

**Volume 1
Number 2**



**October
1990**

THE CIRCULAR

A Newsletter Concerning

The Swirled Crops Phenomenon

And Related Subjects

Compiled from information collected on the

CIRCLE NETWORK

In This Edition:

What Is The CCCS?

Jenny Randles Has Her Say

The Art Of Circles

The TORRO Conference

Pictures, Drawings And Diagrams

Plus A Roundup Of News

Volume 1
Number 2



October
1990

A Privately Distributed Newsletter

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CREDITS

The Cereologist, Northern UFO News, The Malta Times, Record Mirror, Daily Mail.
John Brocks and Val French for assistance with printing and proof-reading.



Vol.1, No. 2.

October 1990

INTRODUCTION

Bob Kingsley

Well, we made it to issue number two! This edition of The Circular may look a little different, and not only because of the better-quality finish throughout the print-run, which my good friend John Brocks has been able to achieve with his printer! There has also been much less interest shown in the circle phenomenon by the national press lately; we can only surmise why this should be so, but in any case it means that there have been less newspaper items to include this time. (I have seen some local press cuttings, but too late to get in to this issue. PLEASE, if you come across any, get copies of them to me if you possibly can!)

However, the lack of 'publicity' has been more than compensated for in the amount of material that has come my way in the form of letters, articles and diagrams from yourselves, and the work of more learned scholars that has 'fallen into my lap' at an opportune moment.

All this makes the edition more 'wordy', but the information contained within the articles should keep your brain ticking over!

You may not agree with everything you read here; if that is the case, then it helps to show that The Circular is achieving the balance I am striving for.

The Circular is not a scientific journal, nor is it claiming to be so. Neither am I claiming to be an authority on any of the 'scientific' subjects touched upon by the various contributors. On the other hand, The Circular is not specifically a journal of the 'paranormal', and once again I do not claim to have any special training in this field, either.

My lack of 'scientific' training, and equal lack of experience in the 'paranormal' field, means that I cannot always personally verify the details contained within the articles. But I feel that the absence of such training and credentials allows me to ignore the objections that others might be obliged to use in considering whether or not this or that article should be included. Who am I to say?

But let's not get carried away. After all, what are we talking about here? It was never my intention to create a magazine or journal; I think of it more in the way of a letter - albeit a long one! - that conveys the latest ideas and thoughts of people brought together by this singular phenomenon. In any case, it doesn't behave like a magazine or journal: for a start, it only appears when there's sufficient material to make it worth sending; the number of pages changes from edition to edition (it's 42 pages long this time, ~~for~~ heaven's sake - there'll probably come a time when it's much thinner); and it's free. You don't charge friends for letters. So I hope it doesn't attract the same degree of rigorous criticism that a 'professional' journal might deserve, because The Circular is only a NEWS-("n. report of recent happenings, tidings")-LETTER-("n. written message"). And that's all it is.

We might not all be able to explain ourselves with the lucidity we would like; we might grapple with concepts that are new to us, or at best hard to grasp and explain in 'layman's' terms, and try to link them together, only to find that our speculations remain on the whole rather stilted and unsubstantiated. We 'feel' that there are connections to be made, but are at a loss as to how these connections can be conveyed to others. We might use information that we cannot accurately recall or provide references for, but we surmise that it nonetheless fits in to the overall puzzle. 'Experts' might balk at the idea of connecting such pieces of information without proper terms of reference - *but we are not 'experts'*, and if we have at least an inkling of our position with regard to this phenomenon, we will not have the audacity to call ourselves such. 'Enthusiastic investigator' sounds about right to me.

You'll be pleased to know that The Circular has proved to be very popular. From an initial print-run of about fifteen, the number of copies so far mailed has risen to about fifty! This includes a number of recipients who were initially chosen by me because I judged their input to be invaluable for a project of this nature; in their cases, they will perhaps be reading information that is not necessarily new to them. But by far the vast majority of recipients fall outside this category, and it would seem that word-of-mouth communication is mainly responsible for the rise in circulation.

Since the first issue of The Circular, The CCCS (q.v.) has produced the first edition of its own thrice-yearly journal, The Cereologist. This was a 'coincidence'; I did not know of their plans at the time I was readying The Circular for distribution. 'The Crop-Watcher' (q.v.) is another newsletter, produced by Paul Fuller of BUFORA. Martin Affleck (q.v.) has compiled a journal of his experiences during the season. I'm sure there are many other individuals and groups who are spurred on to do the same thing.

This tells us something: there is a fundamental urge to *communicate* being awakened in a growing number of people. One quick glance at the world will tell us that communication - or, more accurately, in Whitley Streiber's words, "Communion" - is something *desperately* needed today.

Whether or not the circle phenomenon can directly assist in the uncluttering of minds in preparation for a 'New Age' of thought processes to begin - as some assert - is open to question.

What is certainly becoming clear to me (and this can only be a subjective realisation) is that the world around us is, indeed, *full* of unrecognised wonders. I am constantly amazed by the new material placed before me by philosophers such as Ouspensky and Gurdjieff, and other great thinkers like Einstein; the unusual physical construction of the pictograms need hardly be emphasised; for me, the splendour and complexity of the Universe is reflected in the scintillating design of a butterfly's wing - not to mention the miraculous transformation that occurs in the *chrysalis* - the origin and underlying causes of which conventional 'science' is still debating.

Whatever the origins and possible purpose of the circles, they've chosen the right place and the right time to perform their task, their Strange Magic. Let's keep talking!

The response to my requests for permission to reproduce the work of other investigators, newsletters, journals, books and magazines has been positive throughout. I should like to thank everyone concerned, and I would hope that this positive attitude will continue. (Articles reprinted here do not necessarily reflect my own views. Indeed, my own perceptions keep changing with each new delivery of mail!) If you think the balance is being swayed in one direction, it is because there has been a lack of information made available to me that might help to redress the balance.

You can change that, if you think it needs changing - by contributing!

WHAT IS THE CCCS?

The Centre For Crop Circle Studies

(From information contained in The Cereologist Magazine and from a recent press release. Used with permission.)

The Centre For Crop Circle Studies was set up at Easter 1990. It is an international organisation which functions as an open, impartial forum for research into this field. A society of this type was desperately needed.

The first copy of the CCCS bulletin, The Cereologist, was recently issued. Announced in this issue is the formation of the CCCS. It is not the purpose of this organisation to interfere with anyone else's work or to tell other people what to do or think. Its function is to encourage all types of research into the crop circle mystery, to provide a centre for communication between all researchers, to collect and collate information from all sources and to publish scientific assessments of the phenomenon as it develops season by season.

As long as CCCS holds to these ideals, The Cereologist will maintain a family relationship to it, and we shall be privileged to give first publication to CCCS news and bulletins. The same welcome is offered to all other crop circle research groups with reports or activities which they would like to publicize in these pages.

One good reason for our faith in the motives and methods of the CCCS is that its president is Archie Roy. He is the distinguished Professor of Astronomy at Glasgow, and his scientific credibility is awesomely denoted by the long string of letters after his name. Among followers of leys and astro-archaeology, Archie is well-known as the expert consultant to Alexander Thom, who upset the apple-cart of established archaeology in the late 1960s by attributing advanced astronomical knowledge to the priestly builders of megalithic circles. He (Archie) is also an active member of the Society for Psychical Research. He is thus uniquely qualified to conduct the open-minded, multi-dimensional campaign of crop circle research which CCCS promises.

The chairman of CCCS is the august Michael Green, English Heritage's expert on medieval church architecture and a thorough-going mystic. The Hon. Sec. is Ralph Noyes, a former civil servant with professional expertise in the devious means and mentalities of government departments. Ralph is a Fortean and a UFO writer, and he is well-known among cereologists for the selfless way in which he has tried to mediate in the quarrels between their various sects. He is also a dedicated chronicler of the subject, and his series of articles on crop circles in "Country Life" has brought to light much information from farmers and other readers. The best possible recommendation of CCCS is that Ralph Noyes is one of its senior officials. He will certainly insist on the highest standards of honesty, fairness and common sense in its affairs.

Most of this year's [1990] study of crop circles on behalf of CCCS is being undertaken by its principal field officers, F.C. 'Busty' Taylor, Richard Andrews, and George Wingfield. Busty is one of the original band of pioneer cereologists, an intrepid aviator who has compiled a unique record of crop circle formations, photographed from the air. Richard is an agricultural expert, professionally acquainted with many of the Wessex farmers, and he is also an experienced dowser. He and Busty have worked together for several seasons.

One of CCCS's key policies is to seek co-operation with all existing research groups on a friendly and non-competitive basis. It is offering existing groups the opportunity of becoming either a CCCS local branch or of keeping their own identity and affiliating with the CCCS.

Dr. G. Terence Meaden's group, 'Circles Effect Research' (CERES), with a country-wide membership of over 150, has become an affiliate of CCCS. CERES is oriented to field research into Dr. Meaden's meteorological hypothesis. Contact: CERES, 54 Frome Road, Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts. BA15 1LD.

Mr. Alan Rayner's 'Swindon & Marlborough Crop Circle Monitoring Group' has become an affiliate. Contact: Mr. Alan Rayner, Sixty Six (sic) West Overton, Wilts. SN8 4ER.

Mr. John East's local group in Oxfordshire has now become CCCS South Oxfordshire Branch and is seeking additional members. Contact: Mr. John East, 29 Hiskins, Wantage, Oxon. OX12 9HU.

'The Fountain Group' has become affiliated with CCCS. Contact: Peggy Bunt, PO Box 915, Seaford, E. Sussex BN25 1TW.

'The College of Psychic Studies' has affiliated with CCCS. Contact: The President, Mrs. Brenda Marshall, 16 Queensbury Place, London SW7 2EB.

Membership details of CCCS (£10 a year), from: CCCS, PO Box 44, Petersfield, Hants. GU32 2BT.

The CCCS is launching its book, 'The Crop Circle Enigma', on the 31st October. It explores, on a wider basis and greater depth than any previous study, the possible nature, origins and purpose of the phenomenon. It incorporates assessments from most streams of thought on the subject to date and brings together the most up-to-date records of the phenomenon in a wide spread of aerial photographs and measured drawings. There are 68 colour photographs and 60 black-and-white illustrations. The book is being published by Gateway Books, Bath, price £14.95.

There will be a lecture at The Maltings, Farnham, on Thursday 15th November at 8.00pm (tickets bookable in advance £5.00, £4.00 CCCS members, £3.00 OAPs and students) which will coincide with the launch of the book. The lecture, titled 'The Crop Circle Enigma', will be given by Michael Green RIBA FSA, who is a professional archaeologist and architectural historian with a long experience in both disciplines. He took the initiative in calling together those who founded the Centre for Crop Circle Studies and is currently the Chairman of its interim Council. He writes, lectures and broadcasts, not only on archaeological topics but also related matters which orthodox science is only slowly coming to recognise, including dowsing, of which he is himself an expert practitioner. He is currently preparing an extended study of the ancient mysteries in north-west Europe.

CCCS is planning a series of lectures on the crop circle problem sic], beginning this autumn. They will be held at the Meeting Room, Kensington Central Library, Phillimore Walk (off Kensington High Street), London W8 at 7pm on the first Friday in each month. The charge for admission will be £3.00 to the public - but with a reduction to £2.00 for members of CCCS or anybody carrying a copy of The Cereologist. The first three lectures will be:

Friday 5 October 1990

THE CIRCLES IN 1990: An Overview. F. C. Taylor & Richard Andrews.

Friday 2 November 1990

THE CIRCLES: Is There A Metaphysical Dimension? Isabelle Kingston.

Friday 7 December 1990

CIRCLE RESEARCH: The Way Forward In 1991. Prof. Archie Roy.

THE CEREOLOGIST

The Journal Of The Centre For Crop Circle Studies

The first edition of The Cereologist was published in the summer of 1990. Nineteen pages long, it contains an introduction to the CCCS (q.v.) and much useful information. It is pleasingly arranged on quality paper with many diagrams, photographs and line-drawings of pictograms, circles and folklore illustrations. Subjects covered include: 'Dowsing', 'The Oxford Conference', 'Folklore', 'The Wansdyke Watch', book 'Reviews' and 'Announcements'.

Contributors include: George Wingfield, Lucy Pringle, Ralph Noyes, Patrick Harpur, Christine Rhone, John Haddington and John Michell, the Editor of The Cereologist.

A single copy of The Cereologist costs £2.50. One year's subscription is £7.50, including postage and packing. Cheques & postal orders should be made payable to The Cereologist, and sent to: 11 Powis Gardens, London W11 1JG.

Alternatively, the subscription for joining the CCCS (q.v.) will cover the cost of The Cereologist.

Planned for future issues of The Circular:
'What Is TORRO?' and 'What Is Fountain?'

A JENNY RANGLES EDITORIAL

From 'Northern UFO News' No 144, August 1990

Used with kind permission

I promised an update on the crop circle mystery. Of course, those of you familiar with UFO CALL (0898 12 18 86, available on any BT phone in the country for 25p per minute off-peak - each message lasts about 3 minutes) will have been able to follow the astonishing events from week to week.

What events? 650 press cuttings featured crop circles between July and September. That is four times as many as the amazing summer of 1989 and over ten times as many as we normally get for the period. UFOs pure and simple almost vanished during the spell. There was virtually no newspaper in Britain that did not do something on what has easily become the subject of the moment.

Predictably, there were new formations here, there and everywhere. No sooner had we reported on a few pseudo-circles in our region last issue than real ones started popping up with as much regularity as down south.

There was major publicity (both TV channels did two features each) for a ring at Lower Peover (pronounced Pee-ver). However, this was the least interesting of them all, despite claims by some Ufologists in the north-west that an alien survey mission was underway and heading slowly north! Cases followed from nearly every county in the north - right up to Northumbria and down to Shropshire. Of course, a lot of these are suspicious - some proven - hoaxes (two cases brought police prosecutions). All the early ones in Lancashire and Cheshire were rings (like the heavily publicised Peover case) even though rings are quite rare in the overall scheme of things.

It is hopeless attempting to review even just the northern and midlands circle events [in these pages] ... what is worth mentioning is that these were generally simple, straightforward circles and rings. The amazingly complex formations - with a couple of minor exceptions - were missing from outside the south.

However, in Wessex the summer was typified by the arrival of pictograms - key shaped formations of extraordinary complexity. A dozen or so really complicated formations appeared, of which by far the best promoted was that near Alton Barnes in Wiltshire which was plugged all over the world. The farmer made thousands of pounds by charging visitors to walk round and flogging t-shirts with the nine-circle, arms, legs and spurs formation depicted saying "I had a close encounter".

What must be remembered is that - strange and exciting as these patterns were - they form a small part of the phenomenon. The vast majority of the 600+ circles this summer were simple ones and we can easily be led astray by the lure of the pictograms. Some quite ridiculous claims have been made that totally destroy the meteorological theory. One leading UFO investigator wrote to say he sympathised with Paul Fuller and myself for having supported Terence Meaden's ionized vortex in our new book 'Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved' - only to have it made redundant by these cases.

