

C.C.C. Crop Circles:

Messages from Beyond?

More than 10,000 mysterious formations have appeared in crop fields during the past two decades. Are they leading us to our future?

article and photos by Ron Russell



In the summer of 1992, a colleague and I were driving to Alton Barnes in the southeast of England. The area is known for the number and quality of crop circles that turn up there, and I was hoping to see my first one. Little did I know what a powerful impact they would have on me.



Opposite page: Onlookers view a 1994 formation below a Neolithic site known as Oliver's Castle near Devizez, Wiltshire. (All the photographs in this article were taken in England.) **Above:** This 200-foot glyph appeared in a field near Cheesefoot Head, Hampshire, in 1993. Researchers are still trying to decipher the complex glyph's meaning.

Quite suddenly, we saw a giant snail-shaped formation in the fields on the east side of the road. We were not the first to discover it. In fact, scientists were measuring it, artists were drawing it, and others were simply experiencing it. We stopped and paid the farmer an admission fee of 50p (around 85¢). When we went in, I was overcome with awe. The formation was beautiful, but more than that, I felt gently bombarded by unusual energies. In later crop circle visits, the energy felt transformational. It seemed to spin and realign me spiritually.

Ancient Images

Considerable evidence shows that crop circles have been known throughout Earth's history. The Dead Sea Scrolls' Book of Noah and several works of medieval literature mention them. Many ancient stone carvings, including one at Stonehenge, seem remarkably similar to the shapes in the fields.

Crop circles appear all over the world. About 10,000 instances from various countries have been reported in the

last 20 years, but the most aesthetically advanced ones are in the Wessex area of southern England.

Placed carefully in our fields of food grains, some are larger than football fields and exceedingly complex in design and construction. Others are smaller and more primitive. We call them crop circles, but many of them are not circular. Some are elongated abstract designs, a few resemble insects or other known forms, and some are agglomerations of lines, circles, and other shapes melded into intricate patterns. Most become visible overnight, though it has been claimed that a few have appeared within a half-hour in broad daylight.

Although people have asserted that they have created crop circles, it is difficult for me to see how any ordinary person or group could create these wondrous Earth designs in the short time it takes them to appear and without leaving traces of their construction.

Researchers have spent a great deal of time investigating different aspects of crop circles. They try to detect traces of human

involvement in the circle-making, test the area of the circle itself for geophysical anomalies, and analyze the field's grain both from within and outside the circles, searching for differences.

Dr. W. C. Levengood of BLT Research, headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has analyzed many grain samples and has confirmed, time after time, that significant changes have occurred at the cellular level of crop circle plants. The plants from the circles have elongated cells and blown-out growth nodes. Seeds from the circle plants often show accelerated growth rates when they are sown, and in some instances, quite different-looking plants result. In many instances it appears that a vortex-like energy causes the plants to swirl down, flattening the design into the land. Whatever this energy is, it does not generally inhibit the plants' growth. They continue to show normal phototropic response to the sun, raising upward over several days following the appearance of the circle.

Dowsers have no difficulty finding

complex arrangements of energy lines in and around the circles. I have been amazed to see the rods swing abruptly and consistently when I dowsed near the edges and centers of a formation. I have seen pendulums fly out of the hands of friends who tried to read an energy signature in the centers.

Michael Chorost of Duke University found occasions of short-lived radionuclides in the top layer of soil in some of the formations. A British government laboratory found diminished nitrogen and decreased nematode populations as well as decreased water content in the soil of a formation. Researchers have discovered other anomalies, as well, such as curious embedded magnetic particles and charred bract tissue.

Reliable eyewitnesses have reported



Top: A web design found near Avebury in 1994. Emeritus Professor of Astronomy Gerald Hawkins believes this design and others are based on complex geometric ratios that may relate to music ("Geometry," said the ancient Greeks, "is frozen music") and definitely demonstrate an intelligent origin.

This page, top and middle: Crop circles almost invariably spread outward from whorls that may have been caused by some kind of energy vortex. Bottom: The bends in these wheat stalks appear to have been produced by rapid heating that made the cells expand and lengthen.



