

Mystery of UFO sighting



* UFO spotters, Vanessa and Russell Brook and Rachel Whitcoak (right).

Three Utley children were terrified after seeing what they think was a UFO on the hill above their homes.

The dome-shaped object — as long as three houses — was there for a few minutes before taking off.

Rachel Whitcoak, 11, and her nine-year-old friend Vanessa Brook were returning home from Utley recreation ground as darkness fell when they saw a bright light on the hill near the Stretton Jubilee Tower.

Vanessa says they hurried back to her house in Skipton Road and told her 12-year-old brother Russell. "We were scared. I ran in and started crying — I could hardly speak."

Her mother asked Russell to put Vanessa's bike away and then take Rachel to her house in Birchwood Drive.

"We were taking the bike round to the garage when Rachel looked up and saw the light," says Russell, who like Vanessa and Rachel attends Highfield School.

"The spaceship sort of curled in and took off. My uncle and aunt came out and saw it as a dot in the sky. It shone brightly and disappeared.

"It was plain white, like a bowl but flat, with a triangle cut out of the top with a spire. There was a red square glowing on it and on the outside it was going brown then white."

Mark Birdsall, the Yorkshire UFO Society's research officer, says one of his investigators has spoken to the children.

"He was convinced this is not just childhood imagination. It follows other reports of UFOs in the Kelghley area — and two hours after the sighting a large red object was observed over Beck Hill in Leeds."