060 Possible Shapes etc.,

There are obviously limitations as to what features can be effectively combined to make a formation, but until we know more about how 'IT' works, we can only speculate.

Previous Predictions:

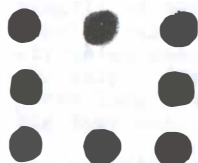
1. Awareness Vol 16, No. 3, a prediction of 1990 shapes was made. In two of the cases similar formations in 1990 have been reported.

TRIPLE RING CIRCLE:

This was found in late 1989 (Report by Pat Delgado)

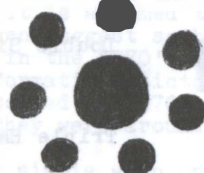


FORECAST



Eight Circles in a Square

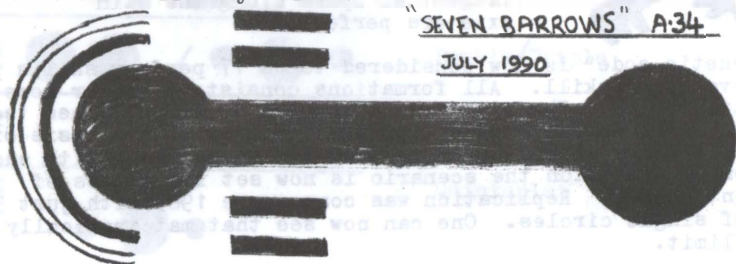
ACTUAL



Eight Circles
 7 small and 1 large
 (Bickerton, Devon.
 Early June 1990)

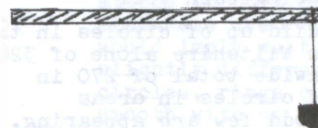
1991 Predictions:

The above text should indicate that it will be almost impossible to suggest new formations, but we are now at the stage where absolutely anything could occur. If say IT develops another 6 skills between 1990 and 1991 as it did between 1989 and 1990, then only the brave could ever dare predict the outcome. The only thing for certain is that there are likely to be over 1000 formations and the size of some of these will defy belief.



THE PENDULUM EXPERIMENTS

The organisation is continually looking for new ways of detecting energy fields at crop system sites. So far experiments with metal detectors, radio tuners and water movements have not produced significant results but the suspended plumb-line or bob making up a simple pendulum is very effective.



The results of the tests we tried are in agreement with Andrews/Delgado's findings in "Circular Evidence", page 177-8, but additional facts have emerged.

- (a) The pendulum swings always in line with the direction of swirl in a circle - either clockwise or anti-clockwise. This happens with the bob over any part of the circle except the central nodal point.
- (b) When placed over the central node, which is indicated by a gauged out naked section of earth surrounded by flattened crop, the pendulum showed no movement.
- (c) At certain sections in the latest complex formations a too and fro movement was observed.
- (d) Some differences between operators were observed, particular males and females. In order to eliminate personal bias, the pendulum was suspended from a 3 feet long rod.
- (e) Older circles produced less vigorous movements of the pendulum indicating their energy was fading.
- (f) A specific test was carried out on components of the Alton Barnes "Giant" formation illustrated on P. 9 one week after formation showing an active pendulum. Returning to the site one week later after massive publicity had been produced by the media and possibly 5,000 people had walked through the circles, it was noted that the pendulum was completely "dead". No rotation was found anywhere in this 200 yard long formation indicating that the vast number of visitors had absorbed the energies originally present. Conversely, the same repeated test on a lesser known circle about 1/2 mile away still showed good pendulum movement.
- (g) Duplicate bobs of different weights all synchronise themselves when placed side by side within the circles.

Testing is still being carried out.

