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## EARTHLY CURIOSITIES

ALIEN  
INVASION  
OR HOAX?

*For several years, southern Britain has experienced what some people claim is the work of pranksters and others say is evidence that UFO's have landed. Charles Walker investigates the mysterious circles which have again appeared*

My attention was first drawn to these strange circles when a set of five, one large surrounded by four smaller ones, appeared in a wheatfield at Patching, Sussex. They appeared some time between 10pm on 28 June and dawn on 29 June 1985. The central and largest of the circles measured some 50ft in diameter and the four smaller ones 15ft in diameter. The wheat had been neatly flattened by a swirling motion in a clockwise direction.

The circles were a reasonable distance from the road and, at the time they were discovered, there was no trace of any of the surrounding crop having been flattened as it would have been if anyone had walked into the field to select the site. For this reason it was suggested that the marks would have to be made by something landing on the spot. My initial enquiries revealed that most people were of the opinion that a UFO was responsible. Obviously there were those who preferred to dismiss it as a hoax, although they have not provided a suitable explanation as to how this could be done without damaging the surrounding crop.

**UFO sighting**

At the time that news broke of the circles, no one except myself and the witnesses were aware of the fact that at 9.35pm on 25 June a UFO had been seen by five witnesses. The sighting was

reported to me on 26 June by Wayne Lewis who, along with his brother Ricky and three friends, had seen what they described as a yellowy white light moving in the direction of Clapham, which is but a short distance from Patching.

For approximately ten minutes the object hovered over Clapham Wood where the light became more intense and began pulsating. After this it took off at a reasonably high speed and was lost from sight within a matter of seconds.

**Mysterious circles**

Although there were no UFO sightings on the actual evening that the circles appeared – at least as far as I am aware – it is interesting to note that there does always seem to be a UFO sighting reported within a few days, and at the most a week, before the circles appear.

The very same weekend five circles, similar in dimension to those at Patching, appeared in a wheatfield alongside the B 3093 at Bratton, Wiltshire. This is not the first time that such circles have appeared in this area. In July 1983 their appearance made the national news mainly because of Bratton's close proximity to Warminster, which became famous in the mid 1960s for the number of UFO sightings and reported landings.

Throughout July 1985 the circles appeared in Hampshire and Wiltshire. In Hampshire one Alresford farmer lost