

# LANDING AT HAINAULT SEEN BY POLICE

*Barry M. King*

Our contributor, of the UFO Investigators' Network (UFOIN), has prepared this exclusive report for *Flying Saucer Review*.

**HAINAULT FOREST**, similar to Epping Forest, but on a smaller scale, is the setting for this report. Both areas are ideal for possible "secretive" UFO activity, but once in a while someone somewhere manages to catch a glimpse of the activity. We are lucky that in this instance not one, but three people, saw something strange and reported it, two of these witnesses in particular being intelligent and competent observers, for they are both police officers.

At approximately 3.55 a.m. on Tuesday May 3, 1977, an emergency 999 telephone call was made by Mr. Samuels who claimed to have seen something strange over Hainault forest, near the Lake. He was at a public call box close by the public house which overlooks the forest. It is not known why this person was up and about at this time in the morning, but as luck would have it he had the sense to report what he had seen at once. The call was directed from Scotland Yard (MP) to Barkingside to deal with, and the police unit despatched to the scene consisted of PC 369J and a colleague who wishes to remain anonymous. In view of this it was decided on the request of PC 369J to obtain all relevant data directly from him. Similarly PC 369J, although freely giving all the details of the case, refused to let us know his name and address. A minor disappointment but, having made good contact with his station, it was felt unwise to push the matter any further.

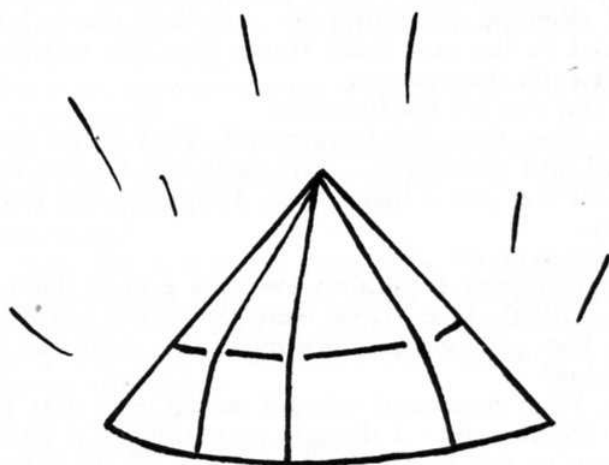
Back on the scene, PC 369J had radioed the station that he could deal with the report, and headed off towards the "forest" which, as will be seen in the sketch, is in reality a recreation area, with woodland interspersed here and there. Being such, it is in effect a park in a built-up area beyond the fringe of London's East End, and is mostly fenced in, with gates which are locked at certain prescribed times. When the constables arrived there they decided to look in the grounds first before speaking to the informant, Mr. Samuels. So, at about 4.12 a.m. they unlocked the gate, for which the police have copy keys. They then proceeded up the small road leading into the grounds. They had only gone a short distance when they noticed to their left a large bright red light, to the eastern side of the lake. They stopped the car, switched off the engine, got out and stood watching the object.

PC 369J estimated the distance between them and the object as being about 300 yds. It was at ground level, and partially obscured by small trees near the bottom of the object. It was red in colour and its shape was likened to that of a bell tent, the apparent size of which was that of a thumbnail at arm's length.

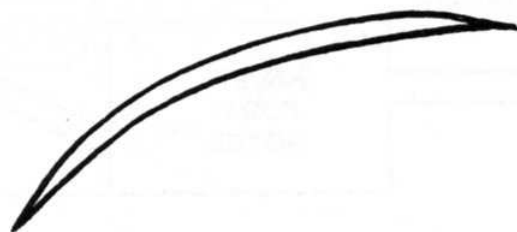
During the two or three minutes the officers had the object in view it continuously "pulsated", the effect being that the brightness changed from a dull to a very bright red, not unlike car rear lights with the brake light going on and off, as seen at night. All the time the object seemed to hover silently.

Suddenly the object seemed to "dissolve on the spot." At least the observers could not see it anymore, and they decided, reluctantly, to go and investigate, for they were already a trifle apprehensive.

