

Tell us what you know about the UFOs, alien hunters ask the police

LEADING "alien hunters" today called on police to release more information about the South Wales UFO sighting.

A Nasa expert and top professor said hearing details from two officers and a helicopter pilot who claimed they saw a "flying saucer-shaped" aircraft would allow people to make their own judgements.

The helicopter and its three-man crew were at 500ft above RAF St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan on June 7 waiting for clearance to land when they spotted the other craft hurtling towards them from below.

Speaking at an Astrobiology conference at the University of Glamorgan Atrium, Cardiff city centre, Nasa's Helen Matsos said today: "Unless we have the full context we can't really draw any scientific conclusions."

Ben Glaze

American Ms Matsos, who edits Nasa-sponsored Astrobiology Magazine, was a speaker at the four-day conference where scientists shared their latest research into life beyond planet Earth.

She said she believed in aliens in "terms of the microbiological level" where there was "likely to be other life abounding on extra-terrestrial routes".

Ms Matsos doubted if the unidentified craft seen near St Athan would have been piloted by aliens. She said: "They would have had to travel a long, long time. If aliens were looking for us it would be very difficult, based on transmission of communication and broadcast signals, for them to detect us."

She said disclosing more information about the incident could help people form opinions and explode myths.

Conspiracy theories on the internet have suggested secret aircraft are being developed at the airbase in the same way the F117 Night Hawk Stealth Fighter and B2 Stealth Bombers were tested in the US in the 1980s.

Ms Matsos said: "When you're dealing with the military or police they tend to be very closed-mouthed."

Publishing statements might reveal some secret research they don't want known."

Conference organiser Professor Mark Brake, of the Treforest-based University of Glamorgan, said scientists were unable to draw proper conclusions without all the available evidence.

He said: "We would look for Earthly rather than un-Earthly explanations as scientists and sceptics. There is a history of these being seen and being terrestrial rather than extra-terrestrial craft."

"But it's very difficult to come to a sensible explanation without more detailed examination of the statements by the police officers and pilot. Without knowing the detail it's difficult to reach a grounded conclusion."

A South Wales Police spokeswoman said none of the crew made a formal statement - even though the incident was reported to the "relevant authorities", thought to be the Ministry of Defence and Civil Aviation Authority.

She refused requests from the Echo to speak to the officers or pilot.