That is very much a premature comment. The theory might accommodate them, but more significantly they may well turn out to be yet more hoaxes.

I certainly have no doubts about my support for the ionized vortex. I am 100% convinced it exists and does create the basic crop circle mystery as well as having a great deal to say about unexplained UFO sightings. We have added much new evidence since the writing of the book - including a number of very exciting further eye-witness accounts; people who have seen a crop circle under formation. They have arrived via a variety of sources (none so far from readers of the book - as this was only published on 31 August). Yet each of them strongly supports the view that they observed an atmospheric vortex - not some other exotic or intelligently controlled forcefield. Nobody has yet witnessed a circle caused by any sort of aliens.

The metamorphosis of the circle phenomenon this summer is, as you have seen, rather misleading - since most people's views are forged by the cases [of] the media hype - which are, in turn, not the overwhelming mass of simple circles but the rarer 'odd' formations. As copycat hoaxers are bound to copy the circles they see getting into the media, inevitably this raises the possibility that the change into pictograms may be more apparent than real.

The summer was also punctuated by the fiasco during the huge media hype 'Operation Blackbird' ... This set back circle research in the eyes of many media commentators.

Much else took place and the growth of crop circle research is amazing (it now has at least four active rival groups and will soon have four rival circle books in print) ... and a new crop circle magazine is about to launch (which is not tied to any group, UFO or meteorological).

Titled 'The Crop Watcher', it will follow the scientific line and be edited by Paul Fuller. The intention is to be the ' "Private Eye" of crop circle research' (Paul tells me [Jenny]). It will be a no-holds-barred look at the facts, fictions, rumours and evidence as it happens. The first issue is available now and coming issues will carry a full region-by-region review of the what, where, when and how of crop circles this summer and in future.

Single issue is £1.25 - a six-issue (one year) subscription is £7.00 - and cheques should be payable to 'The Crop Watcher', c/o 3 Selborne Court, Tavistock Close, Romsey, Hants SO51 7TY.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

With Network Contributors

So many meetings; so many letters; so many 'phone calls; where do I begin?!

Reaction to the first edition of The Circular was enthusiastic, to say the least, and it has left me overwhelmed with the feeling that although this project is not as unique as I at first thought, it's well worth continuing.

George Wingfield was one of the early recipients and he was kind enough to ring me almost immediately and offer words of encouragement, as well as a promise of material for inclusion. He has been as good as his word. He told me that the CCCS (q.v.) was also preparing a newsletter, The Cereologist, and that it was, at the end of August, due for publication at almost any time.

I was slightly disappointed at this, because I felt that if a properly organised group was doing the same thing, maybe I should be trying to write for *them*! George, however, encouraged me to keep going independently. I can see the sense in this. The Cereologist is due for publication three times a year, and I hope to get The Circular out more often than that, hopefully at two-monthly intervals. So maybe The Circular can complement The Cereologist by filling the time-gap with additional information.

I met George on a visit to see Ray Barnes. While there I also met Colin Bloy, who is, amongst other things, part of a group called Fountain International (about which more will be said in a future issue), and he has been equally supportive. Colin is a dowser and healer of considerable standing. Through Colin, Ray's eye-witness account - featured in The Circular Volume 1, number 1 - of a crop circle forming in a field near Westbury, and his subsequent observations, have been forwarded to a Spanish publication for inclusion in a future edition. Colin feels that there is certainly room for The Circular alongside The Cereologist, with the latter forming the bedrock of a data-base of information compiled in the manner of a factual journal, and The Circular providing an arena where more speculative ideas can be aired.

On the subject of the visit to see Ray, some interesting things happened. When we arrived at the field where Ray had been observing unusual phenomena, he pointed out how the shadows in the evening sun were once again looking 'wrong'. It was difficult to confirm this with compass bearings, but we all generally agreed that things just didn't 'feel' right.

Colin dowsed a particularly strong energy-line that ran through the field and on towards Westbury. There was, he said, some sort of 'blockage' further down the line that was causing the energy to back-track and it made two of the women in our group, both sensitives, to feel uneasy to some degree. Ray also pointed out how a couple of trees in a copse by the path looked distinctly sickly while the trees next to them were in much better condition. They were, I believe, directly over the line.

When we arrived back at Westbury, Colin visited the local church and dowsed it. There was something at the church that was not right, so he 'fixed' it.

The following evening, Ray rang me in a state of excitement to say the shadows were now "like pencils in a box, all perfectly straight". He felt whatever Colin did at the church had allowed the energies to flow normally again and the anomalous flow that caused the shadows to look wrong was now removed. The only time, he said, when he had seen the shadows looking so 'normal' was just after the circle with its three satellites had appeared in August.

Then there was Martin Affleck, who was a member of the group at Westbury on that Sunday afternoon. Martin has felt the same compulsion to communicate that I have; he has kept a note of this year's circle-site visits and compiled them into a detailed journal:

"While spending my time photographing, measuring and drawing up several crop shapes, the over-riding fascination has been with the different people, ideas and opinions encountered in and around the crop fields...This rough assembly of bits and pieces is sent out in case it is of use, hoping it is entertaining and, above all, to get it off my chest. Once touched by them, **these shapes won't go away.**" (My emphasis - bjk.)

It certainly has been of use. Some of Martin's diagrams and notes are elsewhere in this edition of The Circular, and I thank him for the kind permission to use them.

Paul Fuller of BUFORA gave me a call. Once again, there were encouraging words and a promise of material for inclusion in future editions.

Also of interest was news that Paul is involved in still another circle newsletter, 'The Cropwatcher', due for initial publication any time now (mid-September).

I had a 'phone conversation with Brian Tuppenny in Hampshire. He came up with a brilliant idea: swapping car registration numbers. That way, when we arrive at a circle site we'll know by looking at the cars whether there are other 'Circle Networkers' (my name for recipients and contributors to The Circular) already on site. Particularly useful, since we don't know what we look like if we haven't met!

This could be done through the pages of The Circular. Please let me know if you think it's a good idea, and if so, send me your vehicle registration number.

I sent a copy of The Circular to Ray and Patricia Cox in Halesowen. I'd got their address from the letters-page in Flying Saucer Review. Ray's letter is so interesting, I quote it at some length:

"Many thanks indeed for the Circular. I welcome any information about the phenomenon, which is why I recently joined the CCCS. Press reports are mostly

shallow, vague, often inaccurate and of mere entertainment value. One needs to keep in touch in a proper way ...

"Yes, the open-minded approach is the right one. One hopes that it might help to avoid the antipathies and jealousies which have beset the Ufologists over the years. I find it surprising that some prominent Ufologists who are accepting the 'plasma vortex' theory as the one answer to Crop Circles are also treating it as the 'blanket' answer to UFOs. There are numerous drawbacks in this, as there were to Paul Devereux's 'Earthlights' theory.

"Unlike UFOs, with which there are a number of correspondences - strange sounds, lights, feelings, even time distortions, etc., - there is a real hope that the Crop Circles phenomenon will help to bring science and 'spirit' (the realisation that the coldness of scientific measurement and analysis is not all there is in the Universe) much closer together, especially as the phenomenon is a physical one to be observed - or at least the residue of it. Somewhere there is a link with the human mind. Where the scientists would say that the forces are non-personal and random, others would suggest they are by no means so abstract and impersonal.

"It could well be that Terence Meaden's 'plasma vortex' in some form is a responsible agent in the creation of Circles, but that in itself need not necessarily preclude some other (intelligent?) agency behind it. Dr. Meaden is courageously standing up to criticism of his theory which, after all, is the only well-thought-out, even if still incomplete, theory. Instead of vague musings about other possibilities - in print I mean - (don't get me wrong as I tend, on balance, to see some intelligence factor at work, or some interaction with human beings), it would be of great interest, and of benefit to all the others, if another scientist (meteorologist/physicist) would come along and challenge the vortex theory in a proper scientific manner. I've yet to see such in print, unless I've missed it.

"Terence Meaden has been studying the phenomenon for ten years. Regardless of what he says about there being no evolution to the Circles, I really do not think these new shapes and sizes were around years back. I also believe he has a problem with the three-ringed Circle which developed a fourth ring later - if that has definitely been proved not to have been hoaxed.

"We were on holiday in early July in the Avebury and the Wansdyke areas and just missed being there when the amazing Alton Barnes pictogram (the formation of the year, is it not?) was discovered. However, I went back one day later, on the 25th, to see it. Although it was shown not to have been a hoax, at first I was suspicious as it was conveniently close to the road and farm track for visitors (the farmer was collecting his £1 per person to see it) and the formation is curiously parallel to the tram lines. It was well worth my 100 mile journey to see it that day.

"There may or may not be any direct link with UFOs, but I feel that the Circles phenomenon could evolve in a similar fashion to UFO waves. Next year, and perhaps for a few years, there will be even more in quantity, larger even than some this year, and even more wonderful shapes, and maybe interlocking

features. Then there will be a peak year, after which there will be a diminishment and then one or two occasionally. I think it's logical to suggest they cannot go on evolving at this rate and complexity ad infinitum, unless they move dramatically to new areas of the country. So: enjoy them while we have them.

"In later years there could well be another new phenomenon, of an even more physical nature - who knows what? - to affect many more people but will serve to break the barriers even further between matter and the other realms of being.

"Regarding answers, I think the vortex theory, without being proved to every scientist's satisfaction, will come to be accepted by scientists and others, even if only because no other theory will be proved either. Terence Meaden (his ears must be burning) won't win the prize but he will get a couple of cheers."

Another good point that Ray raises, and one that I hope CCCS will take up: "...it would be a good idea to have a list printed of all the main 1990 formations, with map grid references. Useful in a number of ways, also for next season, which should be another exciting one."

Thank you, Ray, for your contribution. (And yes, I will be staying loyal to Flying Saucer Review - I find Gordon Creighton's style most encouraging.) I surmise from the meticulous fashion in which your letter was set out that - like me - you enjoy the craft of writing, so please keep in touch because there's nothing I like more than to receive letters that have given their authors as much pleasure as I get in reading them.

Going back a goodly few weeks now, I met an interesting chap at Operation Blackbird. Simon Shavelar has passed on some ideas that he and his fellow-investigators have been working on; they are presented elsewhere in this edition of The Circular, and once again I give thanks for permission to use the material.

Simon and 'Vinny' (one of his circle colleagues Vincent Stroud) tell us that "...The report of circles in Australia was in an edition of the New Scientist, dated 11th August 1990. Apparently dozens of circles have been occurring in Australia over a wide area of arable country in North Western Australia. The circles resemble the circles found in our own southern counties. Max and Nancy Jolley, farmers at Turiff West, found 12 rings in their wheat crop. Each ring was 12 metres across and rock hard in the middle; 'The wheat in the rings was bent over at the base but not damaged in any other way,' said Nancy."

Due to the ever-moving nature of the Circle Phenomenon, I am receiving information suitable for inclusion in this 'Close Encounters' section all the time. However, there has to be a cut-off point somewhere, otherwise I'll never get to publish what I've got so far! Bearing that in mind, you'll understand if something you've passed on to me doesn't appear here and now - but keep it all coming! We've made a splendid start in our shared quest for knowledge. The future has never been so exciting.

UFO OVER MALTA

FROM THE MALTA TIMES

Friday October 7th 1989 (see page 17.)

UFO over Xemxija Bay?

The colour photograph of Xemxija Bay was taken about 3.30p.m. on Sunday afternoon, October 15, 1989. The person who snapped it intended to photograph the bay as seen from San Martin.

The moment the photographer pressed the trigger he spotted something flashing in the sky through the viewfinder. When he removed the camera from in front of his eyes, all he could see was a speck which seemed to have disintegrated into thin air.

Curious, he took the camera to a one-hour service photolab the next day and asked to have the exposed negative removed from the film inside the camera (it was the fifth exposure of 24).

Sure enough an object appeared in the sky which, when the photograph was taken, seemed to have been hovering over the bay. It was

flat shaped and at a slight angle.

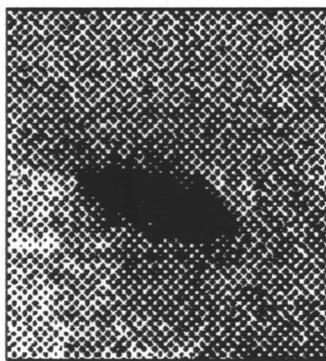
When inspected under a strong magnifying glass, it appeared to be solid and oval, with a dome over the top.

A colour enlargement was made from the negative, but it was not large enough to show any distinguishing details; the photographer was told that colour labs are not equipped to enlarge sections of a negative.

He then took it to another photographer and had a black-

and-white enlargement made.

The result is what you see in the black-and-white picture below. The unidentified object has been enlarged 40 times the size of the original 35mm. negative.



CONNECTIONS

Do The Circles Relate To Other Odd Phenomena -

Both Man-made And Natural?

by

Simon Shavelar, with Vincent Stroud

(The following article came to me in the form of a letter, and as such is not, I think, intended to set out any particular 'hard facts'. References made to the materials used at Avebury, and other statements, contained much that was new to me. I felt it was relevant enough to our subject. -bjk)

Myself and Vinny have been studying effects similar to the Circles for many years and although we have our ideas, until someone links them in with present-day science in some shape or fashion, the argy-bargy wrangling will go on for many years to come. We doubt that even when a detailed pictogram of a particular DNA manifests itself in a crop, will the more staid of the 'human' race be convinced.

Our studies between us have spanned many years, ranging from nuclear radiation through to poltergeists. Self-taught? Yes. Ignorant? No. The current theories appearing in the press range from the atmospheric vortex to ancient archaeological sites below the soil, ball lightning, plasma vortices, UFOs, chemical sprays on crops - and scraping the barrel. Retrograding sea-breeze fronts?

There are so many others. (Did you know that hedgehogs are the main culprits?) What I find strange is the lack of involvement from people like Arthur C. Clarke, Carl Sagan and the like. All are very proficient at expounding theories, so why the silence? Also - as we've seen - why the Army involvement? The majority of circles occurred in non-military areas. Has this effect been happening in more sensitive areas, and like all good secrets been filed under -? in some vast military museum? And if this is an intelligence, has it wandered out in the open, sick and tired of drawing its designs for the military's benefit only?

There are two schools of thought in the study of the Circles Phenomenon. One concentrates on the effects, the other their causes. Our study of the ancient sites around Britain leads us to believe that Avebury features very strongly in the Circles effects. Take a look at Stonehenge. The stone of which it is built is piezo-electric in nature. Here we have a series of upright stones with a capping of horizontal stones of a similar type. As you know, if you compress a piezo-electric crystal it will generate a spark of electricity. A view of Stonehenge will give you no clues as to how any pressure is applied. But think: the passage of the sun and moon causes tidal surges throughout the globe, and we suggest that this occurs at Stonehenge and similar sites.

