

Yorks now focal point of UFO world, fans told

Yorkshire investigators into unidentified flying objects told the rest of the UFO-watchers' world that the county was now the focus of such activity, not only in Britain, but the world.

Speaking to a packed audience at the Yorkshire UFO Society annual conference in Leeds, investigator Mr. Mark Birdsall even pinpointed the area where activity has been the busiest — at Carlton Moor, to the west of Skipton.

He said: "Why Yorkshire? We don't know." He also spoke of the "close encounter" by a group of children in Normanton, near Wakefield, in 1979

who claimed they saw silver-suited figures who had landed in a field.

Mr. Birdsall said: "It is rare for any civilian UFO group to get hold of a case when it happens."

Mr. Graham Birdsall, president of the Yorkshire Society, said the area around Skipton was being hailed now as the Warminster of the North because of its high number of recorded sightings.

He said: "We have had some 160 sightings in that one area over the last 18 months to two years. That is far and away above the national average."

About 150 UFO enthusiasts and members of the public from all over the country attended the

conference, the largest attendance ever. Haunting celestial music was played to accompany the large number of slides of sightings, some fake, and some still unexplained.

Mr. Mark Birdsall said that it would also be an advantage in UFO investigations to have the co-operation of the airports in their work. "We know of witnesses who have reported UFOs to the airports who have not given the information," he said.

The conference later heard from British UFO Research Association investigator and author Jenny Randles and Harry Harris.