



# CIRCLES 'CAUSED BY WIND'

By ALISON BECKETT

THE phenomenon of circles of flattened corn which regularly appear in a field inside the Devil's Punchbowl, near Arlesford, Hampshire, is most likely due to the weather, it was said yesterday.

A second 48 ft diameter circle was discovered in the 600-acre wheatfield on Sunday evening after the appearance of a ring 68 ft across the day before. But it is believed that the wind, rather than a hoaxer was likely to have been the cause.

A British UFO Research Association investigator, Mr Paul Fuller said: "The weather seems to be the most plausible explanation, though there are a lot of unanswered questions. But we're sure there is no connection with UFOs. Most UFO reports have very ordinary explanations."

The circles, which appeared in June or July (the surrounding corn was undisturbed), are thought to have occurred for 40 years or more. But Mr Fuller added: "Similar circles do occur elsewhere in the world. We've had another 10 sightings just in the South of England."

Dr Paul Mason, of the Meteorological Office at Bracknell, said such a phenomenon could be brought about "by a whirlwind near a steep hill or a small tornado if, say, there was a thunderstorm, though usually there would be a trail of damage rather than a circle."

The owner of the field, Lt Cdr H. V. Bruce, was not available for comment.

Picture: ANTHONY MARSHALL

The geometric phenomenon in a Hampshire wheatfield