Electrically, Stonehenge looks like a huge capacitor. At Avebury, the scenario is different. Avebury consists of a similar type of stone but has no upright stones that are spanned, just upright ones. So does this fact mean that gravitational effects may create electricity at Stonehenge, but not at Avebury?

Our study of the area, which ended in the good pub there, gave us the answer. In the pub is a well, and clearly visible was the level of the water-table just feet below the surface. No wonder dowsers have a good time there.

Viewing the micro-effects of stones such as these in water, it has become obvious that the massive stones of Avebury absorb water and that water is either drawn up more or less within the stone, according to the tidal positions of the sun and moon. Although the weight variations are small, a weak electric current must be produced.

We suggest that the designers of Avebury and the like knew what they were at! Our experiments and calculations are slowly showing us that although this electrical energy was weak, it had a profound effect on plant and organic life. There is a suggestion that the energy liberated, both then and now, could be manipulated by thought as the voltages liberated are on the milliamps scale and less.

On a larger geographical scale, we found that a study recently completed by Michael Lee and colleagues at the British Geological Survey was more than of interest to us. It showed stronger gravitational fluxes at this site and others where stones and circles are observed. All plants are, at their most basic, groups of metallic atoms arranged in groups to form molecules and are of crystal lattice form. Does the projection of an electrical-type charge, although not wholly electrical in nature, create the crop circle phenomenon?

You know of 'beat notes'? Well, imagine one frequency (by the way - static electricity has a frequency of 150,000Hz) clashing against another. The sound you will hear is the difference between the two, not the total. So if the stones create the drawing paper, then perhaps thought is the ink.

I will also mention at this point that Donald Edmonds of the Clarendon Labs in Oxford has recently observed that biological effects can be observed in organic living tissues only when particular frequencies of an oscillating frequency are created within a static magnetic field, such as the Earth's.

There are a good many reasons to believe that due to the reduction almost to the point of zero of neutrinos radiating from the sun, that an intelligence now has the opportunity to communicate in some form via circles, etc. The sun has, since the second half of 1989, radiated more than its usual share of cosmic rays than at any time in the past 30 years.

These particles are high-energy, sub-atomic particles. There has been a slow build-up to its maximum this year. Yet another possibility we have explored. Is there a connection?

Whatever electricity is produced from stones and areas of massive earthworks, we are sure that other, more subtle energies are released - even energies we are not familiar with. At present we are spending millions of pounds chasing quarks, mesons and leptons at establishments such as CERNE in Switzerland and Jet Laboratories in Oxfordshire, and although to the average person these particles seem irrelevant, why the interest? We suggest that due to the configurations of sites, stones and barrows, an easier method of liberating such energies was known and available long ago. It is a known fact that electrical charge comes in multiples of a fundamental unit, that is, the charge on an electron. Two Russian physicists are at present suggesting also that science cannot rule out the existence of milli-charged particles which have a charge one-thousandth that of a fundamental charge.

The two physicists who have put forward this suggestion are M. Dobrolivbov and A. Ignatier of the Institute for Nuclear Research of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

The reason physicists have not found these particles already is that milli-charged particles would lose energy a million times more slowly than electrons as they pass through matter. This is because the energy lost by a charged particle - 'due to ionisation' - per unit distance it travels depends on the square of its electrical charge, so unless special measurements are taken, milli-charged particles will escape conventional detectors. The wavelength of such particles, due to their discharge rates, would be very long indeed. If the sites of crop circle events are positioned near, or in some cases next to, ancient megaliths why has nothing substantial been written about them?

As we can show, the distances between two or more sites are incredibly accurate and in many cases an equal distance from each other. Interestingly, on file we have press reports of poltergeist-type occurrences in areas around Somerton in Devon, and Stroud in Gloucestershire. This at the time seemed worthy only of filing until some time later when the outbreak of meningitis occurred in and around Stroud. On reviewing ancient sites of interest and the position of Berkeley Nuclear Power Station we noticed a distance measurement that was frighteningly familiar to us. It appears that a radius, if drawn from Berkeley through Somerton, bisects Stroud - and lo and behold, a strain of meningitis was virulent as though activated through the actions of radiations nuclear and ancient. Perhaps an example of beat note interference was causing actual physical results due to the combining of two forces?

If this was the case, we concluded that Berkeley should be switched off, so to speak, as then the outbreak of meningitis should cease. Strangely enough, Berkeley was de-commissioned, in what seemed a hurry to us - and the outbreak ceased.

What's this all got to do with crop circles? Well, we agree we may have wandered off the subject a little but it seems that we as a race may have unintentionally stumbled onto something that feels and senses organic demise, and is using the simplest form of communication known to itself to be heard.

We think there is a great deal of interest in us humans at present; a few weeks before the US/USSR Summit meeting was held in Malta last year, a strange UFO appeared (see page 13). Does its appearance before the conference adjust attitudes towards their decisions?

If the circles phenomenon is not an alien intelligence, it may well be an electrical or microwave phenomenon - and in some documented cases people have seen lights and heard sounds - but in most cases nothing is seen, just the sudden appearance of a circle or more. In the case of UFOs seen, we both do not dispute their existence. Perhaps the Warminster thing of the 69s-70s was an attempt to communicate with people. Or on the other hand some 'work' was being completed in that area by them. A re-reading of Mr. Arthur Shuttlewood's book may reveal more, and give us a good insight into the operational effects of the circle phenomenon.

On this note, it seems strange to note that the UFO sightings have by all accounts kept just one step ahead of our present, or past, technology. Some reports of mysterious airships flying in bad weather when no sensible human airship captain would set out seems to bear out this point. Perhaps we have progressed to such a point where we can accept a viewpoint that a material ship controlled by thought, such as we have seen in films like ET and Star Trek, etc., is possible. Some early reports of aliens being able to levitate and walk through walls gives one the impression that although physical from our viewpoint they have the ability to de-materialise, and have a spiritual quality.

The more Vinny and I read about crop circle formations, we get the impression that perhaps we as a race may have wasted our time sending probes carrying our name and number on a plaque out into deep space. Perhaps an intelligence has not the eyes of the material world, but is rather in the nature of a spiritual force. If so, it would sense the losses of organic lifeforms and the associated energies that maintain life - a life force.

We could send hundreds of mechanical devices out into space and not get a reply. But decimate a rainforest, or snuff out all sea-life in an area - something we have been doing for ages - and then perhaps we will get a reaction. It may visibly take the forms of UFOs to some observers - and those who are mentally tuned in - but either way the overall intentions have not yet been recognised by the scientific community.

THE ART OF CIRCLES: **ACCIDENT OR DESIGN?**

The first of two articles

by

Phil Corker

“...Even the plain single circle, examined closely, is an impressive work of art.” Unequivocal words to describe the quality of even the most basic crop circle, but who expressed them? Colin Andrews? Pat Delgado? George Wingfield? No. It was, in fact, Dr. Terence Meaden, the man behind the plasma-vortex theory of circle formation, who dismisses as pseudo-scientific nonsense the notion that crop circles may be guided by some intelligent agent. You might wonder why it is good practice to suggest that no intelligent agent is involved, and bad practice to suggest the opposite. Surely one view is no better and no worse than the other. Dr. Meaden’s view seems to be at odds with his opening statement, unless he is proposing art without intelligence, which would be novel at least.

In 1974 Meaden was instrumental in forming TORRO (Tornado and Storm Research Organisation), with the aim of determining the extent to which Britain suffers from tornado damage. Since 1980, when crop circles first came to his attention via The Wiltshire Times, he has developed what now appears to be the establishment view, at least one which the Government’s Scientific Office and the BBC’s ‘Tomorrow’s World’ seem to be happy with.

In Meaden’s mind there is apparently no doubt that the circles effect is caused by descending plasma vortices, originating in the boundary layer (the lower 300 metres of the atmosphere) in the lee of hills, often isolated ones such as Silbury Hill. According to Meaden it is irregularities in the landscape which give rise to the landscape art of circles. These irregular features, such as solitary hills or hill spurs, cause the air-flow to deviate and re-organise it into “upflowing vortices of an eddy-vortex type”, to use Meaden’s own description. Under the right conditions these ascending spirals of air “become possessed of a descending component, usually short-lived“. In other words, a brief plasma vortex, or if you prefer, an electrified rotating wind. The intense spin of this wind is also responsible, by means of friction, for concentrating electric charges which then produce the humming or buzzing noises which have been reported at circle sites, as well as the glowing balls of light which have occasionally been seen descending into fields at night. Other side-effects cause interference in electrical systems, including radios and televisions, burglar alarms, radar and car engines. Animals aren’t too keen on it either, by all accounts.

In a nutshell, Meaden's vortex theory not only explains the mystery of crop circles and associated phenomena, but in so doing neatly wraps up the UFO problem for good measure. In his certainty, Meaden boldly states that the few meteorologists who don't accept the vortex theory are simply revealing their ignorance of the phenomenon.

Another intriguing aspect of the circles mystery concerns the dense concentration of circles in a tiny area of the world, namely central southern England in general and Wiltshire in particular, but Meaden has the answer to this too. Wiltshire, he reasons, is especially prone to circle formation because it is a unique area in the world, combining the right topography of gently rolling hills, air conditions and crop coverage. CERES (Circles Effect Research), the division of TORRO dedicated to circles investigation, claims to be "getting at the heart of the problem", giving the impression that the mystery is already solved and that only the details of the puzzle remain to be filled in.

It was TORRO-CERES which organised the first international conference on crop circles, which took place at Oxford Polytechnic in June this year. It was an event almost as curious as its subject and left me with the overall impression of proceedings which were carefully sewn up before they started. Perhaps it's naivety, but I always thought conferences were meant to provide a platform for a variety of views and theories, for genuine debate. This was more like a TORRO promotion day, with no dissenting voice. Indeed, the entire conference fitted neatly around Dr. Meaden's theory, as can be deduced from the book of the proceedings. Nothing better illustrated the partisan nature of the day than the sight of Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado side-lined together in the audience, uninvited to speak. Of course they're not scientists, as Meaden repeatedly points out, but then neither are Jenny Randles and Paul Fuller, directors of BUFORA (British UFO Research Organisation), who were invited to speak. But then they do support Meaden's line while Andrews and Delgado clearly do not.

The fact that Meaden, Andrews and Delgado have in the past worked closely on the circles together as friends could only add fuel to the bad feelings which became increasingly evident. The conference ended just as it was really warming up, under the collar that is, with one group around Andrews/Delgado and another around Meaden. Andrews said that one of the Japanese professors who had been working with him had now been mysteriously spirited away to the other side. No, not to the afterlife, just to the Meaden camp, which may be an inbetween stage when the circles mystery is really solved. As I made my way out of the auditorium, Meaden was beaming for the cameras and drawing two Japanese professors to his sides. I felt I was walking off the set of 'A Very Peculiar Practice'.

Meaden may well be satisfied with his vortex theory, but he still needs to address what for myself and many others is the most pressing question of all, not merely the origin of the circle forming agent, but its ability to leave its marks in such extraordinary fashions. While it's true that some formations are

uneven, rough at the edges and sometimes unfinished, many are imprinted with astonishing completeness, precision and symmetry, producing aerial landmarks of considerable beauty. Just how does a turbulent natural force work with the hand of a designer, creating patterns which could easily pass for a company logo, yet leaving the flattened crop stems not only undamaged and still growing but also, according to Andrews and Delgado, with a transformed cell structure?

It's a measure of the startling developments of the phenomenon this year, that what seemed remarkable a few seasons ago, say a circle with two contra-rotating annular rings, now appears almost mundane. Some of this season's formations combined not only huge quintuplet sets with three or four concentric rings, but also spurs, connecting pathways and quadrupled rectangles, and that was before Alton Barnes!

George Bathurst, who presented a paper on spherical vortices at the conference, has explained the puzzling rectangles in terms of the flattening out of "the upper radial divergence of a helix of four evenly spaced waves", or more simply, the unrolling of four curved air surfaces, which in some formations just happen to be the same width, length and distance apart. It sounds impressive, but are the guts of a whirlwind really so well ordered? As for the bizarre keys and claws of Alton Barnes, Meaden, far from softening or retreating from his vortex theory, has said these features "display parts of the internal structure of the vortices resulting from irregular impact with the ground". This seems to be nothing more than a vague cover-all for something which Dr. Meaden cannot satisfactorily explain, a stock response he could employ to interpret any new anomalous features which appear.

Let's consider this creative wind in terms of the now famous shapes of Alton Barnes. I'd like to hear Dr. Meaden explain exactly how it operated in this case. Was it meant to be a single unified vortex, or a series of vortices descending in harmony? If it were a series of vortices, did they descend at the same time, or separately, and in either case, how did they manage to be so perfectly aligned, not just in reference to each other but also to the tractor tramlines? Surely the number of times major formations have fixed themselves either on tramlines or parallel to them, is way above chance for what is supposedly a random event? Can this degree of precision be achieved without some form of guidance system, be it intelligent or simply mechanical in nature? If it were purely an accident of nature, as in a vortex, the odds against such a spectacular combination of atmospheric structures unifying and falling parallel to tramlines, must have been millions to one against. If so, the process of random natural events must have gone haywire, as similar arrangements of circles, rings, boxes, pathways, keys and claws, subsequently appeared soon after at other sites. Which leads on to the inevitable question: does Dr. Meaden really believe his own theory, or has he painted himself so far into a supposedly scientific corner that he can see no way out?

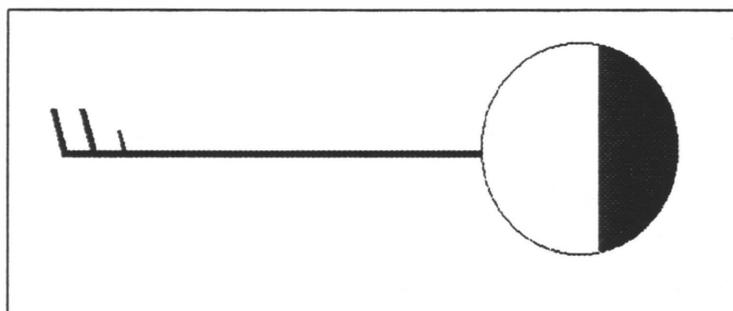
Even supposing that Meaden's vortex theory were correct, shouldn't he be explaining just why and how his spinning plasma winds are becoming more numerous and increasingly complex, more artistic in their inscriptions? Has

he detected some corresponding change in the British climate, some factor which might be influencing the weak cold fronts and penetrating summer sea breezes, which he is certain are the root cause of crop circles?