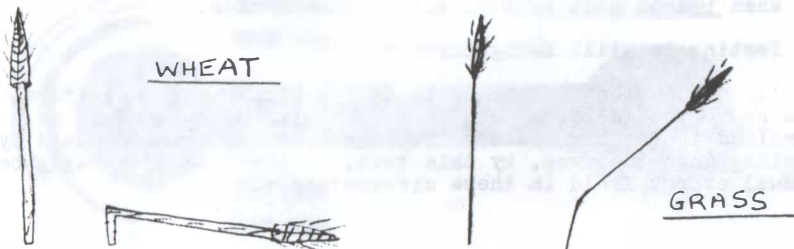
The only conclusion to be made is that a high power centrifugal force or vortex is being used to make a circle, but how it is controlled is the big mystery. We can preclude hoaxes caused by trampling down the crop, by this test, as there would clearly be no residual energy field in these circumstances.

CROP SYSTEMS-

The Questions that must be Answered

We list below a series of questions and answers - where answers can be given. The information to hand is based on knowledge to July 1990 and by the time the reader has perceived this magazine, the situation may have already changed.

- Q. Are the numbers of circles/systems increasing each year?
- A. Most definitely there has been a rapid build up of circles in the Wessex area. We have a reported total in Wiltshire alone of 320 to mid-July 1990, as compared to a nationwide total of 270 in 1989 and around 80 in 1988. Frequency of circles in areas outside Wessex is not clear although the odd few are appearing.
- Q. Are the 1990 formations different to previous years?
- A. Very definitely. There is a staggering increase in ability to produce rectangular outriders, half rings and spurs, combined with the features seen in earlier years.
- Q. Why should nearly all the formations appear in the "Wessex Triangle" area?
- A. There is no objective answer to this. We know that this down-land area is mostly chalky ground and that may be an essential requirement, although several other areas of the country also have chalky ground and have no circles. If there is a link with covert military experiments then of course this area of Wiltshire is very well represented with secret M.O.D. establishments. Should it be faintly possible to hoax 320 circles/systems in 2 months then if the perpetrator(s) live locally to the "Wessex Triangle" that could explain the high density in that area.
- Q. Do the formations appear only in cereal crop fields? Why shouldn't they happen on rough pasture?
- A. We still have no reports to hand of circles/systems on rough grassland, and can see why if the phenomenon is very selective. Ripening wheat/barley/rape etc., has a very thick stem which easily bends over near the base and stays in the "dead-fold" position. The heavy seed head also makes toppling easy. With rough grasses stems tend to be thinner and of considerable variation and most of them flex back when folded over. Thus in the swirling action which we believe occurs in the formation of circles, the pre-selection of good quality cereals ensures that the effect is almost perfect.



It is noted that most formations appear in good-looking cereal fields with little or no weed, well structured crops and defined tramlines. This is the most noteworthy indication of an intelligence at work.

- Q. Are the formations, UFO landing marks?
- A. Almost certainly, the markings cannot be landings. There is no indication of burning from exhaust gases. The 1990 formations in particular with the new features described elsewhere are nearly all different in shape and size which would imply vast numbers of UFO designs - nearly every one slightly different. The layering of the crop, whether in circles, rings or rectangular sections is always perfectly smooth with no destruction of stems, seed heads or uprooting.
- Q. If nothing has landed, how are the markings produced assuming an intelligence is at work?
- A. We cannot answer this question for certain until someone can produce a film of an actual event, which is proving elusive as the search for a genuine UFO picture. The most likely scenario is that the source of the energy is a few 100 feet above the ground, and the resultant shape is somehow beamed down to the field. We cannot exclude the possibility of some sort of laser beam from outer space, being a cause, or even origins underneath the ground.
- Q. How can you discount hoaxing being the prime cause of the formations?
- A. Apart from idiots producing hoaxes for the tabloid presses' benefit at the end of July 1990, the sheer precision and symmetry of the formations seen in 1990 reinforces our previous statements about hoaxing. The logistics of hoaxing 320 formations in 2 months of 1990 in one county to the degree of accuracy seen in the aerial photographs would seem virtually impossible for the average person to achieve. Only persons of scientific engineering background using the highest technology would stand any chance of accurately producing these designs and then for what purpose? In all our records on UFO hoaxing no sustained claims have lasted more than about 2 years and the perpetrator has always come forward. Here we have a phenomenon lasting for over 10 years duration, increasing in size and complexity every year and no name or group involved.
- Q. Are the same fields being endowed with circle formations every year?
- A. Records indicate that certain fields have high frequencies of occurrence such as Cheesefoot Head, Devils Punch-Bowl (A 272) and Litchfield, Seven Barrows (A 34). A number of these fields are in close proximity to prehistoric tumuli or stone circles, but there is no evidence to connect the phenomenon with ancient relics as far as present knowledge can tell.
- Q. Can you detect energy fields in or around circle formations?
- A. Yes. We have carried out very positive tests with a suspended pendulum - the motions of the pendulum following the direction

