

MAGAZINE OF THE CENTRE FOR CROP CIRCLE STUDIES (Sussex Branch)

THE ONLY PUBLICATION
WITH REGULAR CROP
CIRCLE INFORMATION
(apart from the others)

SUSSEX
31
CIRCULAR



ANOTHER
16 PAGE
SPECIAL!!

JULY 1994

Subscription £10.00

Single Copy £1.00



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"My brain understands so little that it loves things it's not supposed to understand"

DODIE SMITH

There's a plethora of little crop circle magazines popping up in the wake of SC, some with a nice line in self-promotion. However, the claim of one (excellent) publication advertising itself in the CCCS Circular as "the ONLY monthly crop circle magazine with regular photographs and diagrams" is surely stretching the truth a little too far, as this and recent issues of the ONLY monthly crop circle magazine called SC demonstrate... a bit of re-wording in the advert department needed perhaps?

George Wingfield has denied that he will be speaking at any 'hoaxers conference' at the Waggon & Horses this month (as reported last issue) and in a clear protest at the very idea of such an event, he is running an advertisement for it in the new issue of The Cerealogist, once the cheque clears... The only thing is, someone had better tell the staff of the aforementioned venue as any telephone enquiries are met with blank puzzlement from the Beckhampton pub, who claim not to know anything about it as no room has been booked. So either the whole event is a hoax itself or the scheduled meeting of the hoaxing titans (Sid and Joe Stupid) is to take place at the bar... In any case, the chances are the room will be heaving with CCCS members turning up to see who else will be turning up ("You - a hoaxer!" - "No, you must be a hoaxer!" Ho ho/biff) so what this dubiousness is all about is anybody's guess. Rumour puts Rob Irving at the top of the suspicion list for the brain cell behind this jolly jape. Incidentally, Irving got married recently. Best Man..? One Jim Schnabel.

The long-promised and much vaunted CCCS Yearbook, initiated in an gallant effort to recapture something of the glory days of 'The Crop Circle Enigma' and 'Harbingers of World Change' has been scrapped, much to the distress of those who had sweated blood to prepare their contributions. The initial reasons given were financial (encouragingly, no-one had the confidence that anyone would buy it) and logistical (it was too long, no-one was sure what it was trying to achieve etc.) but a brief glance behind the scenes suggests battling egos as the real factor in its demise. Incredibly, for a decision announced at the Branch Convenors meeting on July 3rd, the book's editor Lucy Pringle still hadn't been notified three days after this democratic decision had been made, friends being left to break the news! A much scaled-down economy version consisting mainly of photographs is now being considered for next year but I wouldn't hold your breath.

Talking of breath-holding, some of you may be wondering what has happened to the results of the SC 1994 Crop Circle Survey, launched in our January issue this year. Fear not, the final 'results' are currently being written up and scrutinised and should appear in a special edition in two or three issues' time, along with (I hope) a whole new look for the inside of SC...

CCCS has suddenly decided that it can't do without a 1994 conference after all, and so a one day event has been arranged for September 3rd at the Wilberforce Centre, Clapham, London. The entrance fee is £10.00 but places are restricted to 90 and must be reserved in advance by contacting Michael Glickman, 80 Lambie Street, London, NW5 4AB. One of the speakers on the day will be our very own Barry Reynolds. What more could you want? But if you can't wait until then, Michael Green with support from yours truly and Paul Bura will be speaking at the Nash Country Hotel, Steyning on August 7th 11.00am, £3.00 for the day...

ANDY THOMAS

Sussex Circular: Edited and produced by Andy Thomas. Articles and contributions to the editorial address please. CCCS Sussex Branch Convenor: Barry Reynolds (Tel. 0444 232873). Subscription applications and queries: Debbie Pardoe, 42 Croxden Way, Willington Trees, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN22 0UJ. Subscription £10.00 (12 copies), cheques payable to 'CCCS Sussex'. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors and not the Sussex Circular or the CCCS as a whole, unless otherwise stated.

REF: SUSSEX 1994/03

Location: Birling Gap, East Sussex

Crop: Barley

Formed: 20/6/94 or 21/6/94

Spotted by Chris Mansell, 21/6/94

Description: The Egg, The Tear & The Slice

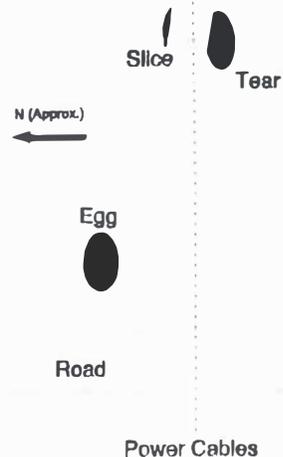
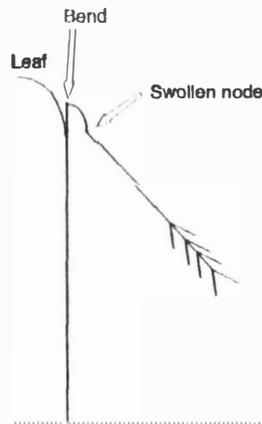
Diameters: Egg 25.6ft (narrowest) by 30.9 (widest), Tear 27.1ft (narrowest) by 33.3 (widest), Slice 27.6ft by 14.10. Distance from Tear to Slice 33.5ft at western end, 38.0 eastern. Distance from Tear to Egg 700ft approx. Tramlines at 097°, circles align at 109°.

