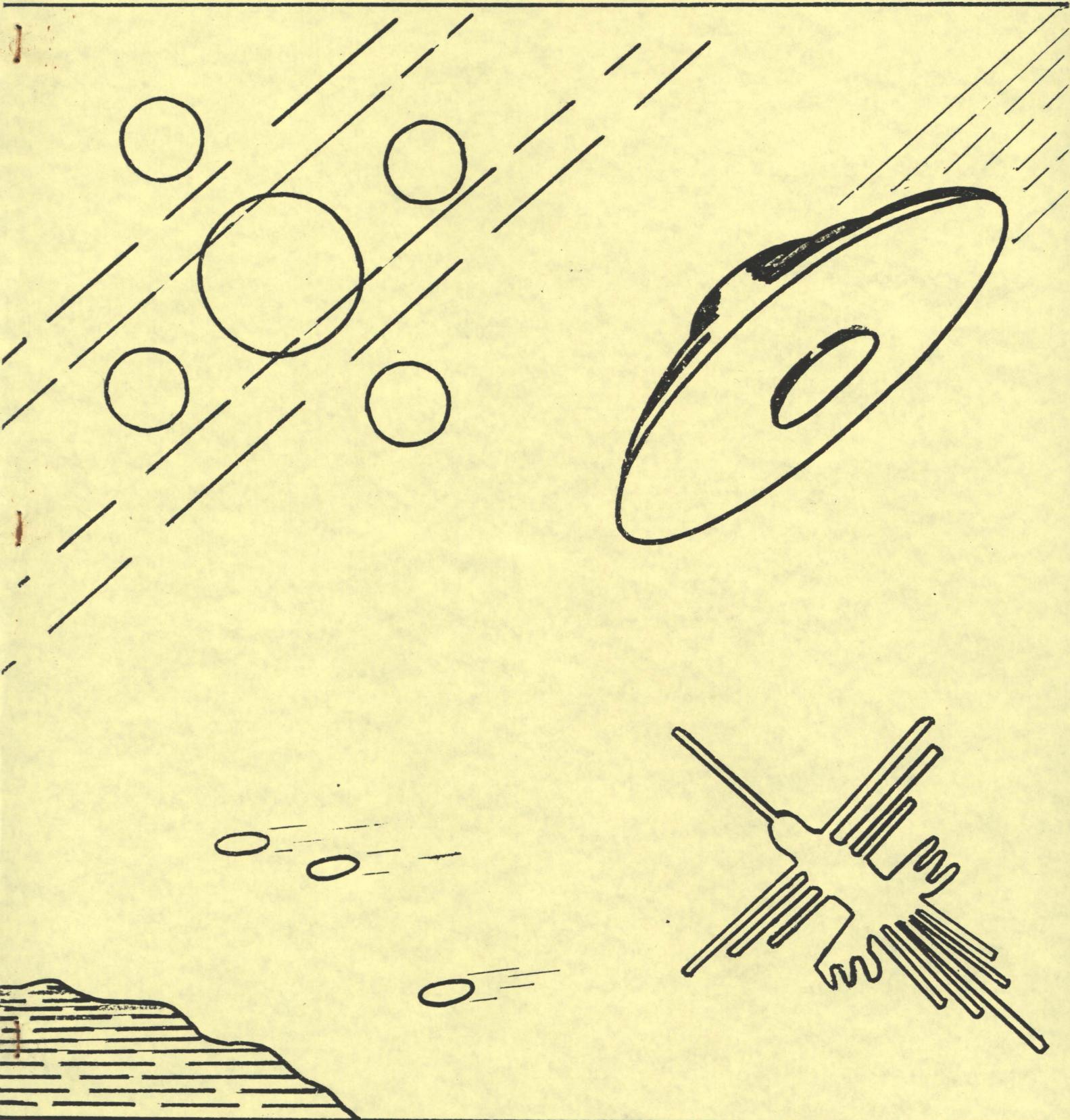


January

◁OVNI▷

1993



Newsletter of the Phenomenon Research Association

Price £1 incl.pstge. Members: Free



## NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 1993

### PHENOMENON RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (Group Leader: Omar Fowler)

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#### AN ACTIVE YEAR AHEAD?

