

Lionel Beer

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# Journal Postbag

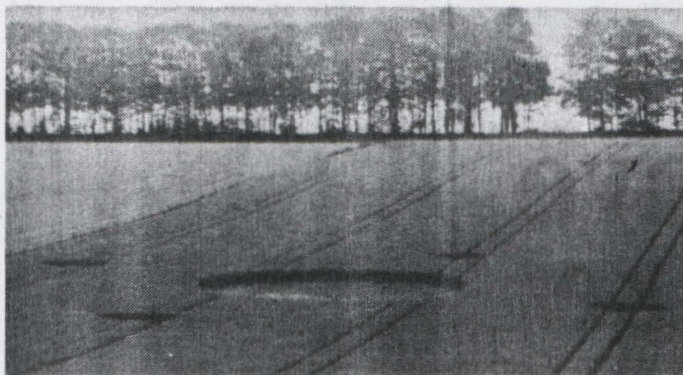


## A simple explanation for the mysterious 'UFO holes'

Sir, — Contrary to the description given in your issue of July 25 the Fonthill Bishop so-called UFO consists of a large circle of 50 feet diameter surrounded by four small circles each of 11 feet diameter.

Your correspondent, Mrs Linda Stafford (August 1), attributes the cause to minute whirlwinds and mentions the flattening of the grain in spiral fashion which indeed was the case in Fonthill.

I have seen some whirlwinds in action and have yet to see one that remained stationary which would have had to have been the case here to produce completely circular "holes" with knife-edge circumferences. I am unable to accept that one large whirlwind, accompanied by four identical, but smaller ones, would repeat a pattern on at least three separate occasions in different locations, nor is it believable that four separate whirl-



Holes in the grain at Fonthill Bishop. Two people with a length of cord could have made them, says B. G. Essenhigh.

winds would each produce a "hole" exactly 11 feet in diameter.

The fact that the grain was laid flat in a spiral fashion discounts any idea of an artefact descending from the skies which, if it were of the mass indicated, would have crushed the grain in random directions.

Your account in the Journal of July 25 mentions that according to Mr Paul Mullins there were no marks leading to and from the site.

This is emphatically not the case. Each of the five circles

is cut by "tramlines" as can be seen from the photograph and the tramlines are connected at each end of the field. The circles are therefore perfectly accessible without crushing down the grain and in any case there was some evidence of someone having been moving outside one of the small circles prior to its discovery.

There is one explanation which fits the observed facts this involves two people and a length of cord who enter the field via a set of tramlines and, with one hold-

ing one end, the other walks round at the other end of the cord describing a complete circle. The process is continued with the cord being gradually shortened until the entire area of the circle has been flattened.

I would not say that this must be the true explanation as I prefer to keep an open mind, but it does cover the observed facts which whirlwinds and UFOs do not.

B.G.Essenhigh.

Knap Farm,  
Ridge,  
Chilmark.