Surveyed by: Barry Reynolds & Andy Thomas

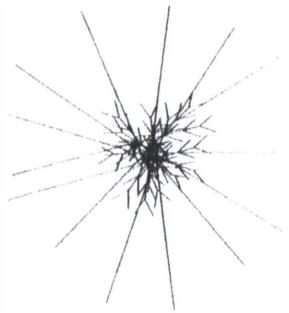
DETAILS: First seen by the farm manager who says that the circles were not there the previous weekend (18/19th June), confirmed by another farm worker.

Both the Egg and the Tear were noticeably non-circular, the one nearest the road being more egg-shaped and the farthest one being more tear-shaped. Both had very slight 'points' at either end. When surveyed on 25th June, both shapes were in pristine condition. Three overhead electricity cables on telegraph poles (not telephone cables) cross the field approximately east/west. The Egg and the Slice were to the north of the cables with the Tear being to the south. Crows had eaten a large amount of the affected barley seed (we assume) but had NOT caused the original damage. The farmer, who had been working there for over 15 years stated that he had never seen anything like it before.

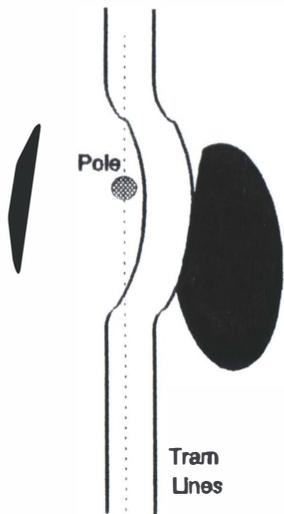
The crop was not bent at ground level as normal but had been bent at 180° fairly uniformly at a height of between 17" and 22". The bend occurred at the first weak point of the crop which was where the sheath of the leaf finished. The crop then bent slightly out at about 045° at the next node! This occurred all over all three formations in small areas so that where the heads of barley gathered, small 'nests' were formed. It was virtually impossible to retrieve a single stalk from a nest as they were woven so tightly. The shapes could not be walked across as your feet broke the suspended web of crop, leaving large holes. The lay of all three shapes was the same. There was none of the usual spiralling or radial swirling, but instead a series of dinner-plate sized nests suspended in mid-air about 20-30cm from the ground. Towards the centre of both the Egg and the Tear there was a very slight cross-shaped lay, the only noticeable pattern in the formations.



The Tear was very close to the overhead power cables and also to one of the telegraph poles. At this point the tractor tramlines diverted from their straight line as the tractor drove around the pole. It was this part of the tramline that the formation actually touched, with the edge of the Tear joining it for a short way. This part of the shape was noticeably flat. The flat side of the Tear and flat side of the Slice were both 27.6ft. >>



Close-up of nest
Bird's eye view



To fully appreciate what happened when the Tear and the Slice formed, imagine a circle coming down from the sky. As it drops to the ground it hits the power cables which cut it into two parts, one considerably larger than the other. The larger part (the Tear) falls one side of the power cables and the smaller part (the Slice) the other.

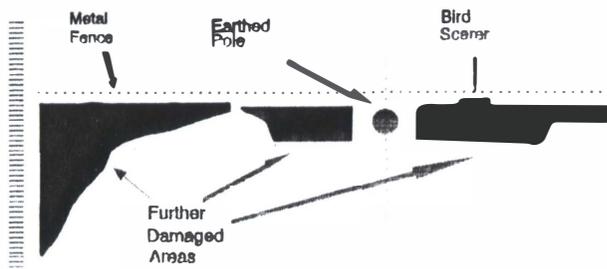
Around the telegraph pole there was a dead area where the farmer had sprayed weedkiller to keep the pole free from growth. A few other plants (rape and poppies) grew on the edge of this dead patch. The flat edge of the Slice butted up against this dead edge and the weeds around the pole. Where the barley had been growing through the rape it had still been affected and was actually bent through the plant, incorporating it as part of the damaged area. Rape and poppies also appeared to have been affected. A small, separate patch of completely dead wheat had also been bent. There were a few stems of wheat growing in the field amongst the barley. In the formations some of this wheat had also been affected but some of it had not and still remained standing upright completely untouched. Every stem of barley however had been affected. The circle-making force (?) had been just sufficient to influence all of the weaker barley and some, but not all, of the stronger wheat.

Chris Mansell noticed that at the flat part there was a small run-off from the Tear through the standing crop. He followed it and found the missing part of the Tear, the Slice. The run-off continued through the standing crop where it went over two small holes. Whilst these may have been made by animals after the trail appeared, there was no sign of soil having been ejected from the hole. The first was about the size of a clenched fist with the second considerably smaller.

All visitors to these formations including Colin Andrews, Michael Green, Lucy Pringle and Andrew King stated that they had NEVER seen anything remotely like the lay in these circles before.

Anthony Cheke thought that the formations could possibly have been made by someone using a flail-type affair and proceeded to demonstrate. Whilst this did indeed bend the crop in a similar-ish manner it was not as selective as the formations in where the crop had actually bent (just above the leaf sheath). It also did not produce the amazing plaitting effect. Anthony further surmised that this could have been caused by the crows. We can see no way that this could have been possible. We checked Anthony's small area eight days later and discovered that it looked nothing remotely like the rest of the damaged crop. The nodes had not bent even though the barley was still green, the heads were still intact on top of the crop (ie. the crows had not eaten it) and there was no bending, weaving or similar nests. This was a very valid experiment which we believe TOTALLY rules out the possibility of human intervention.

Two pieces of dock were standing near the centre of the Tear. These had brown marks (bruising?) on them all the way from the top to the bottom on the side of the stems, flowers and leaves that pointed 'up' (the stem was bent at about 20° from the vertical). Other dock in the field did not show this but did display similar visual effects if hit with a stick. This would not be consistent with the flail theory however as the dock stands >>



considerably taller than barley and it would only have been flailed at 20", not all the way from top to bottom.