The number of incidents reported since our last issue in December has been quite amazing. Although several of the events are in an early stage of investigation, this issue includes a few of the more prominent reports.

We have also received details from Antony Harding (West Midlands CCCS), of an unusual Crop Circle/Pictogram that took place at Lapworth, Warcs. last year.

We have also heard from Malcolm Robinson of "Strange Phenomena Investigations" in Clackmannanshire, Scotland. He has told us that at present he is currently "up to his eyes" in UFO reports, including a number of "flying triangles". Malcom has promised to send us full details when he has had the opportunity to assess the reports. You may recollect that the December issue of "OVNI" carried newspaper reports of high speed objects sighted off the Shetland Isles (more than that to worry about now!)

#### ----- STRANGE LIGHTS AT ALPORT HEIGHTS

(We thank Jeremy Skertchly of Derby, for permission to print details of his strange experience given below).

The night of December 18th (1992), promised to be clear and bright. Jeremy Skertchly decided to take his telescope up to Alport Heights, at 1032' it is one of the highest hills in Derbyshire. Jeremy often visits this spot as he is keenly interested in astronomy. Apart from a few C.B. operators, there is usually little chance of being disturbed.

Jeremy had started off in his old pick-up truck, complete with telescope at about 1125pm, he was looking forward to a good nights star watching. It took him about half an hour to complete his journey and it was about 1155pm as he approached the bottom of the hill.

He was about to turn up the winding road to the top of the hill, when the whole area around him was suddenly illuminated brightly. "The light was probably brighter than daylight", he commented later. "The light had a 'cool' bright quality to it and I was able to see all of the inside of my truck, the road, walls, stones, poles, grass etc., all around me".

Jeremy continued: "I could have threaded a needle as I sat in the truck, such was the illumination". "It is difficult to describe it adequately, it was like a bright summer's day".

Then, in the time that it took Jeremy to slow down and stop, the light was gone, the incident had lasted possibly no more than five seconds!

Jeremy got out of the truck and looked around, there was no noise, no sign of an aircraft and no evidence of the cause whatsoever! The sky appeared to be clear and the only noise was that of a dog barking in the distance. (animal disturbance?)

Jeremy had what he called " a lonesome road" feeling and he quickly got back into his truck and continued his journey to the top of the hill.

Within a few minutes he had driven into the car park at the top of the hill, just below the radio masts. He sat in his truck, for several minutes. He lowered the windows and sat there with the engine off, peering around. Normally he would have jumped out immediately and started setting up his telescope, ready to spend an hour or so peering into the night sky, but the 'light' incident had made him feel uneasy.

His truck was in a position that enabled him to look out away from the hill and the radio masts, in the distance he could see the lights of a nearby town.

The sky was perfectly clear and he was able to observe a faint passing satellite, moving through the stars. Jupiter was clearly visible, there was no moon and through the silence of the night he could hear a heavy vehicle pulling its way up a distant hill.

Jeremy could not shake off that strange "lonesome road" feeling and he decided to give up any idea of night observation with his telescope and to return home. He started up the engine of his truck, swung the vehicle around to leave the car park, when suddenly the 'light' came on again!

The sudden brightness shocked him into banging on the brakes and stalling the engine! He laid down across the seat, trying to get an upwards view, but there was no light source visible!

The second bright light incident was exactly the same as the first in duration and its intensity. Again there was no sound at all and this time the engine was off. There was no evidence of any planes, craft or anything else.

Carefully, Jeremy pushed open the truck door, then suddenly the light was gone, once again there was a dog barking in the distance....

