

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:09,800

Over the last 30 years, there have been thousands of reported sightings of unidentified flying

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00:00:09,800 --> 00:00:13,840

objects over the British Isles.

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00:00:13,840 --> 00:00:18,600

You think I'm bloodied up, but this is a UFO.

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00:00:18,600 --> 00:00:23,400

In the summer of 2008, reports of flying saucers and other crafts were capturing the headlines

5

00:00:23,400 --> 00:00:27,560

again.

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00:00:27,560 --> 00:00:32,760

Over the years, numerous eyewitnesses, including military personnel, police officers and experienced

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00:00:32,760 --> 00:00:38,560

airline pilots have testified to seeing strange lights in the sky and other mysterious phenomena.

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00:00:38,560 --> 00:00:43,560

Well, look, very bright yellow, hot pink.

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00:00:43,560 --> 00:00:48,560

It was nothing like an airplane that I'd ever seen before.

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00:00:48,560 --> 00:00:53,560

It's the brightest light I've ever seen in my life.

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00:00:53,560 --> 00:00:57,560

Many of these UFO sightings remain unexplained to this day.

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00:00:57,560 --> 00:01:00,560

But what or who were they?

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00:01:00,560 --> 00:01:05,560

Could they really be evidence of extraterrestrial life?

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00:01:05,560 --> 00:01:07,560

I don't think that's strange.

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00:01:07,560 --> 00:01:09,560

It's a small red light.

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00:01:09,560 --> 00:01:10,560

Weird.

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00:01:10,560 --> 00:01:11,560

It's coming this way.

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00:01:11,560 --> 00:01:13,560

It's definitely coming this way.

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00:01:13,560 --> 00:01:17,560

It was just something out of science fiction for me.

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00:01:17,560 --> 00:01:19,560

It was totally unbelievable.

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00:01:19,560 --> 00:01:25,560

We hear first hand from those who witnessed them and examine the truth behind some of

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00:01:25,560 --> 00:01:46,560

Britain's most celebrated UFO sightings.

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00:01:46,560 --> 00:01:51,560

The remote Bearwind Mountains are the Welsh village of Hlandrichlow.

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00:01:51,560 --> 00:02:00,560

In 1974, the sight of an infamous UFO encounter.

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00:02:00,560 --> 00:02:04,560

My first thoughts were, wow, what was that?

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00:02:04,560 --> 00:02:11,560

It was a very, very bright green light, different to anything I've ever seen before.

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00:02:11,560 --> 00:02:14,560

Good God, he says, what happened there?

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00:02:14,560 --> 00:02:17,560

I don't know.

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00:02:17,560 --> 00:02:20,560

But I never seen nothing like it.

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00:02:20,560 --> 00:02:26,560

99% it was a flame source.

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00:02:26,560 --> 00:02:33,560

If a UFO did visit that night, has the story become shrouded in official secrecy?

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00:02:33,560 --> 00:02:38,560

The government obviously did not want us to know what had happened.

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00:02:38,560 --> 00:02:42,560

Four years on, the story continues to intrigue.

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00:03:00,560 --> 00:03:04,560

We were sat down watching television, roughly about 20 to nine.

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00:03:04,560 --> 00:03:08,560

There was a, like a, like a thud.

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00:03:10,560 --> 00:03:15,560

And then the whole place started shaking, quite violently.

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00:03:17,560 --> 00:03:21,560

It didn't last long, but it was very frightening.

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00:03:21,560 --> 00:03:27,560

You know, we were just stunned, we were looking at each other and, I don't know,

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00:03:27,560 --> 00:03:29,560

they said anything about a while or something.

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00:03:29,560 --> 00:03:34,560

Half a mile away, the Village Postmaster's house was also affected.

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00:03:34,560 --> 00:03:40,560

We knew there was something wrong, because my son was pedagitated, you see.

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00:03:40,560 --> 00:03:43,560

And he was, you know, he was on the verge of crying anyway.

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00:03:44,560 --> 00:03:49,560

The shockwave hit the Bear Wind Mountain Range and travelled four miles from

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00:03:49,560 --> 00:03:52,560

Clandrichlow to the nearby town of Corwin.

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00:03:53,560 --> 00:03:58,560

It sounded, to be honest, exactly like a steamroller coming up the road.

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00:03:58,560 --> 00:04:04,560

Oof, it, like, hit the house, the city tipped, and I landed up on the hearth.

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00:04:05,560 --> 00:04:10,560

In the next valley, Police Sergeant Elvid Roberts was settling down for the evening.

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00:04:14,560 --> 00:04:20,560

All of a sudden, I felt this ominous rumbling and clearly something quite

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00:04:20,560 --> 00:04:27,560

major had happened. And my first thoughts were, oh, heavens, it's the dam.

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00:04:28,560 --> 00:04:32,560

The Clint Selen Dam holds 16 billion tonnes of water.

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00:04:33,560 --> 00:04:37,560

Fearing it had been breached, Sergeant Roberts rushed to the scene.

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00:04:42,560 --> 00:04:47,560

Having taken a moment to collect my thoughts and got in the car and thought,

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00:04:47,560 --> 00:04:52,560

right, I'm going to need to drive down towards Balla and see what I can discover.

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00:04:54,560 --> 00:05:02,560

Had it been the dam that had burst, undoubtedly the water would have engulfed the town by the time I had driven towards it.

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00:05:02,560 --> 00:05:06,560

And it would have been a very major tragedy.

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00:05:10,560 --> 00:05:14,560

The more I drove towards Balla, the more reassured I became.

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00:05:15,560 --> 00:05:19,560

So I then decided, well, I can rule that out with safety.

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00:05:20,560 --> 00:05:23,560

So I drove then to the police station in Balla.