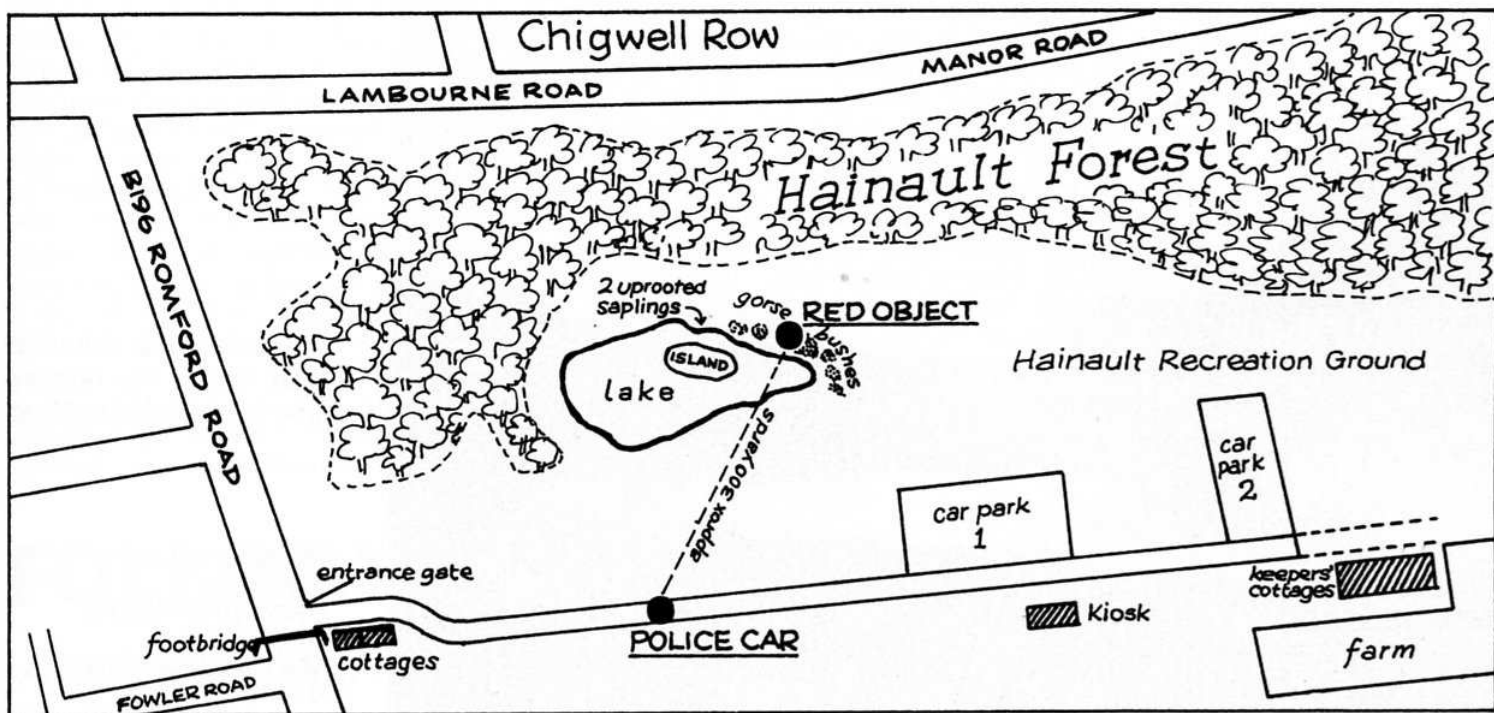
The officers split up to search the area and it was during this time that PC 369J's colleague looked above him, on instinct, and observed for a few seconds only a large white-coloured inverted crescent shaped object, directly above him. The officer was dumbfounded, and was only able to call out to PC 369J when this UFO also "dissolved" on the spot. The officers found nothing at all at the location, but did notice a rather strong, small area, smell of burning,



Red object observed by both officers



White object observed by officer from Chadwell Heath



which was confined to the Eastern side of the lake. They could find no cause for the smell.

They then made their way back to the car and PC 369J radioed in his report. They had temporarily forgotten about Mr. Samuels, and immediately set off to find him. They drove to the call box specified by him but he was nowhere to be found. It is assumed he either got scared and put distance between himself and the park, or more likely, he simply got fed up with waiting for the police; it was over 25 minutes from the time of his phone call to the time when the officers eventually arrived. All our attempts to locate this Mr. Samuels have proved hopeless, even the police have just his name, call box number and brief details of what he claimed to have seen.

After dropping his colleague off, PC 369J went back to his own station, Barkingside, to complete his report; he was also to finish his shift. It was some time before he was reminded of our direct UFO reporting "Essex Hotline" telephone number, and he made the call to my home at 6.30 a.m. and asked me to be at the station at 11.00 p.m. that night to see him, when he would be on duty again.

