

...of Cardiff manager Mr Colin Russell with
one of the desirable G-reg number plates that is being withheld by DVLC.

...to sell these, together with
selected numbers from previous

...running into
thousands of pounds.
While the highly desirable
numbers are expected to be

Western Mail — 1/8/1989 — PR Thomas

Mysterious circles — man-made magic

By JUSTYN JONES,
Environment Correspondent

CIRCLES WHICH have appeared on hills in Mid Wales are not mysterious or magical but man-made.

The 98 circles in Radnorshire were cut to attract grouse — but instead top scientists flocked to the spot to try to explain their “mysterious” appearance.

Landowner Sir Andrew Duff Gordon said, “I am sorry but there is nothing magical about these circles, they were made by us.”

Unfounded

Mr Gordon explained, “We are experimenting with cutting the heather and bracken for the grouse. Doing it in a circle seemed the best way.”

He owns the Gladstrey hills where the circles are found, and said the enthusiasm by the scientists and the media “was a little careless.”

Sunday newspaper reports of the secret location of the Welsh circles which were “something of major proportions” and “the most significant development in seven years” are unfounded.

Acres of heather were shredded into what was referred to as tadpole-shaped circles which could have been caused by radioactive energy surging from the under the Earth's surface and snapping the stems.

These were actually caused by a tractor. Sir Andrew said it was necessary to do patches of the moorland



TOP SCIENTISTS flocked to 98 circles — like the one above in the Gladstrey hills — to try and explain their ‘mysterious appearance’. Instead the circles were cut by tractor — to attract grouse. Landowner Sir Andrew Duff Gordon said, “I am sorry but there is nothing magical about these circles, they were made by us.”

to provide a variety of heather and bracken growth.

“Young grouse need to be able to feed on young newly-cut heather but must be close to larger undergrowth in case they are any foxes or birds of prey.

“It's best to burn the heather every three years but this is difficult in Wales with the wet weather so we tried cutting it,” said Sir Andrew, who owns about 3,500 acres of his families Harpton estate on the Welsh borderland.

The scientist leading research into real mysterious circles in Wiltshire, Mr Pat Delgado, admitted the Welsh find was a “red herring”.

“We did send two scientists to Wales to check them out with farmers and landowners and our pilot took pictures of the 98 circles.

“But they were made to attract grouse and that is quite common although the land is usually cut in rectangles.

“Contrary to some reports there is no team of scientists going to Wales although they were initially alerted to the find.

“As far as we are aware there are no circles in Wales.”

Mr Delgado heads the Circle Phenomenon Research unit which has been studying more than 100 circles throughout Britain since 1976.

His recently-published book, entitled *Circular Evidence*, has hit the bestsel-

lers' list — it is also on the Queen's summer reading list and has been passed on by the Prime Minister to her ministries for comment.

● Work at Sussex University had shown that high-pitched sounds recorded during a 24-hour examination of a field near Winchester, Hants, while a circle was being formed, had been divided into four blocks of sound each containing 25 peaks of noise which were indistinguishable to human ears.