

# How the rings were made!

SCI-FI theories surrounding the appearance of mystery rings in wheat fields near Westbury have been shot down in flames by a local farmer.

For Alan Shephard who owns the land where the circles first appeared is sure they were made by mere earthlings — with the help of a heavy chain.

And according to his son, chartered surveyor Francis Shephard, the tracks that UFO spotters dubbed as made by a giant spacecraft were not even perfect.

His careful surveying showed the four outside circles did not make an exact square.

"Any spacecraft that landed on that shape would have been wonky," said Mr Shephard, of Madbrook Farm, Westbury.

## PRETTY OBVIOUS

He had his suspicions about the hoaxing nature of the rings when he first spotted them in the field below the Bratton White Horse.

"Once I thought about it, it did not take long to work out how they were done — it was pretty obvious. Using a heavy chain with a person standing in the centre of the circle

would mean that the crops would be splayed out in just that way," he said.

And perfect copies of the circles have been made on Mr Shephard's land — just to prove the theory.

Mrs Biddy Shephard feels that the whole issue had been magnified out of all proportion.

And she added that the absence of footprints between the five rings would have been caused by the growth of the crops after the hoax was carried out.

"I think the whole business has been a marvellous thing for the papers as it is harmless stuff — but it is about time people realised just how it was done," said Mr Shephard.

But while he is able to provide the theory and the instrument for the ringmaking — he has not been able to come up with the happy hoaxers who pulled off the stunt.