

Forestry man's 'close encounter' still has UFO experts baffled RW

By CHRISTOPHER REEKIE

A CLOSE encounter between a forestry worker and two figures from a strange craft in a wood at Livingston in November, 1979, remains a mystery which may not be explained for 10 years.

This is the view of Mr Stuart Campbell, Scottish investigations co-ordinator of the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association, who is to address a symposium on the Livingston incident in Edinburgh on Saturday.

BUFORA, founded in 1962, will sponsor the first national UFO research conference in Scotland with the Livingston case one of the main attractions on the agenda.

On November 9, 1979, Mr Bob Taylor, a foreman

forester, now 63, arrived at his home in Broomieknowe Drive, Livingston, shocked and dishevelled, and said he had been working alone in the forest at Dechmont Hill when he discovered a strange machine in a clearing.

Two figures emerged and tried to drag him into the machine, he claimed. He fainted and when he regained consciousness, the clearing was empty.

Later, Mr Taylor and Mr Malcolm Drummond, head of the Livingston Development Corporation forestry department, found a pattern of deep regular marks on the ground.

Mr Taylor was treated at Bangour General Hospital. His trousers were torn and the tops of his thighs were scratched and bruised.

He said yesterday at his

home: "I can't explain what happened."

"About a minute after I saw the craft, two figures which appeared to be mechanical objects controlled from the craft, came out from underneath it and came on either side of me.

"They produced some substance which smelled strongly and which knocked me out.

"They definitely got hold of me, because they had gripped my trousers on both sides. The marks left afterwards showed I had been dragged about 18 inches."

Mr Taylor said the figures, about three feet tall, moved on spikes, which he believed caused holes left in the ground. An impression was also left by

the craft, which he estimated was 20ft. high.

Mr Drummond said yesterday: "Whether the object was from outer space or from a defence system on earth — American, British, or Russian — I have no idea. Something undoubtedly was there."

Mr Campbell, said yesterday in Edinburgh the Livingston incident was well documented and remained the most inexplicable case of unidentified flying objects in Britain.

Mr Campbell did not expect the conference to produce an explanation.

The explanation would have to wait until people like himself could make a proper scientific analysis, and it could be 10 years before he could do this.