What If You Discover a Crop Formation?

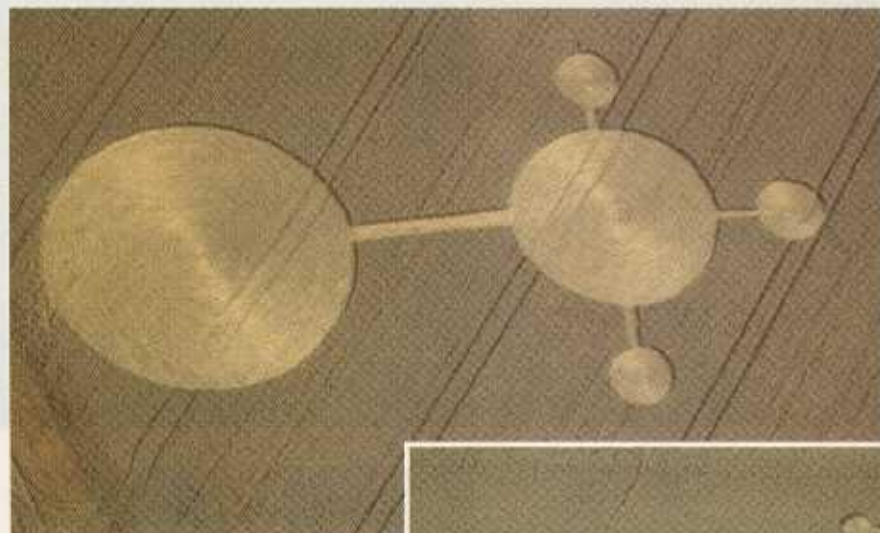
- Treat the circle as if it is a sacred space. Do not scuff it up or alter it in any way. Be careful, observant, and mindful. Follow the tractor lines or tram lines into the field and never cross the planted crop.
- Crop circles are usually found on private land. Ask the farmer or landowner for permission to visit the formation.
- If the landowner charges a small fee, pay it gladly. Sacred experience is not so free as you may think. Even if the payment is an inner one, like letting go of your fear of the unknown, you still have to pay it.
- Share your findings. Measure, photograph, and experience the circle. Write a report about it and share it with the organizations so we can all benefit.
- Network with farmers and pilots in your area and keep alert for the appearance of new formations.
- Consider joining one or two of the research organizations listed at the end of this article. ■

seeing anomalous lights and hearing unidentifiable sounds while on an early-morning walk in the countryside where a crop circle shows later that day. On several occasions a strange glow or a darker differentiation has been seen in the sky over a crop circle. And in more than one instance, the electrical power of small planes flying overhead has abruptly been cut off, an alarming event I myself have experienced!

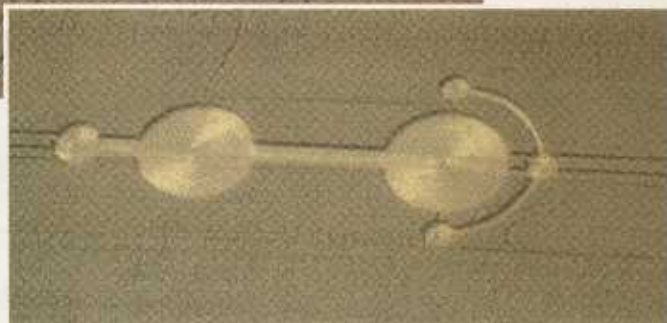
The physical and chemical anomalies clearly show that crop circles are abnormal formations, but perhaps more convincing than any other evidence is the effect they have on people who see encounter them. Lucy Pringle of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies (CCCS) in England has gathered a wealth of



Above: This crescent-based agriglyph appeared near East Meon, Hampshire, in July 1995.



Left and below: Dr. Colette Dowell says crop circles show annual design trends. In 1994, she told an interviewer, "there [was] a proliferation of what were called 'insectograms' depicting scorpions, spiders and spider webs, and other insects." In 1995, "the patterns seem[ed] to suggest solar systems and asteroid belts and other planetary connections."