of swirling (see detailed section). Electrical sparks, noises and electronic interference have been picked up by various groups examining circles. Our consultant psychic has picked up strong indications of telepathy inside circles.

We cannot envisage any of the above would occur with a natural event and certainly not with a hoaxed formation.

Q. Does anything happen physically to witnesses after visiting circle formations?

A. A number of reports exist in the literature of frightened animals and sometimes people. Visits made by Contact. Int. and friends resulted on upset stomachs on three separate occasions. There is no direct evidence that forces surrounding the circles were responsible for these upsets, and the cause could have been nervous excitement having just witnessed some of the breathtaking formations. One gets the impression that Crop Circles mean to be harmless because there is no burning or uprooting to be found anywhere on genuine markings. There is no indication of malevolence, in spite of the awesome powers being demonstrated. Rumours that the molecular structure of wheat/barley etc grains sampled from inside a circle had altered were made in 1989, but seem to have died away during 1990.

Q. Aren't you barking up the wrong tree - markings like these have been around for a long time?

A. This is a very tricky one to answer. Correspondence with Jenny Randles has brought the argument to light. "Circle-ology" started in 1980, and Ufology generally regarded as dating from 1947. What went before? Our own records published in previous editions of Awareness list hundreds of pre 1947 UFOs. Randles claims there are also many records of Crop Circle formations with or without rings prior to 1980. Are we comparing "like with like" - unless every one of these earlier formations were photographed there is no way of telling. Randles lists a couple of dozen cases worldwide pre 1980 in her latest tome (with Paul Fuller), "Crop Circles a Mystery Solved". The Crop Circles are a very special breed. Our own files have 1000s of ground markings reported in grass, cereal crops, and other field vegetation. In many cases we cannot tell if the markings are burning, flattened down or swirled. Unless Randles has very detailed reports/photos there is no way of saying for certain what sort of markings were witnessed. Pre 1947 UFO material can be very general in description and still count for something, but pre-1980 circle events must needs be specific to sustain this argument.

The other point is that only in the last 5 years have sufficient researchers been operating to find all the Crop Circle formations and most of these have been operating in the "Wessex Triangle" area only. Well, you believe what you will, but can anybody really say that the numbers, sizes and shapes seen in the 1990 cereal season were there 10 years ago and never reported? If you consider the introduction of the perfect rectangular features this year seen on a dozen or more formations, there was nothing at all like this between 1985-89 except for two odd circles with a spur. How could the investigators have missed seeing the 1990 type shapes from a reported total of around 500 formations in those 4 years?

Q. Are formations only being created at night and does weather play a part.

A. As far as we are aware, all creation occurs in hours of darkness, but a number of accounts exist of claimed formation in daylight. All witnesses seem to agree that the event is over and done with in a matter of seconds. Glowing lights have been seen in the vicinity of a new circle, but descriptions of structured UFOs being involved are few and far between.

The Meaden theory points to certain weather conditions being required before circles can form, but there can be no doubt that formations are appearing irrespective of weather from the sheer numbers in 1990. Large numbers appeared in May (dry) June (wet) and July (dry).

Q. Are there any equivalent formations abroad?

A. In spite of reports that circle formations are appearing outside the UK, we have yet to see any photographic evidence that we are indeed examining the same phenomenon.

