

Report of the Year 2014

Crop Circle Access Scheme



Introduction and Summary

2014 has been the second year of the Crop Circle Access Scheme. How and why the Scheme came into place: see Report 2013. Feedback and advice from farmers, researchers and visitors resulted in three major changes for 2014:

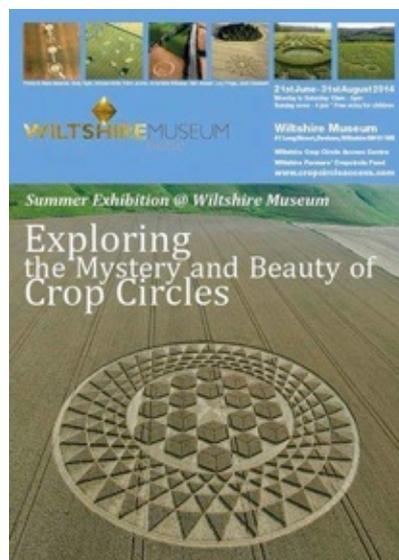
1. A simplified and more affordable version of the Access Pass 2013; Instead of a day, a week, or a season pass, there was just one season pass in 2014, price £10.
2. An increase of the immediate payment to the farmer from £500 to £750. A donation to the RABI* if sufficient surplus is achieved. Development of product(s) of which a percentage will be donated to the Wiltshire Farmers' Crop Circle Fund. * Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution
3. A new location of the Crop Circle Access Centre; it was hosted by the Wiltshire Museum in Devizes and came along with an historical and multimedia exhibition on crop circles.

All applied changes resulted in positive developments. The year 2014 showed an increase of farmers interested/signing up in advance to the Scheme, as well as a broader support by crop circle researchers, visitors and the public in general.

Nevertheless 2014 can be summarized as a difficult and challenging year for the Access Scheme. The low number of crop circles and their "unfortunate" positions (as on the land of farmers who had not signed up) resulted in the fact that only 2 out of the 22 reported circles were accessible.

The crop circle exhibition in the Wiltshire Museum in Devizes offered an unexpected alternative to the many disappointed crop circle tourists in Wiltshire.

During 2014 the Access Scheme became regarded as established to visitors, thanks to the official involvement of the Wiltshire Museum. A small profit has been achieved by the Scheme. The Wiltshire Farmers' Crop Circle Fund will carry £ 5158.44 into next year to support the activities in 2015.



Numbers of Crop Circles in Wiltshire

The 2014 crop circle season in Wiltshire started slow (not due to weather circumstances as in 2013) and counted 22 reported crop circles in total. A significant drop in numbers compared to previous years. It should be noted that a decrease like this is not a novelty; quantity-wise the year 2006 showed exact the same number of crop circles in Wiltshire (Attachment 1).

It is suggested that the cutting out and defacing of crop formations by farmers as well the existence of the Access Scheme are responsible for the decrease in numbers of man-made crop circles in Wiltshire. This could be the case according to what has been communicated to us: "human circle makers objected to the Access Pass Scheme and avoided making crop circles in Wiltshire. Some others have lost interest and moved away, some are making sand circles because their work is better appreciated".



It also should be noted that crop circles - the authentic phenomenon - tend to have an unpredictable pattern and a habit to move. In the late 1970s, it was mainly Hampshire and the area around Warminster where most of the circles were found. During the 1990s, crop circles started to move Northwards, becoming centred around the Pewsey Vale, Avebury and Silbury Hill (source: exhibition Wiltshire Museum).

Numbers of crop circles in other UK counties

Essex 7 * Dorset 6 * Gloucestershire 4 * East Sussex 3 * Hampshire 3
 Worcestershire 2 * Devon 2 * Warwickshire 1 * Northumberland 1

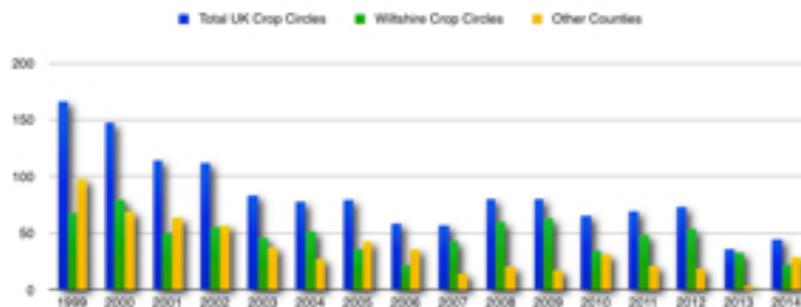
Number of crop circles reported in United Kingdom and Wiltshire since 1999.

