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'BALL OF LIGHT' CLUE TO CIRCLES



AN expert on corn circles, which have appeared in fields throughout Britain in recent years, believes this picture could hold the key to the phenomenon.

The photograph, which seemingly shows an orange ball about 100 yards to the left of some circles, was taken by an American tourist in South Wales.

Circle Phenomenon Research expert Colin Andrews believes the balls of light are connected to the appearance of the circles.

By Jan Brierley

Over the last 10 years the mechanical engineer has become an acknowledged authority on circles and is presenting a scientific paper in Chicago next month.

As evidence of the orange balls of light he will be showing a photograph taken by the tourist near Goodrich Castle, Monmouth.

The holidaymaker captured two circles with the flame-colour-

ed light, on film, last August.

Mr Andrews says: "People have been discovering this unusual effect on film. We are not sure whether it's a magnetic effect or whether it's an infra-red optical effect."

He is convinced the crop circles are an unnatural phenomenon but he doesn't agree with a Japanese physics professor who claims he has solved the puzzle.

Prof Yoshihiko Ohtsuki believes the circles are caused by an elastic plasma, a

very strong form of ionised air, and says he has recreated the plasma in his lab.

But both men are adamant the rings are not left by UFOs.

Mr Andrews, based in Andover, Hampshire, says there has been a dramatic increase in crop circles worldwide. As many as 1,000 were discovered in Britain last year — the largest number ever.

Last year, he investigated a crop circle on a remote site in Gwent close to a radio and television transmitter.