Q. Are the latest formations "messages" from an intelligence?

A. Field visits to the most frequented sites reveal that speculation is rife in interpreting some form of coded message in the 1990 markings. Resemblance to ancient Zodiacal signs or Sumarian writing have been forwarded as explanations, but no positive single answer can be made at this moment in time. The only thing for certain is that the shapes we are now seeing must indicate "intelligence" at work whether somehow man-made or para-normal.

Q. Can you foresee the situation in 1991 crop season?

A. If the answer to the crop circle mystery has not been solved by the end of 1990 growing season then we approach 1991 with a mixture of excitement and trepidation.

In terms of numbers we could anticipate over 1000 formations appearing in the Wessex triangle alone, based on the build-up over 5 years. Overall size of individual examples is now reaching awesome proportions with giants of 200-300 yards overall length appearing. Could we dare to expect to see a formation $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in length next year?

The actual development of shapes in 1990 was in itself a staggering advance on 1989 and previous years. At least 4 distinctive new geometrical features appeared in 1990 formations. Whereas in earlier years only one new feature at a time tended to emerge.

Putting all the above together - 1991 could see the most incredible manifestations in our crop fields, both in terms of size, frequency and geometry, which could send shock waves round the world!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From Jenny Randles, UFO author and joint author of "Controversy of the Circles" and "CROP CIRCLES, A Mystery Solved".

Dear Editor,

I wanted to respond to the letter from H.D.L Thomas and the editorial reply (in Awareness Issue 4, 1989-90).

The subject was crop circles, termed (rather misleadingly) 'cornfield rings' by the contributor. Several questions are asked of Dr Meaden's 'followers' which they are supposed to have 'avoided up to now'. The from the editor mostly concurs by suggesting that the Meaden theory is 'sadly wanting' and needs constant updating, but it unfortunately compounds the matter with errors. Unhappily there is a good deal of misinformation around on this subject thanks to the extraordinary level of press hype - and it is simply ridiculous to claim that questions have been evaded. I think your readers deserve an airing on the facts.

Firstly, I should add that as one of the 'BUFORA' investigators referred to, I am not a 'follower' of Dr Meaden. Nor is my colleague Paul Fuller. We both doubted his hypothesis when first proposed, but would respectfully point out that he has been associated with crop circles longer than Pat Delgado (whom you judge to be the 'leading investigator', presumably because he offers a solution you like as opposed to Dr Meaden, whose rationalist approach you reject). His analytical work is unparalleled.

In truth, Dr Meaden is the only person who has offered a scientifically testable hypothesis which he has gradually refined since 1980 when circles made media headlines. It is incorrect to say that it needs constant updating, as it basically the same proposal (an unconventional type of air vortex) as discussed extensively within the UFO literature, mainly thanks to Ian Mrzyglod, back in 1981 and 1982. I first debated it with scientists in the national press in 1983 and on national TV in 1985. Now that Dr Meaden has chosen to express his theory to fellow meteorologists it is receiving more and more support.

However, both Paul and I have made very clear through our BUFORA reports, our media statements and our book 'Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved' (Hale 1990) that we do not agree with Meaden all the way. Indeed, we contend that hoaxing has a far more important role to play than anyone else within the field is suggesting, have evidential grounds to support that view, and regard it as very significant that so many circles are appearing in Wessex, with alleged alignments or proximity to key sites such as Avebury, and are rising in numbers and complexity in tandem with the level of media attention. We accept this is no coincidence.

In our opinion there is a basic natural phenomenon responsible for a modest number of simple circle formations each Summer. The rest are almost certainly carefully planned hoaxes WITHIN the esoteric community.

We do not make such claims lightly. We have conducted very extensive historical research for our book and established beyond any reasonable doubt that Meaden's vortex DOES exist, is widespread, international,

and longstanding in nature and has been responsible for resolving some very impressive UFO close encounter reports. Indeed, coupled with other recent advances, it does in our opinion come close to solving the entire UFO mystery without the need to resort to unknown intelligences.

