

On the night of the 16th Feb. 1985 I crossed our farmyard and happened to look up at the sky as it was so clear and the stars were very bright, the first time for several weeks. Although I am not familiar with the positions and names of stars, one very bright light to the west caught my attention. It appeared about six times larger than the brightest constellation that night and seemed to hover as if dangling from a string. About every five minutes the intensity of light increased and a red glow at the base seemed to increase. The green rays on either side seemed more definite. After two minutes the light would decrease and the colours fade.

I called my husband, who was quite sceptical until he watched it for a few minutes. He said it could only be a hot-air balloon and the periodic red glow was the gas. I pointed out that there was quite a lot of wind and I did not see how a hot-air balloon could remain fairly stationary for such a long period. We debated the various possibilities and came to the conclusion that we were witnessing one of the mysterious UFO's we had previously ridiculed.

I first spotted it at 8.10pm and continued to observe it until 8.45pm. At this time it seemed to move further away, due west and then suddenly accelerated at a high speed, gaining height until it became faint and finally disappeared. This sudden move took place over a period of about 1½ minutes.

I then phoned the Air base at Aberporth and spoke to the constable on duty. He phoned me back later to say there had been no other reports of such a sighting and there was no possibility of it being a hot-air balloon or a helicopter. The weather conditions were clear so it could not be confused with inclement weather conditions. The lack of other sightings could be put down to the fact that it was a bitterly cold night with sub-zero temperatures and few people were venturing out. We only happened to see it as we had to cross the yard, to the shed where we were lambing, at frequent intervals.

The following night I looked for it again and observed it at 7pm. It was in the west and the light did not vary in intensity as on the previous night. The red glow at the base and green on either side were still visible. I did not call neighbours as I expected it to disappear before they could get here and they might have doubted my credibility had they arrived to find it gone. It moved very slowly across the sky towards the north, sinking lower on the horizon. It eventually became redder and disappeared over the horizon at 9.50pm. I rang the nearest neighbours at 9.30pm but they could not see it as it had sunk too low on the horizon to be visible from their place. I reported it to Aberporth but once more they said they had not observed it. Our farm lies at an altitude of 650 ft in rolling hills where the visibility varies considerably between different farms. The colour was more intense than that from a plane and a larger area of surrounding sky was lit up by it than from the lights of a plane.