Further similar crop damage was apparent further up the field to the east where oblong patches were discovered by Andrew King on 29th June. These ran parallel to a metal fence for a distance far in excess of 1000ft by 15ft wide and at 90° to the cables. Our postulation is that the circle-making energy came downwards from the sky and hit the cables slicing the formation into two parts. The energy ran along the cables until it earthed itself at the metal fence spreading outwards from the power cables. This was given further credence when Andy Thomas discovered yet more damage on 6th July in the north-east corner of the field where an enormous triangular area of several thousand square feet had been similarly affected, finally putting to rest the hoax/flail or crow theories. Next to the metal fence at the end of the field was the only earth pole. The affected areas then spread out from here and actually surrounded a gas-powered bird-scarer! Closer inspection of the very edge of the affected strips (where they joined a hedgerow) revealed that wild poppies, pansies, goose-grass, rape, rye, and other unidentified plants had also been affected. This damage occurred before the first of three electrical storms in this area and was therefore nothing to do with this. 'Energy' appears to have somehow been spliced by the overhead cables, run along them and earthed itself at the far end of the field via the earth cable on the telegraph pole. It then appears to have dissipated along the edge of the field using a metal fence and a large stone wall as buffers.

It is the opinion of those members of CCCS Sussex who surveyed the formations in the last few weeks that this damage was definitely not the work of humans, animals, birds or electrical storms - which the farmer agrees with. Whether these formations are the result of the traditional circlemakers (which we believe) or a totally new and previously unreported phenomenon, is completely unknown.

REF: SUSSEX 1994/04

Location: Falmer, East Sussex

Crop: Barley

Formed: 26/6/94?

Spotted by Michael Hubbard 26/6/94

Description: Dumbbell with ringed oval

Crop laid clockwise, except pathways which were laid in all directions.

Diameters: Inner Oval 11.11ft by 14.10, Standing Ring 15.7ft by 17.8 (width north-south 1.3ft by 2.5, east-west 1.6ft by 2.2), Outer Ring 29.5ft by 31.1 (width north-south 6.10ft by 7.0, east-west 6.7ft by 6.10), Circle 22.7ft by 26.4, Standing Tuft 1.2ft, East Path 2.6ft (width), standing crop 1.9ft, West Path 3.0ft, total Pathway length 15.7ft, total width 7.3ft. Total dumbbell length 67.7ft.

Surveyed by Barry Reynolds, Linda Reynolds, Andy Thomas & Martin Noakes.

DETAILS: First reported by Michael Hubbard from his microlight aircraft on 26th June, and not noticed by a local resident before this date, this formation was just visible from the A27 above Coldean, near Brighton. Surveyed by CCCS Sussex on 6th July, the formation was rather messy by this time and had clearly been visited by many people from the nearby Moulsecomb housing estate and from the adjacent Brighton University, however the general lay of the crop was good. Most interestingly, the centre tuft in the lower circle was not only similar to the same effect found in this year's Srompting ringed circle (Sx 94/02) but also displayed the same damage (bent halfway up the stem) discovered in the Birling Gap 5 formations. Also reminiscent of the Patcham 1991 dumbbell, tramlines 'edging' the oval ring.



N (Approx.)

PEACE IN THE EYE OF THE STORM... ANDY THOMAS REFLECTS ON 'PROJECT SKY' AT CISSBURY RING

1st July 1994, a very humid and stormy night. A dozen CCCS Sussex members and friends make their way to the crest of the ancient hillfort Cissbury Ring to play their part in the mass tune-in to 'the circlemakers', known as Project Sky. Other groups across the country are gathering in their own localities to tip their hats to the sources they believe are behind the life-enhancing complexities appearing in our cropfields, and to ask: Where do we go from here?

Ground sheets and folding chairs in place, we settle at 9.00pm, speak a few opening words of welcome and then relax our minds to commune with the circlemaking forces in whatever way seems most appropriate for each of us. We sit at a spot chosen for a communication gathering held by some of us a few days earlier, on the site where some believe once stood a standing stone, revealed through dowsing and clairvoyance. Our group huddles in a circle around the etheric remnants of the megalith, removed so long ago, no archaeological references remain.

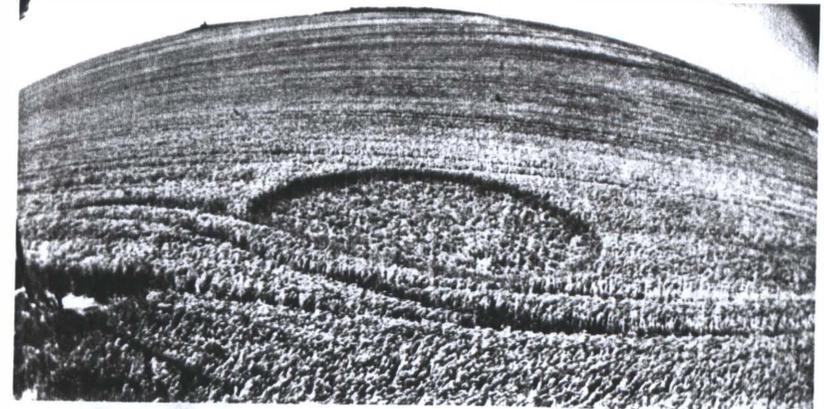
As we sit, our minds in free-fall, we become acutely aware of the shifting moods of the weather currents. Warm breezes rise and fall; a light shower passes briefly overhead and then moves on; lightning flickers in the distance, out to sea. It's like feeling the living breath of the planet in motion, halting our usual ceaseless activities just long enough to acknowledge and feel the ever-changing bio-mechanisms of the Earth at work.