I called at the station at just before 11.00 p.m., but had to wait as the officer had been called out. At 11.20 p.m. one of the other officers stated that he would radio him and get him back to the station for the interview. PC 369J arrived at about 11.35 p.m. and the interview lasted until almost 12.15 a.m., at which time he was called out on business again.

I would have liked to have tape recorded the interview, but the officer and one of the station senior officers stated this could not be done. Anyway, we have the report, and that is what matters. Next day, Wednesday May 4, I drove over to Hainault during the afternoon to check the site, and spent about two hours doing this. A thorough check revealed that one large bush had sustained recent damage at the location specified by PC 369J. This was flattened in

the centre, and damaged in several places, and had been burnt slightly here and there. One part in particular was broken almost in half at a height of about 5ft, and it was a clean fresh break. Without disturbing anything I took between 35-40 photographs in all, including to and from the place where the two officers stood observing the object.

Going straight home, I telephoned Andy Collins, asking him to bring out the checking equipment, and to go over the site, and I made arrangements to pick him up at Wickford and drive back to Hainault that evening.

We went over the area very thoroughly with the equipment, and spent some time there in the pouring rain gathering samples and obtaining a few more photographs. Before we left the grounds we spoke to the head keeper, a Mr. Baker, who lives in one of the keepers' cottages near the farm, but he was unable to assist us as he knew nothing of the sighting, nor did any of the other keepers. We also spoke to a man who lives in one of the two cottages situated near the main road, at the edge of the grounds, near the entrance. He too was unable to help as he is a heavy sleeper and certainly would not have heard or seen anything at that time in the morning. The cottage next door to his belongs to the dog handler, but he had seen nothing either. The grounds are patrolled by this man and his guard dog between 8.30 p.m., the time of closing, and midnight.

Andy Collins made the various standard procedure checks but came up with negative results. See separate report by Andy on the physical traces aspect, investigated by us on Wednesday evening, the 4th, and again on Sunday morning, the 8th May.

The "Essex Hotline" direct UFO reporting telephone number is widely circulated in our region to police, newspapers, airports, airfields, and so on, and is a 24 hour, 7 day a week reporting system.



**Hainault: the lake, as seen from the landing site, camera facing West**

*\*Photographs by courtesy of –*  
**DRPG UFO PHOTO ARCHIVES**  
 550 Goresbrook Road,  
 Dagenham, Essex  
 RM9 4XD England  
 Phone: 01-593 4670

### **An odd sequel to the police sighting**

On the evening of Sunday, May 8, at about 7.00 p.m. my younger brother Steven was driving home from Stapleford Airfield, near Abridge, and was travelling down the B196 road which runs alongside Hainault forest. He had just passed the entrance when a car emerged through the gates and turned in behind him. It was a blue and white Austin A60 *Cambridge*, with two men in it. Suddenly the driver of the *Cambridge* began to flash his headlights as though indicating my brother to stop, and this he did at the foot of Hog Hill. The two men got out, walked

over to Steve, and explained that they had seen the DRPG Sticker\* on the windscreen (both our vehicles are marked thus) and having some knowledge of our interest, wanted to tell him of an experience they had had shortly before.

The two men, neatly dressed, were described by Steve as being about 35 – 40 and 55 – 60 respectively. They told him briefly what had happened.

It seemed they had parked their car over the other side of the forest, near the public house, about a half mile from the lake, near the area known as the "Swamps" and very near Taylor's plain and Cabin Hill. This place is marshy, and is densely wooded. It is



**Gorse bush with damaged branch at the site. With camera facing South the view from the site is towards line of trees behind which runs the road from which the police officers observed the red UFO**



usually dark in among the trees, which tend to obscure the sky. The two men were walking their dog. Suddenly they heard a rustling which seemed to be caused by something quite close to them, and for a few seconds they observed a large figure loom into sight, just as quickly to disappear among the jumble of bushes and shrubs. This figure was dark blue, and was *brighter than its surroundings*. It resembled a large person in outline, but no arms or legs were discernible. According to the claimants it was about 8 ft. tall and 4 ft. wide, and it crossed their path at 90° to the direction they were taking, and at a distance of about 25 feet. Apart from the rustling noise the figure passed silently. It is not known whether any lower extremities touched the ground. Nothing was said about the possible behaviour of the

dog. It was raining at the time, so the interior of the woods would have been darker than normally was the case, and the witnesses were adamant the figure stood out boldly against its background. There was no mention of any aerial object.

