

INCIDENT IN WEST SURREY

Omar Fowler

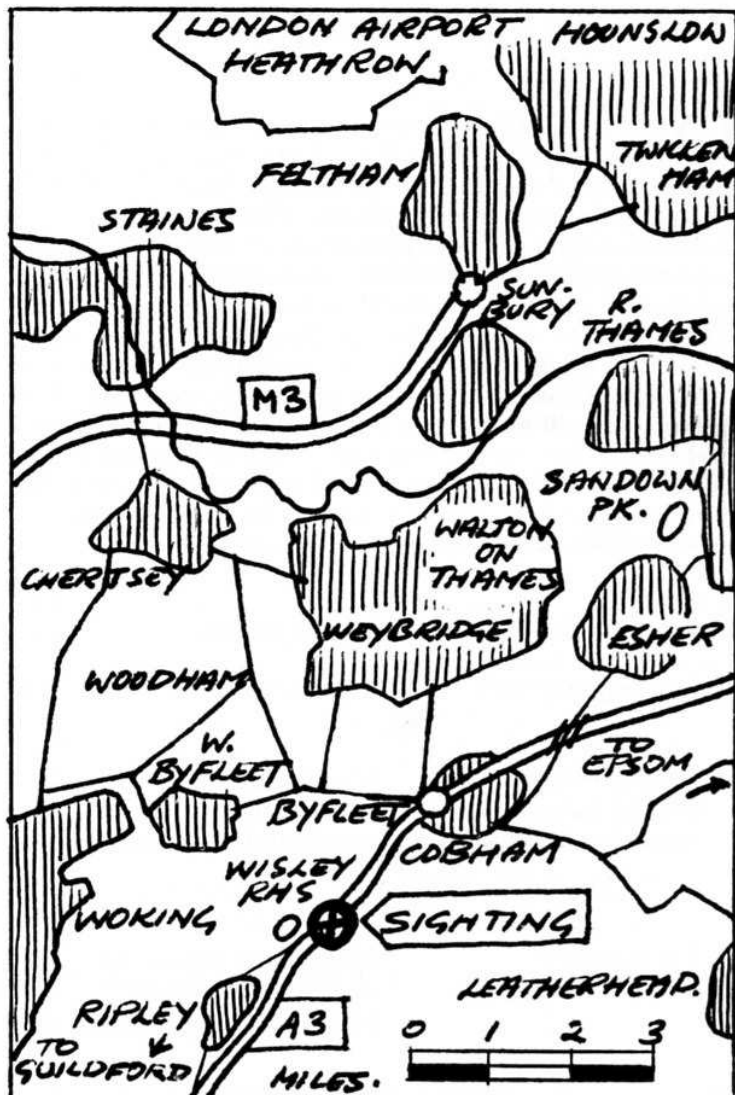
The witnesses of this incident reported it to a Surrey Police station, where it was suggested they should get in touch by 'phone with *Flying Saucer Review*. This they did, and the Editor asked Mr. Fowler if he would be so good as to investigate the case for us. A copy of the report has been sent to UFOIN.

CIVIL SERVANT Mr. G. J. Moore and electrical fitter Mr. A. Johnstone experienced the following encounter at 0030 hours on September 17, 1980.

The witnesses were travelling by car on their way home to Portsmouth, and were driving on the A3 motorway standard road south of Cobham, near Wisley RHS Gardens. The weather conditions were clear and a few stars were visible. As they drove over the brow of a hill, they immediately noticed a brilliant light in the sky ahead of them and at a low elevation (approx 15°). The light was described as magnesium coloured and as being "incredibly bright", with "spikes" of light emitted by the object.

As the car approached closer to the light, it became obvious that the light source was not one light, but two close together. Mr. Moore described the brilliance as "not a soft glow, but spikey." At this stage Mr. Moore pulled over to a lay-by, stopped the car and turned the engine off. He then jumped out of the car and ran along the "hard shoulder." At this point it was possible to make out other lights associated with the object; there was a red light on one side and green on the other, similar to an aircraft's light pattern.

