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Scientists to study circle riddle in Wales

LONDON SCIENTISTS investigating mystery circles that have appeared in fields throughout Britain will travel to Wales this week to study marks in the Black Mountains.

The discovery of 98 circles that appeared within a week on two hilltops near Llanthony, Gwent, brings the total found across Britain to more than 250.

Scientists' spokesman Colin Andrews said the latest find could prove vital in solving the riddle of the circles.

In the past, the circles have ap-

peared in arable crop fields.

But in the latest — and so far the largest — discovery, hectares of heather have been shredded into what scientists refer to as tadpole-shaped circles because of a five metre-long, curling line that clips the outer perimeter.

Mr Andrews said the new variation of shape and plant victim could provide important clues.

"Heather is much better at holding in radiation than most living organisms and this is one area we shall be studying," he said. — NZPA-PA

Peter Hassall

Evening Post (NZ) 1st August, 1989

Circle snoopers bagged

LONDON, July 31. — Red-faced British scientists who investigated 98 mystery circles in the Black Mountains of Wales disclosed today that a local farmer made them to encourage grouse to settle.

Originally the circles found within a week on two hilltops near Abergavenny, Gwent, were

thought to be possibly linked to the scores of circles discovered across Britain since 1976.

These latest tadpole-shaped circles would have brought the total being investigated by baffled experts to 250.

But today Mr Colin Andrews, spokesman for the scientists, said the circles were nothing to

do with the investigation.

They were cut by the local landowner. The heather was mowed into circles to increase the amount of grouse in the area.

Undeterred, the scientists have moved back to Wiltshire to study a 32-metre circle, the biggest so far, found close to Silbury Hill, near Marlborough.