the national archives

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MOD Form 329D
(Revised 8/00)
PPQ = 100

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

F6208A

Date opened (Date of first enclosure)

30-11-2005

Registered file number

D/DAS/10/2/8/13

Part No. 1

1. Attention is drawn to the notes on the inside flap.

2. Enter notes of related files on page 2 of this jacket

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH

DAS
MOD
WHITEHALL

[FULL ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER]

SUBJECT Information Management
Defence Information Management
- The Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Requests for Information

[BLOCK CAPITALS]

RECORD OF KEYWORDS:

31/1/06

2014

Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

2nd Review date

PA ACTION

(MOD Form 262F must be completed at the time of file closure)

Produced by MOD
DSDA (PC) Ky. Tel: 0117 9376256

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F
(Revised 9/01)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)
Information Management - Defence
Information Management - Freedom of
Information Act - Requests for Information

Reference:
(Prefix and Number):

Part:

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): Restricted

Date of last enclosure: 31/01/06

Date closed: 31/01/06

PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION
(To be completed when the file is closed)

	✔
Destroy after _____ years	
Forward to INFO(EXP)-R after _____ years	
No recommendation	

FOR DEFENCE INFO(EXP)-R USE ONLY

Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date

Reviewer's

Reviewer's Signature: _____

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW
(To be fully completed at time of file closure)
(Delete as appropriate)

a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation. DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to INFO(EXP)-R. ✔

b. (i) To be retained until the end of the year _____ for the following reason(s):

For Permanent Preservation

	✔		✔	
LEGAL		DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS		
CONTRACTUAL		ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS		
FINANCE/AUDIT		MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT		[_____]
DIRECTORATE POLICY		OTHER (Specify)		

PPQ = 100

(Continued overleaf)

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

(iii) At the end of the specified retention period the file is to be:

Destroyed	☐
Considered by DR for permanent preservation	☐

c. Of no further administrative value but worthy of consideration by INFO(EXP)-R for permanent preservation. ✔ ☐

PART 3. BRANCH REVIEWING OFFICER (not below C2/equivalent)

Signature: Section 40 [redacted]

Name: [redacted]
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: C2 Date: 22/7/10

Branch Title and Full Address:

RAF Business Secretariat
HQ Air Cmd
RAF High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Tel No:

PART 4 DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

*(FOR DR USE ONLY)

Produced by DE&S Graphics and Photography, Bath.

D/DAS/10/2/8/13 PART K

ENCLOSURE	SUBJECT	NAME	AIT REF
1	UFOs	Section 40	31-10-2005-104833-006
2	UFOs		29-11-2005-103412-005
3	Low Flying		25-11-2005-113402-002
4	Low Flying		24-11-2005-083810-001
5	Aircraft Accidents		05-12-2005-110132-007
6	UFO		11-10-2005-110134-004
7	Aircraft Accidents		07-11-2005-125303-024
8	Aircraft Accidents		07-11-2005-124551-023
9	US Visiting Forces		13-10-2005-151946-004
10	US Visiting Forces		21-11-2005-114441-002
11	UFO		17-10-2005-163812-010
12	UFO		26-10-2005-115056-007
13	UFO		24-11-2005-094037-001
14	UFO		20-12-2005-133709-008
15	UFO		23-01-2006-112807-001
16	UFO		09-01-2006-081314-001
17	UFO		12-01-2006-163833-010
18	UFO		18-01-2006-143336-002
19	UFO		30-01-2006-093209-005
20	UFO		16-01-2006-090714-001

Case Number: 16-01-2006-090714-001

Dear Section 40

I am writing regarding your request for information concerning an alleged recovery of an unknown object that crash landed near Caldbeck in Cumbria on 4 March 1954. Your request has been treated in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I have been asked to reply because this department is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence concerning unidentified flying objects.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. Since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. Any files from the 1950s and early 1960s which did survive are available for examination by members of the public at The National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU.
Details of what information is available (including an on line catalogue) and how to access information at The National Archives can be found on their website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk. I have viewed the catalogue on your behalf and have been unable to locate any UFO files specifically for 1954. It is therefore likely that if there was any information about this event contained in these early files it has not survived the earlier destruction policy.