The first part of the evening concludes and we relax for a while to chat and stroll. As we have sat a group of uncurious cows have moved closer, seeking grasslands new, not through any interest in us. They decide not to bother us, and we don't bother them. The storm in the distance appears to be edging closer and ominous clouds loom overhead, but a break in the sky to the west reveals the red glow of a fading sunset and all becomes bathed in deep pink for a while. The storm circles around us as the evening progresses but never comes to threaten us directly; something of a relief in such a high, exposed place. Further up the country, the CCCS Midlands branch, the seed of the aptly named Project Sky, with all this atmospheric motion, experience a similar effect, as do the Gloucestershire group, ringed by storms, but remaining unassaulted.

We settle again at 10.00pm for the next stage of the tuning-in. It's getting darker and cooler now. At 10.15pm, through closed eyes, a searing light calls us to look south to see huge tendrils of lightning spreading across the sky. One of our number raises his arms up high in acknowledgement of this demonstration of the Earth's power, silhouetted against the illuminated clouds. Fifteen minutes later, I say a few closing words, asking that the circlemakers respond in whatever way they feel most appropriate. As I speak the words, a strange bolt of reddened lightning tears through the air. Coincidence? Almost certainly, but the storm definitely adds a dramatic impact to our evening's proceedings.

On reflection, given the developing conditions, no-one elects to remain any longer on top of the Ring and we make our way down to the car-park. At least two of our group sensed a presence as we sat in our open silence, one saying that the visitor was seemingly playful, carefree and benevolent, leaping about, touching each of us on our backs. We discuss this as we wait a while longer by the cars below the Ring, watching for any non-storm related phenomena. A group of typically rowdy Friday night youths screech up in a sporty motor, although they subdue a little as they see us. They decide to head for the top of the ancient earthworks to watch the storm. Even they are drawn to this most beautiful of places to watch Mother Nature's fireworks display.

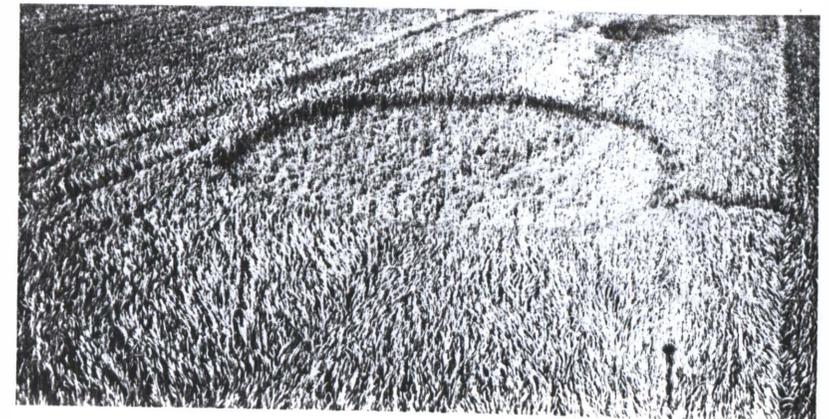
At 11.30pm, we leave, and I head for Lancing beach to sit in solitude, drink coffee and watch the lightning dancing its patterns out over the ocean. I have a sense that our evening's work, and indeed that of the other linking groups, has been noted and that the circlemakers, whoever or whatever they are were fully aware of our presence and were happy for us to be up there, bonded in communication. Whether our question of where to go from here will be answered, I don't feel sure, and I have a strong impression of the circlemakers sitting back, happy to let us work it out for ourselves. Perhaps, like so much else with the crop circle phenomenon, the message is one of us discovering within ourselves what it is they wish us to learn, without the need for a set curriculum. And maybe a venture like Project Sky is in itself one of the steps on the path of where we go from here. ANDY THOMAS



The Tear (photo: Steve Alexander)



Floor lay close-up (photo: Barry Reynolds)



The Eqq (photo: Steve Alexander)

THE SEASON CONTINUES...

A further selection of this year's agriglyphs in the 'Wessex Triangle' and beyond...



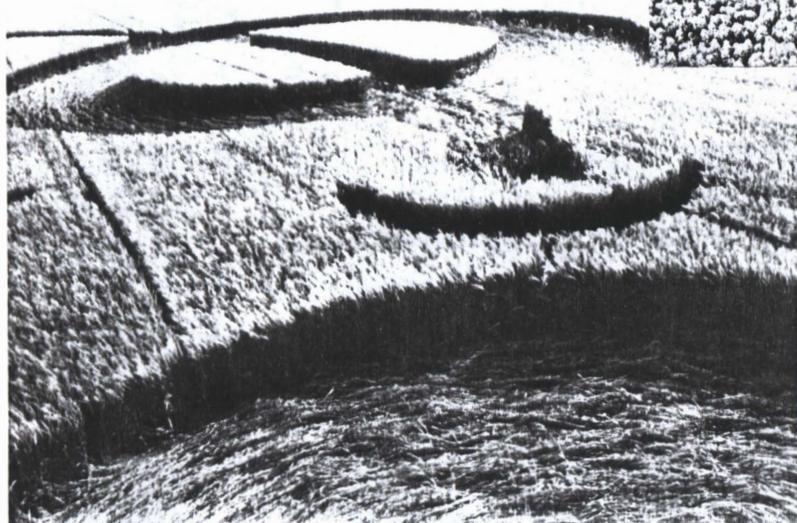
ABOVE: West Kennett Long Barrow (Barley)

ABOVE: Broadmayne, Dorset (Wheat)

BELOW: West Kennett (close-up)



BELOW: Maiden Castle, Dorset (Barley)



ABOVE: West Overton (Rape)



Photographs by STEVE ALEXANDER



SUCCUMBING TO THE MACNISH EFFECT... JOHN ROLLINGER FINDS HIMSELF IMMUNE...



