

Official hush-hush over 'UFO' scare

AN OFFICIAL cloak of secrecy has been thrown around the sightings of a massive UFO over Devon.

The Express and Echo has received telephone calls and letters from people who saw the object all asking the same question: "Was it one of ours?"

But the Ministry of Defence was mysteriously vague. Asked if the brightly lit cigar shaped craft could have been part of secret military trials, a spokesman replied cryptically: "You've answered your own question."

Exeter residents who saw the object fly over their homes have been puzzled that the city's airport said it had no reports of the craft.

"It's almost as if they trying to cover something up," said Mr Robert Bond, of 6 Elaine Close, Beacon Heath.

Helicopters

"My wife Theresa rang the airport that night and they said they had been trying to track it on the radar, but couldn't. They also said the only aircraft which should have been in the area were two helicopters half an hour earlier."

Mr Bond added that when his wife rang directory inquiries for the airport numbers the operator asked her what was happening because she'd had several

request from callers for the same number.

But an airport spokesman said: "We've not made efforts to find out what it was, that's up to the military or the police."

However, two Exeter men believe they have solved the mystery themselves. Mr David Howell, of 72 East Wonford Hill, and Mr Brian Cosway, of Old Rydon Lane, both saw the object and say it looked like large transport aircraft, possibly practising mid-air refuelling.

Mr Howell said: "My observation was of a pair of large, transport-size aircraft manoeuvring together fully lit up during flight."

He followed up a similar sighting some years ago, and received a reply from the Ministry of Defence explaining the need for such flying practice.

Mr Cosway said the flights were a regular occurrence. "The aircraft carry a large array of coloured light underneath, and three of these aircraft in a row would look cigar-shaped. But they would look startling to people, and I'm surprised RAF Chivenor said it had no reports of the aircraft."

Exeter Express & Echo, Devon.

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