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00:05:24,560 --> 00:05:28,560

And as soon as I went into the police station, the telephone was ringing and it continued to ring,

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00:05:28,560 --> 00:05:34,560

each time I answered it, with reports coming in that something very big had happened.

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00:05:38,560 --> 00:05:42,560

999 calls were flooding in from the villages of Flandrichlund.

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00:05:42,560 --> 00:05:46,560

The locals were alarmed, no one quite knew what was going on.

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00:05:46,560 --> 00:05:51,560

Not only had their houses been shaken, they were seeing lights in the sky above them.

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00:05:54,560 --> 00:06:00,560

We dashed out into the village square and, of course, there was a lot of people out there already.

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00:06:01,560 --> 00:06:08,560

I looked up on the left-hand side of the shop and we could see this ball of fire,

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00:06:09,560 --> 00:06:15,560

which was quite bright and had a bit of a tail on, you see.

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00:06:16,560 --> 00:06:21,560

We just saw it coming down at the back of the house, really.

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00:06:23,560 --> 00:06:25,560

Of course, it was frightening.

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00:06:29,560 --> 00:06:34,560

Police Sergeant Roberts and Inspector Glen Evans headed to the village to investigate.

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00:06:35,560 --> 00:06:42,560

As we were driving, all of a sudden, we both saw this green light in the sky ahead of us.

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00:06:43,560 --> 00:06:46,560

And it seemed to be an arcing light.

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00:06:47,560 --> 00:06:53,560

But it was very sudden, totally unexpected, different to anything I've ever seen before,

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00:06:54,560 --> 00:06:59,560

particularly because it was this green arcing light with sort of blue tinges to the edges.

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00:06:59,560 --> 00:07:04,560

The police didn't know what would confront them when they arrived at Clan Wichla,

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00:07:04,560 --> 00:07:10,560

but January 23, 1974 would be one of the longest nights in the village's history.

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00:07:11,560 --> 00:07:18,560

Were these strange phenomena naturally occurring terrestrial events or something otherworldly?

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00:07:19,560 --> 00:07:25,560

I'm sure all the locals who can remember it would daily love to find out what was going on.

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00:07:25,560 --> 00:07:32,560

On January 23, 1974, an explosion rang out and something shook the Bowen Mountain Range in North Wales.

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00:07:34,560 --> 00:07:41,560

After receiving dozens of 999 calls, police officers Elvid Roberts and the police were on the way to the village.

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00:07:42,560 --> 00:07:47,560

The police were on the way to the village to find out what was going on.

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00:07:47,560 --> 00:07:51,560

The village was now in the middle of an arcing fire in the north of the town.

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00:07:52,560 --> 00:07:56,560

The fire was now on the way to the village of Clan Wichla.

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00:07:59,560 --> 00:08:04,560

After receiving dozens of 999 calls, police officers Elvid Roberts and Glen Evans

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00:08:05,560 --> 00:08:09,560

raced from their headquarters to the village of Clan Wichla.

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00:08:10,560 --> 00:08:16,560

On their way, they'd seen what many of the villagers had also seen, a bright light arcing across the sky.

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00:08:17,560 --> 00:08:21,560

They were serious enough to get all the drinkers out of the local pub, the Dudley.

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00:08:22,560 --> 00:08:26,560

And they all wanted to tell us what their experience was.

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00:08:27,560 --> 00:08:35,560

Some of the villagers had seen a very large round bonfire they described it as, upon Cadevronwyn.

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00:08:36,560 --> 00:08:42,560

With 24 of its peaks above 2,000 feet, the Bowens are notorious for air crashes.

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00:08:43,560 --> 00:08:47,560

Just two years earlier, a military aircraft had come down in the area

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00:08:48,560 --> 00:08:52,560

and the police made an air accident their first line of inquiry.

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00:08:54,560 --> 00:08:58,560

Had it been a crashed aircraft, perhaps there was an explosion somewhere

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00:08:59,560 --> 00:09:03,560

and that was the sort of arcing light from the explosion.

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00:09:05,560 --> 00:09:08,560

To begin their search, the police needed to climb the mountainside,

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00:09:08,560 --> 00:09:11,560

but they lacked a suitable vehicle to make the ascent.

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00:09:14,560 --> 00:09:17,560

They decided to call it the nearby Garethian Farm,

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00:09:18,560 --> 00:09:23,560

the home of 14-year-old schoolboy Hugh Lloyd and a four-wheel drive Land Rover.

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00:09:28,560 --> 00:09:33,560

He was a police officer there. He said there had been reports of a plane crash

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00:09:34,560 --> 00:09:37,560

and the actual words he said were like to command the area.

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00:09:38,560 --> 00:09:42,560

Land Rover, I remember that word. I didn't quite actually know what he meant really.

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00:09:58,560 --> 00:10:01,560

When we were on top of the mountain, we actually used our own torches

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00:10:02,560 --> 00:10:07,560

and then there was a period when we said, right, let's put the torches out

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00:10:08,560 --> 00:10:11,560

and let's just be still for a while and look around and listen.

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00:10:17,560 --> 00:10:23,560

As much as we could, we tried to establish if there was anything at all unusual up there.

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00:10:26,560 --> 00:10:28,560

Four miles away in the village of Glendafell,

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00:10:28,560 --> 00:10:32,560

another vehicle headed up to the mountains in search of a crashed aircraft.

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00:10:33,560 --> 00:10:36,560

The occupants travelled to a peak called Cadabrewin

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00:10:37,560 --> 00:10:41,560

and looked across the range toward the mountain the police were searching. Cadabrewin.

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00:10:48,560 --> 00:10:52,560

District Nurse Pat Evans had taken her first aid-trained daughters with her

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00:10:53,560 --> 00:10:55,560

in case anyone needed medical assistance.