Berwick Bassett (Barley)



Sutton Poyntz, Dorset (Wheat)



Maiden Castle, Dorset (Barley)

The recent article by Colin Andrews on the book by John Macnish in the Sussex Circular issue 28 rang a few alarm bells, but having now surveyed a copy of his own newsletter (CPR International) in which he elaborates further, I feel a need to balance some of his views which I believe are far too sympathetic to the case put by Mr Macnish.

I applaud Mr Andrews' attempts to approach the Macnish volume in a cool-headed and respectful way rather than going with the reflex action, however I feel his natural affability may have tipped his conclusions too much in Macnish's favour.

Andrews is now happy to conclude that hoaxing probably does make up a large majority of the crop pattern phenomena and that Doug Bower and Dave Chorley were telling more truth than he previously had believed. This would be a reasonable deduction if the evidence which Mr Macnish presents were at all convincing, however I must say that after careful thought and perusing of his book, I cannot see that this is the case. I do not say that Macnish is responsible for any fabrication but I do think he has been seriously misled by others and/or makes several false deductions along the way. Andrews now appears to be following suit.

It has been pointed out on many occasions (not least within the pages of the Sussex Circular, particularly Barry Reynolds' review of 'Cropcircle Apocalypse') why many of Bower and Chorley's statements as to their methods of making crop formations cannot possibly hold water (the wire hat-sighting and grapeshot forming process are merely the most obvious examples). It seems astonishing to me that their testimony is now being taken seriously by such a luminary as Colin Andrews. Some doubt has been cast by others on the reliability of the night photographs which purport to show formations being constructed by hoaxers, but even if we accept that, for instance, Bower and Chorley were responsible for the Sutton Scotney '92 circle which Andrews highlights in his newsletter, it is an entirely false logic to then assume that they must have been responsible for all the other formations they had previously claimed. The other cases in which Macnish appears to have proof of hoaxing appear to take on a much greater significance when collected together in one source (ie. the book) than should really be attached to them. In reality, even if these examples are reliable, they still only account for a tiny proportion of what has appeared in our fields, most of which remain entirely unaccounted for. These are dismissed with a convenient generalisation that unknown groups such as the mysterious 'A Team' must be responsible, which is I'm afraid very woolly reasoning, as the 'A Team' are not known to exist - there is not the slightest proof or indication that such a group is active. Why are so many of the major pictograms of recent years still unclaimed, despite all the many opportunities for these people to come forward if they exist?

It is easy, when caught up in hoax theory fever to put aside the many, many luminosities, anomalies and so-called 'coincidences' that in fact play an important role in setting the phenomenon aside from something 'easily explainable'. Macnish sees fit to ignore these significant elements when it does not support his conclusions and now sadly, Mr Andrews is following the same route. For an example, accounts of an orange ball of light seen over the Sutton Scotney circle are now discounted by him, because he has viewed film that supposedly shows Bower and Chorley at work. Alternatively, we are expected to believe that UFOs and balls of light are attracted to hoaxing activities or that UFO/circle events tying up are indeed pure coincidence.

Several long-term researchers appear to have fallen into the trap of believing the early circles of the phenomenon to have been the best, most genuine examples, but that the more complex, later formations are almost certainly man-made. Mr Andrews cites the lack of 'S' swirls in newer pictograms as an example of this. But surely there could be other explanations for this. Perhaps the 'energy' utilised to create the larger, more advanced patterns has to be distributed more evenly, thus not allowing for so much crop-lay complexity that was possible in smaller areas. Conjecture, I realise, but we must not jump to hasty conclusions. Personally, I do not follow the logic that dictates that the bigger, more ambitious designs must be man-made and that the simpler formations are more likely genuine. Surely this is more likely to work the other way around? If I were to consider creating a crop pattern, I would certainly opt for something simpler instead of risking overreaching myself and erring in the process. Pictograms that appear to have 'gone wrong' are very rare, which one would not expect with the man-made scenario. >>

CROP CIRCLES DEEMED NEWSWORTHY AGAIN SHOCK - ANDY THOMAS MUSES ON THE RECENT ITN REPORT...

Happily, Mr Andrews (whose work I greatly admire) does appear to still believe there is a genuine phenomenon at work in our fields. As I understand it, he is no longer a resident in England but comes over when he can in the summer months. Presumably much of his limited time is spent in Wiltshire - where the ratio of hoaxes is apparently at its highest. This may explain his willingness to accept much of the Macnish creed. When resident over here, he had the time to spend examining formations in much more detail. With an imposed limit now, between crossing the Atlantic, it must be harder to give the necessary time to formulating measured opinions of individual crop patterns. Naturally he does not wish to spend that precious time looking at hoaxes - but this I fear, must sometimes lead to hasty pronouncements. This may also explain why he believes the crop lay of earlier circles were more complicated - he simply views less formations these days, so the ratio of unusual lays viewed must also decrease.

Finally, if all the hoaxing evidence which Macnish believes he has found was indeed there for all to see all along, as is implied, why was it necessary for him to resort to "trickery" (which Andrews rightly admonishes him for) to expose it on so many occasions? Tricks have an unpleasant habit of rebounding back on the trickster himself and usually require some misrepresentation of reality to achieve their aim... which in turn may reveal simply a different misrepresentation or inversion of the truth in return. And this I believe, is what Macnish has achieved.

