

ALARMING JOURNEY TO LAMBOURN

Peter D. Wroath

AT a recent interview, Miss Jane Human described for us a UFO sighting that greatly alarmed her.

Our witness, an attractive twenty-two year old civil servant, lives with her parents, one brother and a sister. Their home is situated near Membury Airfield, Lambourn Woodlands, Berks. Built during the last war, the airfield is now partly used as a service station on the M4, between London and Bristol.

On the night of February 7, 1977, Jane was driving home alone after visiting her boyfriend at Wallingford, Berks. Her car, an Austin 1100, had passed through Wantage and was heading for Lambourn on the B4507. The road rises steeply towards high ground and the Lambourn Downs. For the first mile and a half the headlamps of a following car could be seen in her mirror. These lights disappeared when the following car turned off the road to the right in the direction of West Challow.

It was now dark all around and the road from here on is very lonely over the Downs.* The time was about 10.45 p.m. A few moments later Jane noticed in her mirror a circle of light directly in the middle of the rear window. The road at this point is very bendy, with occasional dips. Nevertheless the light kept following her for about half a mile. At first, Jane thought it must be a motorcycle lamp but then realised the light was too dim and its position in her rear window was wrong. She began to feel uneasy and sensed that something strange was happening. Jane then became aware that the image in her mirror showed colours. This also struck her as very unusual. Determined not to panic and as an ex-policewoman, trained to observe, Jane slowed the car down to about 5 mph and turned around in her seat to get a better view. Until now the light had stayed a constant distance behind and very close to the rear window. What Jane now saw, she describes as follows: "It was about 8" in diameter, it wasn't an exact circle, it appeared jagged at the edges, also the light itself which was of different shades of yellows and reds appeared dim and hazy. It was darker red in the centre, filtering out towards the edges in a paler red and yellows." She continued: "It felt as if I was looking at it without my glasses on, which I have to wear for driving."

When we interviewed Jane, she told us that she estimated the distance of the object behind the car to be about 15 ft. However when the car was moving very slowly the object drew closer and Jane formed the impression that it was more disc-like than spherical. It was now closing in fast and she felt it was about to "stick onto the rear window screen." Jane's reaction was one of great fear and she began to accelerate and to drive on as fast as the bends in the



Jane Human, photographed at time of the interview

road would allow.† The light continued to keep station behind her and since her attempts to elude pursuit were not succeeding she had to fight off a strange urge to panic and drive recklessly (which could have ended disastrously). Jane told us "I have never felt so frightened in my whole life. It must have been behind me for about another half mile, then as I went down a very small dip in the road and around a sharp bend, it completely vanished: I kept on going, keeping an eye in my mirror all the time. As I got to the top of the hill, just before you come to the crossroads where you either turn right to Childrey or go straight over for Swindon or left for Lambourn, the light appeared fleetingly once more and looked as if it was hovering on top of the hill."

* The stretch of road where the episode occurred is part of the ancient Icknield Way.

† Jane estimates her actual speed because of the bendy road was probably not greater than 30 mph.



The Icknield Way, with a view of the Downs to the South West, with Ridge Way on the horizon. This is the point on the road where the sighting first occurred

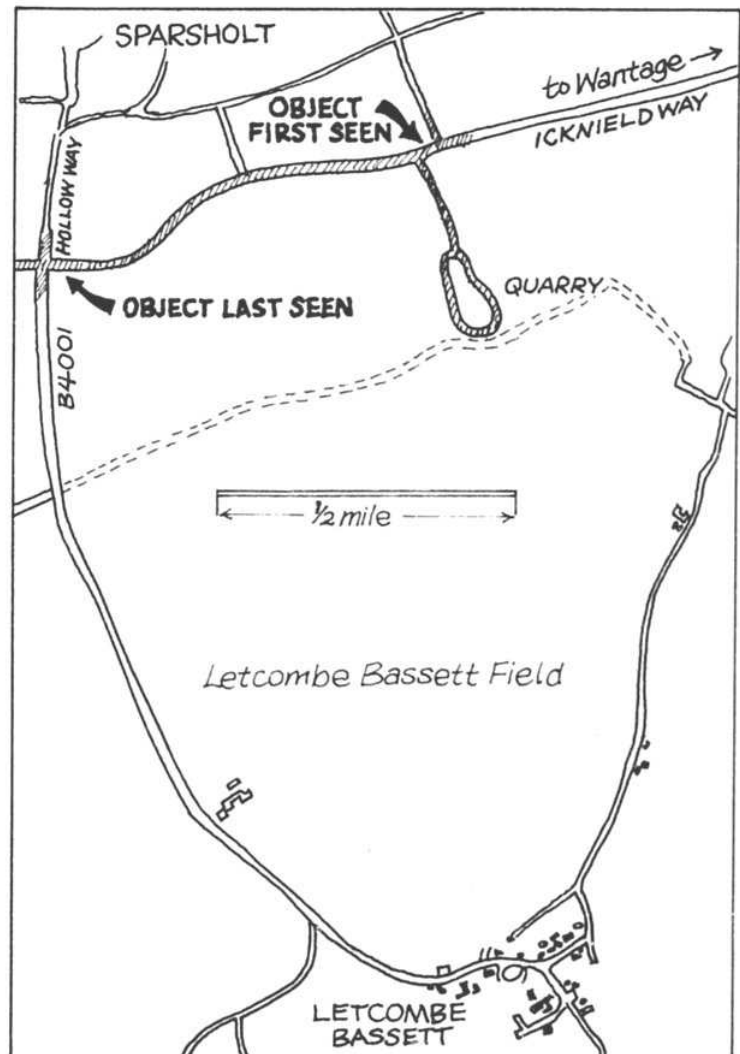
The crossroads referred to are known as Childrey Holloway and lie at the bottom of a steep dip in the road where high hedges and a copse suddenly enclose the road from the openness of the Downs. At the crossroads, Jane takes the left turn and after about 100 yards the road rises clear of the hollow and crosses the Lambourn Downs. With nine or ten miles to go before reaching home, mostly through wide open spaces, I asked Jane had she thought of stopping the car in the hollow. She told us that it never crossed her mind as she feared what the light might do next, and her one thought was to get home as soon as she could. There was, however, no re-appearance of the light beyond the hollow and Jane reached home without further event.