Meaden has said, as recently as the conference, that the apparent spiral in the number and complexity of crop circles, is something of an illusion, that the increase in the number of circle-hunting hours by an ever-growing band of enthusiasts accounts for the perceived spread of the phenomenon. Circles have always been in our midst, we simply haven't noticed them, and farmers were never in the habit of reporting them. This infers that circle-hunting pilots, like Busty Taylor, who took many of the splendid aerial photographs which made 'Circular Evidence' so visually impressive, have been overlooking hundreds of formations. Certainly, we know from archive material that crop circles have been around since 1678 at least, and that 'The Mowing Devil' was then believed to be the culprit. But were they as common and sophisticated then as they are now? If they were, wouldn't rural folklore and art be liberally sprinkled with stories and pictures of crop circles, instead of the rare obscure references we find? When annual totals for crop circles were limited to double figures, the illusion theory held some possible validity. Now that seasonal figures are being recorded in treble digits, I believe we should simply accept that the phenomenon is on the increase, on some tantalising upward curve.

I spoke to Colin Hirst at the Bristol Weather Centre, to discover the meteorological consensus on the vortex theory. He himself was unambiguous in dismissing it and said there was no support for it generally in the profession. While a descending spiral of air might conceivably leave a perfectly circular mark in a field, it would be "far too chaotic", in Hirst's words, to produce the intricate floor-patterns found in crop circles, let alone the master-strokes at Alton Barnes and other sites.

I also took the opportunity to check the alleged similarity between some circle formations and certain meteorological symbols. This proved to be tentative in the extreme and involved only one symbol, reproduced below:



The circle represents the weather station, the long arm shows the direction of the wind and the bars indicate the wind speed, where a full bar equals ten knots per hour and a half bar equals five. So the example shown records a wind travelling in a westward direction at a speed of twenty-five knots per hour. Any shading which appears in the circle represents the amount of cloud cover.

A Triangle of Chalk

Among the possibilities which Dr. Meaden dismisses is the notion of a 'special' area which has been dubbed 'The Wessex Triangle', the world's premier circle region, encompassing large parts of Wiltshire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire. But this is a very real triangle in one sense, as I discovered earlier this year when I was first grappling with the circles mystery.

I was puzzling over the concentration of circles in our tiny corner of the globe. I felt sure there must be a common factor which characterises the area and links the circles, and I couldn't stop thinking about the numerous white hill figures which dominate so much of the same landscape. So, armed with a hunch and a list of circle sites taken from 'Circular Evidence', I set off for the central library to look for some possible geological connection. As soon as I unfolded the large geological map of England, I could see that my speculation might be correct. The area in question predominantly consisted of chalk and could roughly be said to form a triangle, though it had one long arm stretching to East Anglia and The Wash, and two more running east to form the North and South Downs. Sure enough, plotting the circle sites from the book against the map, I found all the named towns and villages were located on chalk land.

Clearly though, if the presence of chalk is somehow important in the creation of crop circles, it is only one contributory factor, as circles appear on land which is not made of chalk and occur only rarely in other regions where chalk is prevalent, such as the east coast, north of Humberside. Other prerequisite factors must also be necessary, but the presence of chalk may increase the likelihood of circle formations occurring. If some Earth-sourced energy is involved, as many believe, perhaps chalk is the best conductor of it. If some descending power is responsible, maybe chalk is ideally receptive. If circles represent the interaction of ground and atmospheric forces, as has been suggested, it's possible that chalk may serve as the most conducive intermediary substance. It's all personal speculation of course, but then that's the good thing about circles, we can all entertain our own theories to our heart's content.

Interestingly enough, Dr. Meaden has said that chalk plays a role in the electrical process of circle formation. Perhaps this is one thing we could agree on.

****'The Art of Circles' is continued in the next issue, and will consider the possible role of intelligence, which the author suggests may well turn out to be our own. It will also look at the idea of social upheaval as a primary cause of circles and, dare I say it, at the inevitable cover-up conspiracy - gulp! Social magnetism will be on the menu as well, so be sure to book a table.****

(More about this article on the next page -bjk.)

THE TORRO CONFERENCE

Bob Kingsley talks to Dr. Derek Elsom

I spoke personally to Dr. Derek Elsom in his capacity as Co-Editor and Conference Organiser (the other being Dr. Meaden, with whom I have so far had no personal contact at all), soon after the conference. I had written to him requesting some information about the conference in general and he was kind enough to ring me up to talk about it in detail. (This would have been at the beginning of July - the conference was held on 23rd June.) I was particularly interested in 1) the make-up of the audience: what kind of people responded to the conference; and 2) How was the conference publicised, that is, what methods were used to bring it to the attention of the 'outside world'.

To the first query, Dr. Elsom responded by saying that it was not easy to assess the attendance by means of a demographic breakdown; there were various groups and affiliations represented, as well as a number of academics present. A Professor Scorer, an atmospheric physicist, was mentioned as one present who was sceptical about the plasma-vortex theory. Dr. Elsom said that the CCCS, the Circles Investigation Group, the Circles Phenomenon Research Group, BUFORA and TORRO-CERES were represented, some as speakers and some in the audience. He mentioned that Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado were there. As regards the make-up of the rest of the attendees, Dr. Elsom allowed himself a little speculation and said that he was surprised to find a large proportion of what he described as "housewives" in the audience, as well as a fair number of professional people such as doctors and businessmen, all of whom seemed highly motivated and intrigued - some had been on circle-watches; most held strong convictions. There were about 25 or 30 media people present; Dr. Elsom thought that most of the reporters wanted to treat the subject more seriously than they had been doing in the past.

Dr. Elsom reported antagonism between Dr. Meaden and Colin Andrews, with a shouting-match developing, Meaden claiming that Andrews had been "dragging [circle research] down to a lower level". Professor John Snow from Purdue University, Indiana, supported Meaden and called Andrews and Delgado "self-publicists". Snow said that in America, scientists were avoiding the subject of crop circle research because of the "non-scientific" approach adopted by some "fringe" researchers in Britain; Dr. Elsom thought that the Japanese and others didn't like it either.

Dr. Elsom told me that Dr. Meaden considered himself to be treated differently when abroad - "better" was the word used.

Interestingly, Dr. Elsom thought that about two-thirds of those attending had made their minds up **before going into the conference**, and considered the plasma-vortex theory to be insufficient as regards an explanation of the circle phenomenon. Only about one third of those present were prepared to support Dr. Meaden's research findings. Dr. Elsom found this perplexing

because, in his assessment, there was plenty of evidence to support the plasma-vortex theory, while the support for the intelligence theory was lacking. Dr. Elsom thought that more people are prepared to "see an intelligent agency" behind the circles; he felt that Dr. Meaden was perceived as standing "alone".

As to the second part of my enquiry - how was the conference publicised - Dr. Elsom said that it had always been billed as a "scientific conference", not a "no-holds-barred" conflict between the intelligence and vortex theories. The conference was devoted to examining the vortex theory **and that alone**. There was never any intention to discuss any other avenues of enquiry. To that end, the conference was publicised in various meteorological and scientific journals, through colleges, universities and other outlets of an academic nature. Dr. Elsom felt that people came to the conference because it was the only seminar devoted to the circle phenomenon being held at that time and interest was high amongst the public as well as researchers. He thought that if the other camp had something to say, they should hold their own conference.

This might explain why Andrews and Delgado found themselves uninvited to speak, and why the event seemed to Phil Corker to be a public-relations exercise on behalf of TORRO. It was. Four of the twelve contributors listed in the Report of the Conference were members of CERES-TORRO; two others were American; three were Japanese; there were two BUFORA representatives and a representative of the Circles Investigation Group. Since it was a conference devoted entirely to giving support to the Meaden/CERES-TORRO vortex theory, a high proportion of CERES-TORRO contributors must be expected.

In connection with the conference, I should like to mention an article in another recently published newsletter. Under one of its headings, designed to indicate the numbers of meteorologists who support a meteorological explanation for the crop circles, I found some familiar names appearing. The dossier is intended to show that there are many meteorologists who support Dr. Meaden - a claim that, according to the newsletter, is disputed by many circle researchers.

The dossier breaks down into four sub-headings: meteorologists and scientists who accept a meteorological explanation (13 names), meteorologists and scientists who are not sure but seem prepared to consider or accept a meteorological explanation (12 names), meteorologists and scientists who claim they are not qualified to pass a judgment (4 names), and meteorologists who totally reject a meteorological explanation (3 names).

I shall deal in detail with the first sub-heading only. By comparing the list with the names of contributors to the TORRO conference, it becomes apparent that no less than **seven** of the names were involved with the conference, either as Speakers or as Editors, and another name belongs to a member of TORRO. The other five are: a retired meteorologist, three British meteorological university academics and a Belgian meteorological university academic.

There is no reason why this list should not be utilised to show that there is, indeed, support for Dr. Meaden's theory. But I do feel that it should have been made clear, especially in the case of two of the names, just who is a member of CERES/TORRO. (One is accredited in the list as "a retired meteorologist", the other simply as "University of Lancaster". This last name is also a member of the Editorial Team of the newsletter in question, as are the two BUFORA representatives at the TORRO conference.) It should come as no surprise to find that there is considerable support for Dr. Meaden from his own team members and conference associates! (There are two other accredited TORRO members listed under the third sub-heading - "not qualified to pass judgment". Very diplomatic!) For all I know, some of the others mentioned under the first sub-heading might also be affiliated in some way to CERES/TORRO.

SMALL TALK

Useful Snippets of Information

You may remember in the previous edition I mentioned that a “hoax” circle had turned up near Bratton, but it wasn’t a true hoax because someone paid the farmer for the privilege of doing it. In a Record Mirror during August, it was reported that a band called the KLF (a.k.a. The Timelords, amongst other titles) was responsible.

Members of the band, Bill Drummond and Jimmy Cauty, claimed to have made their own “pictogram”, resembling the “pyramid blaster” logo of their record label, at the suggestion of “a kind of West Country Reuters news agency.” Bill and Jimmy have, apparently, been claiming to have made corn circles “for years”, while never actually having done so. They say that before they could create their design, “someone got there before us and made the circle that then broke the storm nationally.” The story then begins to get confused.

It would seem that “the hoaxer [sic] who made the circle that was on the news had started distributing leaflets claiming that it was us.” The tabloids, they say, started hounding them for a statement. Bill and Jimmy took their time disclaiming their involvement, and while they stayed silent, “[deciding] to come clean, saying that the circle wasn’t our work, but that we have been circling for years, they had found a scapegoat in the shape of a farmer who said that he, and his family before him, had been making circles for hundreds of years.” They eventually decided to try making their own circle, so they went at night to the place where the original “hoax” had appeared and sweated away by torchlight for several hours, re-creating their blaster logo with wooden planks attached to the bottoms of brooms. What they saw in the morning was “a pathetic little mess in the corner of the field.” Now it gets even more curious. Earlier in the day, Jimmy had sketched a “smiley” logo as an idea for their design. When they arrived at the location where they were going to attempt it, there was already a smiley face in the corn. (The only one I know of was at Bratton, below the White Horse, which I saw while at Operation Blackbird -bjk.) Eventually they befriended a farmer who let them do their thing.

If anything comes out of this little episode, it shows how difficult it is to hoax complex designs in the corn. It also shows how some people are willing to say anything for a bit of publicity.

Last word to Jimmy: “It took us 11 hours in total to plan it out, make it and film it for the video from the air, and the feeling after we’d done it was just incredible. Making it was just a compulsion and now we really do believe that we’ve been circling for years.” Quite.

PICTURES AND DRAWINGS

George Wingfield

&

Martin Affleck

The following pages feature some photographs taken and kindly supplied by George Wingfield, together with drawings of dumbbell formations compiled by Martin Affleck.

Martin's drawings came supplied with detailed notes of each day's foray into the countryside. Well put together - but limited space here means I don't have room for them all! Still, here's a few samples:

Wednesday June 27th: (At Cheesefoot Head) ...I saw some people in a field below and realised they were in another ring...I met three people who were there together: Colin Bloy, Sarah Austin and Sarah Miles...They invited me to join their picnic...They were near the new rings talking to a lady who had given herself the name of Delphine Star...She...was invited to the picnic as well...we spent several hours talking earth magic and dolphins, dolphin conferences in Australia and water births, nunneries and monasteries...Colin dowsed with his hands and found energy points in the picnic circle (dragon power) and a spiral in the linked circle (holy ghost power as he described it). He found the dragon spots increased from 16 to 128 while we were there - divisible by 8 as this is the special number of the Templars.

[Note: an area of land behind the Punch Bowl is called Temple Valley -bjk]

Friday, June 29th: (on Telegraph Hill, near Cheesefoot)...Colin Andrews...was there with a member of Parliament...Colin talked about the circles appearing in rice fields in Japan and the energy forces in these circles which had affected sound recording equipment on different occasions and caused £50,000-worth of damage...

Sunday, 1st July: (at Cheesefoot)...Carole Austen told us of lights in the sky she'd seen over Titchfield, near Fareham (in Hampshire).

Wednesday 4th July: (at Cheesefoot Head)...[a pre-arranged evening walk] ...I got there with a little time to spare and found quite a few people already there and more arriving. In the end there must have been nearly a hundred of us. Just after 11pm we all followed Ranger Helen and Ranger Gareth bringing up the rear...We stumbled along bridle-paths between corn fields, through the cloudy but moonlit night, torches full of fresh batteries swaying, puddles splashing...it was too dark to see much and you had to walk fast and look where you were going in order to keep up...we got back...without seeing one circle but it was a rare experience.

Back in the car park, everyone converged on a chap who was looking knowledgeable and leaning against a Dormobile. I later found his name was Colin O'Farrell. They questioned him on his theories on what caused the circles. He was very laid back and enigmatic, hinting there were abilities our ancestors had lost which would have enabled us to detect different forms of energy. A couple of walkers had stories of dogs which wouldn't go near circles and of experiencing nausea inside them.

Colin had microwave radios which searched wavelengths in different ways and homed in on satellites and ley lines...Colin related the twin circles joined by a straight avenue to the symbol of Gaia, the Earth Mother...Nigel and Matthew explained how they could forecast in advance that a circle was going to appear. They can detect the energy with dowsing rods when walking through a crop field...They reckon circles are created within 6 to 15 seconds...Nigel and Matthew also had personal experiences of feeling nauseous and having vision problems in some circles, plus a still camera having its iris shutter bent.

Key To George Wingfield's Photographs

(1) Extended pictogram near Cheesefoot Head, Winchester, which appeared on August 3/4 1990. Beside this is an earlier smaller pictogram, which appeared on June 1/2, and was the second ever to be found.

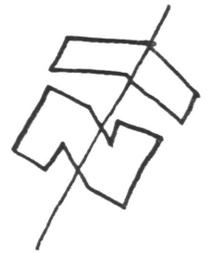
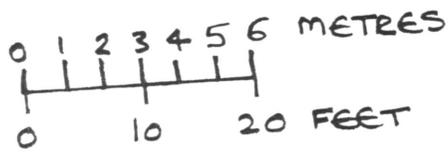
(2) Pictogram No 3, near Cheesefoot Head, which appeared on June 16 1990. The triple semi-circular halo is unique, and this pictogram unlike most lies athwart the tractor "tramlines".