Source: www.cropcircleaccess.com, www.cropcirclesandmore.com, www.cropcirclecenter.com, www.cropcircleconnector.com, www.kornelie-forschung.de, www.alterforde.co.uk

Average numbers are taken. Numbers may not be entirely correct due to multiple interpretations as some of the consulted websites are mentioning different numbers, probably because some crop circles appeared in 2 or 3 phases and may be "counted" as 1 event.

Displayed numbers concern spotted crop circles.

Monique Klinkenbergh 15th January 2015



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The number of reported crop circles in other UK counties in 2014 - a total of 29 - is not very different compared to previous years.

The only major exception so far was 2013, when only 3 crop circles were reported in other counties. (see figure left, a larger version can be found in the attachment).

Wiltshire farmers and the Access Scheme 2014

Wiltshire farmers did not express collectively an interest in the Access Scheme, individually they did. 2014 showed an increase of farmers who signed up to the Scheme, mainly by those outside the usual crop circle hotspots. They wish their names to remain anonymous as they do not want to be bothered with questions or create an open invitation to hoaxers.

The drop in number of crop circles and their “unfortunate” positions (as on the land of farmers who had not signed up) resulted in the fact that only 2 out of the 22 circles were accessible.

Farmers in the Pewsey Vale and some near Avebury remained steadfast in their decision to cut or deface formations as soon as they appeared. Some were prepared to wait with cutting until photographs and footage were taken for research and/or to show in the museum.

Two farmers motivated their decisions (cut out/deny access) were based on the obvious man-made origin of the circle. They explained that a difference between a human or “unexplainable” origin can be seen, based on circles they encountered in the “old days”.

Farmers in general expressed their appreciation regarding the involvement of the Rural Crime Team and experienced the advantage of communicating their wishes regarding crop circle management via the cropcircleaccess website and the crop circle access mobile App (fig. right)

They appreciated the raise of immediate payment to £750 as well as the idea of supporting the RABl in case sufficient surplus is achieved.



Mobile App communicates farmers wishes regarding access or no access

Accessible and not Accessible Crop Circles

2 of the 22 crop circles in Wiltshire were made accessible through the Access Pass Scheme. 6 of the 22 crop circles were cut out or defaced by the farmer shortly after they appeared. (see appendix 1)

The first accessible crop circle (fig.1) was physically destroyed within 24 hours (fig. 2) probably by opponents of the Access Scheme. It was the first time in crop circle history this has happened. Interestingly it did not have a negative effect on either the sales of access passes or people who wanted to visit the circle. Fig. 3 shows the second accessible circle.

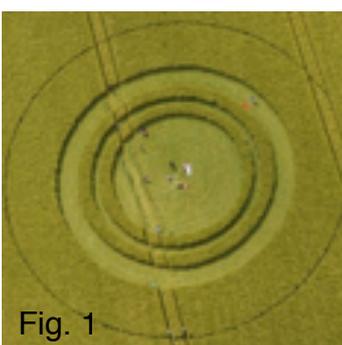


Fig. 1

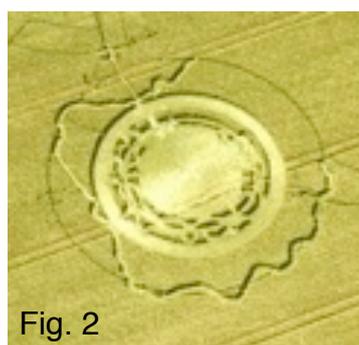


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Visitors experiences & drop in numbers tourism

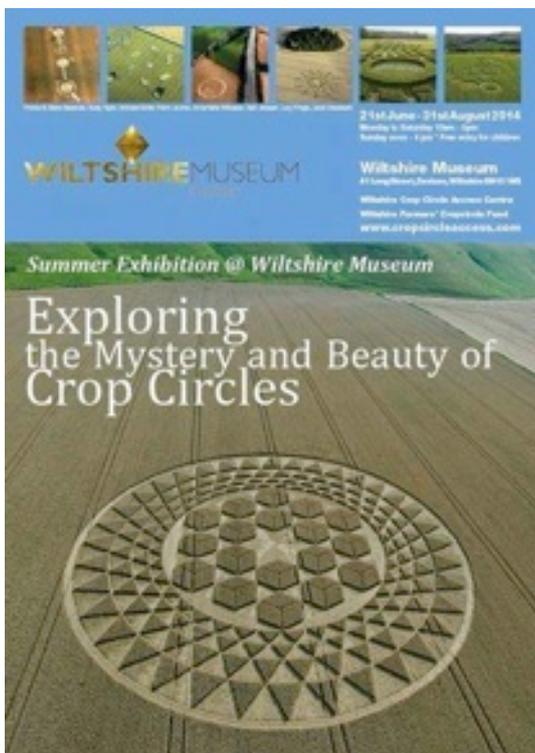
It was noticeable visitors regarded the Access Pass as established, according to online applies and orders starting in March 2014.