Right: This complex, outlined glyph is 130 feet long and was found in August 1997 near Vernham Dean, Wiltshire.

human physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual experiences in her study of more than 500 cases of extraordinary occurrences while in, or after being in, a circle. These have included sudden illnesses, healings, transcendental spiritual and mental states, momentary loss of consciousness, psychic and transformative emotional events, and other strange enchantments.

While the causal energies do not seem to harm animals, or even insects as far as we can tell, wild creatures tend to avoid the circles. I have seen flocks of birds split apart and fly around the perimeter rather than go directly over a formation.

Spiritual Machines

What could possibly be the purpose of these amazing Earth works? They are unquestionably a beautiful art that can charm us into a new way of seeing. Perhaps that is their purpose, although I do not feel it is that simple. Crop circles are transformative to those who touch them. But even those who never see or touch a crop circle may be affected by

them. Farmers harvest the grain from crop circles along with the rest of the grain in their fields. Can this special grain, some of which we know has been altered cellularly, fail to affect us when we eat it in our bread or cereal?

I suggest that crop circles may be a covert engineering feat of the highest order that will move us gently toward the next step of our evolution. They are a kind of cultural medication that may





Top: Litchfield, Wiltshire, July 1995. This agriglyph appeared in a wheat field in the early morning hours. Although it was beside a busy motorway with thousands of cars speeding by, few people stopped. Later, investigators showed a skeptical local police officer how to dowse within the circle. He achieved amazing results.



Bottom: Mayan lunar calendar design, also called the sleeping serpent, Avebury, 1994.

be designed to help us avoid the more radical surgery of catastrophic changes which so many seers predict as we near the end of this millennium.

We have seen lovely balls of light, like fairy spirits, in the fields near the circles, little silver discs flying over the crop, bigger UFOs in the sky nearby, and felt the presence of something ineffably large and wise watching us.

Year after year, more great formations appear, hundreds and hundreds all over the world. This is such an obvious contact. Is it not likely that someone is telling us something?

Like toys on a carpet scattered by wise parents, the circles ask us to awaken and study them and ourselves. Who would give us such profound gifts but great beings who know we need to be reminded of our true home and our true nature in the Spirit? ■

Ron Russell is the Colorado and Midwest USA coordinator of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies and the author and photographer of *FATE's* 1999 Crop Circle Calendar (*Llewellyn*). He leads annual crop circle tours to England and can be reached at *Research Tours to the Circles: Ron Russell, PO Box 40307, Denver CO 80204.*

Russell recommends the following organizations:

CPRI (Circles Phenomenon Research International), Colin Andrews, PO Box 3378, Branford CT 06405. Website: alpha.mic.dundee.ac.uk/ft/crop_circles/anasazi/cpri96.html

CCCS (Centre for Crop Circle Studies), Dr. King, Kemberly, Victoria Gardens, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3DJ, England. Website: alpha.mic.dundee.ac.uk/ft/crop_circles/anasazi/cccs97.html

Sussex Circular (publication), Andy Thomas, 14 Bishops Drive, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1HA, England

BLT Research, Nancy Talbott, Box 127, Cambridge MA 02140. Website: www.geocities.com/Area51/Dimension/8492/BLTpage.html

The Cerealogist (publication), John Sayer, PO Box 1577, Andover, Hampshire, SP11 7BA, England. Website: alpha.mic.dundee.ac.uk/ft/crop_circles/anasazi/page12.html

Doug and Dave

In 1991, after a decade and a half of crop circles appearing in British fields, each year more complex and in greater quantity, leaving researchers and the public with frustrated curiosity, Doug Bower and Dave Chorley introduced themselves to the world. The "mysterious" field designs, they said, were their products, invented during idle conversation at their local pub. They used wooden plank "stalk stompers," a centering crosspiece and string, and carefully drawn diagrams.

Could the two men, in their 60s by 1991, have done all they said? With a demonstration, they convinced some members of the news media, but others said their accounts were contradictory and impossible. Doug and Dave remain controversial characters, proof to some that all crop circles are hoaxes and to others that hoaxers themselves can tell tall tales.

— Terry O'Neill