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A close encounter of the Ashbourne kind

by Peter Oldham

A DRAMATIC UFO sighting could help solve one of Derbyshire's strangest close encounters.

In the latest incident a motorist claims he and his son were chased through dark country lanes by a high-speed saucer-shaped object.

Now a leading East Midlands UFO group is investigating possible links between the latest terrifying incident and the mysterious "Ashbourne Event" of 1980.

On that occasion there were several sightings of an object similar to the latest one, which happened in the evening of April 21 near Warsop, close to the Derbyshire-Notts border.

A 30-year-old welder and his nine-year-old son were driving at Warsop Vale when they spotted lights in the sky.

"I thought it was a star at first, then it started following us," said the man, who does not want to be named.

"It really put the wind up me — I was trying to get out of the road because it scared me so much."

"I was doing at least 70 or 80 mph to get out of the way, but I couldn't. I looked up through the glass sunroof and it came directly overhead."

The object, described as saucer-shaped, with two "headlights" and a dozen other lights, eventually moved off.

"There was no way it was an aeroplane," said the man. "It was about 500 feet across and it made no noise."

"I know it was something that was not natural."

Mrs Syd Henley, investigation co-ordinator of the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society, which researched the Ashbourne sightings, said: "It certainly sounds interesting and we are going to follow it."