Our evidence is too extensive to discuss in a letter, but it does show the error of the claim that (for instance) the appearance of rings in 1987 helped prove the Meaden theory inadequate. Rings did not suddenly appear in 1987, which we would agree would be a tough nut for any natural solution to crack, if it were true. Ring cases exist long prior to this date from places around the world. Indeed, everything, up to and including the quintuplet formation type has an undeniable historical precedent and their apparent new arrival during modern circles lore is an artefact of both search and sample procedures and biased media attention.

We have further shown that Wessex is 'special' for social reasons and probably because of the media and investigator focus on the area. A 'Wessex Triangle' is one obvious choice to perpetuate the social myth by the hoaxers, whom as yet remain unidentified. A simple proof of that statement is our finding of a number of British crop circle events that were clearly recorded at the time of happening and yet dating PRIOR to the invention of the crop circle phenomenon on the discovery of the 1980 circles at Westbury. This is not unlike the apparent sudden 'arrival' of UFOs in 1947, when all that really occurred was that a pigeon hole was found into which we could slot long occurring aerial phenomena.

Our point is that EVERY SINGLE ONE of the pre-1980 (or pre-circle mythology) events we have found recorded in Britain actually lies outside Wessex. In our view that is strong evidence that the special-ness of Hampshire or Wiltshire in modern times is a product of factors other than those responsible for creating basic circles.

With regard to eye-witness accounts, there are now so many of these on record which are consistent that there is no substantial reason to doubt what is occurring. To say that 'real' circles only occur at night and the eyewitnesses to these daytime events are not seeing 'the real thing' is just a cop-out. On what possible grounds could you make such a charge? There are cases where what appear to be vortices have been seen (both in day and night) to effect the ground where within a very short space of time a circle formation was discovered. Once or twice might be a coincidence; but over a dozen examples on file has to be evidence of something actually being seen. Surely, if there were more standard UFO sightings in the absence of any circles we would not even be debating this question but be accepting the reports as a true record. The majority of circle events do seem to occur in the pre or immediate post-dawn hours (although as we are talking of the Summer months these can also be in daylight of course). But that some other reports come from during the day itself is very clear to anyone who studies the data.

Sincerely Jenny Randles

Editor: We acknowledge that Contact Int. is only in its second full Summer of studying circle events, but the reasons for our belated participation is to question the existing explanations for the origin, and clearly the reactions from Jenny Randles are to be expected. I have entered into further correspondence with Randles, but consider

that publishing a string of agitated exchanges in the magazine is likely to be counter productive. Let us say we are united in our common aim to solve the crop circle mystery, but have differences in "emphasis and style".

UFO UPDATE - SOME RECENT CASES

by M. Soper

1) An article in the POST Jakarta, claims that Colonel Marina Popovich, who became interested in ufology after she came across two pilots who had come too close to a strange object. One had very unusual effects on his eyes, and the other had some of the Calcium evaporated from his bones. She plans to visit Estonia where a flying saucer was found buried 6m below the surface, and has so far proved impossible to section for analysis.

2) Another Russian case has surfaced: two Mig 25 fighters shot down a giant UFO in a remote area of Azerbaijan in 1983 - the crash caused casualties among mushroom pickers. The wreckage has been recovered.

3) On a cloudless evening in January 1988, Len Haffenden, wife and son were walking the dog near their Holybourne Hampshire home, when they saw an intense bright light in the sky. The object shaped like a shuttlecock, hovered at 30 degrees before speeding to the horizon, becoming lost in a bank of cloud.

4) one old report has resurfaced: Linda Jones plus two children saw a very bright light come hurtling to the ground behind an embankment. They scrambled up the embankment to see a bright 60 foot long crescent shaped craft. It was a fine evening and they had come out to pick flowers; the craft was hovering just above the ground, and nearby all noise seemed to cancel! It had no doors and no windows. Hypnotic regression on this Manchester case has revealed that the witnesses were medically examined by tall creatures in dark suits who had yellow skin. These humanoids were 6ft 6ins tall. Afterwards Linda and her children came down with previous unknown viruses.