At first it appeared to be stationary, but then it moved across in front of the witnesses (Mr. Johnstone had now joined Mr. Moore), it did not go up or down, but was travelling on a level plane. It then passed over the witnesses, moving at a very slow speed and at a height of only a few hundred feet. Mr. Johnstone stated that he had always been sceptical about such things as UFOs and had been sitting in the car up to the point where the object had started to move towards them. To that moment he thought it may have been aeroplane. However, as it approached, there was no sound and as it passed

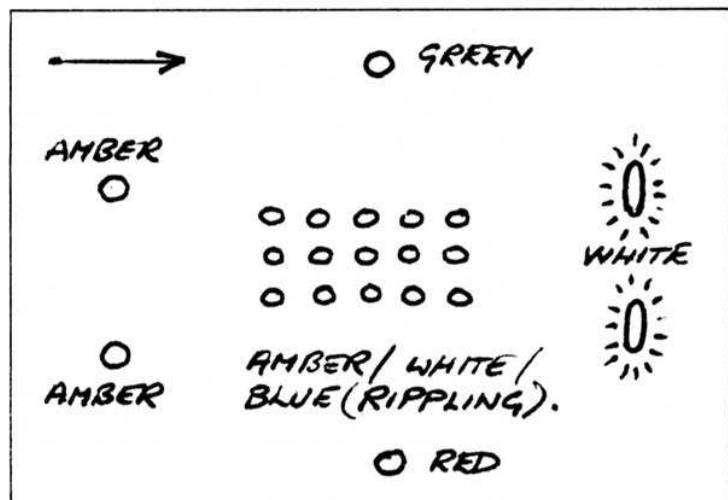


Parts of West Surrey and Middlesex.

overhead, it was very large. Commented Mr. Johnstone: "It was absolutely massive. You could almost feel the weight behind it, like watching a large liner moving slowly. . . you have that feeling of immense power. I reckon it was at least 200ft long, judging the distance between the lights."

The object had no "glow" about it, but it was possible to judge the shape by the light pattern (two white "headlamps" in front, red and green lights on either side, two amber lights on the tail section and a "rippling" series of amber, white and blue lights under the centre section).

The main impression made on the two witnesses was of the immense size of the object as it passed overhead. They did not feel any effects at the time, such as hair standing



The lights, as viewed from underneath, by Mr. Moore.

on end, etc., which may have indicated a source of electro-power. Their car started immediately after the incident, without any problem, and there was no sign of any interference with any car instruments or their watches (they checked).

It was not possible to make out the shape of the object, it could only be judged by following the outline of the surrounding lights. The object was finally lost from sight as it passed over a nearby hill. Witnesses subsequently reported the incident to Epsom Police Station.

UFO ODOURS AND ORIGINS

*Thomas M. Olsen, M.S. **

ODOURS are usually not experienced in UFO sightings since the object must be nearby and the witness must be within the downwind dispersion plume. Even in close encounters with disc UFOs, only about one out of four cases includes perception of odours. Witnesses generally report an unfamiliar, nauseating, pervasive and oppressive smell, pungently irritating to the mucosal tissues of eyes, nose and throat. Depending on the magnitude of integrated exposure, immediate effects may include dizziness, upset stomach and vomiting. The odour may still be noticeable hours later, from the lungs and on the skin, which may peel. Severe exposures may be followed by temporary loss of appetite and low blood lymphocyte count, and may necessitate hospitalization.¹

In a representative selection of 52 close encounters with disc UFOs, comprising 16 with odour which are noted explicitly in this discussion, and 36 others without odour,² there is no significant statistical correlation between occurrence of odours and most other common features, including hum, whistle, roar, whoosh or throbbing sounds; smoke, haze or mist; coloured glow, electromagnetic effects, or sighting duration. Duration is evidently statistically insignificant as witnesses in several brief encounters noted immediate visibility of copious vapour emissions, to which they attributed the reported

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Specific Description	Interpretation	Chemical Formula	Remarks
Burning sulphur ⁵	Sulphur dioxide	SO ₂	Ozone is more likely but unfamiliar to many witnesses.
Pepper in the air, ⁶ burned out electrical motor ⁷ or transformer ⁸	Ozone; (one witness also suggested hot bakelite)	O ₃	Expected in vicinity of electrical discharges and ionized air. Besides irritating the upper respiratory tract, produces headaches, ¹⁶ usually not experienced by witnesses.
Fat burning ⁹	Fatty acids appear in vapour or among combustion products	E.g., formic acid, HCOOH	Formic acid produced in low-temperature oxidation of formaldehyde by moderately vigorous oxidizing agents.
Embalming fluid ¹⁰	Formaldehyde	HCHO	Colourless, water-soluble, highly poisonous, irritating gas. Occurs in low-temperature oxidation of methyl alcohol by moderately active oxidizing agents.
Hot bakelite ⁷	Formaldehyde and phenol	C ₆ H ₅ OH (phenol)	Phenol (carbolic acid) is a pungent, solid derivative of benzene, producing skin burns.
Nitrobenzene ¹¹	Nitrobenzene	C ₆ H ₅ NO ₂	Oily, yellowish liquid, poisonous, with strong, slightly sweetish odour like oil of bitter almonds. Made from oxidation of benzene by nitric acid (nitrite ion; NO ₂ ⁻).

Table 1: Odour Descriptions and Interpretations