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00:10:56,560 --> 00:11:00,560

Although she didn't find a plane wreck, Pat Evans did see something else.

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00:11:04,560 --> 00:11:09,560

In 1974 she gave a statement which described seeing a perfect round circle

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00:11:10,560 --> 00:11:16,560

like a red bonfire with lights moving around it, changing colour to yellow and back again.

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00:11:26,560 --> 00:11:31,560

On the mountain opposite, the police searched for the crashed aircraft and drawn a blank.

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00:11:33,560 --> 00:11:41,560

It was with a great degree of disappointments that we came back down from Cadabrewin, having found nothing.

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00:11:43,560 --> 00:11:47,560

Whatever had happened that night was still a mystery.

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00:11:56,560 --> 00:12:03,560

By the following morning in Flandrichlo, news of what the villagers had experienced had sparked a media frenzy.

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00:12:04,560 --> 00:12:08,560

But no one had spoken to Pat Evans and there was no talk of UFOs.

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00:12:17,560 --> 00:12:21,560

Hello again, a remote area of north Wales was shaken by a mysterious explosion

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00:12:21,560 --> 00:12:24,560

drawing the night and no one yet knows why.

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00:12:24,560 --> 00:12:31,560

It's a greenish-blue colour. We were standing just by the pre-station there when it was just over there.

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00:12:32,560 --> 00:12:34,560

What was it? Was it a streak or a flash?

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00:12:34,560 --> 00:12:36,560

Yeah, it was a streak. It was just coming down.

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00:12:37,560 --> 00:12:40,560

The whole house was shaking, you know, trembling underneath somewhere.

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00:12:41,560 --> 00:12:42,560

What did you think was happening?

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00:12:43,560 --> 00:12:47,560

No idea what was happening. We were all stunned for a few seconds.

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00:12:48,560 --> 00:12:53,560

The villagers were keen to find out whether there was a rational explanation for the streaking lights.

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00:12:55,560 --> 00:13:02,560

Experts have been trying to establish all day long whether the explosion was caused by a falling meteorite.

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00:13:03,560 --> 00:13:08,560

Astronomer Dr Ron Madison was the first scientist on the scene in Flandrichlo.

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00:13:10,560 --> 00:13:18,560

We were at home listening to the late radio news and there was an account of an explosion followed by great flashes in the sky.

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00:13:18,560 --> 00:13:21,560

And it happened only about 50 miles from where we were living.

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00:13:22,560 --> 00:13:29,560

And it occurred to me, being an astronomer, by training, oh, this is probably a landed meteorite.

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00:13:31,560 --> 00:13:35,560

Joined by colleagues from the astronomy department at Kiel University,

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00:13:36,560 --> 00:13:40,560

Dr Madison launched a search for what he thought may have crashed onto the mountain.

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00:13:41,560 --> 00:13:45,560

Not the plane that the police were looking for, but a meteorite.

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00:13:46,560 --> 00:13:52,560

We went up into the mountains and spent the whole day hooping it around in a big area

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00:13:53,560 --> 00:13:58,560

because the precision of the direction from which the lights had appeared was not very great.

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00:13:59,560 --> 00:14:05,560

The situation was complicated by the fact that the weather was not that clear and there was light snow about.

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00:14:06,560 --> 00:14:08,560

It was really a bit unpleasant.

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00:14:09,560 --> 00:14:15,560

This is where it's thought the meteorite landed, but looking for it is like looking for a needle in a haystack

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00:14:16,560 --> 00:14:23,560

because these Berwyn Mountains cover hundreds of square miles and is possibly the most remote

isolated part of Wales.

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00:14:24,560 --> 00:14:31,560

Madison and his team of astronomers spent four days combing the mountain for evidence of a meteorite impact.

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00:14:32,560 --> 00:14:37,560

Two Canberra surveillance aircraft from the nearby Valley Air Force Base helped in the search.

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00:14:39,560 --> 00:14:49,560

I thought it would be a good shot to get the Air Force team in Anglesey there at Valley to do a photographic survey.

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00:14:50,560 --> 00:14:55,560

And they agreed and did a whole survey of the mountain range.

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00:14:57,560 --> 00:15:01,560

Whilst the astronomers scoured the mountain for evidence of a meteorite,

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00:15:02,560 --> 00:15:06,560

the police and an REF rescue team continued to search for a crashed aircraft.

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00:15:09,560 --> 00:15:11,560

But neither hunt was successful.

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00:15:12,560 --> 00:15:16,560

No physical evidence that anything had hit the mountain was found.

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00:15:17,560 --> 00:15:21,560

No one knew what had caused the ground to shake so violently.

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00:15:22,560 --> 00:15:29,560

It was quite a sensation, I can tell you. The house seems to have lived quite slowly really.

152

00:15:30,560 --> 00:15:35,560

And then it felt as if the floor was giving away as well, you see. So it's sort of a parting really.

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00:15:36,560 --> 00:15:41,560

Bull house rattled basically and I said I think a steamroller has hit the house.

154

00:15:42,560 --> 00:15:50,560

I ran out and there was nothing there except for a small garage and the mechanic was stood in the middle of the road with his spanner.

155

00:15:51,560 --> 00:15:58,560

And he couldn't speak, he was totally speechless and ashen white and he said, good God, he says what happened there?

156

00:15:59,560 --> 00:16:01,560

And I said, I don't know.

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00:16:02,560 --> 00:16:14,560

We liaised with the Department of Geology in Edinburgh University within a day or so of this event being investigated.

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00:16:15,560 --> 00:16:20,560

And they were able to confirm that there had been a very, very substantial earth tremor.

