

SHAPE-CHANGING UFO AT LAINDON

Andrew Collins

Another report made during the British wave of 1976/77, and investigated by Mr. Collins, an independent researcher in S.E. England, for UFOIN. Submitted in June 1977, the report has been held over due to pressure of events.

NOTIFICATION of this sighting came at 14.00 hrs. on May 23, 1977, from P.C. Smith of Basildon Police, after he had received a telephone call from a Mr. Jackson of 108 Brendon, Lee Chapel North, Laindon, Essex, who reported that the boy next door, a Stephen Sambrook, had been badly frightened by an object the previous evening. The Police had logged the sighting with basic details but did not take any further action, other than to contact myself.

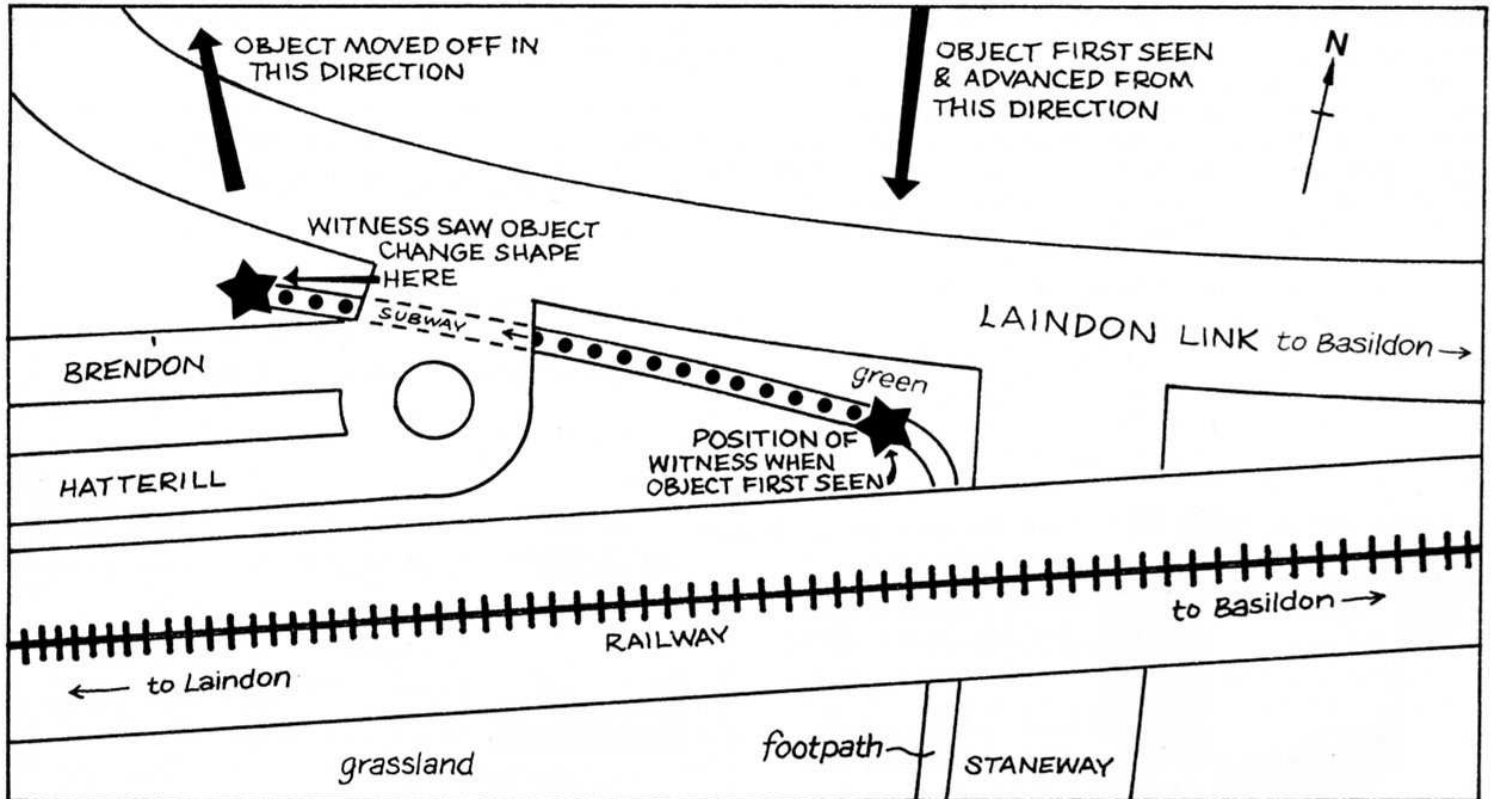
Account

The witness had been to see his girl friend at Westley Heights, and was on his way home walking along the Staneway Road. He carried on down almost to the end of Staneway until it had almost ended, and then cut across the small green by the footpath that eventually goes under Laindon Link road as a subway. The time was about 22.20 BST. Just then he caught sight of a large yellow sphere in the sky towards the north. It was moving to the right, and appeared to have a faint aura, also yellow in colour, surrounding its periphery. It moved slowly

and did not pulsate or make any noise, but suddenly it stopped, and appeared to remain stationary for a few seconds. Then it started to move upwards, slowly at first, then very fast, until it again stopped in a clear part of the sky.

The frightening experience came next, for the object shot straight towards the witness, and it was at this point that he lost sight of it as he passed through the 100 ft. subway. On reaching the other end of the subway he saw the object was within 200 ft. of him, and he could see that it was in fact spinning on its vertical axis. Suddenly a noise like "the air brakes of a lorry" was heard all around, and the object discontinued [sic] like "a light bulb being switched off." The noise lasted for about four seconds and after a few more seconds the object re-appeared a little to the left of where it had discontinued.

