

# Riders in the sky

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AIRCRAFT expert Derek Read didn't believe in UFOs — until he spotted something speeding low in the skies above Darlington.

And the ex-RAF man with a lifelong interest in aircraft, says it was definitely not an aeroplane.

As he and his father drove home to West Auckland Road about 11.30 p.m., they spotted a "spherical, global shape with flickering fairyland-type lights."

It sped along "at the speed of lightning," at about 2,000ft gradually dropping to about 1,500ft said Mr Read.

"Then it stopped about two miles away from me and stayed there for about

## 'The night I saw a UFO'

three-quarters of an hour" he said.

Mr Read said he watched the mystery object through high-powered binoculars used for aircraft spotting until it suddenly sped off into the distance and disappeared.

He said he noticed jet noise coming from high above the UFO, and thought it may have been the RAF observing it.

"I definitely was not seeing things," he said. "And it was not a star or an aircraft."

"I have never believed in UFOs — I have always treated the subject with a lot of doubt before, but this has changed my mind."

Teesside Airport knew nothing about the sighting. Marketing manager, Tony Norman said all airport activity had shut down about two hours earlier.

"We have often been able to correlate these sightings with paramilitary or civil activity, but not in this case," he said.

RAF Leeming also denied any knowledge of the sighting. "We have had no reports about it but were definitely not flying about that time," said a spokesman.