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00:16:21,560 --> 00:16:28,560

The British Geological Survey's observatory had measured a quake with a magnitude of 3.5 on the Richter scale.

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00:16:28,560 --> 00:16:31,560

The epicentre was just a mile from Glendrichlo.

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00:16:36,560 --> 00:16:43,560

The earth tremor explained the shaking ground and could also have been responsible for the explosive sound.

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00:16:44,560 --> 00:16:49,560

In all British earthquakes, often people say that the sound is more terrible than the shaking.

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00:16:50,560 --> 00:17:02,560

What happens is that when these shockwaves reach the surface of the earth, a certain amount of them change from being shockwaves travelling through the ground to shockwaves travelling through the air as sound.

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00:17:03,560 --> 00:17:09,560

So what you get is a booming sound or a rumbling sound. These are often very widely reported.

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00:17:10,560 --> 00:17:19,560

The villagers and police now had concrete evidence that it was an earthquake that had shaken their homes.

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00:17:20,560 --> 00:17:27,560

But with the searches on the mountain drawing a blank, nothing had yet explained the lights they had witnessed above the bear wind.

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00:17:31,560 --> 00:17:38,560

It clearly wasn't a crashed aircraft or evidence would have been found so we can rule that out with safety.

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00:17:40,560 --> 00:17:51,560

I don't think it actually was a meteorite that actually crashed to earth because you would expect to find some evidence of that crater or whatever.

169

00:17:52,560 --> 00:17:59,560

That simply left as far as my experience was concerned the green lights.

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00:18:00,560 --> 00:18:13,560

Later, evidence emerged that could have explained the arcing lights. The Royal Astronomical Society had tracked a meteor shower heading eastward across northern Britain.

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00:18:16,560 --> 00:18:27,560

We got letters in the following days from all parts of the country, people who claimed to have seen shooting stars which were very, very bright.

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00:18:28,560 --> 00:18:37,560

There were at least three, possibly four, sightings of bow-like meteors that night over a three hour period. Very, very unusual.

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00:18:37,560 --> 00:18:43,560

And therefore that also adds to the mystery factor because one, you could say well that was strange but probably something in the sky.

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00:18:43,560 --> 00:18:51,560

Two, three and four you think well what's happening? This is going on all night and there's been this huge explosion and rumbling. Surely they must be connected.

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00:18:52,560 --> 00:18:58,560

That night's events were slowly consigned to memory.

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00:18:58,560 --> 00:19:07,560

But in the 1980s the Bear Wind shot to prominence again when district nurse Pat Evans gave an interview to a UFO enthusiast.

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00:19:09,560 --> 00:19:18,560

When her description of the strange lights over the Bear Wind was made public, UFO investigators

took a renewed interest in the events of January the 23rd.

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00:19:22,560 --> 00:19:32,560

Over the last 30 years Jenny Randalls has investigated thousands of UFO sightings. She has looked closely at the Bear Wind case.

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00:19:35,560 --> 00:19:42,560

When the district nurse came forward with her story the case had really lay in limbo for about 10 or 15 years.

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00:19:42,560 --> 00:19:48,560

Even within the UFO community nobody was taking it seriously. It had died a death effectively.

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00:19:48,560 --> 00:20:01,560

Suddenly her story when she gave it resurrected the entire case because at last we had an eyewitness who was describing something that appeared to be more than just a light and more importantly something that was actually on the ground.

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00:20:01,560 --> 00:20:09,560

Nurse Evans gave a statement to the British Geological Survey in 1974 which only came to light in the 1980s.

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00:20:12,560 --> 00:20:16,560

UFO skeptic Andy Roberts has examined it in detail.

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00:20:19,560 --> 00:20:24,560

These pieces of information were gathered within a couple of days, couple of weeks at most of the actual events.

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00:20:24,560 --> 00:20:29,560

It's contemporary evidence, first hand taking an interview and written down.

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00:20:29,560 --> 00:20:39,560

I've met her in an interview where she's a very down to earth practical person and I believe that what she says she saw, she saw whatever that was and that's the crux of the matter.

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00:20:40,560 --> 00:20:46,560

Pat Evans described a stationary light like a bonfire on the hillside.

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00:20:55,560 --> 00:21:03,560

The revelations that came to public attention in 1980s placed Pat Evans at the centre of the Bear Wind UFO mystery.

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00:21:04,560 --> 00:21:10,560

She is now tired of the attention and moved abroad.

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00:21:10,560 --> 00:21:15,560

Nurse Evans does not want to discuss this business for the simple reason.

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00:21:15,560 --> 00:21:30,560

For the last 30 years the poor lady has been continually hassled by people who look for UFOs and aliens and the likes to all those kind of people and to those who disbelieve all those kind of things.

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00:21:31,560 --> 00:21:41,560

And she's had the two types on her doorstep arguing with her and basically telling her what she saw wasn't true.

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00:21:43,560 --> 00:21:52,560

Unlike his near neighbour Pat Evans, after 34 years of silence Geraint Edwards is willing to talk about his close encounter.

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00:21:53,560 --> 00:21:59,560

It happened on the western side of the Bear Wind just three weeks after the nurses sighting.

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00:22:00,560 --> 00:22:06,560

The retired gamekeeper has no doubt that what he saw was otherworldly.

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00:22:07,560 --> 00:22:16,560

We were on the way down to Bray Dads and something took our eye in the southeast and we stopped.

197

00:22:17,560 --> 00:22:23,560

Well it looked like a rocker ball but the ends of it was more pointy.

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00:22:23,560 --> 00:22:30,560

All red standing in the same place probably about 600 foot above horizon of the mountain.

199

00:22:30,560 --> 00:22:36,560

How long had been there before? We know it's been a while.