5) On 14/4/90 a UFO group at Bristol airport (10 males) saw a very bright light which was confirmed by radar. This was at 11.05pm.

6) On 26/5/90 at 9.15pm the same group saw a bright blue light which performed aerobatics. This was again at Bristol Airport.

7) A man walking on the Dundary Hills, Somerset on 3/4/90 at 5a.m saw a bright glowing cigar-shaped object which disappeared at terrific speed.

8) On 8/4/90 at 2.30a.m a man at Keynsham, Bristol saw a huge ball of red light flying low towards the SE.

9) On 19/4/90 at 9p.m two women on the M.6 near Preston saw a lozenge shaped object hovering above the motorway. It was yellow and pulsating with two large spot-lights on top and dozens of multi-coloured lights underneath. It was silent.

10) On the morning of 28/4/90, Pat Coulson, a farmer, on Denbigh Moor, N.Wales found three new burned circles in her field. (See our detailed article on this case following these notes.)

11) A magenta light which crossed the sky in 3-4 seconds was seen by John Evans, from his position at Rhos -on- Sea towards Denbigh Moor. This was 14/5/90 at night.

12) on 2/6/90 Mrs Denise Radley and 6 others saw an inverted saucer hovering over a field. Two white beams went down and there was a red light at the back. This was at the Weald, Canvey, Kent.

13) Just before 8/6/90 at midnight between Dunkeswell and Taunton 13 people saw a triangle of lights in the sky. One on the left took off to the left; then one on the right took off to the left; the third hovered and then took off.

14) On 27/4/90 at 2.30a.m from a bedroom window in Taunton, Somerset the witness saw a huge ball of light which descended 100 yards away. It hovered 30ft above the ground and glided across a field in erratic fashion.

15) A witness in Sandford, nr Oxford, at 9.33a.m on 1/9/90 and his wife saw a silver oscillating disk travelling north at very high speed. The object had an impenetrable black base. The oscillations were regular and there was no sound.

The Woburn 'Phantoms': On the night of Sunday, July 29th, hundreds of witnesses in the Thames Valley and Chiltern areas reported seeing ghostly 'phantom' like objects rolling across the sky from NE-SW. The strange manifestations were seen simultaneously by Bill Foley, Bicester, Geoff Ambler, Wheatley and Mike Soper, New Marston, Oxford. The 'phantoms' were visible from around 11.00p.m to 12.15a.m. It was noticed that they were confined to one part of the sky and were possibly circling. Enquiries revealed that the Tina Turner farewell concert was being held at Woburn Abbey, Beds around 35 miles away. Photographs later revealed that 4 giant spot-lights were beaming up to the sky from Ms Turner's podium and we now conclude the 'phantoms' were reflections from the clouds of these lights. It is truly amazing how powerful modern lighting equipment is, and investigators should check carefully of any pop concerts in their areas.

REPORT ON TRIPLE RINGS AT VOEL FARM, DENBIGH MOOR

by Margaret Fry+

The farm on which the three rings appeared overnight on either the 27th or 28th April 1990 night is an isolated farmstead of 33½ acres at 900 to 1,000 feet above sea level over the small village of Llanfair T.H. which is five miles inland, in the hills and mountains behind Abergelle and the North Wales coast. The A 544 from Llanfair to Llansannan, another small village on the Denbigh Moors, runs below the farm. At the first cross-roads one turns up a dirt-track on the left to the farm.

Mrs Patricia Coulson is English and the family come from Amble in Northumberland. They have a fishing background, and farming is an entirely new way of life, so Mrs Coulson very carefully records changes of weather and grass etc. in a daily diary. She has no farm

+ Frys Croft, Parc Aelas, LLANGERNYW, Clwyd, LL22 8FJ.

dogs, but a few cats. Her husband and three sons are fishermen, and a young adult daughter works on the coast as a nurse. The two eldest sons are still in Amble and are fishermen. Her husband's boat is based at Rhos-on-Sea and the youngest son fishes with him. During the day Mrs Coulson is busy farming on her own.