JOHN ROLLINGER



NEWS

THE OREGON TRAIL... iLYES REPORTS ON THE PORTLAND CELTIC CROSS

Location: Hillsboro, west of Portland, Oregon, USA

Crop: Green Bearded Wheat

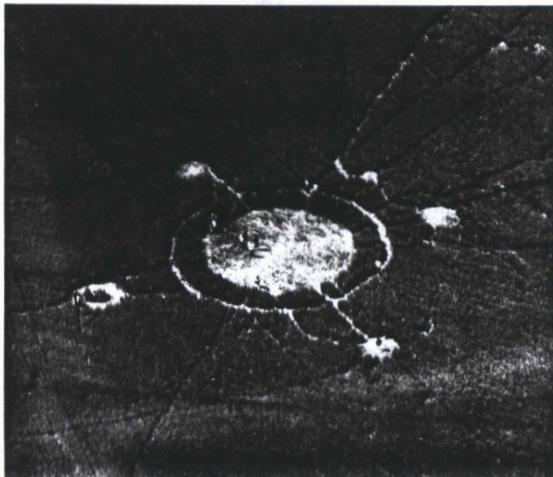
Formed: 14/6/94

Spotted by Tim Holycross

Description: Celtic Cross (almost)

Diameter: 140ft approx overall, 55ft Main circle.

DETAILS: This very powerful beauty (it really was, once!) arrived 7½ minutes from Carol Pedersen's (CCCS Oregon co-ordinator) house - Kennewick (a 1993 US formation) arrived 7½ hours from mine! I journeyed there Sunday 26th June and spent all day with a TV crew and hundreds of people tripping through - and Carol too!



NOTES: 1) Strong (whirllys) dowsing energy 2) Blown nodes, as in Kennewick (Dr Levensgood calls them 'expulsion cavities') 3) Bases of stalks curved, not crimped 4) Young (green) bearded wheat 5) Some stalks inside formation were golden, as though force-ripened - none in standing field outside formation 6) Lights seen night before over the field by the same young man who discovered it driving by next morning. His name: TIM HOLYCROSS!! (honest!) He was too spooked to enter it. 7) Lousy ("kids did it") TV coverage, though folks came in droves to explore it... (Photo by iIyes)

iLYES

* We have a detailed report from Carol Pedersen if anybody would like to know more. Carol reports that a friend of Tim Holycross also witnessed the same light, independently, on the same night of the formation's appearance. This crop formation may also have the distinction of being the first real crop circle that our friend Larry Grant has ever visited for himself! Other overseas reports for inclusion in SC are very welcome - Ed. 12

It's ten o'clock. A muggy night. Big Ben is chiming over the airways. Time to take a break from watching Seeds get slaughtered at Wimbledon before settling down to watch some Johnny Foreigner match at the World Cup. Father lifts the newspaper and sinks behind it to find some naked breasts. Mother goes out to make some tea. Trevor MacDonald is reciting the day's gloom to himself. Killings in Rwanda, murders in Belfast. Father sniffs and turns a page. The Labour leadership contest, bombings in Turkey. Crop circles. Crop circles?

Suddenly we're transported to the skies above the fields of Wiltshire looking down on some magnificent shapes etched into the green canvas. A voice explains for the uninitiated. We've already been tipped off by Trevor that this report will leave us to make our own minds up so we hover in anticipation as to how a balanced view will be presented. Familiar faces begin to appear, each with their own facet of the story. Look! there's Reg Presley with probably the most sensible line of the evening: "If somebody tells you they know the answer to this, forget it!" Look! there's Paul Vigay with his 'circle tester' gadget, the principles of which no-one, including him, understands but which apparently works anyway. Look! there's some guy no-one's ever heard of called Dr Jeremy Sweet talking about the weather and "downward thermals" despite the fact he's standing in a pictogram that couldn't possibly be explained by this outdated nonsense.

The stone circle connection is mentioned, and someone called Denis Wheatley (didn't he used to write black magic novels?) twirls his dowsing rods for the cameras in a meaningless but visually interesting way. Then ITN (that's Independent Television News for our overseas readers) get a chance to show off their night-vision cameras, following a ridiculously huge convoy of crop watchers into the darkness, illuminated a garish Gulf War bombing raid report green. Glowing in an emerald sort of way, Una Dawood and John Wakefield give their views on Mother Earth and the UFO connection.

But now the balancing of viewpoints tips the scales the other way. Here's a farmer annoyed at the damage to his crop caused by a long line of grapeshot: "If an alien's gonna come from another planet, it's not gonna land in the middle of a crop". Who says? And anyway, who's talking about landings? And here's another sadly familiar figure, as Doug Bower who has supposedly "created hundreds of formations" (a sad piece of ITN research) demonstrates yet again that he still can't make a decent circle that resembles the phenomenon. But it's all going horribly wrong as his claims are voiced over a picture of the Longwood Gallops 1990 pictogram. The public are misled. A nation mourns. Bower pipes up with his by now very well rehearsed guff (Copyright (C) 1991) about "his" phenomenon being "only flattened corn". "How on Earth can you fool the whole world, which we've done, with just some flattened corn?" How indeed. Perhaps because, as he has consistently failed to notice, there is far, far more to this phenomenon than just flattened corn.

But lo, wait! Here's Colin Andrews to tip the scales back in common sense's favour and put the world to rights. He does! Hurrah! Unfortunately, someone has the bright idea of having him grovel in the crop lay for the camera as if examining stalks and 10 million viewers are treated to a view of Colin's backside as he scrabbles on the ground. Colin, as always wearing his best suit for the occasion, bravely speaks of "Extra-Terrestrials" and "high nature" and of the crop circles being "well beyond hoaxers". A thousand cerealogists breathe out.