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00:22:36,560 --> 00:22:46,560

But when it took off it just went like lightning on the same line as it's hovered back to the mountain and gone.

201

00:22:48,560 --> 00:22:53,560

Geraint has been keeping weather records for the meteorological office for 40 years.

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00:22:53,560 --> 00:22:59,560

He keeps a journal in which he writes about the events of the past.

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00:22:59,560 --> 00:23:04,560

Geraint has been keeping weather records for the meteorological office for 40 years.

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00:23:04,560 --> 00:23:10,560

He keeps a journal in Welsh and wrote up his UFO encounter at the time.

205

00:23:12,560 --> 00:23:15,560

I put it down the diary, yes.

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00:23:15,560 --> 00:23:23,560

And not thinking probably I'd be on television in the 30 or 40 years talking about it.

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00:23:30,560 --> 00:23:34,560

You know it was a sick quarter to seven on the Friday night.

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00:23:34,560 --> 00:23:43,560

Probably if we were coming home from the pub people would be, oh they've had one or two but this was going to the pub.

209

00:23:43,560 --> 00:23:48,560

It's definitely a flying saucer. Fantastic.

210

00:23:48,560 --> 00:23:50,560

It's a pity I didn't have a camera or something.

211

00:23:50,560 --> 00:23:57,560

You had the time to photograph it because it was there for at least 10 minutes just hovering.

212

00:23:58,560 --> 00:24:02,560

No photographic or other physical evidence exists at the Bowen sightings

213

00:24:02,560 --> 00:24:06,560

but one more recent British encounter has been caught on camera.

214

00:24:06,560 --> 00:24:12,560

Shot in 2000 and never shown before. Could this be evidence of an extraterrestrial craft?

215

00:24:12,560 --> 00:24:18,560

Oh dear. You think I'm bloodied up but this is a UFO.

216

00:24:28,560 --> 00:24:36,560

The proliferation of domestic camcorders and mobile phones means that unlike the sightings on the Bowen Mountains in 1974

217

00:24:36,560 --> 00:24:41,560

more recent close encounters are much more likely to be captured on camera.

218

00:24:43,560 --> 00:24:52,560

In October 2000 Sharon Rowlands was at home in Bonsall Derbyshire watching TV when something outside caught her eye.

219

00:24:53,560 --> 00:24:59,560

Oh dear. You think I'm bloodied up but this is a UFO.

220

00:24:59,560 --> 00:25:04,560

Oh it's gone off, isn't it? It's spinning.

221

00:25:04,560 --> 00:25:15,560

Inside the disc you could see lines around it as if it was in segments with a dark centre to it.

222

00:25:16,560 --> 00:25:22,560

It's moving slightly to the right and it is slightly. It's getting bigger.

223

00:25:24,560 --> 00:25:30,560

I would think the object was maybe as big as a detached house or slightly bigger than that

224

00:25:30,560 --> 00:25:34,560

because at one stage we did think it was going to land in the field in front of us

225

00:25:34,560 --> 00:25:37,560

and that made me feel very, very nervous.

226

00:25:38,560 --> 00:25:41,560

It's now gone like a saucer.

227

00:25:41,560 --> 00:25:50,560

And then it looked as if engines from where this bite was starting up, turns and then it just blinks out.

228

00:25:50,560 --> 00:25:53,560

It just disappears. I've never seen anything move as quickly as that.

229

00:25:53,560 --> 00:25:58,560

It didn't move slowly like an aircraft that you can see disappearing into the night.

230

00:25:58,560 --> 00:26:02,560

It just went. It just completely disappeared.

231

00:26:02,560 --> 00:26:05,560

It's moving. Oh it's going. Wow it's...

232

00:26:06,560 --> 00:26:09,560

There one minute, gone the next.

233

00:26:10,560 --> 00:26:16,560

Days after she'd filmed it, Sharon allowed us still from the video to appear in her local newspaper.

234

00:26:16,560 --> 00:26:19,560

She was shocked at the reaction.

235

00:26:19,560 --> 00:26:26,560

Like Pat Evans in Beowyn, going public with the UFO sighting made her life more difficult.

236

00:26:26,560 --> 00:26:33,560

The ball just rolled and escalated to we'd got everyone knocking on doors following me,

237

00:26:33,560 --> 00:26:38,560

ringing up. It really got quite scary.

238

00:26:38,560 --> 00:26:44,560

So we then put the tape at the solicitors in a vault to keep it safe.

239

00:26:44,560 --> 00:26:49,560

So that's where it stayed until now.

240

00:26:49,560 --> 00:26:53,560

I wasn't prepared to be called a liar.

241

00:26:53,560 --> 00:26:57,560

I'm not a liar. What you see is what you get. What's on the film is genuine.

242

00:26:57,560 --> 00:27:00,560

I can't tell you what it is. I have no idea.

243

00:27:00,560 --> 00:27:05,560

But UFO is the correct term for what's on that tape.

244

00:27:05,560 --> 00:27:10,560

Impartial analysis of Sharon's tape by an expert in the field of visual effects

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00:27:10,560 --> 00:27:15,560

suggests there may be more to it than at first meets the eye.

246

00:27:15,560 --> 00:27:18,560

We can fake anything.

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00:27:18,560 --> 00:27:26,560

If you have the right equipment and the expertise, it's possible to make any image appear real.

248

00:27:26,560 --> 00:27:32,560

And certainly if we look forensically at footage, we can usually find some clue.

249

00:27:32,560 --> 00:27:37,560

The pattern in the area seems very constant.

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00:27:37,560 --> 00:27:45,560

That would suggest we're seeing it from one orientation, but it's not moving at all in the sky.

