

Expert solves riddle of rings

Mysteries

UFO EXPERT Philip Taylor has a down-to-earth explanation for the mystery rings which have appeared on a hillside near Seaford.

"They're a hoax, a silly prank," he said.

Mr Taylor, who is the British UFO Research Association investigator for the South-East, visited the site at High and Over last night.

He said: "I would say the rings have been caused by people with chains or ropes."

Doubts

"One person stands in the middle of the ring and the other walks in a clockwise circle until all the corn is flattened.

"There have been several similar cases in Wiltshire in the last few years. These are similar in size and formation.

"I reckon it's all a set-up. It seems to be the silly season," he said.

Mr Taylor said he had his doubts about the authenticity of the rings as soon as he heard where they were.

According to the Ordnance Survey map they are on Cradle Hill. The area in Wiltshire which had become notorious for UFO sightings was also called Cradle Hill, he said.

"I would say that's certainly why this particular cornfield was chosen."

Similar

Cradle Hill, near Warminster, Wiltshire, has become a favourite spot for UFO sightings. It was one of the first places in Britain with more than one reported sighting of unidentified objects.

Similar rings have been appearing on there on and off for the last eight years and each year hundreds of hopefuls gather for a UFO watch.

The hill is also near the home of author Arthur Shuttlewood, famous for his books on UFO's.

Mr Norman Hathaway, chief sub-editor of the Wiltshire Times, said the rings had become a regular feature in his paper.

"We always seem to have them at this time of year. There are lots of theories over how they get there — the most popular one seems to be a helicopter hovering above the cornfield.

"It still remains a mystery and a jolly good laugh to us," he said.

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