

# Weird sightings down in woods

## UFOs in Yorks



The full story

THE area of Woodside lies just south of the busy city centre of Bradford, consisting of a large housing estate surrounded by fields and farmland stretching out towards the Halifax suburbs.

Chief focal point is Wyke Woods, on a hill just above the Woodside estate. Investigator Nigel Morimer describes it—“A reservoir is situated next to the electrical powerlines which run in a parallel line to the nearby woods and from this quiet and lonely spot a panoramic view of the night-time lights of Bradford can be obtained.”

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The first sign of the activity which began a flap in October and November, 1981, came with bright streaks of light, not unlike lightning. Numerous witnesses reported them to the police, but it was simply presumed to be “atmospheric electricity.”

Hairdresser Raffaele Nobile seems to have sounded the first warning in this 1981 flap by

IN the final part of this adaptation of her book “The Pennine UFO Mystery,” Jenny Randles describes the strange sightings in Wyke Woods, Bradford.

reporting erratically moving “stars” of varying colours above Woodside. They “floated” down out of sight into the woods.

His mother at first remained sceptical but then she saw what she called a “large blob of light appear out of nowhere. Suddenly the thing broke into three parts, two smaller parts racing away in separate directions while the main blob of light floated down into the woods.”

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These primary incidents were featured in the local press and set the tone for the next few weeks when almost every night one of the newspapers carried an item relating to lights in the woods.

Many people went to Woodside to see for themselves. Typical was Keith Theakston who, at 1.0 p.m. on October 18, first saw three lights and then a whole string of them moving in jerky fashion about the sky. They vanished, engulfed in a blinding flash of light. He was now convinced.

On October 20, Paul Frost saw numerous lights in the area and a brilliant white light “hurtling across Low Moor very near to the ground. It sparkled like a firework and had a bright glare around it...”

A few days later Nigel Mortimer was on the hill at Low Moor beside the woods when he met a middle-aged woman and her daughter out for a stroll. He asked the woman if she

knew of any witnesses to UFO sightings. “Oh yes,” she told him, “numerous people here have seen these flying saucers on many occasions—including me...”

The daughter said she had been collecting firewood in Wyke Woods when a glow appeared over the trees and began to pulsate. “It was just floating and moving towards the edge of the woods at tree-top level.

On close inspection it had seemed to display red lights round its rim but these changed to green as it hovered above a nearby farmhouse. The children were very scared and ran home.

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One poor boy could not reach his house and rushed up to the hastily slammed door of one of his friends. As he banged on this his friend’s mother saw the object over his head, apparently having chased him there. It vanished in front of her eyes.

The sightings continued into late October. Amateur astronomer David Roberts, a former sceptic, revised his opinions after seeing two fireballs that drifted together across the moors. He told the press that professional astronomers should come to observe the strange things happening at Woodside.

“I believe that young and older people on the estate could get worried if scientific observations are not carried out

and an answer found soon.” Of course, they never were.

Nor were the sightings at Wyke Woods anything new. A book refers to an event in the early 1970’s when a Mrs. G. Casson — “from Wyke Woods” — told of two saucer-shaped objects moving across the sky at terrific speed, one with a revolving top half, the other with a revolving lower half.”

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Raffaele Nobile has continued to see lights in the area into 1982 and alleges on one occasion a single seater aircraft climbed out of the woods, a seemingly impossible aerial manoeuvre.

Researcher Paul Bennett is currently involved in earth-mysteries research, a popular pursuit in Yorkshire. He says there is a tumulus (Ancient burial site) and other features in the woods at Wyke.

Speculatively, but sincerely, he argues:— “What UFO investigators believe to be ‘window areas’ are nothing more than very concentrated areas of earth energy.

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“These windows of earth power, due to their strength, can be activated by some quite minor astronomical influences. Perhaps some areas, due to concentrated collections of ancient megalithic sites... can really become battlefields of positive and negative influence.”

A growing number of scientists and researchers are taking some note of this kind of idea.

● Adapted from “The Pennine UFO Mystery” by Jenny Randles (Granada, £1.50).