251

00:27:45,560 --> 00:27:53,560

When we see the object in more detail, a bit closer up, there's one slightly strange part of it

252

00:27:53,560 --> 00:27:56,560

which is underneath it.

253

00:27:56,560 --> 00:28:01,560

There appears to be a little semi-circular dark area.

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00:28:01,560 --> 00:28:09,560

The most likely reason for that is actually that there's a pole or column supporting the structure.

255

00:28:09,560 --> 00:28:13,560

There is some implied image in that grain structure going down

256

00:28:13,560 --> 00:28:16,560

that suggests to me there is a column there.

257

00:28:16,560 --> 00:28:21,560

I think it's a street lamp, I have some description.

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00:28:21,560 --> 00:28:25,560

Definitely not a light stuck on a pole. That would be absolutely ridiculous.

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00:28:25,560 --> 00:28:30,560

There's no way that that could move in and out that quickly.

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00:28:30,560 --> 00:28:36,560

It was so large as well, now definitely not a light on a pole.

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00:28:36,560 --> 00:28:40,560

It was a very clear night, no clouds.

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00:28:40,560 --> 00:28:44,560

You could see the stars. There was no sound, nothing.

263

00:28:44,560 --> 00:28:49,560

It was just very calm, very quiet, very dark.

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00:28:49,560 --> 00:28:55,560

There are no houses across the valley, so there's no street lights, no house lights,

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00:28:55,560 --> 00:28:58,560

and there's no road, so there is no light whatsoever.

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00:28:58,560 --> 00:29:06,560

So when we saw this object, it did stick out very well in the background of the dark skies.

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00:29:06,560 --> 00:29:10,560

Some UFO sightings have never been fully explained,

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00:29:10,560 --> 00:29:16,560

but for others the answers can often lie close to home.

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00:29:16,560 --> 00:29:22,560

Over the 30 years I've investigated somewhere in the region of 10,000 UFO sightings,

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00:29:22,560 --> 00:29:29,560

and according to my own figures I'm satisfied that about 95% of those have been explained

271

00:29:29,560 --> 00:29:33,560

as what we call IFOs, identified flying objects.

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00:29:33,560 --> 00:29:40,560

It's easy to assume from an account by a witness that they saw something out of this world

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00:29:40,560 --> 00:29:45,560

when in truth, very often in the UFO phenomenon, the solution is very much of this world.

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00:29:45,560 --> 00:30:00,560

Most recently the trend towards releasing Chinese lanterns at Samua Barbecue's has prompted

275

00:30:00,560 --> 00:30:07,560

concerned members of the public to telephone the police to report squadrons of UFOs crossing Britain's skies.

276

00:30:07,560 --> 00:30:12,560

I've had UFOs that turned out to be hats blowing in the wind.

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00:30:12,560 --> 00:30:18,560

I've even had one case of a reported alien in a shopping centre which turned out to be a dog

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00:30:18,560 --> 00:30:25,560

that had escaped from a circus and had run off through a pond and was wandering around standing on its legs with its hair all matted

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00:30:25,560 --> 00:30:30,560

and a terrified one or two people who I suspect were a little bit worse for the wear at the time.

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00:30:30,560 --> 00:30:35,560

People see unexplained lights in the sky on a regular basis.

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00:30:35,560 --> 00:30:39,560

We live in a world where people don't really have the first idea about what's in the sky.

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00:30:39,560 --> 00:30:45,560

People are very ignorant of astronomical phenomena, celestial phenomena, meteorological phenomena.

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00:30:45,560 --> 00:30:52,560

I've seen several lights in the sky, I haven't got a clue what they are but that doesn't imply any mysterious origin.

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00:30:52,560 --> 00:30:55,560

It just implies that you've seen something you don't understand.

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00:30:58,560 --> 00:31:04,560

When it comes to the Bearwind incident, could it be that in 1974 District Nurse Pat Evans

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00:31:04,560 --> 00:31:07,560

simply misinterpreted the lights she saw?

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00:31:10,560 --> 00:31:18,560

Skeptics suggest that what she was in fact looking at was the police searching for a crashed aircraft and a group of poachers

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00:31:18,560 --> 00:31:24,560

all of whom were standing three miles away on the mountain opposite called Cadet Bronwyn.

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00:31:25,560 --> 00:31:41,560

The large light Pat Evans described as an orb the size of the moon has been credited to the powerful lamp used by poachers when they hunted night.

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00:31:44,560 --> 00:31:51,560

When I spoke to Pat she told me that she was looking across the hillside and she could see this

unusual large light

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00:31:51,560 --> 00:31:58,560

and she said round it was what she could only describe as fairy lights, little light twinkling as well as some what looked to be car headlights.

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00:31:59,560 --> 00:32:06,560

What Pat Evans saw is the police and the Landrovers and the farmer with their torches meeting the poachers.

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00:32:07,560 --> 00:32:14,560

Sheep farmer Yian Roberts was one of the poachers that night and has his own views about the lamp theory.

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00:32:15,560 --> 00:32:27,560

I was in charge of the lamp, there was a spot lamp which we adapted to put a halogen bulb and that would give you like a pencil beam but nothing else

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00:32:27,560 --> 00:32:35,560

and I doubt if it looks anything like the moon kind of thing, I wouldn't have thought that.

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00:32:36,560 --> 00:32:45,560

According to Yian the poachers had stopped hunting by the time the police arrived and what Pat Evans saw was definitely not a poachers lamp.

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00:32:48,560 --> 00:32:57,560

Then of course we were coming down and the vehicles coming up so we hopped over the hedge, not that we'd really done anything wrong

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00:32:57,560 --> 00:33:05,560

but it's unusual at that time of night for vehicles to be going up the road and we recognised the Land Rover

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00:33:05,560 --> 00:33:15,560

and we recognised the shape of a police officer sitting in the passenger seat of one of them and we were starting to wonder now what's going on.