Jeremy has commented that the light was exactly the same as before, it was though everything was bathed in bright sunlight. He was easily able to see, the inside of the truck, the gravel surface of the car park, the grass alongside, the radio masts, and the standing stones (as he calls them), in fact everything in that illuminated area of approx. 50 metres diameter could be clearly seen. He is unsure whether he was in the centre of the illuminated area.

Sitting inside of the "cone of light", Jeremy described the feeling as like "looking out of a brightly lit room into the dark outside".

Once the light had gone out, Jeremy decided not to stay any longer, but to press on home quickly. He had no intention of ever returning to Alport Heights alone again!

When he arrived home, Jeremy (very sensibly) decided to sit down and write an account of his experience while the details were still fresh in his mind. A thought crossed his mind, he wondered whether he had "lost time" during the incident and he checked his watch.....it had stopped at 1154pm, the precise time of the strange event! His watch, which is normally very reliable and a mechanical automatic type, had only ever stopped once before and that was in the middle of a Corn Circle!

Jeremy has since tried to "rationalise" the course of events, he has considered fireworks, flares, military and civilian aircraft, but can find no explanation. He currently believes that the "light cone" may have been the result of a little understood atmospheric electrical effect.\* (A cone of light was seen over Wiltshire during the summer of 1991, at the height of the "circle season").

\* Professor Y.H.Ohtsuki, of Waseda University, Tokyo, told us in a letter (19/11/91) that he had found a circle in a field adjacent to a fenced radio station and that this indicated the validity of his "plasma model".

Since the incident, Jeremy has been experiencing "flying" dreams, something that has never happened to him before. Readers of OVNI may recollect that Jeremy Skertchly was involved in a "bright light incident" in October 1991, when the coach he was travelling in (as a driving instructor), was followed by a bright light source in a lonely country area.

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#### MANSFIELD CONFERENCE

Les Trueman, the Chairman of the Mansfield UFO Group has informed us that the group will hold a UFO Conference and mini-exhibition at 11.30am on 29th May in Mansfield. Details of the programme, speakers and prices etc. will be given in our next issue.



## UFO ACTIVITY ON 12th JANUARY 93

We have received two reports of UFO activity on the night of the 12th January. Both incidents are currently being investigated and more information will be given at a later date, however the details of both sightings, in time of event order, are given as follows:-

The first sighting was at ten minutes past midnight, when a Mrs Valerie Scott, of West Bridgeford in Nottinghamshire looked out of her kitchen window, curious to find out why her garden had become suddenly "floodlit".

Mrs Scott commented "I thought my next door neighbour had switched on her security light which illuminates her back garden", but it was not the case. Instead of seeing a floodlight, Mrs Scott saw a large white circular light hovering stationary in the sky. The witness is familiar with aircraft and was quite certain that the object was not a conventional aircraft.

After a short time, the circular glowing object tilted slightly until it appeared to be elliptical, then quite silently, it flew off, while at the same time appearing to be moving downwards.

It is understood that two policemen from the nearby Meadows Police Station also saw an unidentified object the same night.

At 6.05pm on the 12th of January, Mrs Anne Vardy of Ripley, was sitting indoors, with her curtains open, when a flickering light attracted her attention through the window.

She saw a grey coloured, round shaped object hovering in the sky in the direction of Denby village. "It appeared to be observing" stated Mrs Vardy "and then it moved backwards and forwards and then it shot off".

It is also reported that two police officers in the Kilburn area saw the object.

## — — — — — LAPORTH IN THE NEWS

Attention was first drawn to the Lapworth (Warcs.) area in 1991, when a 30' diameter circle appeared in a field of wheat adjacent to Bushwood Lane. The Solihul Times carried a report on the Crop Circle, complete with photograph.