And then we're back in the air again, spiralling over a large pictogram, the voice informing us that whatever they are or are not, we should enjoy the crop circles as "landscape art". We return to the studio, with Trevor MacDoughnut informing us that his money is "on the little green men". Then it's over. The circles have been deemed newsworthy again. ITN has spoken.

The country goes back to whatever it was doing before these strange shapes and even stranger people passed across its screens. Father snorts in casual condemnation of such gullibility, Mother thinks about it for a minute and then carries on with the ironing. Someone decides to have a go at making their own Bower-inspired stalk stomper... another pathetic mess appears in a local field. Someone else is deeply inspired... they'll be out in the fields next summer, camera in hand. News at Ten has finished. That night, another exquisite mystery manifests in our fields, unexplained, untainted, and simply THERE. ANDY THOMAS 13

ANOMALOUS EVENTS AT THE REYNOLDS HOUSEHOLD... LINDA REYNOLDS RECOUNTS HER PROJECT SKY...

Friday 1st July 1994: As my husband Barry had gone to Cissbury Ring to take part in Project Sky and we could not arrange a babysitter, I stayed at home and tuned in on my own. I opened the patio doors and sat on the floor just inside looking out almost due west.

At 21.10 I opened my eyes to see a very bright large white light low in the sky ahead of me. I thought at first that it was the planet Venus which is currently in that general direction but soon realised that no stars were visible as there was a thick and low cloud-base (later there was an impressive electrical storm). The object moved towards me at first and then in a small anticlockwise circle towards the north (my right). I thought that it might be an aircraft but there were no red or green lights visible, then in fact no lights at all, just a dark shadow. The white light had either gone out or the object had rotated although there was no obvious beam coming down or lighting up the cloudbase.



I could only detect the shape against the sky because there was background light from below. There were no lights visible on it at this time.

I presume it then did another anticlockwise circle, perhaps below the treeline, as I saw the same shape traversing across the sky from left to right again. It eventually went out of view behind a neighbour's house to the north-west. Later I saw aircraft flying over and the light I had seen was considerably brighter and did not resemble this at all. It was easy to identify the aircraft even though they were considerably smaller than the other object. My heart pumped very fast all this time and even when I rethink, it starts pumping fast again.

During the first phase and after my sighting I moved into another room where crop samples from the Birling Gap formations were drying. I had a terrible feeling of pins and needles and crackles going up my right arm as I held my right hand over a sample. I eventually had to remove it as it was uncomfortable.



During the second phase of Project Sky, I saw in my mind's eye a formation of a circle joined to a triangle. It was almost like a person sleeping - or Mother Earth?

LINDA REYNOLDS

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HUBBY (IE. BARRY) INVESTIGATES: Linda re-enacted the scenario for me on the following Monday night at the same time. The first thing that surprised me was the size of the object involved. There is a street lamp about 150ft from our house and Linda describes the object as being a third the size of this light. When compared to an aircraft, Venus or a star this is quite simply enormous. Aircraft fly regularly over our house as we are on a flight path to Gatwick Airport (18 miles away), but these are easily identifiable as aircraft even though they are many times smaller than Linda's object. We have also watched the police helicopter hovering on numerous occasions using its searchlight over the local factory estate (in that direction) but this did not resemble a helicopter either. This one will have to remain quite simply a UFO!

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A few people - including myself and Paul Bura (independently) - have spotted a similar object to the one described above this year, and this calls to mind the events of last year when each of a small group of us involved in attempted communication with the circlenakers witnessed, at separate times, anomalous lights. We have been continuing our communication experiments this year (in addition to Project Sky) and I wonder if we are experiencing a similar effect here. All the sightings of last year pertaining to this are recorded in SC 19 and SC 24. If anyone out there have had similar sightings this year, we'd be interested to hear from you. Also, if anyone had any Project Sky-related experiences whilst tuning in from wherever they were, we'd also like to hear from them. - Ed.



IN THE COURT OF THE SELF-CROWNED KING... ANDY THOMAS BENDS HIS KNEE TO KING ARTHUR...

Arthur will return. Correction, Arthur has returned. If the idea of a large bearded man in tunic, cloak and, er, jeans, wielding a hefty sword and claiming to be the reincarnation of the said king is your concept of a second coming that is. Deed-poll'd Arthur Luther Pendragon, this gentle giant and would-be reigning monarch over England was the subject of a profile on ITV's '3D' series the same night that crop circles had a starring role on News at Ten (see pg 13). And you know, the funny thing is his claims are quaintly persuasive in a sort of quintessentially English-eccentric way. After all, can you genuinely claim to know the difference between a reincarnation of King Arthur and just some extravagantly dressed New Age Traveller? Only the soul of this Arthur Pendragon, a man probably brought up in an unremarkable suburban anonymity, knows for sure, but whatever the case this is a man with a mission.

In the apparent absence of Holy Grails to seek, this version of Britain's favourite ruler has dedicated himself to the saving of this once green and pleasant land from the dark knights of developers and road builders and fights for the freedom of access to the sacred sites once rightfully owned by the common people, now denied by oppressive authorities. In particular Arthur draws attention to the national disgrace of the legions of policemen underemployed to effect the sealing off of Stonehenge each summer solstice, denying those who would worship what they would in their own way at this most holy of 'pagan' Meccas. Clearly some controls are needed to prevent damage to the site from the irresponsible minorities, but this extraordinary and total denial of ancient traditions (however historically mixed-up and unfounded one may consider them to be) is surely born from a deep and uncharted fear in the heart of modern belief-systems.