The youngest son does not often go over the fields, and it was mid-May before he walked down that field and noticed the circles. He asked his mother if she knew of them, and she replied that she had from the start, but had said nothing for fear of ridicule. He then told her that he knew from the college where he is on day release that people were researching these circles and rings in cornfields in Wiltshire and Hampshire and she should report them to some authority. She agreed to do so. At first she thought she would tell a friend at Rhos-on-Sea who knew "a bit about these things". This friend contacted a newspaper reporter (who turned out to be Mr Jim Price who is my contact on the local newspapers). At some stage the police also went up to examine the circles. (Perhaps this was the local Llanfair T.H policeman). Anyway, it was then learnt that the police in Prestatyn had a report of a UFO seen at Prestatyn at the end of April. The town and the sea are visible in a panoramic view from Voel Farm. The scenery there is quite breath-taking.

This being rural Wales, by now everyone in Llanfair T.H and Llansannan and all the outlying farms knew of the Voel Farm circles, and as they met Mrs Coulson they related how many UFOs they had seen in the area over the years and some of these were actual landings on Denbigh Moors.

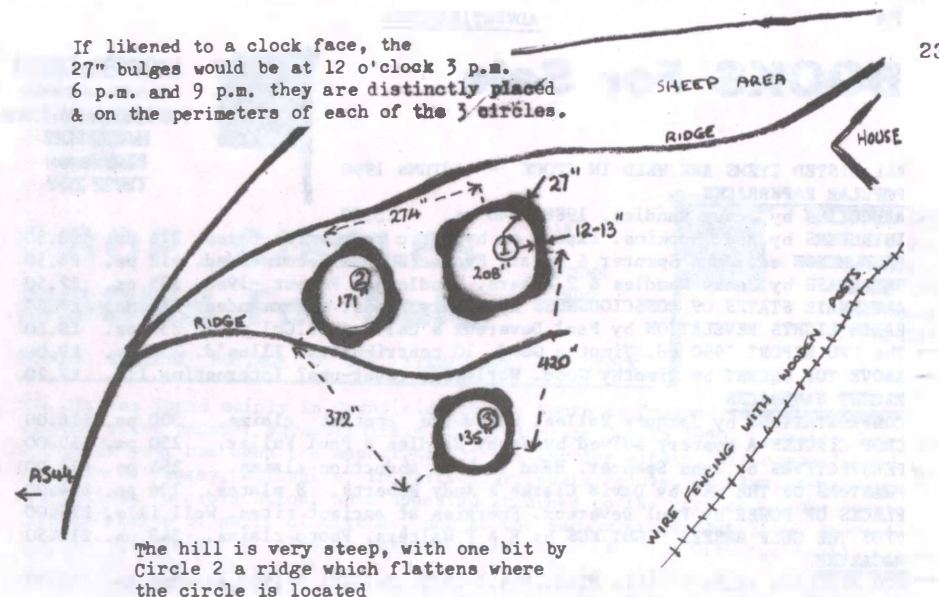
At this time I was away on holiday, but my colleague, independent UFO Investigator of 30 years, Gary Rowe, from Rhyl, heard of the circles through his Press contacts. Taking a collection of technical instruments, he motored to Mrs Coulson's farm on a very stormy day. The circles were very distinct with clear cut edges and dark burnt-out looking soil in the ring area. Each had four semi-circles on the outer perimeters, 27 inches at the widest point (as illustrated). Mrs Coulson lent him every assistance, taking the tractor down the field so he could have a birds-eye view for photographing.

