Crop circles and petroglyphs—*by Nick Doe*

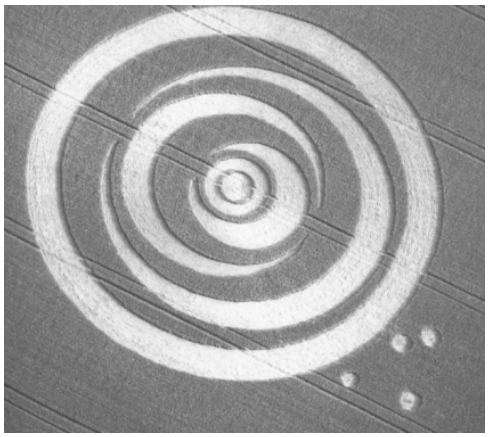
Right from the start, I have to make clear that I am not about to suggest that there is some "otherworldly" connection between crop circles and petroglyphs (no aliens, please!). Nor am I going to talk in detail about petroglyphs in general, but only those I have been researching on Gabriola Island for the last several years. Crop circles and petroglyphs however show some interesting similarities and, who knows, perhaps in doing so they reveal something, not only about the mentality and outlook of those clever enough within their different cultures to create such things, but also about the commonality of humankind that transcends such cultural differences.

The similarities between crop circles and petroglyphs that I see are:

- nobody knows who did them or why
- they attract attention and intrigue people
- they are studied by "experts" who actually don't know much about them
- they are often described as being "sacred" and "mysterious"
- they are frequently associated, usually in some nebulous way, with "ancient sites"
- they sometimes suggest that their creators had a sense of humour
- they were likely created by a relatively small number of closely-connected individuals, even in some cases by one person
- they were likely created in secret. Even those around at the time may not know much more than we do
- the designs sometimes include subsidiary "doodles"
- some of the geometrical designs of crop circles are practically the same as those used for the petroglyphs.

Let's take the "doodles" first before getting into the heavier geometry.

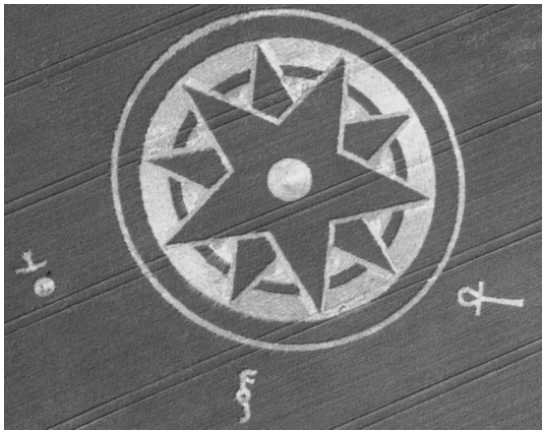
Doodles

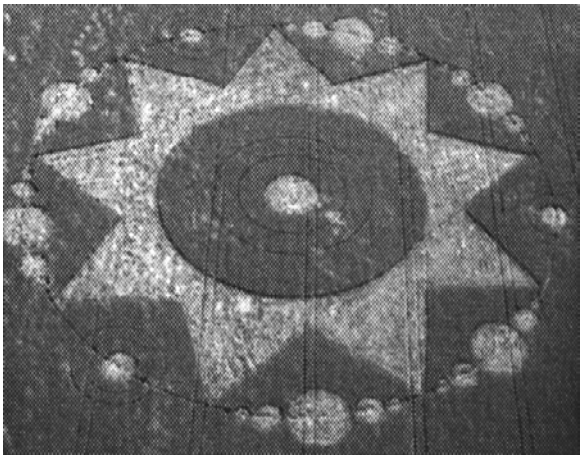


Above: Gabriola petroglyph (a museum replica) with pecked holes, which are common and in some cases significant.[19]

Below, random? holes beside a crop circle.

[19] *SHALE* 17, pp.29, 36, 45; *SHALE* 18, pp.16–7.





Above: Wingdings in a Gabriola petroglyh (a musem replica). The easiest one to see is the octagram "sun" symbol  just above the leaf in the bottom righthand corner. These are not rare, but are often overlooked.

Below: wingdings? beside a crop circle with a decagram symbol.

Above: Circles in a Gabriola calendar petroglyh (a musem replica). The circles are part of a nonagram symbol. Each of the nine divisions of the circle correspond to 40-day intervals in the year, but two rays, corresponding to winter, are missing.

Below, a crop circle with a similar nonagram symbol. Note the inner circles like those in the petroglyph.