This time it appeared as a vertical cigar shape with a large deep red pulsating light at the top. The cigar was dark in colour, but when the red light was on, a silvery grey colour could be seen in its central area,



Position of witness during incident of May 22, 1977

and also at its centre two black outlines like windows could be seen. It appeared slightly smaller than the sphere. The cigar was moving to the left and away from the witness and after a minute or so, was lost from sight over a wooded area in the north-west. After it had disappeared the witness walked the rest of the journey to his home, which took about four minutes.

After effects on witness

Mrs. Sambrook, his mother, recalls that her son arrived home about 22.30 and had gone straight up into her bedroom and asked: "Do you believe in UFOs?" With this, his parents got out of bed to see what was wrong. They could see that he was physically shocked and frightened and, not completely in control of himself, kept mumbling "It changed, it changed." His mother then took him downstairs, made him coffee and also telephoned the doctor, who gave permission for her to give him Prothiaden P-25 sedative tablets that a neighbour had been prescribed some time ago. The doctor saw Stephen the following morning, and found nothing wrong with him, although he prescribed him further tablets of the same kind, and told him not to go to school for a week. The witness had not been drinking before the encounter.

Notes

Southend Airport received no unusual reports for that night, and stated that no aircraft were in the vicinity at the time of the sighting.

The weather conditions at 22.00 BST on May 22 were as follows:—

The wind was 030° at 11 knots, visibility was 25 km.

Air temperature was 13.9C and there was 2/8 cloud at 25,000 ft.

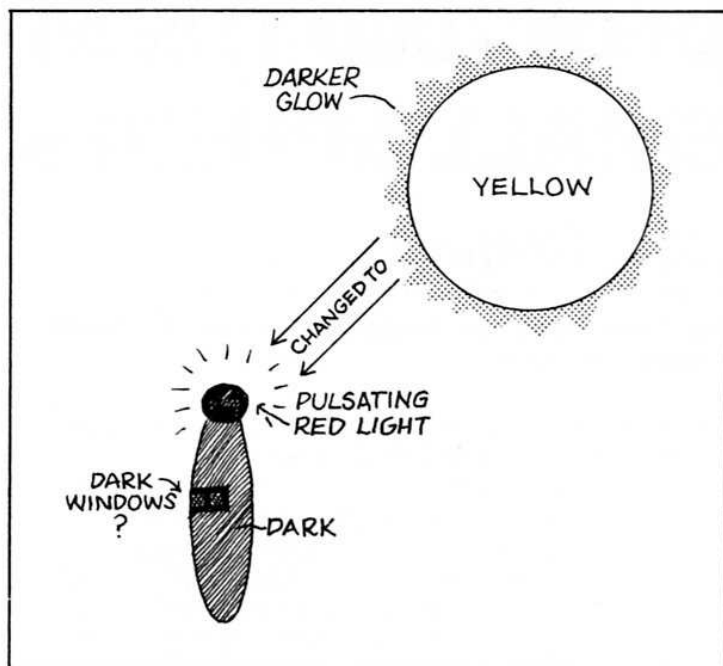
Further sightings

Since the initial incident Stephen has seen odd things on four separate occasions, the first of these at 22.05 on May 24. He was again walking along the Staneway, when he glanced up and noticed, high up, a yellow "Sphere" moving along. It was in view for only a few seconds before being lost over the horizon to the North West.

After this sighting, Stephen and a friend named Kevin Clark, aged 15, of Laindon decided that they would "Skywatch" during the evenings from then on, at a suitable vantage point called Mud Hill in Lee Chapel South, and during the evenings of the 26th and 27th of May they saw a total of 11 different unexplainable objects cross the sky.

The first of these was on the 26th at 22.25 when they saw a yellow oval light shoot across the sky from North East to North West. It was in view for only 4-5 seconds. A similar object was seen at 22.38 moving in the opposite direction, this time travelling at a slow pace. Similar objects were also seen at 22.47, 22.48, 22.50 hrs.

At 22.56 a dark object was seen in the south-west, and on looking at it through binoculars, an oval shape could be discerned in the centre of which there appeared to be a black spot. It was stationary when



Sambrook sighting at Laindon: the shape change

first seen, but after a few seconds began to move away to the left, and appeared to change into what looked like a cigar case attached behind a large spherical pulsating red light. The object was lost from view in the south, and concluded the sightings for that night.

The following night of May 27, five objects or lights were seen between 21.47 and 22.34, all were described as "Yellow spheres" (although it is thought LITS* would have been more appropriate) except for the last one, which was described as a red flashing light changing to green. No more sightings occurred until 22.15 on Tuesday June 7, when a yellow LITS was seen. Stephen was again on his way home from his girl friend's house, and was again walking along the Staneway, when he noticed the light moving vertically upwards. It passed behind a cloud base and disappeared after about 30 seconds.

No other sightings have occurred to date.

Conclusions

I found Stephen a very open and sincere boy who could well be described as "One of the lads." I would not have thought he would have been easily frightened. I gather he has had one or two psychic experiences, and has had a few premonitions which have come true, although these were some years ago.

I am prepared to believe that on May 22, Stephen was subject to a very frightening experience involving an unidentified object. This is due to three reasons. First there was a sighting of a very similar object to the one seen by the boy, at Barking (which is 20 miles away) only four minutes before this incident. Secondly, the statement from his mother of the state the witness arrived home in, and thirdly the strangeness of the incident.

* LITS: Lights in the sky.