Arrangements were made for me to join my brother at Hainault, and to meet the men. I carried a recorder and photographic equipment. They never showed up, which is unsatisfactory, and leaves this unsolicited report to be taken only at face value. However, before dismissing it as completely unreliable, it is important to remember that the men who reported this anthropomorphic phenomenon, this humanoid, had no knowledge of the incident reported by the police officers, as we were the only people who knew about it.

## FOLLOW-UP AT HAINAULT

*Andrew Collins*

**Our contributor conducted this investigation of the site on behalf of UFO Investigators Network (UFOIN)**

THE damaged bush is a variety of gorse and is situated to the rear of the large lake in Hainault Recreation Ground. It is about thirty metres away from the lake's edge and is surrounded by similar bushes. Two copses are also nearby, the first roughly thirty metres away from the bush on the far side from the lake, and the second on the other side of the lake and approximately 100 metres away. Hainault Forest is on the north side of the recreation ground and at its nearest point is approximately 300 metres from the site.

### The physical traces

The damage to the bush is quite extensive and can best be described as looking as though a large and heavy weight had been placed in its central area, the result being that all branches over a height of 1.5 metres have been broken or bent in a circular pattern outwards. Spreading out 25 metres one way and 20 metres the other. The central upright branch has been snapped off, and was only attached to the main stump by a few strands. The diameter of the central branch was over 3 centimetres, and it would have taken some considerable force to break it. The height of the bush had been reduced from approximately 3 to 1.5 metres by the damage.

There was no real evidence that the bush had been burnt or scorched in any way, although some inner branches did appear darker than the rest, but it is thought that this was caused by collecting dust and dirt. A few branches did show evidence of bark being removed, although the bark came away from the branches easily, and it is not known whether that had anything to do with the other damage. It must also be noted that one branch of the bush stood undamaged at a height of approximately 2.5 metres.

Samples of the bush were taken on Wednesday,

May 4, at 7.00 p.m. but, due to very bad weather, controls were not taken until 11.00 a.m. on Sunday May 8, as also were the soil samples.

The control samples were taken from a similar gorse bush approximately 37 metres from the site. A wide variety of pieces were taken from the damaged bush, including the snapped-off central branch, live and dead branches, samples of bark twigs, and dead organic matter from around the roots. Soil was taken from ground level, and approximately 40 centimetres down. The analysis of the soil samples is at present being carried out, and the results of which will be published as soon as they are made available.

The immediate area around the bush was checked for any radiation traces with a standard Ex.MOD Meter Contamination No. 1 (5scg0012) Geiger counter at 6.30 p.m. on May 4 in the pouring rain, but a negative result was obtained. The area was also tested for any deviation in the magnetic field. This was done with a compass, and again the results were negative. The general area around the site was checked for any physical abnormalities, and it was noticed that two saplings planted on a large mud bank on the lake's edge, had been uprooted and were lying in the direction of the lake. These were about 50 metres from the site towards the north-west. There was a third sapling on the same mud bank, but this stood about eight metres away from the others, completely unscathed. One other abnormality was that on the same mud bank, near a large puddle, two bore-like holes protruded into the ground. These were approximately 10-15 cm. apart, 4 cm. diameter, and seemed to be quite deep. A third hole was also evident on the other side of the puddle, although this one had no fixed shape, and appeared to be only shallow. These 'bores' were approximately 10 metres from the two pushed-down saplings, and about 50

metres from the damaged gorse bush. No other marks at all were noted on this mud bank. It must be stated that the pushed down saplings and the 'bores' or 'holes' may not have anything at all to do with the damaged bush, but it was thought relevant to mention.

#### Check with the recreation ground

Mr. Baker, the head warden of the ground, said he had not seen or heard anything of either of the incidents in the park, and claimed that no one would have been in the park at 04.15. For the ground's gates close at 20.30 and a guard dog is used in the park upto midnight, after then the park is deserted. He also went on to say that had it been 'In season', the park would have been open to fishermen come in to fish all night in the lake.

#### Checks made with authorities

The Ministry of Defence, London, Stanstead, and Southend Airports received no sighting reports in that area for around the beginning of May, although none could confirm whether anything odd was noted on radar for the 3rd May.

#### Weather report

The London Weather Centre report for 04.00 on May 3, 1977 in the area concerned is as follows:—

Very wet, with light to heavy rain

Temperature was warm at 9°C.

There was a light south-easterly wind at a speed of between 5-10 knots.

8/8 cloud at 800 ft., and multi-layer cloud above that.