We asked Jane to describe her feelings about the object and she told us that at the time she felt that it was evil. Now, some weeks afterwards, her reaction is that it was "strange" or "other worldly," rather than good or evil and she feels curious about it. Her account continued: "As you can imagine this has thrown me completely and every time I go over there now, I hope that it will come again so that I can have a much better look at it, even though it frightened the life out of me."

Jane's parents were at a loss to understand what their daughter had actually seen and shortly afterwards drove over the same stretch of road at around the same time of night. They were unable to detect the source of any "unusual reflections," or otherwise find any explanation to account for Jane's experience.

Going over the route myself in daylight, I realised at once that where Jane first saw the light, a narrow half-made-up road led off to the left and disappeared in a downward direction. The road led downwards for several hundreds of yards into an old quarry, roughly 100 yards in diameter. The ground was very uneven for the most part and the place was empty except for a few concrete structures. Some horses

could be seen in adjacent fields, otherwise the place was quite deserted. The existence of the quarry is well concealed from the high ground above. When returning to the main road again and the starting





View of the quarry, lying just to the south of the Icknield Way to which it is connected by a narrow road. The sighting started close to the point where this road joins the Icknield Way

point of the sighting, I was impressed by the wonderful views to be seen in every direction and by the grandeur of the landscape. By this time, my mind was toying with the idea that the object could have been concealed in the quarry before the approach of Jane's car. Jane believed the object was intelligently directed and that it was interested in some way in her car and possibly the driver as well.

Thinking along these lines, I observed the surrounding features of the area. Looking towards the Southwest across the Downs, the ground rises

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craft or move of his own volition while in the ship.

Interestingly enough, the electrical system of the Jeep went bad the day after the sighting and will need quite a bit of repair work.

There are two power lines which go along Rte. 329, the utility line and telephone lines. The only body of water close by is a small pond. The land is flat farmland, the neighbourhood quite rural.

After Lee was awakened from his hypnotic state, having been told he would remember everything very clearly, we asked him again about how the UFO had first come on to his line of vision. To the best of his ability, he can only determine that it materialized out of thin air, as the fields around him are flat, with no hills to hide behind. When he first saw it, it was over a treeline. Dr. Burt Monroe, consultant to APRO on zoology, lives in Anchorage, Kentucky, a suburban community about four miles from the abduction site. He reported to us that at about 10.30 of that same evening (January 26), a neighbour of his had heard her children screaming, run to her window, and seen a large, white disc-

towards the line of the Ridge Way, about two miles distant. Just beyond the ridge there is a much greater hollow with very steep sides called Crowhole Bottom, better known as "The Devil's Punchbowl." I began to wonder if there have been many ground-level UFO sightings reported in similar areas. It occurred to me that notable hollows, quarries, etc., in remote areas might sometimes be hiding places for UFOs and worth observing periodically. Such an exercise could perhaps be undertaken as part of a National Skywatch programme.

shaped object with a dome.

Lee said that he's always been fairly interested in UFOs and, when he was in high school, had read at least one book, called, he thought, *UFO*. He was interested in psychic phenomena, and had previously had some peculiar things happen to him. He told of willing an outdoor light to go on. It was unplugged at the time, but it mysteriously came on anyway.

This incident was attested to by Kathy. Lee said he had seen UFOs several times prior to the January 27 sighting, but he was always with someone, and he felt that they wanted only him. They had known that he was alone that Wednesday night, and so chose that occasion to take him on board. Lee's mother had also seen several UFOs. Perhaps her most vivid sighting was of a nocturnal light that appeared behind the house making a noise "like a dewing machine going full throttle."

After this preliminary session, it is our feeling that, due to the obvious sincerity of Lee and the unusual nature of his experience, this sighting is worth a good deal of study.

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