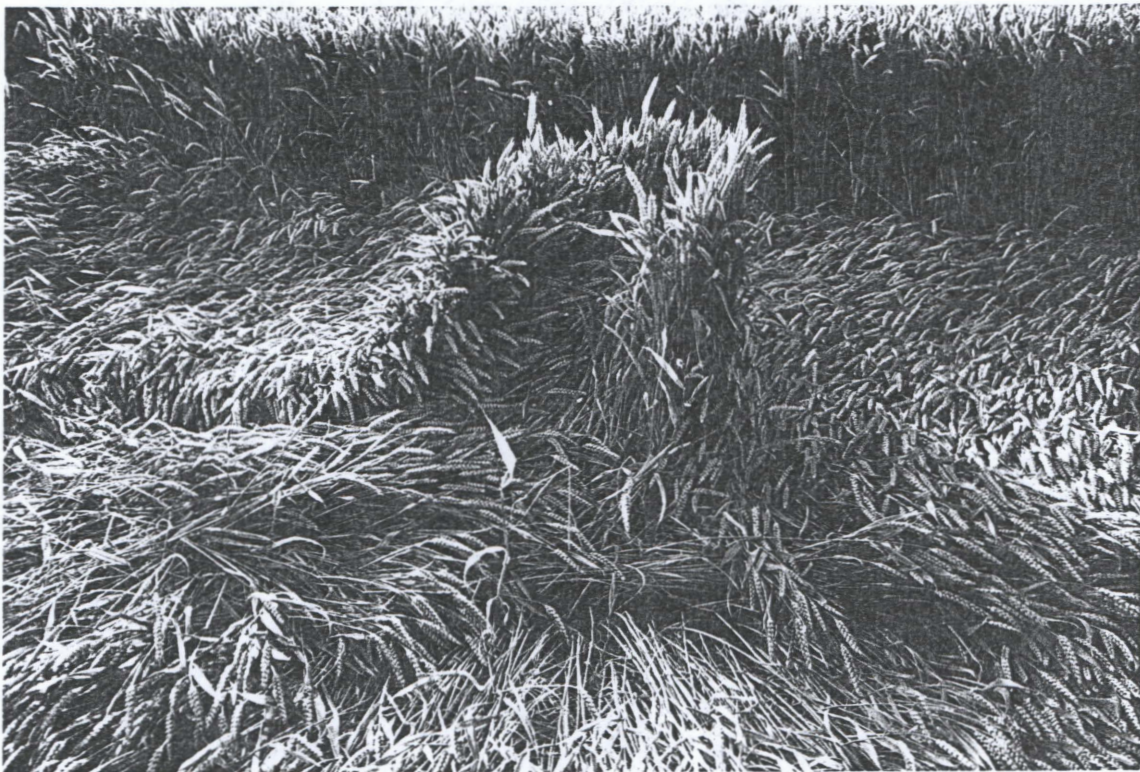
Unlike parts of Wiltshire, this unusual occurrence had previously never been seen in this area. Richard Laithwaite, who farms the field commented that "We've never seen anything like this in our part of the world before".



Photo's: Antony Harding

CCCS West Midlands

THE LAPWORTH (Warcs.) CROP EVENT: July 92]



The Wheat "Chair"



Strange Shapes in the Western formation







The Solihul Times quoted Beth Garevitch, Mother Witch who heads the 9,000 strong First Church of Witch craft as saying "It's mother nature performing her magic"....

The 1992 crop formation appeared in a field of wheat, in a series of rectangular shapes running along the side of the field and approx. 30 metres away from the edge.

Antony Harding commented that the crop had been moved in a flowing action, similar to a moving stream and in his opinion, the event had not been the result of wing damage. There were several unusual incidents, including a standing wheat "chair", where the flattened crop had gone around it to face in the opposite direction and three mini circles of flattened grass, found several metres away from the main formation. The mini-circles were estimated at being 40/50cm in diameter.

Antony Harding has supplied a selection of photographs of the event, two of which have been reproduced in this months OVNI. The remainder will be on view at the next meeting (27th January). The other photographs show unusual flow characteristics and also right angled corners in the rectangular crop formations.

