

# UFO experts to meet 'attacked' man

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THE strange case of a West Lothian forester whose account of a close encounter with an unidentified flying object remains unexplained, despite intensive police and scientific investigation, is the subject of a symposium being held in Edinburgh later this week.

Evidence amassed by detectives and forensic scientists, following Mr Rober Taylor's mysterious experience in a Livingston wood three years ago, will be presented to members of the British UFO Research Association in the city for their first national conference in Scotland.

The UFO watchers, who include physicists, computer experts, astronomers, solicitors, and medical men, will be addressed by a senior officer and a police scientist from the Lothian and Borders force who were involved in the inquiry.

"This is one of the most convincing cases in the UK," claimed the association's research director, Mr Peter Hill. "But we have made no assumptions about it since we are a scientific body rather than one of those cult groups. It's such a complex subject that we have resisted coming to any conclusion until we have enough data."

Members will travel to Dechmont Wood where Mr Taylor claims "things" attached themselves to his trousers and tried to drag him towards a large stationary object. As well as meeting Mr Taylor at the site, the UFO watchers will see photographic evidence of tracks in the ground found by police in the area of the sighting.

Mr Hill added that the number of reported sightings varies from year to year. In 1977 they peaked at 500, of which 93% were found to have simple explanations. But the remaining 7% were found to be in need of explanation after investigation.

In the House of Lords this week suspicions of a Government cover-up over UFOs were voiced by the former First Sea Lord and Chief of Defence Staff, Lord Hill-Norton. He was backing the 30-member all-party UFO group in a bid to persuade the Government to list all reported sightings over the past four years.

Police files show that at 10.15 a.m. on November 9, 1979, in Dechmont Wood, Mr Taylor was confronted, he claimed, by a weird object about six metres in diameter with a rim. Two smaller dome-shaped objects hovered stationary above the ground. There was no sound.

Two small objects come towards him and attached themselves to the legs of his trousers and dragged him along the ground towards the round object. He was nearly suffocated by a strange smell, then lost consciousness.

The conference, which is open to the public, is being held in the George Hotel, Edinburgh, on March 12, 13, 14.

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