



MYSTERY: An expert from Sussex University examines one of the 98 circles which have appeared in heather on the Black Mountains on the border between Powys and Gwent

# 98 alien circles appear in 5 days



MYSTERY: A rambler at the spot where alien circles have appeared in Mid Wales

**SCIENTISTS will this week investigate an outbreak of mysterious circles that have appeared in fields in Wales.**

Experts who have been probing similar so-called alien circles in fields in southern England said 98 circles had appeared in the space of five days at a secret Mid Wales location.

The man heading a seven-year study into the baffling circles described the discovery on the Gwent-Powys borders as the "most significant anywhere in the world."

Colin Andrews, in charge of 35 scientists and engineers from Circle Phenomenon Research at Sussex University, said: "We've been looking at reports from as far as Japan but these 98 circles in Wales are very important and dramatic."

The phenomenon has baffled experts in the West Country who have been studying the circles since 1976.

Mr Andrews said the new find could prove vital in solving the riddle of the circles.

"We are about to start a major investigation into almost 100 new formations which have appeared

**By Colin Macfarlane**

on the tops of hills in five days," he said.

"This is perhaps the most significant development in the seven year period. We believe we have something of major proportions."

The exact location of the twin hills is being kept secret to avoid tourists stamping over the perfectly-formed shapes.

In the past, the circles have appeared in arable crop fields, prompting calls that the affected cereals should be banned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to avoid them entering the human food chain.

However, in the latest — and so far the largest — outbreak, acres of heather have been shredded into what scientists refer to as tadpole-shaped circles because of a five metre-long, curling line which clips the outer perimeter.

Mr Andrews said the new variation of shape and plant "victims" could provide scientists with important clues.

"Heather is much better at holding in radiation than most living organisms and this is one area we shall be studying," he said.

"In the past, the circles have flattened six types of soft arable crops which slowly undergo a molecular change.

"However heather, which is much tougher and fibrous, has been snapped at the stem by the circles.

"Because of the scale of the formations, we are sure there is no human involvement."

Yet again, the circles have been found near ley lines, believed to be energy forces under the Earth's surface.

Seven concentric perimeter bands appear outside the central globe, which has a diameter of either 30, 20 or 10 feet.

The new-found circles in Wales all follow straight lines.

Mr Andrews explained: "They literally follow the contours of the hill in lines.

"These are sometimes dissected by other lines of differing size.

"In many respects they resemble the Nasa lines in Peru and are very peculiar."

Mr Andrews also revealed that English Heritage had been in contact with the researchers about other circles which had appeared on some of their Welsh properties.

Work at Sussex University had revealed that a tape recording of high pitched sounds, made during a 24-hour examination of a field near Winchester, Hants, during one of the circle's formations, had been divided into four blocks of sound.

Within each block there were 25 peaks of noise, indistinguishable to the human ear.

Mr Andrews said the team of scientists travelling to Wales would include Dr Archie Roy, head of Astronomy at Glasgow University, plant expert Dr Mark Glover, Dr Terrence Meaden, meteorologist and head of the Tornado and Storm Research Centre, George Wingfield, from IBM, plus researchers from Sussex University.

One expert — Mr Pat Delgado who has written a book on the matter called *Circular Evidence* — says there are "100 different theories from 100 different experts."

He says scientists, meteorologists, the Army and RAF have all been baffled by the sudden appearance of the circles. But he has discounted the "little green men from outer space theory" as being rather silly.

The study, based at Andover, will next weekend send a team of investigators to carry out more work.

"We know they are definitely not hoaxes but we still do not know what causes the circles," he said.