(3) The celebrated Alton Barnes giant pictogram (Pictogram No 8) which was found on July 12 1990 four miles from Silbury Hill, Wilts. This was the first of the "double dumbbells" and the first to exhibit the curious asymmetric features known as keys or claws. During the following four weeks thousands visited this formation.

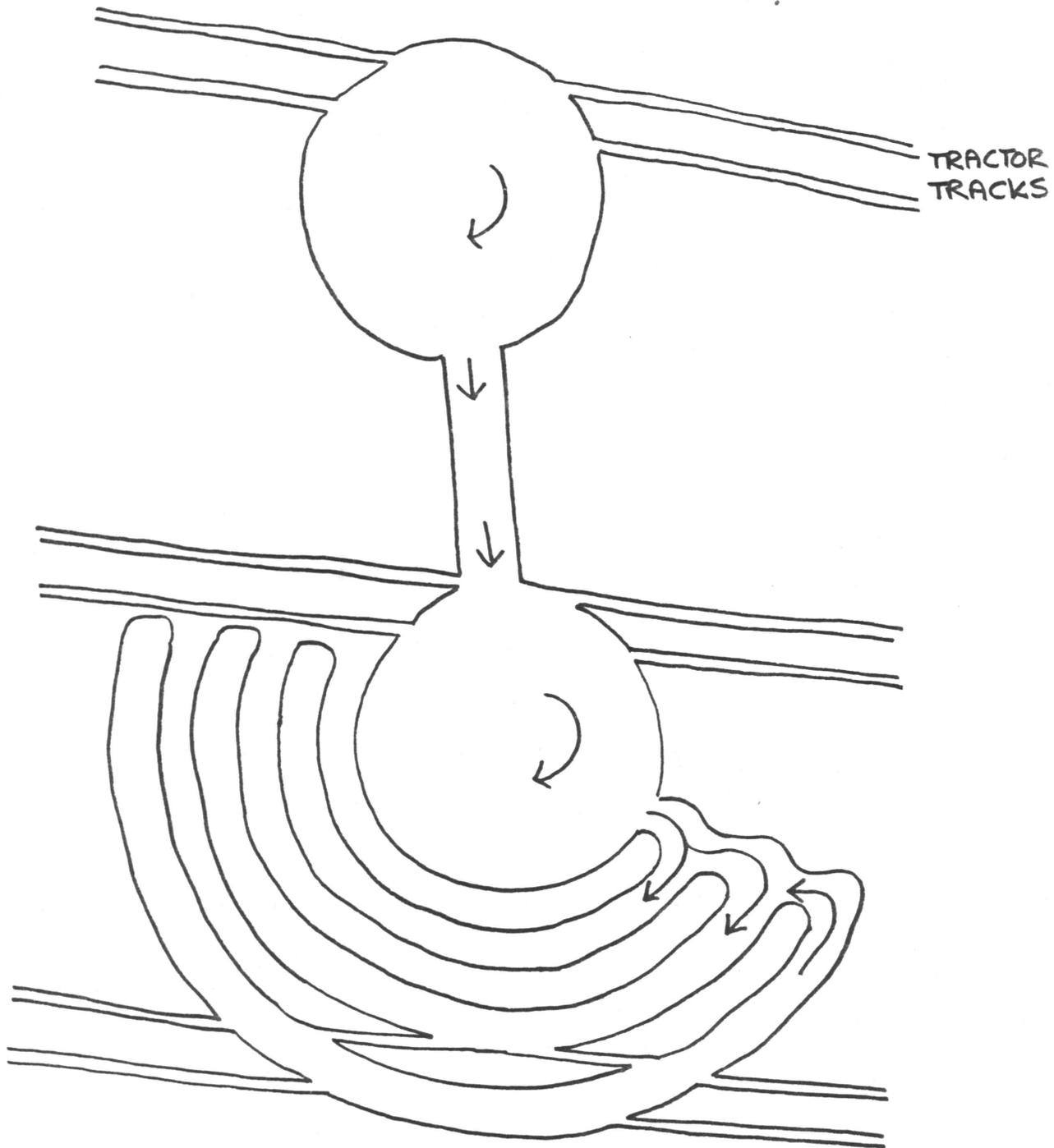
(4) The fifth pictogram which was found near Cheesefoot Head on June 28 1990. This was 165 ft long and was exactly aligned with a tractor tramline. The long rectangular "boxes" parallel to the axis are a common feature of some pictograms.

(5) These two formations in a barley field between Calne and Devizes, Wilts, lay five miles from Silbury Hill. That on the right is the first quadruple-ringed circle (with 4 satellites on the second ring) to appear all at once and it was found on June 1 1990. The "Celtic Cross" formation on the left appeared just over a month later. One of its satellites lies at a point where its ring intersects the outer ring of the earlier formation.

(6) Giant pictogram (No 9) near Milk Hill, Stanton St Bernard, found at the same time as that at Alton Barnes, which is a mile and a half away. It showed similar features but these are differently positioned as are the positions of the ringed circles. The axis of this formation coincides exactly with a tramline. The circle sizes are similar to those at Alton Barnes.



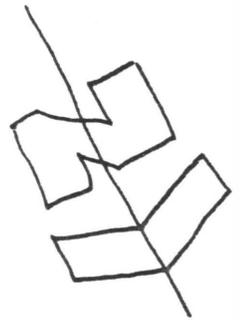
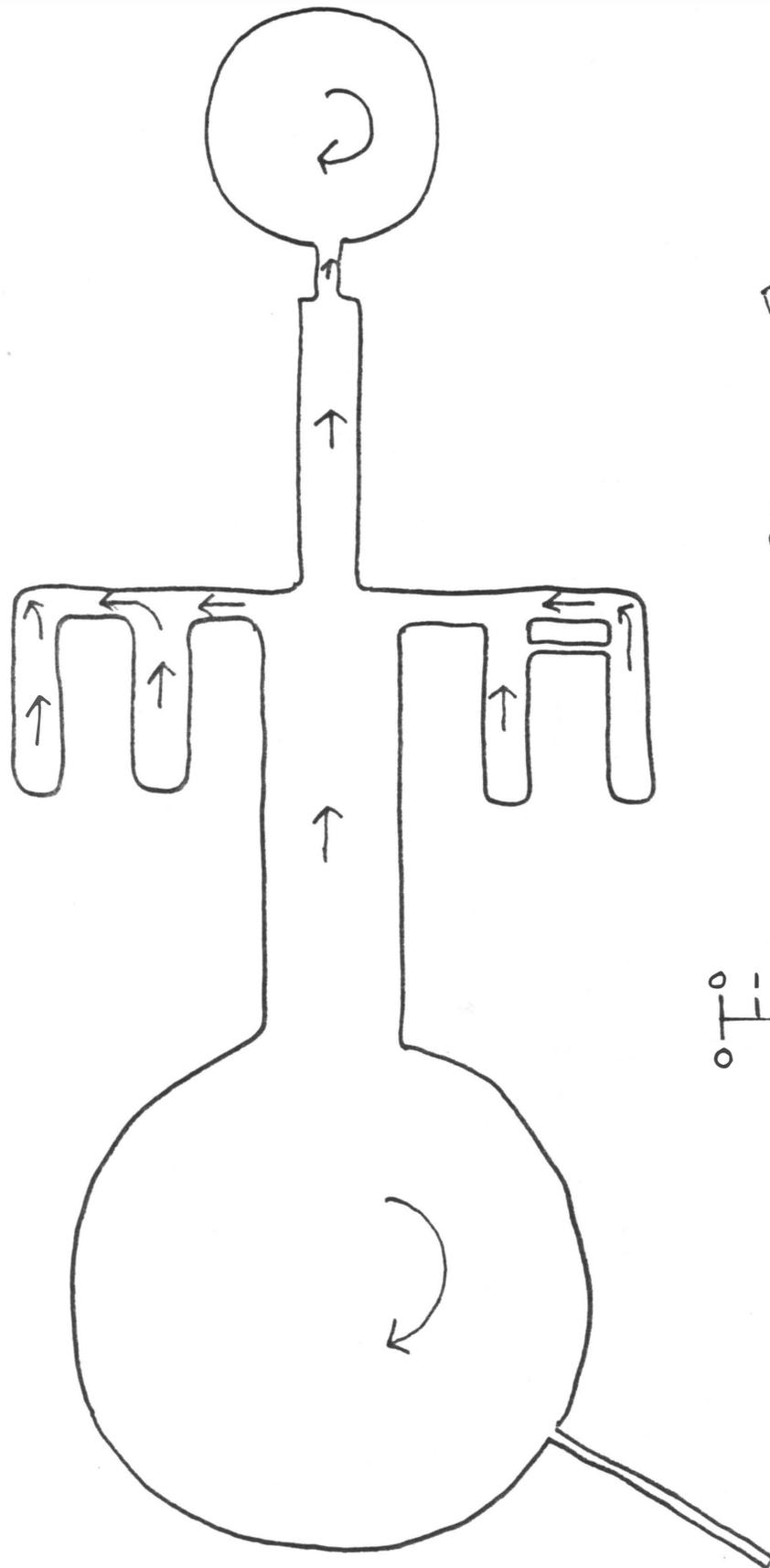
← UPHILL



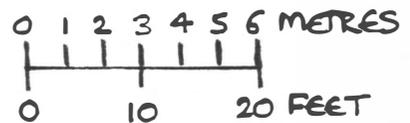
1 on TELEGRAPH HILL, WINCHESTER

→ DIRECTION OF LAY OF CROP
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DATE FILMED 12.64 (S. 47/57)

SCALE 1:200

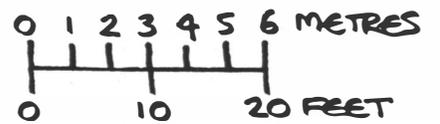
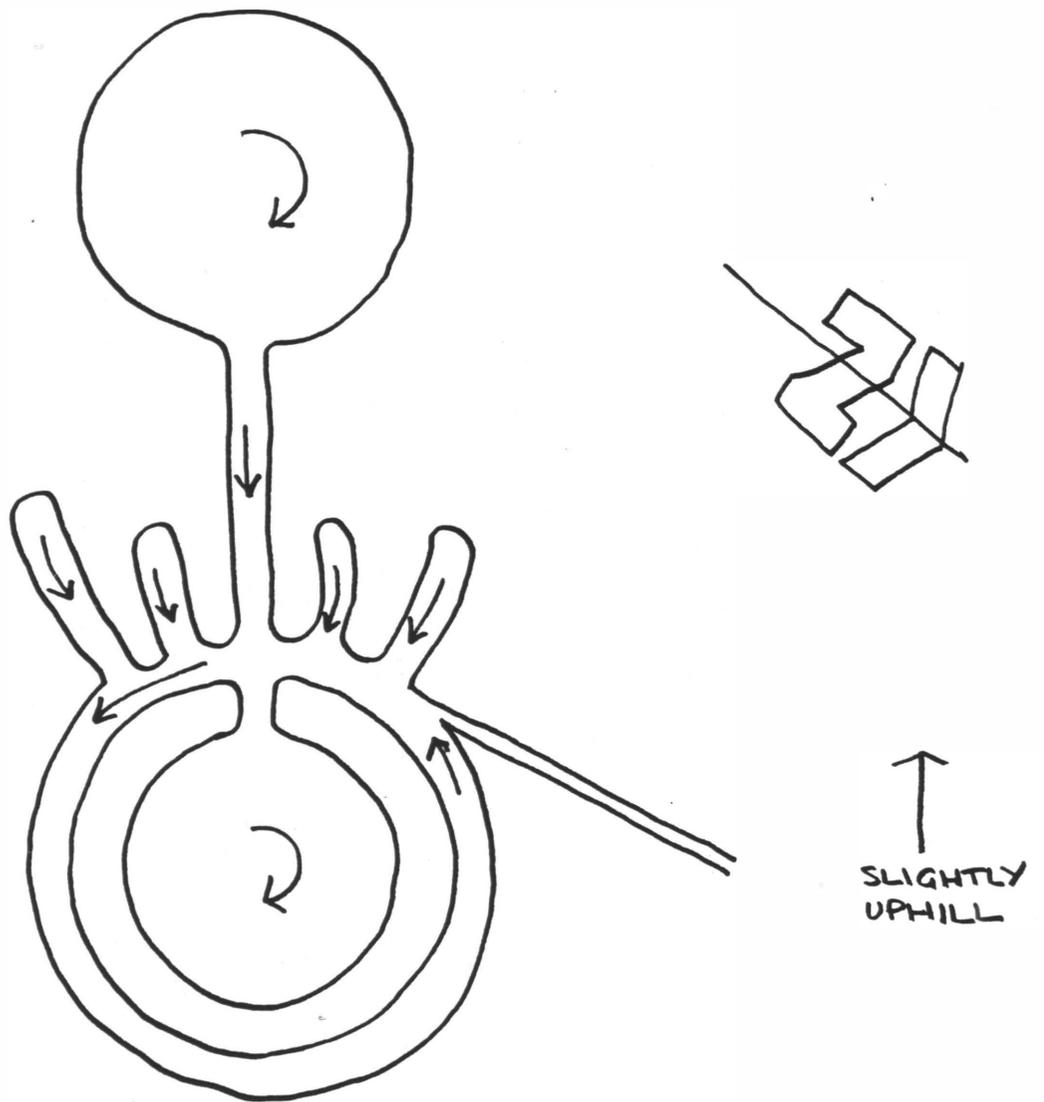


ON FLAT
GROUND

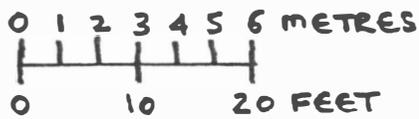
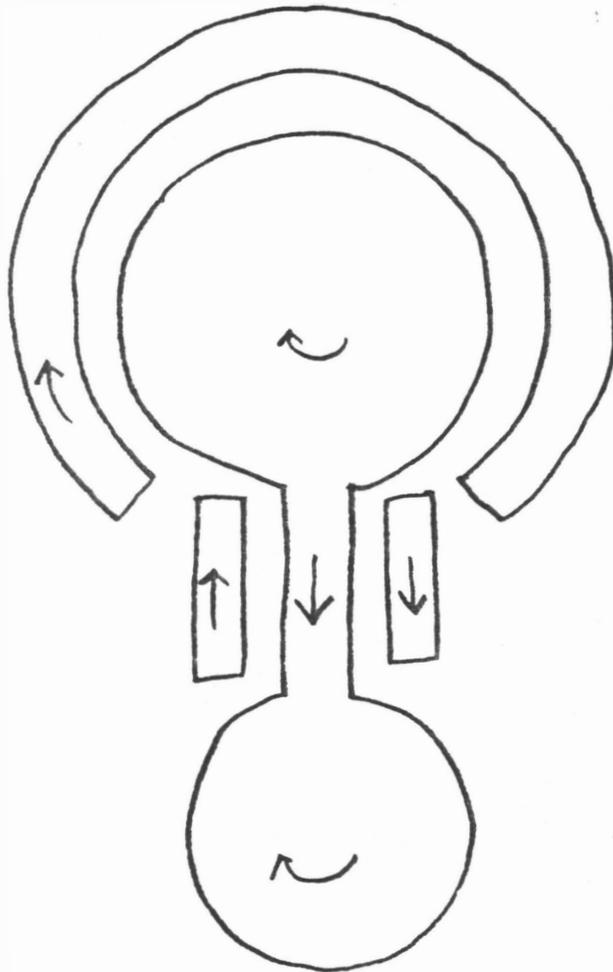