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00:33:18,560 --> 00:33:22,560

There is another theory that might explain what Pat Evans saw that night.

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00:33:23,560 --> 00:33:29,560

Earthquakes are often accompanied by lights which rise up from within the ground, so called earth lights.

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00:33:32,560 --> 00:33:40,560

The fact that earthquakes are known from reports all over the world to generate energy that can create earth lights in the sky

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00:33:40,560 --> 00:33:43,560

still remains at the back of my mind a possibility in this case.

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00:33:43,560 --> 00:33:50,560

I do think there is a chance that some of the things that were seen directly over the area where this fault line was activated that night

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00:33:50,560 --> 00:33:52,560

were earth lights.

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00:33:52,560 --> 00:33:55,560

Actually this is a fairly common experience.

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00:33:55,560 --> 00:34:06,560

It's not understood fully but when you get blocks of rock which are made of something like quartz and they move and they're under a huge pressure

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00:34:06,560 --> 00:34:14,560

and there's a sliding of the rocks this generates a voltage by the piezoelectric effect and it can run into thousands of volts

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00:34:15,560 --> 00:34:22,560

and if gas is squeezed out from that fault as well which is commonplace that gas would be ionised, it would glow

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00:34:22,560 --> 00:34:27,560

and you'd get a big glow in the sky like lightning but not the flash, not an arc.

311

00:34:29,560 --> 00:34:38,560

During Jenny Randall's investigations into the Bowen case she claims to have witnessed light emanating from the ground which would fit exactly the same prescription.

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00:34:39,560 --> 00:34:47,560

On one of the occasions when I was actually there doing this investigation I was quite surprised to see one of these earth lights for myself.

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00:34:47,560 --> 00:34:57,560

It was emerging from within the rocks itself and climbing into the sky but if that was an earth light and that was what was seen on the night of this particular occasion

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00:34:57,560 --> 00:35:05,560

I can well understand why the much greater forces that might have been involved at the time of an earthquake would have generated huge glowing lights

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00:35:05,560 --> 00:35:12,560

that would have been of great fascination to the local people and why they would have thought that they'd seen something very strange indeed.

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00:35:15,560 --> 00:35:26,560

With explanations for the lights seen in the sky resting on the edge of known scientific fact and no concrete evidence to fully explain all of the events of that night in 1974

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00:35:26,560 --> 00:35:31,560

the Bowen UFO has become shrouded in rumours of government cover-up.

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00:35:35,560 --> 00:35:48,560

As time went on the rumours seemed to gather a pace and we got to a stage where people who related very well to the police in this area

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00:35:49,560 --> 00:35:59,560

in the nicest possible way would be saying things like we understand you can't tell us everything, what were the official secrets act and all that.

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00:36:01,560 --> 00:36:09,560

Whatever it was it was kept quiet and I think there's things we should know about and things that happened that are being covered up.

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00:36:12,560 --> 00:36:15,560

Could the Ministry of Defence have covered up the Bowen case?

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00:36:16,560 --> 00:36:21,560

Nick Pope worked on their UFO investigation desk for three years.

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00:36:24,560 --> 00:36:37,560

The Ministry of Defence actually takes an interest in all UFO sightings because by implication they are potentially unauthorised intrusions of the United Kingdom Air Defence Region.

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00:36:38,560 --> 00:36:49,560

Where you have mass waves of sightings the MOD like any other organisation would probably think well there's no smoke without fire, something's going on here.

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00:36:51,560 --> 00:36:55,560

So did the Bowen case attract the attention of the fabled men in black?

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00:36:56,560 --> 00:37:02,560

Smart suited men from the Ministry dispatched to fact find after a reported UFO sighting.

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00:37:03,560 --> 00:37:11,560

We were watching a couple of so-called educated people coming along to find out what we had heard or seen.

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00:37:12,560 --> 00:37:19,560

Over the years people from the MOD did go and visit UFO witnesses to take details of their sightings.

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00:37:20,560 --> 00:37:29,560

And I suppose if two people in smart suits turn up on your doorstep and say we're from the government and take details of your report and go away

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00:37:29,560 --> 00:37:34,560

it's easy to see how that can evolve into a story about sinister men in black.

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00:37:36,560 --> 00:37:42,560

It may well be that in the case of the Bowen it wasn't men in black at all who were speaking to local witnesses.

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00:37:43,560 --> 00:37:49,560

The British Geological Survey sent seismologists to Hlandrichlow in the weeks following the earthquake.

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00:37:52,560 --> 00:37:56,560

Well the interesting thing about the men in black is that the men in black were actually seismologists.

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00:37:57,560 --> 00:38:03,560

Four of my colleagues went down to north Wales and they asked people how strongly did you feel the earthquake?

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00:38:04,560 --> 00:38:15,560

And apparently some UFO investigators some years later found out that these mysterious strangers that appeared in the village

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00:38:16,560 --> 00:38:19,560

and said aha the men in black have been at work.

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00:38:19,560 --> 00:38:30,560

In this case I had great delight in actually going to buy for my colleagues and they've all retired

now and say did you know that you were a man in black?

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00:38:31,560 --> 00:38:41,560

In May 2008 the government released previously unseen UFO case files. Would they provide any more clues to the Bowen incident?

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00:38:42,560 --> 00:38:47,560

There's been in the papers recently a big flurry about the government allegedly releasing all these new documents.

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00:38:47,560 --> 00:38:51,560

Now there was great excitement people thought there's going to be things about Bowen. I'm afraid there isn't.

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00:38:53,560 --> 00:39:03,560

The information should have been released. It's still not been released and therefore that throws more intrigue on it again as to why not.