#### Further follow-up investigations

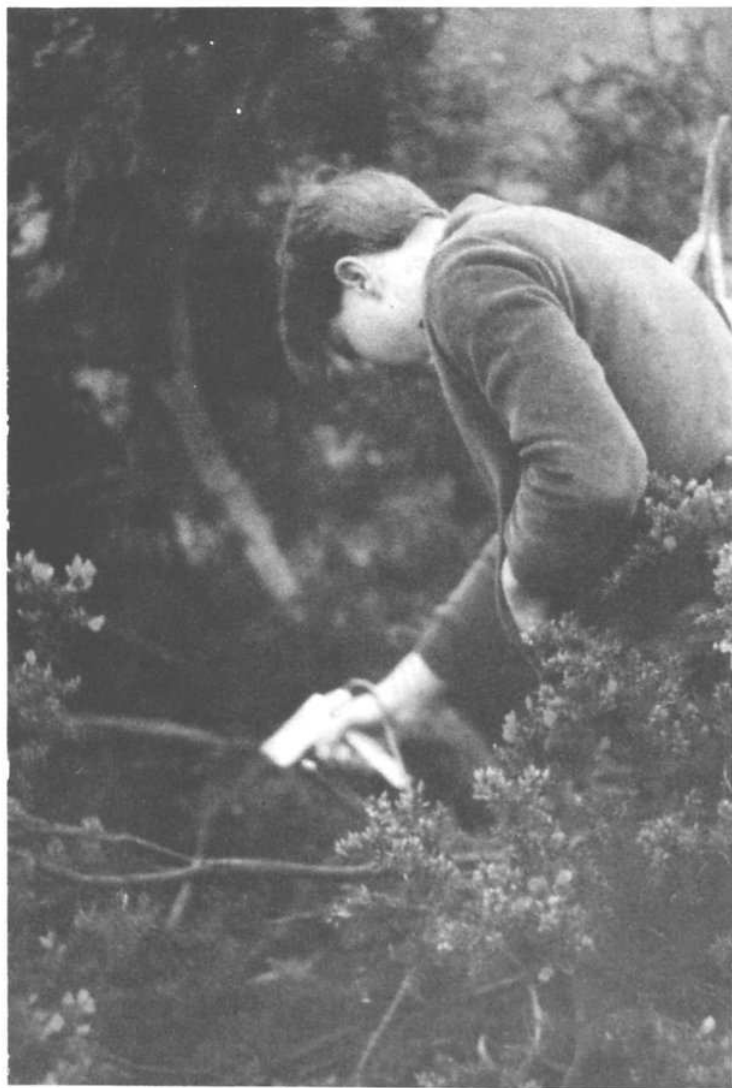
An extensive search of the possible area where the anthropomorphic phenomenon was said to have been seen on Sunday May 8, 1977, was made during

#### Frightening car-stop near Nelson *(continued from page 5)*

Concerning the physical effects, the weeping of the eye was still noticeable, although more sporadic and less pronounced. It had never been serious enough for him to contact the doctor, and he had only come to believe that it might be connected with the sighting after ufologists had talked with him.

In researching some recent literature I found that the most striking parallel was with the Winchester landing<sup>2</sup>. This occurred some four months previously, at the very start of what proved an extensive nationwide flap. Similarities include most notably the object itself. Compare the Bowles/Pratt drawing on the FSR cover with the one in this case. In addition the vehicle was allegedly oppressed by some type of force and there were subsequent facial effects on the right hand side of one witness. The predominance of the orange/red glow is also noteworthy in both cases.

The witnesses themselves are both working men with major cares for their families and little time for the UFO phenomenon. I believe that they do



**Andrew Collins checks damage with geiger counter**

the evening of Monday May 9, although no evidence was found to support the appearance.

This report was completed on May 17, 1977.

not have anything like the required knowledge to fabricate the details of the story. In addition there are clear reasons as to why they would not have done so. Not least of these is the fact that it is not a very wise policy to arrange to sell your car and then claim it has stopped for no apparent reason just before the transaction!

In conclusion I believe that this is another example of the rare, but important, vehicle interference cases. An understanding of these cases could well lead us some way to an understanding of the physical principles behind whatever it was that hovered over Nelson that night.

#### References

1. Several past cases refer to the apparent presence of a similar field, and the 'tingling' sensation described agrees well with Mr. Grimshaw who said, "I were all a tingle". Note particularly the car stop incident at Docking, East Anglia (FSR Case Histories No. 5, p.1) and a more extreme case in Tasmania (FSR Vol.21, No.5, p22).
2. See detailed accounts of the Winchester landing in FSR Vol.22, No.5.