2 BELOW TELEGRAPH HILL, WINCHESTER

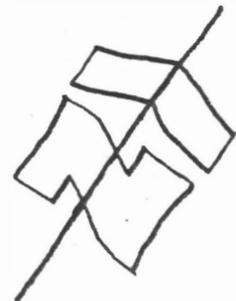
→ DIRECTION OF LAY OF CROP
 ORDNANCE SURVEY REF. 523283 SCALE 1:200
 PATHFINDER 1264 (SU 42/52)



3^{on} FAWLEY DOWN, WINGCHESTER
 → DIRECTION OF LAY OF CROP
 ORDNANCE SURVEY REF: S23272 SCALE 1:200
 PATHFINDER 1264 (SU 42/52)



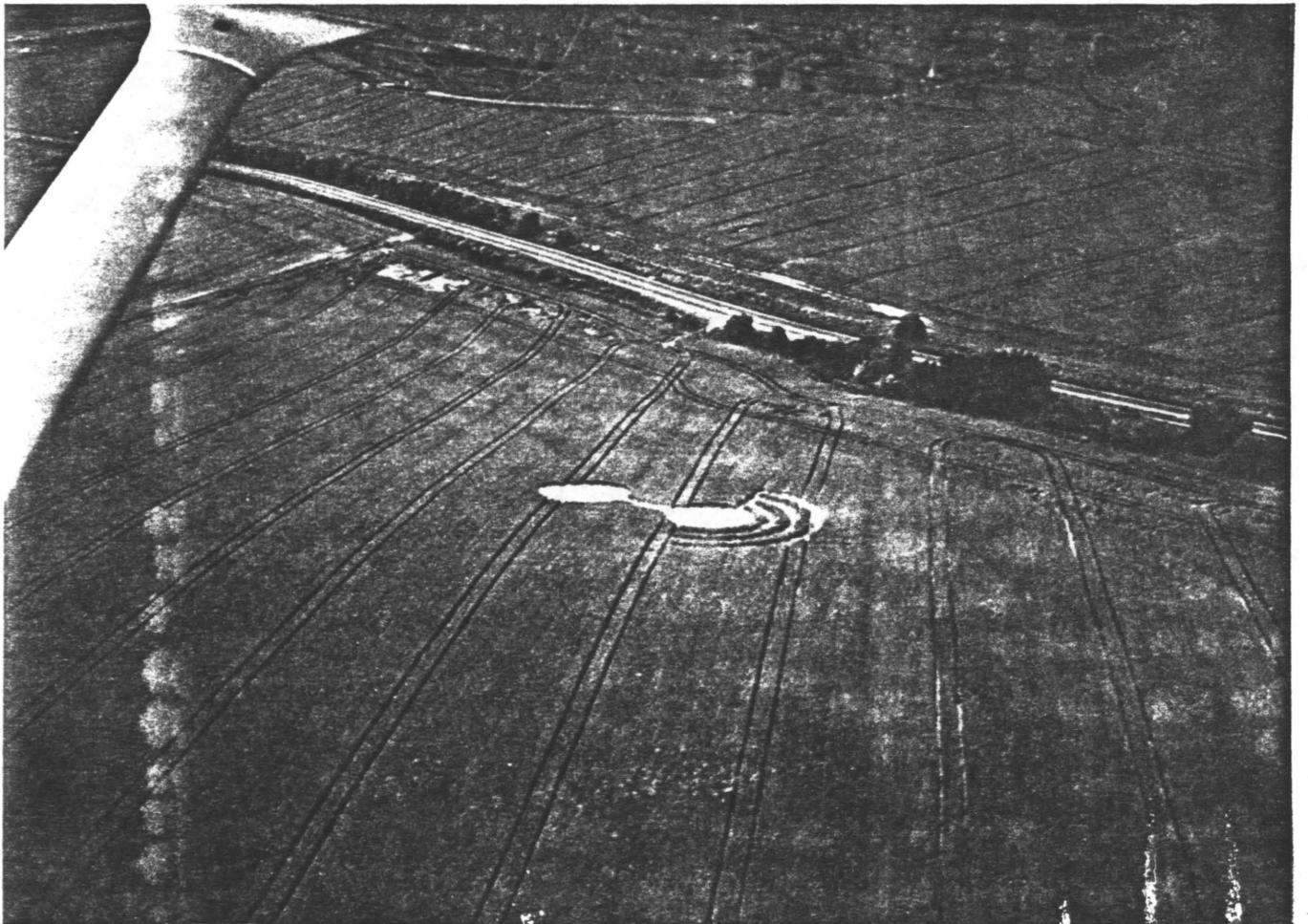
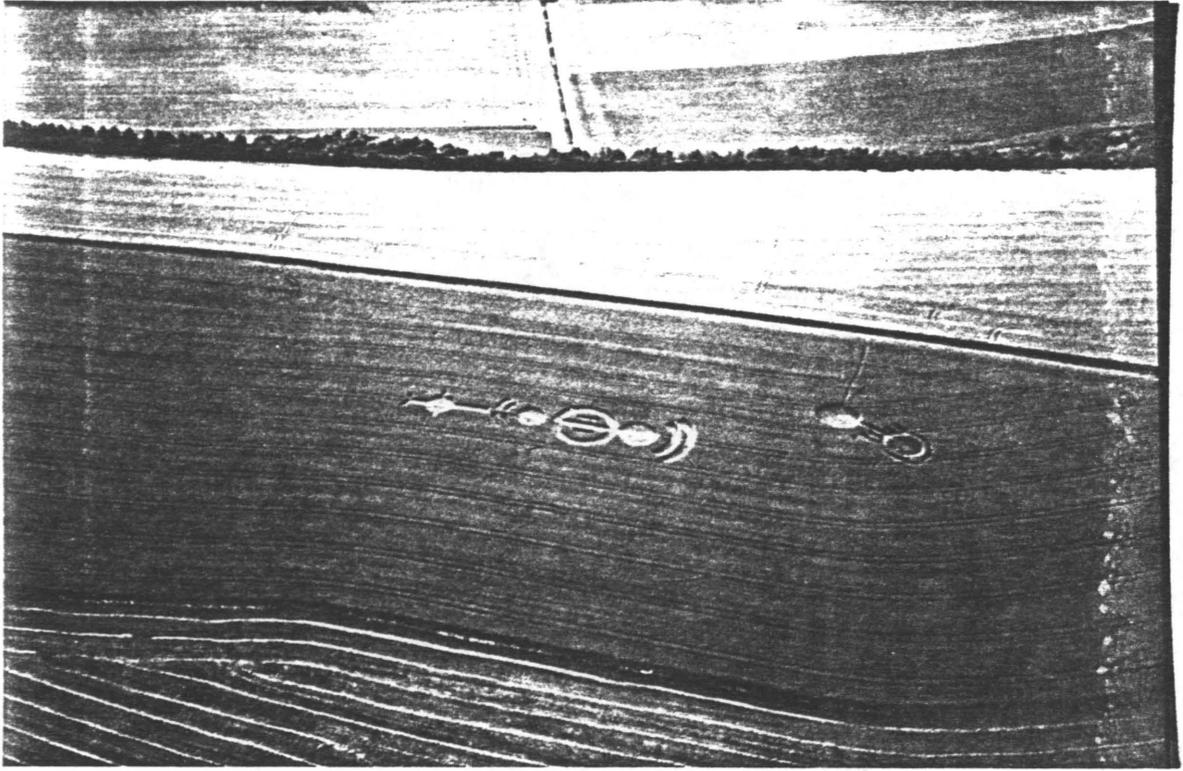
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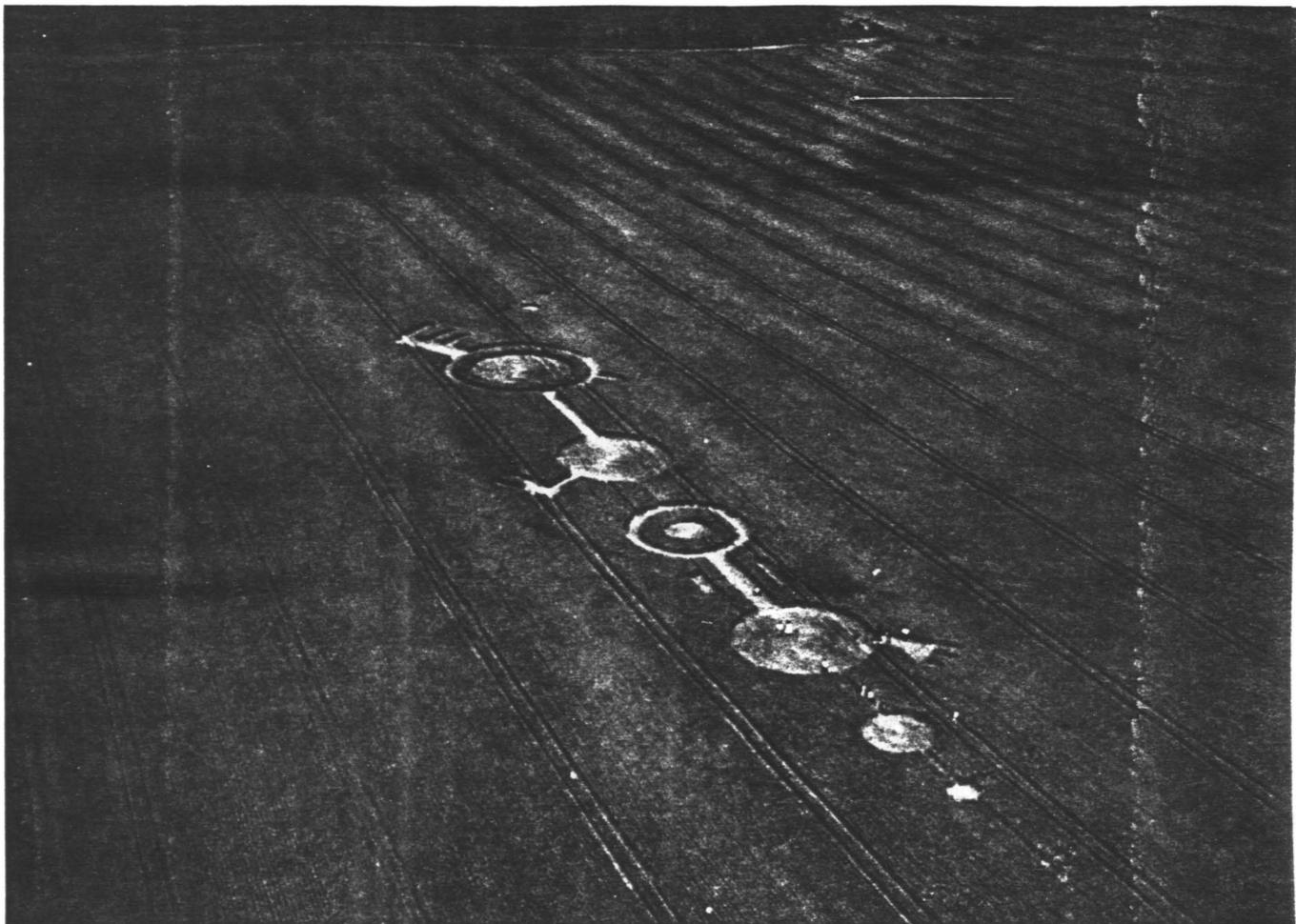
PATHFINDER 1264 (SU 42/52)
ORDNANCE SURVEY REF. 451274
→ DIRECTION OF LAY OF CROP

**4 TWYFORD DOWN -
MORRESTEAD ROAD
WINCHESTER**

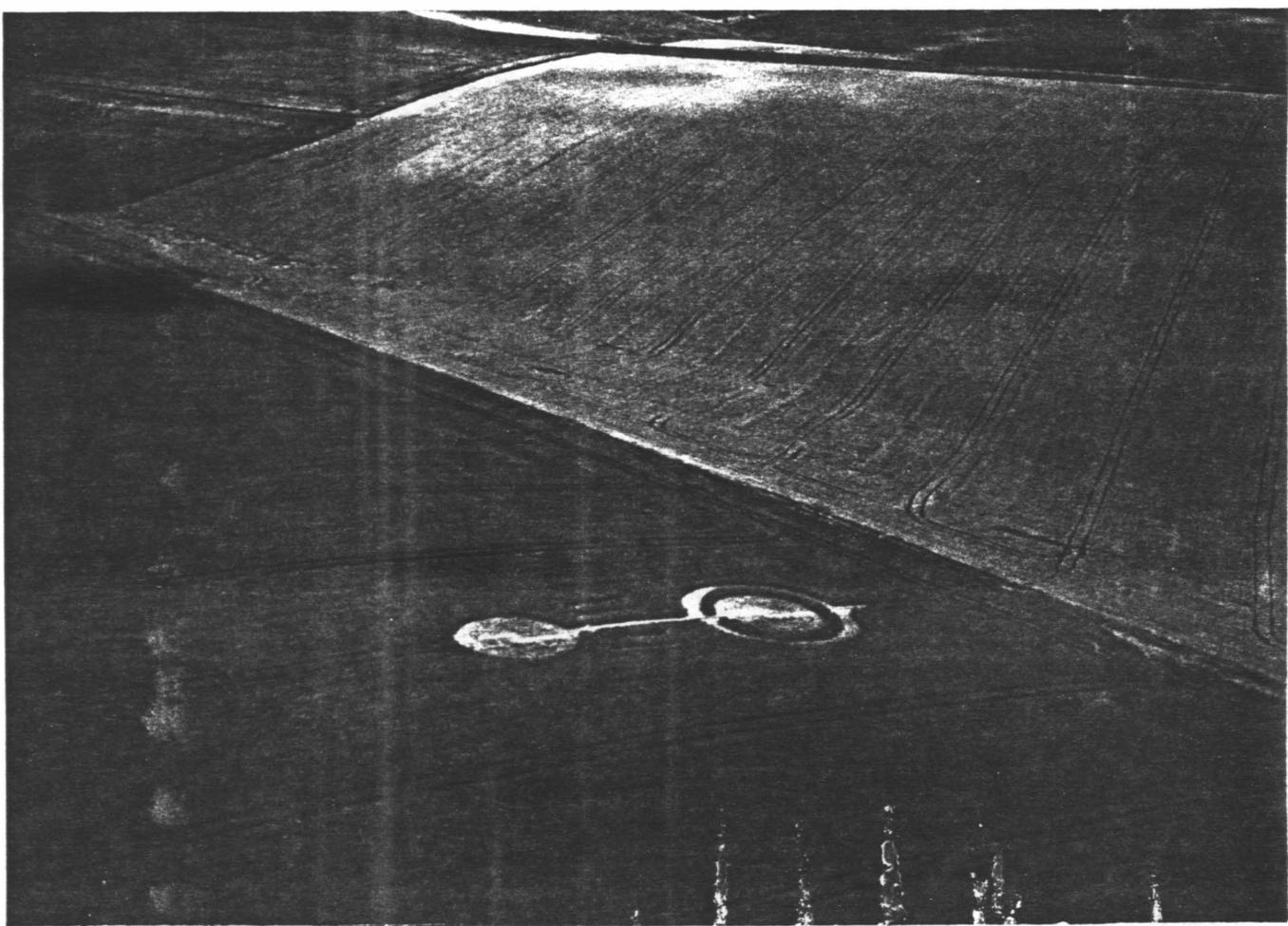
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3.