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00:39:04,560 --> 00:39:07,560

What are they hiding? Is there anything to hide?

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00:39:18,560 --> 00:39:24,560

The Bowen UFO case has been beset by conspiracy theories and one in particular stands out.

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00:39:25,560 --> 00:39:33,560

If the events of that 1974 were naturally occurring then why was there a large military deployment into the area?

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00:39:36,560 --> 00:39:42,560

Hill farmer Jeyon Roberts knows every inch of the Bowen mountains. He's lived and farmed on them all his life.

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00:39:42,560 --> 00:39:48,560

Jeyon remembers seeing a lot of military activity in the days and weeks following the reported UFO.

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00:39:50,560 --> 00:39:58,560

After we finished with the chores in the morning we were looking across the valley. We could see the army as if they were going to search the area.

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00:39:59,560 --> 00:40:07,560

Starting off at the woods and facing up towards the summit and rose so many meters apart.

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00:40:07,560 --> 00:40:13,560

We arrived at the conclusion there were the army. Who else would there be?

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00:40:15,560 --> 00:40:19,560

Firefighter Adrian Roberts recalls that the mountain was virtually a no-go area.

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00:40:21,560 --> 00:40:26,560

There was a lot of military action in the area. Areas were secluded off for the public.

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00:40:27,560 --> 00:40:31,560

It was about three months before anyone was allowed to go anywhere near the site.

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00:40:32,560 --> 00:40:39,560

But skeptic Andy Roberts isn't convinced the locals are remembering the facts exactly as they occurred.

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00:40:41,560 --> 00:40:46,560

The following morning a three-man team arrived from RAF Valley, a mountain rescue team.

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00:40:47,560 --> 00:40:55,560

The fact that they had left their military vehicles in the village has given rise to some people thinking that there was a huge military presence there the day after

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00:40:56,560 --> 00:40:59,560

and that the military presence was collecting this crashed UFO.

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00:41:00,560 --> 00:41:09,560

All these various separate elements have become melded together by the media to a certain extent, certainly by some ufologists, into the crash of an extraterrestrial craft.

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00:41:10,560 --> 00:41:18,560

The stories then extended to the point where some people even believe that they've got a piece of metal in their basement belonging to the craft.

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00:41:19,560 --> 00:41:23,560

Other people say that they've spoken to members of the crash retrieval crew and so on and so forth.

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00:41:23,560 --> 00:41:27,560

Fantastic stories, wonderful mythology but there's no evidence.

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00:41:28,560 --> 00:41:35,560

In 1974 newspapers reported that soldiers had been seen removing boxes from the mountain.

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00:41:36,560 --> 00:41:45,560

And Bearwen's military mystery deepened in 1996 when a soldier using the pseudonym of James Prescott made a claim in UFO magazine.

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00:41:46,560 --> 00:41:58,560

He said that it had been part of a unit that had removed two dead aliens from the mountains to the UK's most secret military research base, Porton-Den.

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00:41:59,560 --> 00:42:03,560

Skeptics have their doubts.

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00:42:04,560 --> 00:42:10,560

That simply made me smile because it's so improbable.

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00:42:11,560 --> 00:42:15,560

There would be serious practical difficulties with it.

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00:42:16,560 --> 00:42:24,560

Had the British government found an alien dead or alive, do you really think that they'd put it in a box and drove it to Porton-Den?

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00:42:25,560 --> 00:42:32,560

They'd have had a helicopter there straight away, it had been there within a couple of hours instead of a very bumpy rickety ride down a mountain and then a very risky drive down the motorway.

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00:42:33,560 --> 00:42:36,560

And apparently at one point they even stopped and went to a motorway service station.

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00:42:36,560 --> 00:42:40,560

Now, you know, they don't even do that when they're conveying prisoners, you go straight from A to B.

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00:42:41,560 --> 00:42:44,560

So an alien just wouldn't arrive at Porton-Den like that.

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00:42:45,560 --> 00:42:54,560

Despite the inherently secretive nature of the Ministry of Defence, people of course do chat and gossip to their friends and colleagues.

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00:42:54,560 --> 00:43:06,560

What I can say is that in my 21 years working there, three years of which were actually working on the UFO issue, I never once picked up even the slightest hint from anyone else in the M.O.D.

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00:43:07,560 --> 00:43:16,560

that behind my back there had been this secret UFO project, dead extraterrestrials secreted away at Porton-Den or wherever.

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00:43:17,560 --> 00:43:19,560

Not a hint, not a whisper.

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00:43:20,560 --> 00:43:30,560

Whether you believe the conspiracy theorists or the skeptics, what the locals of Landrichlo saw that night may never be fully explained.

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00:43:35,560 --> 00:43:48,560

It was a highly unusual event, unsatisfactory in the sense that it can't be put to bed as it were with a rational explanation and evidence to support that.

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00:43:49,560 --> 00:43:58,560

All the evidence is documented by the police, the British Geological Society, points to it being a series of natural phenomena which all happened on the same night.

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00:43:59,560 --> 00:44:07,560

Fantastic coincidence, you know what are the chances of that happening? But it did and people spun from that in mythology which has led to it being a crashed saucer.

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00:44:08,560 --> 00:44:18,560

I thought Fabio, it wouldn't happen to me to see something like that, but definitely it did happen to me that night in 30th of 1974.

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00:44:19,560 --> 00:44:30,560

What people have seen and reported and collected just simply could not be made up, so in some ways we've got to try and believe them, haven't we?

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00:44:31,560 --> 00:44:36,560

What is special about the earth? Absolutely nothing.

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00:44:37,560 --> 00:44:48,560

Eventually we will get evidence that shows that there is intelligent life somewhere outside the earth. I promise you that with absolute certainty.