Arthur, a druid himself, annually turns up at the police barricades to challenge the forces of darkness lined up across the roads. On this televised occasion, he makes it through, but for his people the denial remains. It's easier to let an eccentric past than cause a scene. But then, would you argue with a bloke with a five-foot sword? He touches his weapon to the stones over the indignity of a barbed wire fence, his solstice task completed. Up to now, the letting through of the odd maverick has posed no real problems for the police, perhaps because when peaceably approached there has been no legal charge anyone could apply - it is technically an illegal act for access to the stones to be blocked. The Criminal Justice Bill currently being forced through Parliament is about to change all that, practically outlawing New Age Travellers and their activities in the process. With some of the proposed laws in force, even getting caught in a crop formation without permission could run you the risk of landing you in court. For the supposed good of all apparently, our civil liberties are being withdrawn further and access to the legacies of our ancestors - built by the people for the people, Arthur believes - will in certain cases become even harder. Our great King may well find himself in a police cell for future solstices. With this and the ongoing programme of roadbuilding countryside destruction which he has vowed to combat, King Arthur has tough battles ahead.

He lives on the donations of others - but not from the State; to do that he says, would be to declare himself unemployed when in fact he has a full time job - as King of England. A hard and time-consuming occupation as anyone would admit. When not saving the kingdom and fighting injustice and oppression, there's important State functions to attend, like Druidic rituals atop Glastonbury Tor. Despite all this, Arthur is a surprisingly down-to-earth monarch, describing his vision of Stonehenge as a place with a "nice atmosphere" where children could play, instead of spouting forth about ley lines and energies as one might expect.

The important thing is not whether he really is the latest incarnation of a probably mythical figure, but that he chooses to believe that he is. England needs some new heroes. If Arthur were to go round hacking heads off with his Excalibur perhaps there'd be a problem, but as he actually appears to have some worthy causes to crusade for, I'm happy to kneel before him as the genuine item and join him at any round tables going, if it makes the world a happier place. It's unlikely that he will be offered Buckingham Palace and the Throne in the immediate future, but if he were he'd probably refuse it anyway. The Land is his palace, the people already his subjects and Arthur is firmly ensconced in his missionary zeal to right the wrongs that threaten This Blessed Plot. Hail Arthur, King of the Britons.

ANDY THOMAS



The base character's where it's at for K & S!

I have been fascinated by the many theories put forward to explain the stalk-bending effect found in crop formations but one in particular, unless I have missed it, appears to have been neglected. At present, in my view the evidence seems to support the crop circles having been made by an unknown but intelligent agency, but no theory as to their construction so far seems to adequately explain all the characteristics of the formations, in particular with respect to the incredible way that the crop is often pressed so tightly to the ground, sometimes bent at the nodes, without structural damage (I exclude here seed mutation and certain cell wall changes found).

Attempts to reproduce the genuine crop formation effects have usually resulted in considerable damage to the corn stalks (or rape etc.) and demonstrated their obvious natural inclination to revert to their original positions (not including phototropism), so that they refuse to lie tight to the ground. The difference between the genuine formations and the forgeries are sometimes only too clear.

It seems to me, that if, as is frequently proposed, these circles and pictograms are the work of intelligent Extra-Terrestrials or Extra-Dimensionals, then our explanations of their methods used are far too confined to our own humanistic thinking. Our normal technique of bending rigid objects or materials is to apply a crude crushing force against its molecular structure, leaving it fractured or faulted and with a residual resilience which attempts to revert it to its original shape. I suggest that the circlemakers, whilst not necessarily more intelligent than ourselves, probably have a range of knowledge over a different field or concept from us, in which case the idea I would like to put forward might be a possibility.

Even in the densest material we know, there is far more space than particle matter in any given volume, the atomic structure being effectively a micro-universe of particle points suspended in space-time by the nuclear and electromagnetic forces. Is it possible, that instead of attempting as we do to impose stress on the molecular structure by physical impact or pressure, the circlemakers have developed a technique whereby when wishing to bend any material objects they can manipulate solely the space-time continuum within that micro-universe which surrounds the atomic components? Should this be so, the corn stalk structure overall would be 'unaware' of any change, simply continuing to exist as before but now within the newly imposed space curvature. The stalk would remain entirely undamaged and unstressed with no inclination to revert to any previous position, as with the phenomena of bent nodes.

Could some experiment perhaps be devised to detect any residual time dilation effect (which I believe has already been reported from within certain formations) or gravitational anomaly which might result in the crop circles from this process and which might provide a useful clue to follow up?

This idea may seem outlandish but then who can say, in view of what we have already discovered, that anything is entirely impossible? How recently it was when simple space-probes were considered science fiction!

RONALD THOMAS



EXTRACT FROM THE NOTEBOOK OF MARK REYNOLDS, AGE 7

* Mark recorded the following when CCCS Sussex surveyed the ringed circle at Scompting, 19th June 1994. I hasten to add that we were 'tuning-in' when lying down... - Ed

Jason and Dad are measuring the circle. Jason is using his pendulum. Andy is using his camcorder. Dad is taking photos with his monopod. Jason is writing something. Andy is using his camera. Dad is using his monopod again. Dad and me are measuring the tramline. Andy is using his camcorder to film Dad. Dad and me are measuring. Andy is taking photos. Everyone is sitting down and talking. Andy and Dad are lying down. Jason is using his pendulum. Dad and Andy have woken up. Andy is using his camera.

MARK REYNOLDS