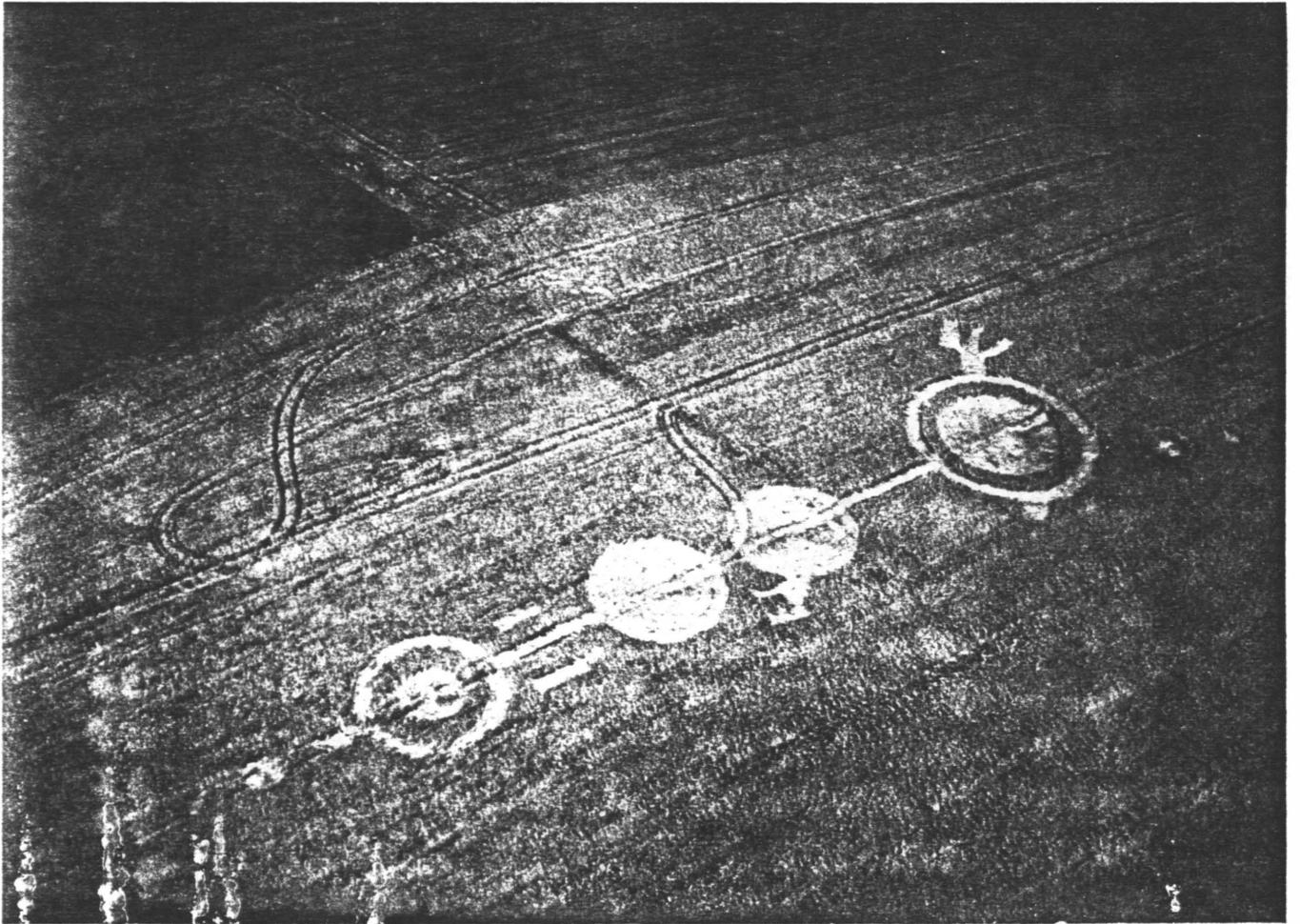
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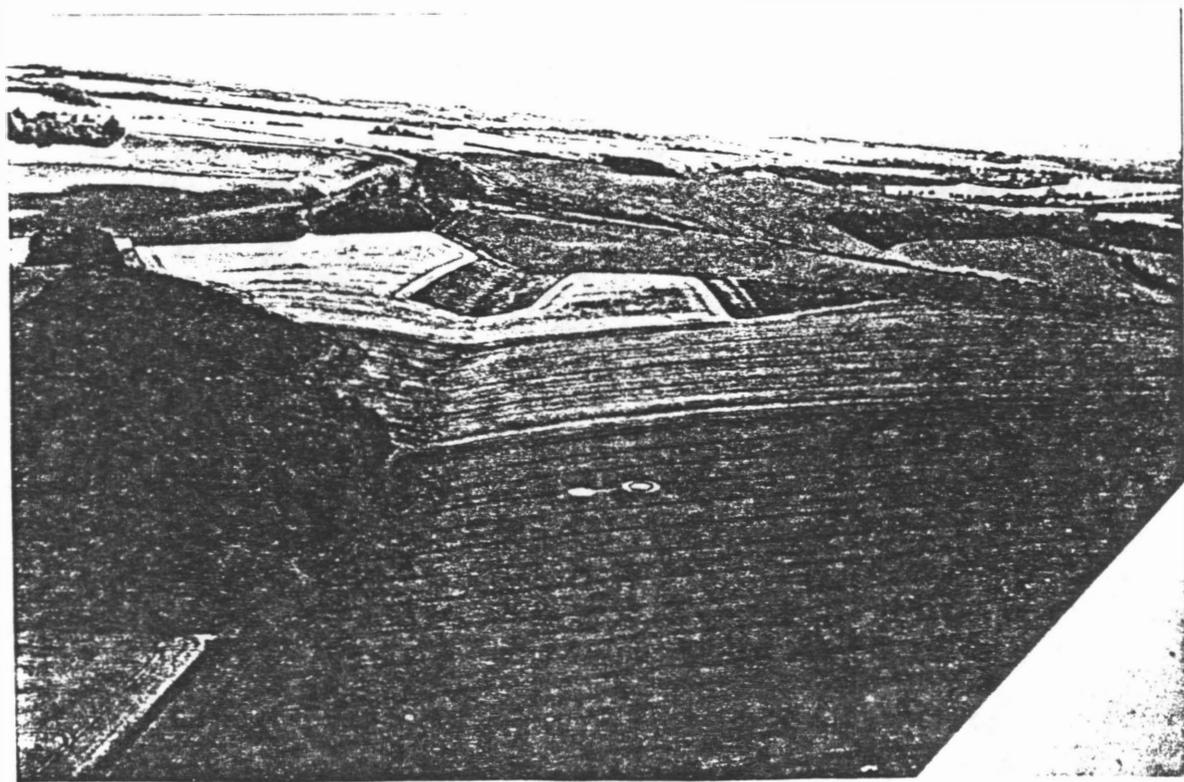
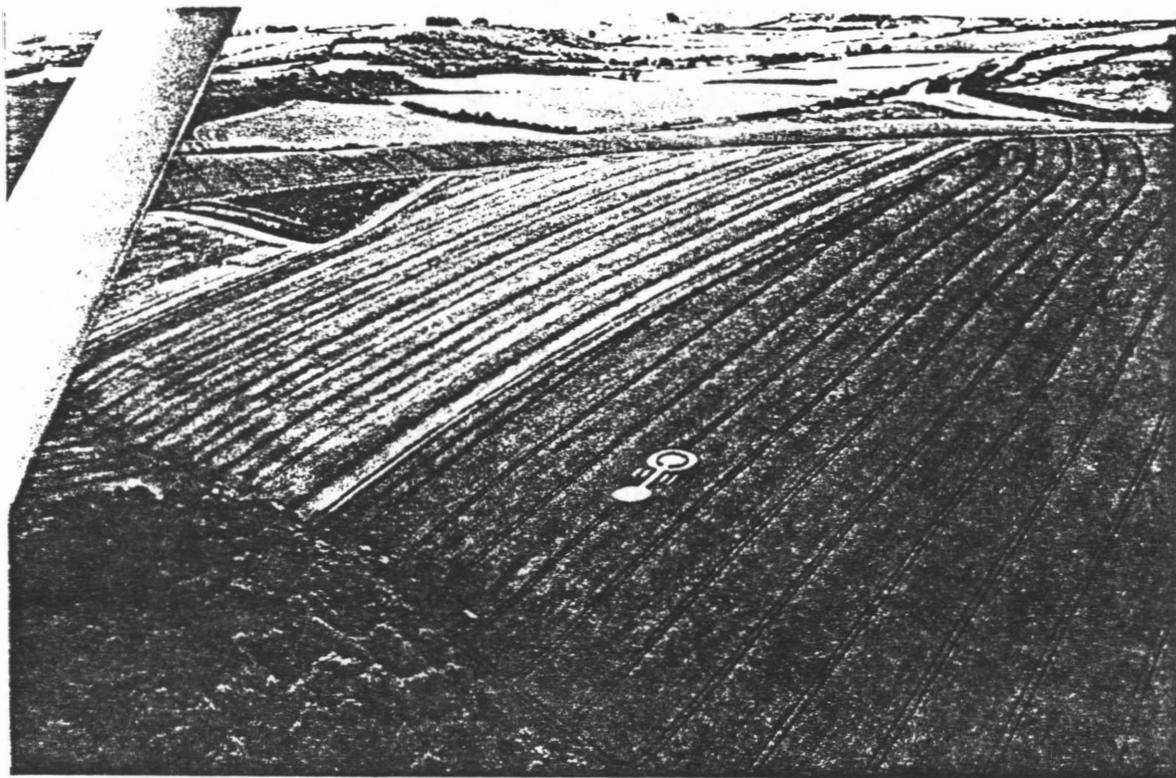


