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= Yeovil Comment ===== by George Willey =

UFOs over the South West?

ONLY one thing is certain about the latest reported sighting of a UFO in the skies over Dorset this week — that it will be officially ignored or dismissed by the authorities.

It will have that much in common with the many thousands of alleged sightings of unidentified flying objects that have come in from all over the world for many years now. The fact that they are universally written off and explained away as non-happenings by the authorities has itself become a phenomenon.

This week, a Yeovil couple claim, with earnest genuineness, to have seen a glowing UFO in the skies above the giant at Cerne Abbas near Dorchester.

The oblong craft, fluorescent green with a red circular glow towards its rear, was travelling at

great speed over the famous 180 feet long figure carved in the chalk.

It then just disappeared from view, according to the amazed couple who saw it.

Students in this field might find it remarkable that, unknown to this couple, a similar sighting was reported the following night at South Petherton in Somerset. When they plucked up courage to report the Dorset sighting they had no idea there had been a subsequent one.

The couple from Yeovil, who do not want to be named, said they saw the unidentified flying object while travelling on the A352 road near Sherborne.

The woman said: "I thought at first it was a shooting star. But it was too big and the wrong colour. It was only there for a few seconds and then it zipped off."

She said it was travelling extremely fast, much faster than a plane. Her husband who works with aircraft said it was a flying saucer straight away, she said, adding: "It wasn't a plane. He knew it must be a UFO."

She said they did not wish to be identified because of possible public reaction to their story. This adds to the problem of credibility.

Talk of UFOs has gained impetus following the Russians reporting that aliens had landed in their country. But that may not have added credibility.

However, there have been a number of reported UFO sightings in Dorset and in the South West we have particularly encountered the phenomena of the mystery circles — flattened grass in sometimes huge symmetrical circles. No satisfactory explanation has ever been given. Will we ever know?