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# Experts going round in circles

Red-faced scientists who investigated 98 mystery circles in the Black Mountains of Wales have discovered they were made by a local farmer — to encourage grouse to settle.

The circles, found on two hilltops at Llanthony, near Abergavenny, Gwent, were thought to be linked to the scores of circles discovered across Britain since 1976 and would have brought the total being investigated by baffled experts to 250.

## Heather

But yesterday, Mr Colin Andrews, spokesman for the scientists, said: "These circles are 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.