Gary Rowe used a coring drill for removing deep soil samples. He found that at no point within, on, or the outer area of the rings location was the sub-soil more than 6½ inches deep. At points it is broken by rock, which lies directly under the sub-soil in this field. So at no time in ancient history or medieval times were there dwellings or stone sheep rings here. Mrs Coulson does not own any of those round metal sheep pen rings either. Her area is right at the top of the mountains, so is constantly windy, and the grass is closely cropped by the sheep and cows. There is cow dung in, on and around the circles. Mushrooms do grow in the crevices and folds of the land higher up to the house and outer farm buildings.

According to Mr. Rowe had these been mycelium rings, there would have been ample time in the 6 weeks since the rings first appeared for the fungi to develop, as the weather had been ideal with dry sunny spells interspersed with wet days. Neither has the width of the rings altered from 12-13 inches each.

At the time Mrs Coulson had her cows in a big barn for Winter quarters and was testing the grass daily to see if it was long enough for them to chew so she must have noticed the formation immediately.

If likened to a clock face, the 27" bulges would be at 12 o'clock 3 p.m. 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. they are distinctly placed & on the perimeters of each of the 3 circles.



None of the cows and sheep up on the mountain were affected by the incident, and the family heard nothing, nor did they see any strange lights etc.

On June 5th I met Mrs Coulson at the farm, and found her very helpful and friendly. I asked her what she thought the rings were? She said that careful monitoring of grass, mushrooms and any changes in the soil in the 3 years she had farmed this land, had led her to assume they were caused by something mechanical such as a UFO. She had read about them occasionally in the newspapers, and now people were telling her they had seen UFOs many times in the area over the years. She pointed to the Hunting Lodge (a derelict Victorian edifice) on the distant Denbigh Moors "all this makes it a bit mysterious; the locals say it is haunted, so perhaps it was a UFO. How can one say for certain?"

Whilst the lay of the land makes it most unlikely the cause was a mini-whirlwind, and despite Professor Tony Bradshaw, Dr Tony Jones of Aberystwyth and Pat Twigg of the Welsh Plant Breeding Centre passing opinions on fungi and whirlwinds without at any time visiting Voel Farm, there is circumstantial evidence for the possibility of it being a UFO.

- 1) A UFO was reported to police at Prestatyn at the time, unknown then to anyone except the witness and police.
- 2) A Mr Hughes saw a UFO in a field almost opposite this farm on 1/12/86.

Many other cases have been reported in the area since 1979.

As to Mrs Coulson, she is a lady in her forties, and very definitely not the type of person to indulge in a hoax. What caused the rings is a total mystery, and one that cannot be explained in terms of our present knowledge.

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The Circles found mainly in Cornfields in the South of England have continued to be a focal point amongst paranormalists and ufologists during 1990. A major development this year has been the appearance of the circles within 'pictograms', and in the Vale of Pewsey, Wiltshire, in particular, spurs, claws, or keys, depending on your visual interpretation, have appeared attached to the circles. Some events have consisted of pairs of circles, and at the much visited East Field above Alton Priory, up to eight circles of varying sizes occur in a row with two small circles off to one side from the 'head'. The central circles average about 50 feet across and the overall figure is about 100 yards long! The cause of the phenomenon continues to baffle experts, although the majority tend to occur, some year after year, adjacent to rolling chalky hills in Hampshire and Wiltshire. Certainly the number of hoaxes has increased this year, but these seem unlikely to account for the majority of the phenomenon. And what is one to make of a seven circle pictogram in my home county of Devon, at Newton St. Petrock near Holsworthy in July? FORTEAN TIMES ran an excellent series of articles on the phenomenon in Issue No. 53 this year (price £2.75). Paul Fuller is said to be publishing an independent newsletter shortly, and BUFORA keeps readers up-to-date in its UFO TIMES. Easter 1990 saw the 'formation' of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, and recently the first edition of its magazine, THE CEREOLOGIST, edited by John Michell, appeared (price £2.50). CCCS is holding monthly meetings at the Kensington Central Library.

The CIRCLES EFFECT AND ITS MYSTERIES by Dr. George Terence Meaden (editor of Journal of Meteorology). Reports and theory. Over 30 B/W photos. 1989. 114 pages. £8.00

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