



The encounter: Colin Andrews, left, and Pat Delgado in one of the 148 circles that have appeared in the fields of southern England in the past month

Running round in circles

The circle was 37 ft across, a flat swirl of flattened green at spinning out from a centre. Despite a week's exposure to passing ramblers, it was in almost pristine condition, the horizontal plants neatly brushed towards a sharp division with the surrounding crop.

"I have never seen anything like it before," declared Pat Delgado who, with fellow researcher Colin Andrews, had recorded the mysterious appearance of 148 circles in the fields of southern England during the previous four and a half weeks.

Delgado, a retired electro-mechanical design engineer, was referring to a distinctively flattening feature of this circle near the village of Chilcomb, two and a half miles from Winchester. Curving out from its edge, like a tadpole's tail, was a 28-yard channel whose flattened stems were combed immaculately towards the circle. Enormous pressure appeared to have been applied to these precise formations so that the soil carried impressions of the otherwise undamaged stems.

The circle's centre lay between a tractor's wheel tramlines, and some 200 yards from ancient tumuli.

Why, one wondered, would an alien leave his spacecraft to walk into the field and then return? Perhaps for a very human reason. I recalled that Delgado and Andrews's new book, *Circular Evidence*, mentioned the discovery of a "luminous, white, jelly-like substance" which had defied analysis.

Aliens are, of course, taboo among serious British UFO investigators. The two researchers, who favour the theory of a rotating energy field, say they are working with 35 scientists, and stress their own technical credentials.

Delgado worked at the British missile testing range in Australia and later for Nasa. Andrews, whose Andover home is their operational base, is a senior electrical engineer with the local borough council.

Their remarkable aerial photographs are largely due to Busty Taylor, a fully qualified driving instructor with a pilot's licence. Busty is a man.

But last week their professionalism was called into question by the British UFO Research Association (Bufora).

It accused them of "fostering a space-age myth" in their

rejection of a meteorological explanation, of ignoring the extent of hoaxes and of persistently insisting that the circles are mostly confined to Hampshire and Wiltshire.

It also cited the authors' apparent reluctance to reveal that they were consultants to *Flying Saucer Review* — "a journal which has featured a secret 'plot' to remove UFO books from libraries and linked UFOs with genies".

I put this to Andrews. "I am indeed a consultant to *Flying Saucer Review*," he said. "I don't see what that has to do with it. I haven't gone out of my way to push that because we want to keep the research scientific."

"The vortex doesn't have to be intelligent, although personally I believe it is."

He contends that the phenomenon is not only increasing at an exponential rate, but that it is evolving. Indeed, the book's photographs show a bewildering array of single, double and triple circles, ornamented with permutations of 'Saturn' rings, satellite circles and swirl patterns.

The latest twist, claim the researchers, is a molecular change in affected crops which is passing into the food chain.

"The pattern is initially spiralled, but it starts growing into patterns like a dart board," Delgado said. "Of the 95 circles reported in Wiltshire until last week, one third were developing the same molecular damage."

Their critics at Bufora assert that by drawing media attention to Wessex and ignoring evidence of wider distribution, Delgado and Andrews are inadvertently encouraging elaborate hoaxes by groups fixated on the mysticism of Stonehenge, Avebury and Silbury Hill.

The researchers readily agree that the mysterious force appears to be taking an interest in them. "We can be talking, even on an aircraft, and the phenomenon appears to respond to the discussion, even the thought," Andrews said.

Fortunately, they can identify genuine circles with dowsing rods. And by felicitous circumstance, Delgado's naked hands are tuned to energy forces and subterranean water. In their book, Andrews relates several personal close encounters with the paranormal.

I asked if they had any evidence of animal life being affected. Andrews triumphantly

emerged from his kitchen with a frozen jamjar containing a fly, still clinging to a stem. "This was taken from the centre of the vortex at Chilcomb. His wings are outstretched. He was about to take off. He's been zapped dead," Andrews beamed.

They have other flies in the sky — the Optica aircraft of Hampshire and Wiltshire police who, they say, exchange details of new circle formations. "They recognise we can't keep sweeping this under the carpet," Andrews said.

"It's big. We need help. We have the Japanese and French flying in, and still our government is not prepared to get off their backsides and come down here."

He flourished a graph of sightings. "The way this is going, something is going to happen in the next few months."

Circular Evidence by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews is published on Thursday by Bloomsbury (£14.95).

The recently published *Controversy Of The Circles*, by Jenny Randles and Paul Fuller, is available from Bufora, 37 Heathbank Road, Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 0U (£3.95).

SUNDAY EXPRESS, London, England - July 30, 1989 CR: N. Oliver

Mystery circles take to the hills

A TEAM of top scientists is travelling to Wales to investigate a massive outbreak of mystery circles.

A staggering 98 were found on two hill tops near Llanthony in the Black Mountains, bringing the total to more than 250 nationwide. The phenomenon has continued to baffle the experts who have been studying the circles since 1976.

Colin Andrews, spokesman for the sci-

entists, said the new find could prove vital in solving the riddle.

"The new circles have appeared on the tops of hills in less than one week. We believe we have something of major proportions."

The exact location is being kept secret to avoid tourists stamping over the perfectly-formed shapes. However, in the latest — and so far the largest — outbreak,

acres of heather have been shredded into what scientists refer to as tadpole-shapes because of a five metre-long, curling line which clips the outer perimeter.

"Because of the scale of the formations, we are sure there is no human involvement. We can eliminate the hoax theory once and for all."

Yet again, the circles have been found near ley lines, believed to be energy forces under the earth's surface.