

It WAS something from outer space A METEORITE

Express Staff Reporter

THERE was a down-to-earth explanation yesterday for what caused that saucer-shaped hole in a potato-field on the Dorset border.

But it was NOT a 600-ton space craft from Uranus, waddling on a 90ft.-high tripod. It was caused by an ordinary meteorite, weighing about half a pound and the size of a man's fist.

It was found at the bottom of the 6ft. shaft which Army bomb disposal men had dug in the 22-acre potato and barley field at Charlton, near Shaftesbury.

The blast

Those space-like marks around the 8ft. crater? Astronomer Patrick Moore arrived, said: "Goodness — I've seen bigger meteorites than that," and explained: "There would have been a blast when it hit the ground at almost 3,000 miles an hour. That would have caused the marks."

Last night the outer-space visitor was sent to the British Museum.

One stargazer missing when the thing was found was 44-year-old Dr. Robert Randall, who told the army he was a physicist, took them on a tour of other saucer marks in the field, and asserted that they were caused by a space craft.