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ANOTHER GIANT FLYING TRIANGLE (1985)

Investigator: Alan Hitchcock

Although this 1985 incident has only just come to light, the story has lost none of its impact and we thank Mr David Bilton of Derby for giving us permission to disclose the details. By all accounts, the object was of gigantic proportions.

The incident took place over Derby at 10.30pm during a night in November 1985. Mr Bilton relates what happened:-

"I was driving along Warwick Avenue with Mr Brough and I could see a dark object approaching. The car radio started to suffer some interference. We stopped the car and we got out".

"The object looked black and was silhouetted against a less darker sky. It had three dull, red, steady lights set slightly in from the edges. It passed over at about 200ft high, with no sound".

"I estimated it to be about 600ft long. At one stage it bridged (extended) from the park, over the dual carriageway and over the houses ".(see sketch)

"I have no idea of the depth of it, as it passed directly overhead. The air seemed 'heavy' or 'charged' as it passed over. It appeared to be one solid object".



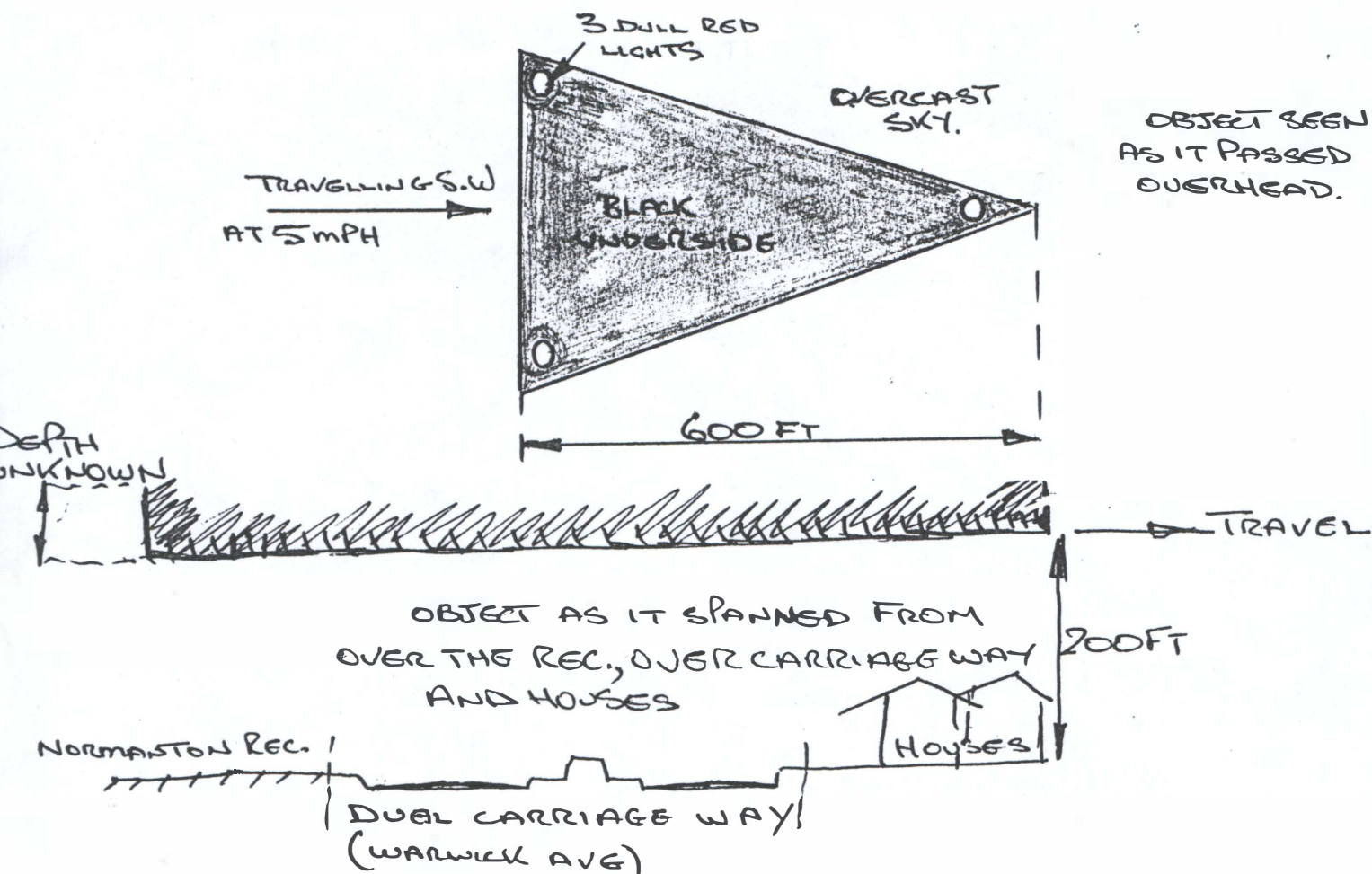
Alan Hitchcock interviewed Mr Bilton on the 8th of December 1992. In the investigation form notes, Mr Bilton states:

