

UFO puts the police in spin



Gerrie Ashworth (left) and Ruth Novelli see the funny side after their close encounter

MORE than a dozen policemen spent two hours staring at an unidentified flying object which hovered over Stanmore last week.

Residents called the police after spotting the UFO above their homes in Belmont Lane. They described it as a "rotating, multi-coloured object" giving off balls of light.

Miss Terri West said that at one stage, a long flash of bright light shot from it. "I was standing in the garden watching when out of the sky came a huge great white ball with a white flame behind it."

She said the object was glowing white, red and blue with white flashes shooting off. "It was zapping about all over the place," she added.

Ministry told

Pc Richard Milthorp and Pc Paul Isles have filed official reports of the sighting, which occurred on Thursday last week from about 9.45pm.

Chief Superintendent Ronald Poole said he was satisfied about the validity of their reports. "They are two normal, sensible men who are confident they saw a UFO," he said.

Chief Supt Poole said the Ministry of Defence had been notified about the incident.

Miss West said the residents and the police watched the UFO from her back garden in Belmont Lane.

She contacted air traffic control at Heathrow, who said they knew of no

By Vic Gibson

aircraft over Stanmore area at that time.

Neighbours Bruno and Ruth Novelli are also convinced they saw a UFO. "I saw what looked like a star initially," said Mrs Novelli, 37.

"But it was changing colour and moving up and down, and from side to side. It was quite scary and really weird. I felt very strange. I have never seen anything like it."

Mrs Novelli watched through binoculars and noticed balls of light coming from the object. She said it was round shaped and was a long way off.

"It was very difficult getting to sleep that night," said Mrs Novelli.

Secretary Miss Gerrie Ashworth also saw the UFO after being called into the garden by her friend, Miss West. She was watching it between two trees when she saw a 100 feet long white trail shoot from it. "We both screamed," she said. After two hours, the object began to fade into the sky.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said details of the sighting would be checked to see whether it had military implications. He said a questionnaire would have to be completed by witnesses, giving precise details of their observation.

"These are confidential," he said. Beside the police report, the ministry may also need further information from the public, he added.