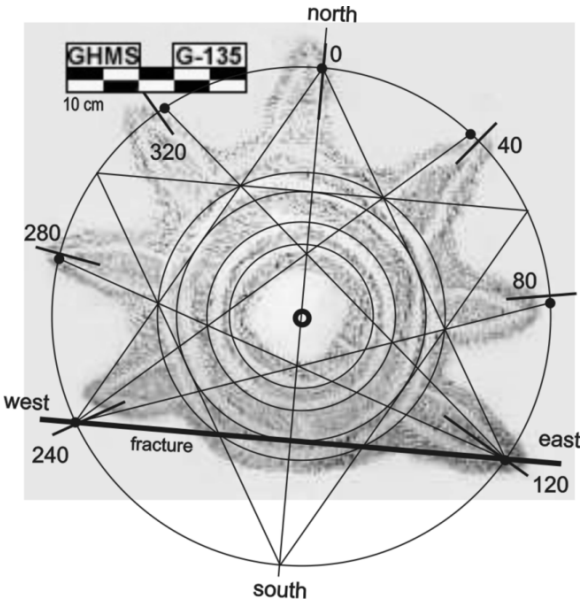
Circles

Circles are common in all ancient artwork despite the fact that they are not all that easy to draw. In cave paintings in Europe, the use of the symbol dates back 30,000 years, and even older usages are found in Australia and Africa. Ancient exploration of the geometry of the circle is also prominently displayed in many prehistoric megaliths.

Part of the fascination of the geometry of circles is that they can be precisely divided by 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 12 using only a compass and straightedge. Only division by 7 and 11 is not possible in this way, but even then, there are simple methods of constructing very good approximations.

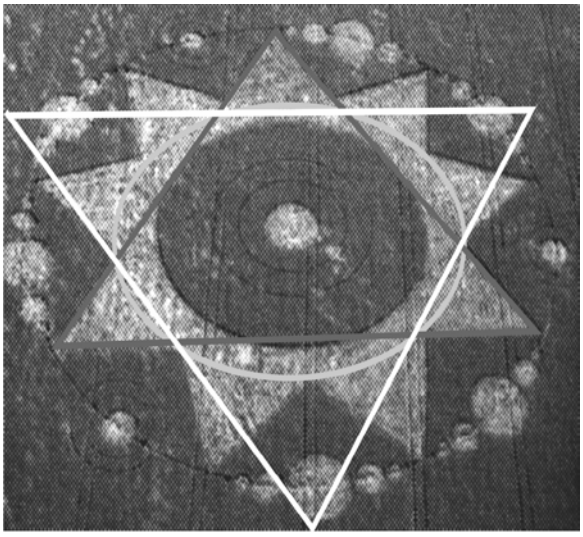
On Gabriola, the solar-calender petroglyh[20] divides a circle by nine and, although uncommon, the same geometry is used in some crop circles.

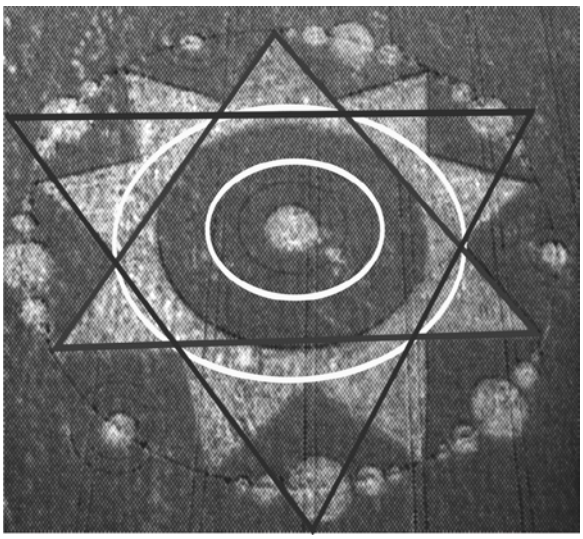
[20] *SHALE* 10, pp.25–32.

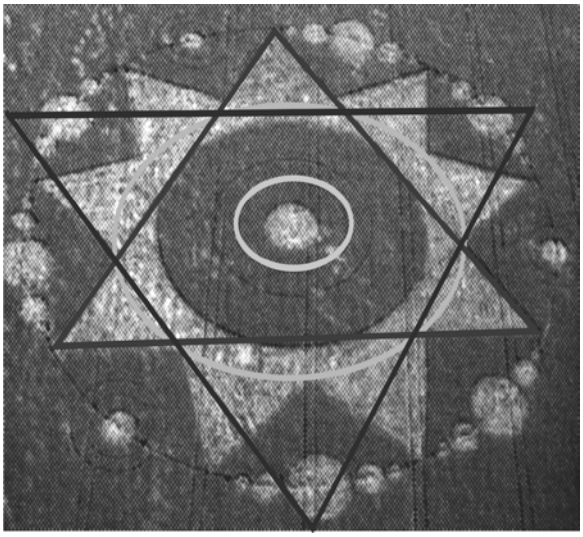


Left: The geometry of the Gabriola petroglyph. The diameters of the circles are not arbitrary but are part of the design.

Below left and right: The geometry of the circles in the crop circle is similarly part of the overall design.







The relative diameters of some of the circles in the crop circle are the same as those in the petroglyph. The petroglyph design is however more intricate in that the diameters are linked closely to the overall geometry while the circles in the crop-circle may just be an arithmetic 10; 6; 5; 3 progression. Make what you will of this, but I prefer to think that "our" design is more advanced. ◊

ring diameters			
theoretical based on geometry	petroglyph	theoretical based on arithmetic?	crop circle
100	100	100	100
58	57	60	61
50	50	50	48
38	36		
29	28	30	29
		20	20