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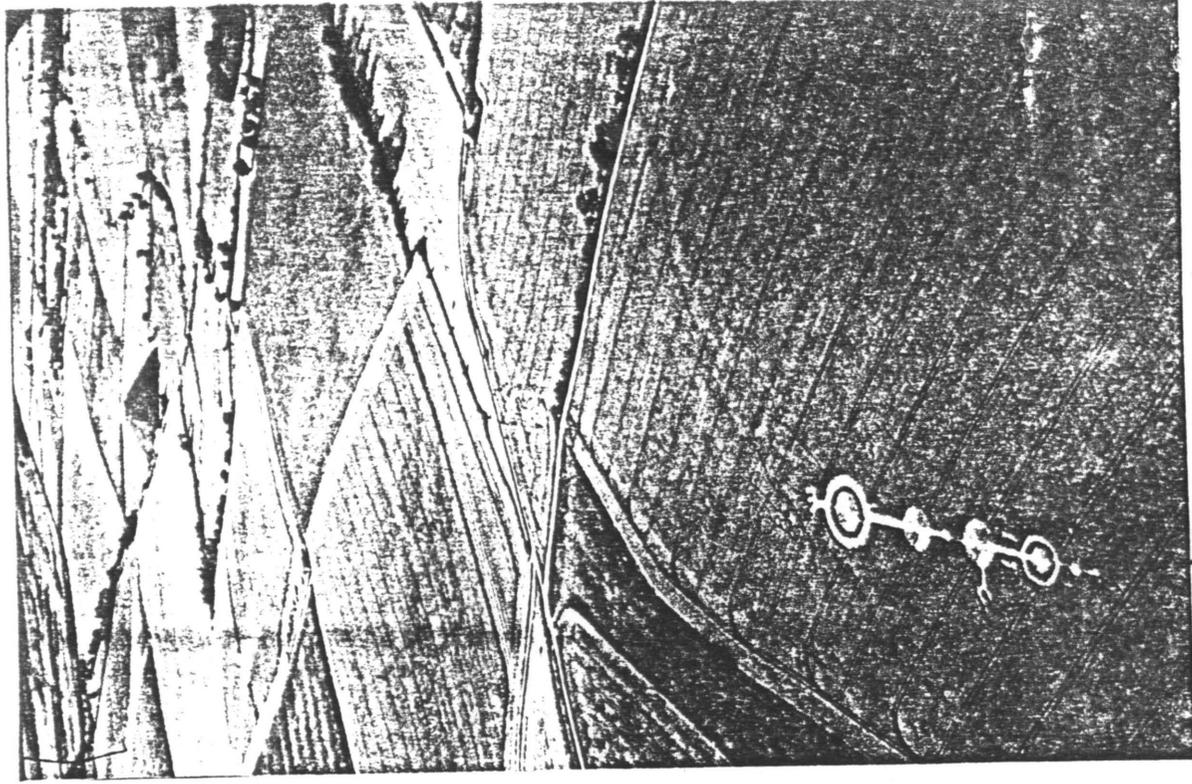
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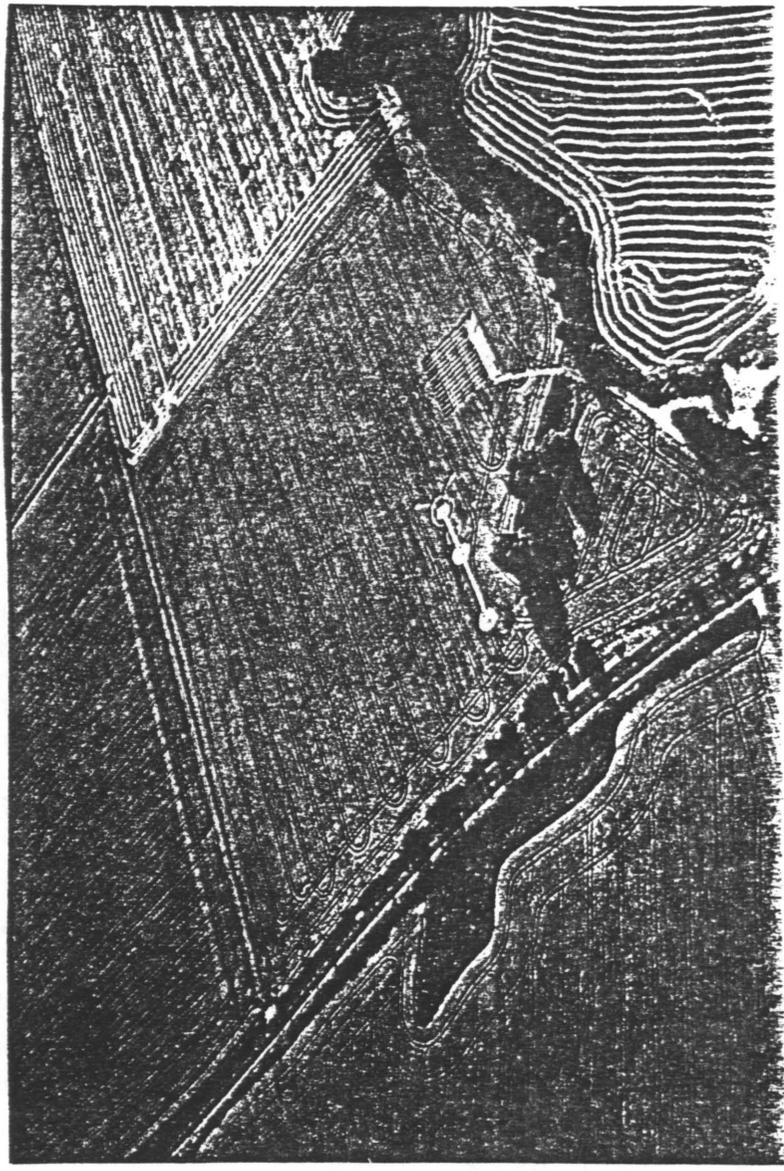
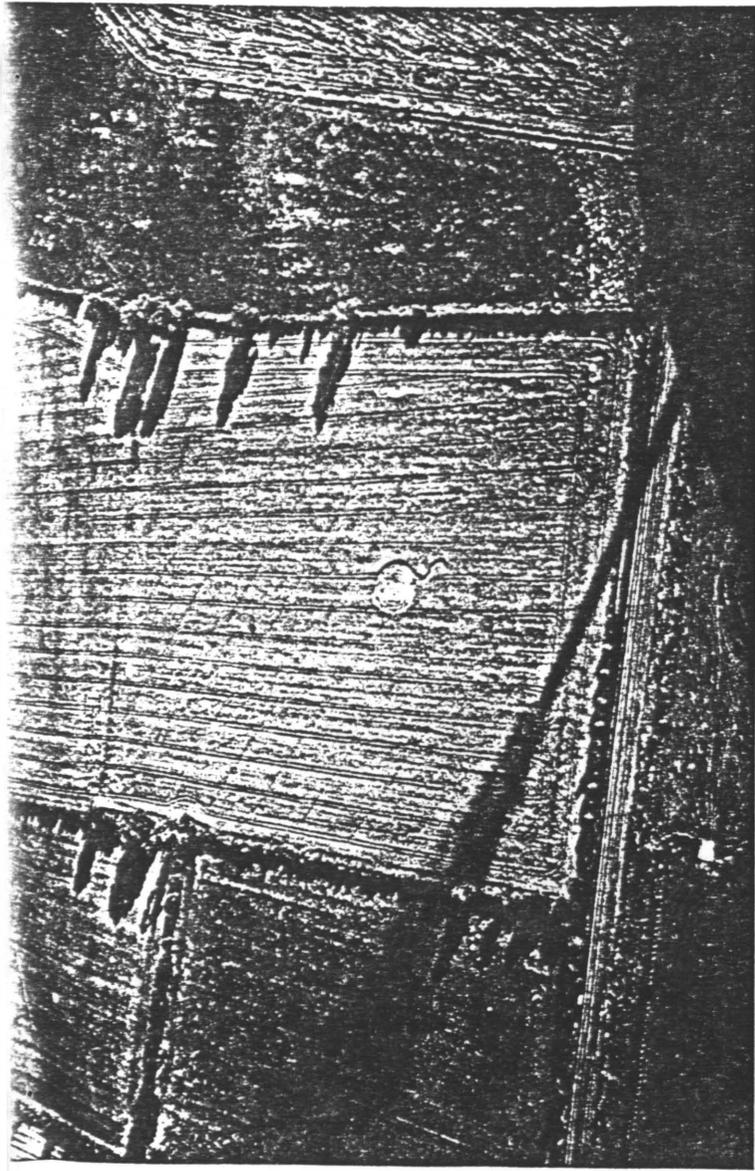
Pictogram No 7. Found near Chestnut
Hed on July 6th, 1990. Note 'The Pictogram'
at top left of lower photo.

question mark
by Operation Blackbird 4/8/90.



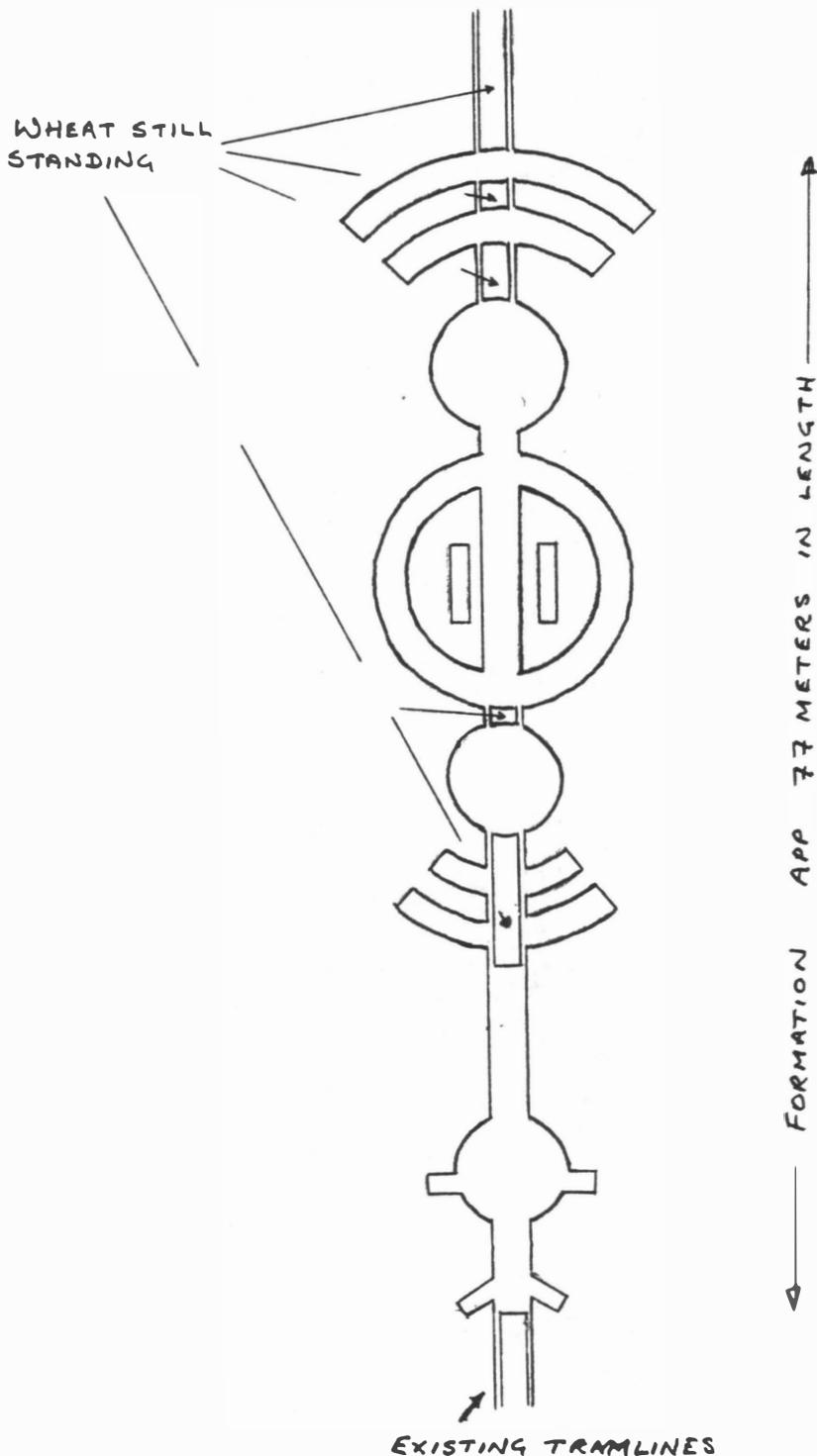
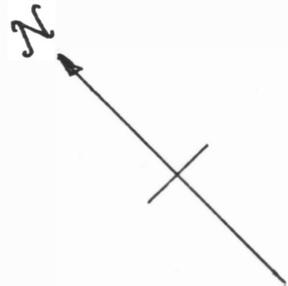
↑ Double pictogram at East Kennet
formed 27/7/90.

← Insect-like pictogram at East Kennet 7/8/90



SURVEYED MON 6th AUGUST 1990 AT
CHEESEFOOT HEAD SCALE $\frac{1}{500}$.

LOCATION: SU 452350 E 127300 N



FIELD WORK

The Cheesefoot Head Pictogram

Surveyed By Dave Probert

The survey drawing is of one of the latest in the fantastic series of crop-circle formations to have appeared this year, though unlike several others this received no publicity at all. On Monday 6th August 1990 my son and I went to the Cheesefoot Head area near Winchester, and I was pointing out the location of the dumbbell formation at SU 452400E 127390N to him from the triangular car-park on the south side of the A272. I noticed that something new had appeared in the crop next to it, so as the harvesters were already working we thought we must go and have a quick look at it before it disappeared.

The diagram (left) shows the incredible shape of the formation to scale as best I could survey it in a reasonably short time, but it doesn't give the eerie feeling that came over me as I stood in the formation knowing that hardly anyone else had seen it. For once, I had actually arrived before Colin Andrews! Now, I do not profess to have anything like the experience of other investigators, but to my eye it was totally genuine and beautifully formed. Also, the rectangular boxes within the "London Transport sign" were totally without any tracks or marks leading into them.

The most relevant and exciting features to me were: a) the fact that the whole formation was exactly central on the tramlines, but that it had selectively flattened the crop between the lines (as I hope my drawing depicts to you); b) the way that the northernmost quarter rings were complete and had gone right through the tramlines, but the southernmost quarter rings had not and literally stopped dead at the standing crop between the lines, with no sign of disturbance between the lines, and then had re-started on the other side; and c) the way that the crop from the later-formed areas laid over the crop from the initially-formed bits, e.g. where the circle was formed after the pathway into it, wheat was laid at right-angles on top of previously flattened wheat.

My apologies to the meteorologists, but while I might be able to accept some of their theories relating to the formation of a plain circle, I find it very hard to swallow the latest cobbled-together ideas of a complex set of vortices, some at 90 degrees to the ground, but all working in unison to produce the fantastic shapes we have observed this year, without it being directed or controlled by some form of intelligence or entity. Remember how they explained the rings and satellites around circles as "the conservation of momentum" and how the "sheath" around the vortex balanced the main vortex? Well, maybe - but now they seem to have forgotten that with these new formations, and I detect the use of larger and larger hammers in an attempt to fit a square peg into the good old round hole. To me, standing in the previously described formation, it appears as though a beam of energy has been used to draw out the pattern in the crop, much as we would use a stick to draw in the sand. Who or what may be doing the drawing is another matter altogether.

MORE SMALL TALK

&

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

One or two things mentioned last issue haven't materialised, such as the book review of Paul Devereux's "Earthlights" and the experiences of Whitley Streiber. Time and the influx of other, more relevant information, simply didn't allow me to compile them. I'll keep trying, but in the meantime if you'd like to have your say about these two subjects, please feel free. Similarly, if there is a book that you think might have some bearing on the circles, send me your review (with publishing details) and I'll take care of any copyright clearance.

The reports of circles in East Anglia mentioned in last issue's "Small Talk" were first reported on Radio Four's farming programme. Brian Tuppenny heard it. This is of particular importance because East Anglia is flat - no hills, which is one of the requirements for circle-formation, according to the plasma-vortex theory. It should also be noted that circles have been reported in Devon, Norfolk and Yorkshire; around areas bordering Hull and Wigan; on the Isle of Wight and in Scotland, to name but a few new places. Also, another pictogram turned up at Cheesefoot Head after the pictogram detailed for us by Dave Probert in this issue's "Field Work". I'm hoping to have more details about it in the next Circular.

Reports are coming in of a circle in a paddy-field in China; the Australian circle reports are mentioned in Close Encounters in this issue.

I would be particularly interested to hear of any circle reports from eastern Europe and the USSR. Can anyone help?

A circle with an attached "question-mark" (see photo on page 37) appeared for the cameras at Operation Blackbird in Wiltshire; as yet, no further publicity about this. The BBC (Pebble Mill) is planning programmes on circles - details as soon as I get them.

Future Issues:

A report on Richard Andrews' dowsing lecture (held 22-Sep-90 at Romsey Community Centre); some recommended reading matter, courtesy of Dave Probert; part two of Phil Corker's article; Coincidences; P. D. Ouspensky on the nature of symbols; Einstein and logical reasoning; More diagrams; What is TORRO? and What is Fountain?

PLEASE KEEP YOUR LETTERS AND ARTICLES FLOWING IN!

Next issue due about mid-December.

Finances.

The cost of producing and distributing The Circular is rising all the time. I still don't intend to put a cover-price on it, but if you would like to contribute to these costs, stamps would be most useful. I'll be using second-class post from now on.

The Circular is compiled by Bob Kingsley on a Commodore PC 20 utilising MicroPro "Easy" software. The PC text is then converted into BBC Basic V with Keith Sloan's Public Domain Programme "IPCDir". The result is then type set by John Brocks on an Archimedes 440/1 using Computer Concepts "Impression" software. Various type faces (fonts) have been chosen from the Acorn, Electronic Font Foundry and 4Mation catalogues. The Circular varies in the number of pages from edition to edition. It is supplied free of charge to anyone who would like to subscribe. It is a private venture and not supported by outside capital. Donations of stamps are gratefully received.

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0276 858080

(6-7pm only, please, and NO SUNDAYS! Answerphone other times.)

THE CIRCULAR

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From The Daily Mail

Friday July 27th 1990



"Haven't you got anywhere else but Wiltshire?"