Visitors again appreciated the sense of confidence the Scheme offers; enabling a crop circle visit in the knowledge the farmer granted access and will be financially compensated in a trustful way (via Wiltshire Farmers Crop Circle Fund). The simplifying and lower price of the 2014 pass was received enthusiastically.

Access Passes were sold at the Wiltshire Museum in Devizes, Sticks and Stones in Woodborough, Faux Art in Marlborough, online via www.cropcircleaccess.com, the free Mobile App 'Crop Circle Access' and next to the gate of an accessible formation.



A group - inspired by human circle makers and opponents of the Access Scheme - obstentaneously ignored both the Access Pass and the publicised wishes of farmers with regard to access. An alternative money collection method - not supportive to the Access Scheme - created confusion amongst farmers, visitors and the local public.



The fact that only two circles could be visited was very disappointing for many tourists and a big concern for local people depending on crop circle tourism. A further drop in numbers of visitors can be expected in 2015. This alarming development was featured on BBC Radio and in local news papers.

The Crop Circle Exhibition in the Wiltshire Museum - also hosting the Crop Circle Access Centre - offered an unexpected alternative for the many disappointed crop circle visitors that came to Wiltshire.

This historical and multi media exhibition - compiled with long term researcher Andreas Muller and the support of many researchers, photographers and enthousisasts - attracted approx. 3500 visitors and received very positive comments on Trip advisor: http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/ShowUserReviews-g528767-d1747739-r231658001-Wiltshire_Museum-Devizes_Wiltshire_England.html#REVIEWS

The drop in crop circle tourists seem not to have affected the Devizes area according to a group of ten bed and breakfast operators, who experienced an increased occupancy, this possibly might be related to the crop circle exhibition and conference in Devizes.

Wiltshire Farmers Crop Circle Fund

All moneys collected by the Fund through sales of Cropcircle Access Passes, Product(s)* and donations were again to compensate for damage caused by visitors where access permission was given by the landowner and in no way condoned, encouraged or could compensate for damage caused by the crop circle makers.

No payment has been made from the Fund to the Crop Circle Access Centre or the crop circle exhibition for anything other than the cost of printing of Access Passes, Access leaflets and updating Mobile App and Website regarding access.



* Cropcircle frisbee, 15% of the proceeds are given to the Wiltshire Farmers' Crop Circle Fund

Summary Financial Report 2014

The Crop Circle Access Scheme 2014 ran at a small profit, see financial summary below. The sales of access passes increased in numbers (+50). Proceeds through donations were significant lower as no crowd funding campaign in 2014 had taken place.



The Wiltshire Farmers Crop Circle Fund will carry forward an amount of £ 5158.44 to support the activities in 2015.

The Fund has a bank account in its name at the HSBC Bank in Devizes.

A summary of income and expenditure of the 2013 and 2014 season is in the table below.

Funds	2013	2014
Access pass sales receipts	£ 2905.99	£ 2527.32
Crowd funding, general donations net receipts, proceeds of products	£ 5761,67	£ 274.78
Direct expenses (Access pass and leaflets printing)	-£ 918.22	-£ 937.05
Payment to farmers who approved access	-£ 2250.00	-£ 1750.00
Donation to RABI, recommended by Tim Carson	-£ 500.00	
Balance	£ 5043.39	£ 5158.44

Appendix 3

Nr	Reported	Location	Crop	Access
1	16-04-2014	Wootton Rivers	Oil Seed Rape	No
2	19-06-2014	Yatesbury		No/defaced
3	20-06-2014	Alton Barnes		No/cut out
4	22-06-2014	West Kenneth	Barley	Yes
5	24-06-2014	Wessex Ridgeway, Near Avebury		No
6	24-06-2014	West Kenneth	Barley	No
7	26-06-2014	Ridgeway, near Hackpen Hill		No
8	29-06-2014	Wessex Ridgeway, Near Avebury		No
9	29-06-2014	Near Broad Hinton	Barley Seed	No/defaced
10	06-07-2014	Charlton		No
11	08-07-2014 09-07-2014 (add)	Ridgeway, near Hackpen Hill		No
12	13-07-2014	West Kenneth		No/cut out
13	16-07-2014	Forest Hill, Near Marlborough		No/cut out
14	21-07-2014	Ridgeway, Near Broad Hinton		No
15	27-07-2014	Etchilhampton Hill	Wheat	Yes
16	29-07-2014	Avebury Downs		No
17	30-07-2015	Roundway	Wheat	No
18	05-08-2014	Cow Downs, near East Kenneth		No/cut out
19	06-08-2014	Ridgeway, near Hackpen Hill		No
20	06-08-2014	East Kenneth		No
21	08-08-2014	Green Street, Avebury		No
22	12-08-2014	Mixon, Near Etchilhampton		No