

U.F.O. mystery baffles South

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A U.F.O. seen over southern England last night has left experts baffled.

Britain's top boffins today were trying to solve the mystery of the object, which was about 25 miles high and visible for 20 minutes.

It was first seen by Worthing astronomer, Mr. Graham Boots, who thought it was a nova — a super-bright star.

He called out other astronomers along the South Coast who watched the stationary phenomenon in the northern sky until it suddenly split up — and vanished.

Mr. Boots reported the sighting to the Royal Greenwich Observatory at Herstmonceux, East Sussex, home of Europe's largest telescope.

A spokesman there said today: "We don't know what it was, and it is still

under discussion."

Said Mr. Peter Seiden, of Paignton Avenue, Copnor, Portsmouth, a member of Portsmouth Astronomical Society: "It was a most unusual object. Because it was stationary for so long, we can dismiss meteors and artificial satellites and, because of its calculated height, then helicopters and aircraft can also be ruled out."

Astronomer Patrick Moore was today "baffled and intrigued" by the U.F.O.

"In the ordinary way, I am extremely sceptical about reports of flying saucers. But this light was seen by people who are amateur astronomers and who know what they are doing," he said from his home at Selsey.

"This one has me baffled and intrigued, and I would like to hear from anyone who saw it.