- (1) He observed the object for about one minute
- (2) The size of the craft, as viewed from his position, extended from fingertip to fingertip with the both arms outstretched.
- (3) It was travelling S.W. at a very slow speed, of about 5mph.
- (4) It made no sound as it passed overhead and the atmosphere felt "heavy".
- (5) The shape of the craft was triangular and the outline was clearly defined.
- (6) The object flew out of sight into the overcast, dark sky.

Alan Hitchcock has pointed out that this craft appears to be similar in size to the object seen and photographed by Garry Stapleton on 11th November 1992 near Breadsall, Derbys.

According to a number of sources, this type of triangular craft belongs to the "Grays". A craft of this type is rumoured to have crashed 40 miles outside Colorado Springs USA sometime in 1991.

Mr Bilton's sketch is reproduced below:-





## TALE ENDERS

ARTHUR TOMLINSON has recently been in touch with us and told of a new book to be released in February; "UFO's The Final Answer". Published by Blanford Press and retailing at £11.95, it has contributions from nine authors, including Arthur Tomlinson. It apparently covers the UFO story from pre-history to the present day and should be well worth reading.

Arthur meanwhile is still busy on his lecture circuit and will be addressing the Royal Aeronautical Society in Germany on March 10th. He has also informed us that a huge object was sighted over Amsterdam on Thursday 31st of December!

We will look forward to seeing Arthur again this year, after the great success of his last illustrated talk.

We understand that COLIN ANDREWS is currently visiting the U.K. at present and is discussing tactics for the coming Crop Circle year with BUSTY TAYLOR.

We have received our first technical Fax from ARMEN VICTORIAN who has sent a nine page document "TOWARDS A PHYSICAL INTERPRETATION OF THE CORN CIRCLE PHENOMENON". This discusses the report of Dr. Jean-Jacques Velasco, which investigates the possible involvement of an infrared laser beam or a microwave beam in the forming of Crop Circle pictograms.

This publication is available to members of the PRA on request.

## NEXT MEETING

Will take place at the Stanley Club, Stanley Common,  
Ilkeston (take the A609) at 8pm on Weds. 27th January.

There will be a Audio/Video presentation of the Linda Jones abduction case. Linda who lives in Manchester has given an exclusive interview to the PRA and has disclosed personal incidents involved in her abduction.

Linda recently appeared on the Central TV programme "The Time & Place" and also on "Central Week-End", which featured a UFO discussion both for and against....

We also expect to have Jeremy Skertchly present who will no doubt be willing to answer any questions about his recent "light cone" incident.

During the evening there will be a SALE of UFO Books and Magazines, past and present.

Non-members are welcome (admission £1.00)