

Corn triangle is a mystery

By Peter Hopper
Agricultural Editor

A CORN triangle has appeared in the same field of winter wheat in which a corn circle was discovered at Great Holland, near Clacton, six days earlier.

The new finding, which adds to the mystery puzzling scientists and Britain's farming community, was made on Sunday by the owners of the farm, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Lawrence and their son, Sam.

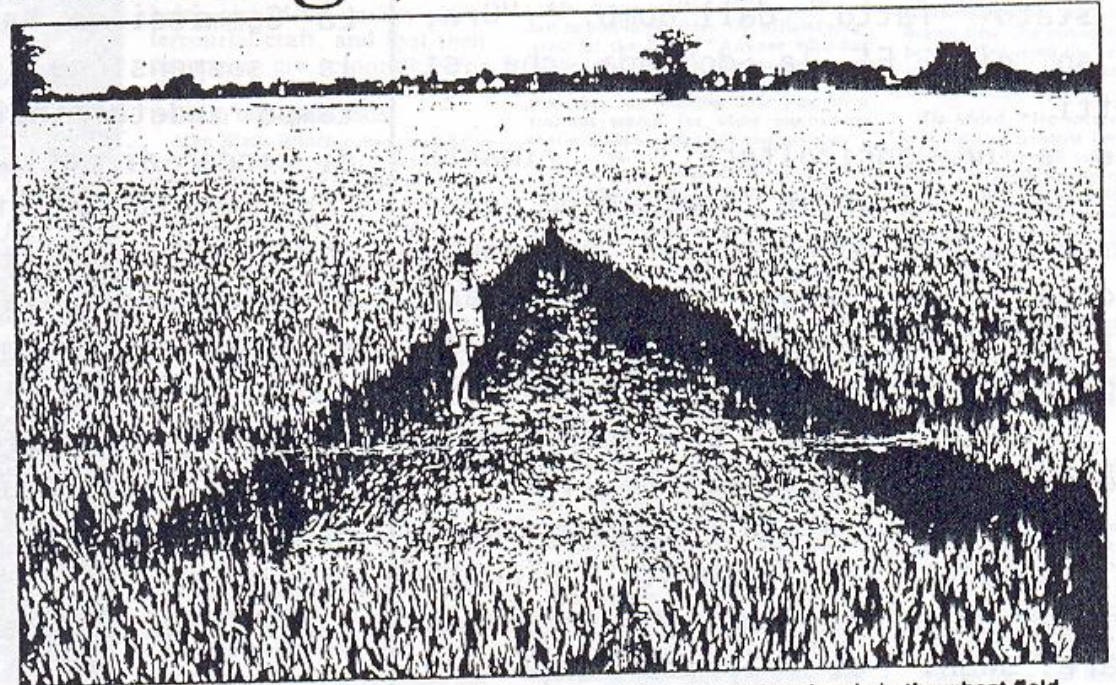
The perfectly formed triangle of completely flattened wheat a month away from harvest, has a sharp cut off between the undamaged crop and the stalks which are laid in one direction, yet unbroken at the base.

The triangle appears only 70 or 80 yards from the 44ft diameter circle which has the flattened corn swirled around a central pivot.

It has been measured at about 17ft at the base and the sides are 38ft long, tapering to a point.

Mr. Lawrence said he just did not know what to make of it. He discovered crop circle on the farm last year and at first he thought it might have been man-made. "Now, I just don't know — it's anybody's guess," he said.

As a farmer, he is puzzled to find that, after using a chemical growth restrictor to stiffen the straw and reduce its height from 3ft to 2ft, he expected the brittle straw to be broken, but very few were



Mrs. Ella Lawrence, of Reedlands Farm, Little Clacton, at the site of the triangle in the wheat field at Great Holland. Picture by JOHN KERR

snapped off.

However, the crop had defied logic and was merely laid flat, with a few stems now beginning to show signs of recovery after ten days.

The Lawrence family, which has a farm shop at nearby Little Clacton, is puzzled by another unusual happening, as explained by Mrs. Ella Lawrence.

The first corn circle appeared on the farm last year, half-a-mile from this year's discoveries. The field

was used this year to grow oilseed rape, but the crop in the old circle site refused to grow at the same rate as the rest of the crop.

Consequently, the rape in the old 45ft diameter ring was flowering a good two weeks longer than the rest of the crop. The patch of yellow had looked very odd, she said. Also, the crop inside the circle was shorter than that outside it.

The family's agronomist, Mr. Alwyn Chapman, of Key

and Pell, took photographs of the crop still-flowering in the circle, but yesterday he was unable to give any explanation for this.

Both he and Mrs. Lawrence said they were surprised that the circle was still apparent, even though the field had been ploughed and drilled with a new crop.

I knew what Mrs. Lawrence meant when she said standing in the corn circle gave some people an eerie feeling. I felt a tingling down

my back and was pleased to leave it. Even so, I had to marvel at the way the circle had been "fashioned" by whatever force it had taken to make a perfect circle and, further along, a perfect triangular shape in a growing crop.

Mrs. Lawrence offered her own explanation. "I don't think there are space ships and little green men," she scoffed. "I think it is caused by forces beneath the ground."