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Mystery of ²³⁷⁴corn rings still puzzles scientists

The mystery of the huge corn circles which have puzzled experts for 50 years remains unsolved.

The rings of flattened corn appear every year at this time at the Devil's Punchbowl in Hampshire.

Recently scientists thought they could have been caused by freak winds.

But yesterday, Dr Paul Mason of the Meteorological Office at Bracknell, said he had been mistaken.

He said: "It is inconceivable that such neat geometrical rings would be caused by the weather."

After studying detailed photographs, he said: "I think they have been made by hooligans."

But Hampshire police are convinced they are a natural phenomenon.

A spokesman said: "We cannot explain them away. They are definitely not man-made."

The British UFO Association says it does not think the circles are where space-ships have landed. But it says there are a lot of unanswered questions.

Meanwhile, American tourists continue to flock to the Punchbowl, near Winchester, to see the latest circles, some as wide as 68 feet in diameter, in wheat fields.