I have also made some enquiries regarding RAF aircraft accidents and can confirm that there were no RAF crashes in Cumbria on this date.

I hope this is helpful. If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H, Section 40
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

31st January 2006

Section 40

From: Section 40 on behalf of Info-Access-Office
Sent: 16 January 2006 11:11
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST 16-01-2006-090714-001 Section 40

Categories: FOI Information Request

Section 40

As discussed.

Regards
VMT
Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 13 January 2006 19:54
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST 16-01-2006-090714-001 Section 40 Expiry: 10 Feb 2006.

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Friday, January 13, 2006 at 19:54:27

FirstName: Section 40

LastName: Section 40

occupation: Coach Driver

Company: your company/organisation

Address1: Section 40

Address2: your address line 2

City: Carlisle

State: Cumbria

Zip: Section 40

Country: United Kingdom

e-mail: Section 40

telephone: Section 40

preferred format: electronic

infosubject: I was wondering if there was any information available on the alleged recovery of an unknown object that crashlanded near Caldbeck in Cumbria March 4th 1954.

I have a little information on the subject but nothing solid. I thought you may have been able to help me as it was yourselves that allegedly recovered the object.

submit: Send Form

Section 40 [redacted]

From: AHB2(RAF)1 on behalf of AHB(RAF)&PCB(AIR)-2(RAF)1
Sent: 31 January 2006 10:10
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOI Request

Section 40

Our Accident Card records show no RAF crashes on this date in Cumbria.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 30 January 2006 11:03
To: AHB(RAF)&PCB(AIR)-2(RAF)1
Subject: FOI Request
Importance: High

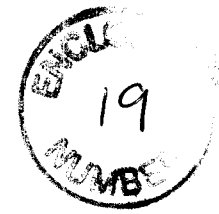
Section 40

One of my FOI requesters has asked for any information available on the "alleged recovery of an unknown object that crash landed near Caldbeck in Cumbria on
4 March 1954.

There are no surviving UFO files either here or at the TNA for this period, but according to the National Heritage website there was a military aircraft accident in this area, post war. Do you know if AHB have any details about any RAF accidents on this date?

Thanks for your help.

Section 40
DAS-FOI
MB 5-H-[redacted]
Section 40



Dear Section 40

I am writing regarding your recent letter and two e-mails in which you have requested information concerning alleged UFO events. All of these have been registered as Freedom of Information Act requests and allocated case reference numbers as indicated below.

With regard to your first request (your letter) (FOI case reference 18-01-2006-143336-002), I should inform you that the UFO related files for this period are no longer held by the MOD but have been transferred to The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey. Details of how to access these records and an online catalogue can be found on their website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk. You may wish to be aware, however, that a letter from the US of S (RAF) to an MP would most likely have been placed on a parliamentary correspondence file and the earliest such surviving file concerning UFOs dates from 1977. It is therefore possible that the paper you are seeking has been destroyed.

In your first e-mail (FOI case reference 30-01-2006-093209-005) you requested information about a group called "APEN" that may have written to the MOD, possibly in connection with the Berwyn Mountains incident in 1974. I am not familiar with any group called "APEN" but if they did correspond with the MOD in 1974, this correspondence will now be open for viewing at The National Archives. If they have corresponded with the MOD in the last 25 years their correspondence could be amongst the files still held by the MOD. However, if we were to search all of our files for any relevant information the costs would quickly exceed the permitted £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the Ministry of Defence is not obliged to conduct such an exercise. If however, you could be more specific about the information you are seeking we may be able to assist you.

In your second e-mail (FOI case reference 30-01-2006-093909-006) you asked for any information about "a light aircraft that took off from RAF Huntingdon taking photographs of the area in connection with the incident at Llandrillo on 24 January 1974". It may be helpful if I explain that there is no such RAF Station as RAF Huntingdon. There are several RAF Stations in this area and I think you may be referring to RAF Wyton. There are Canberra aircraft based at RAF Wyton and while these are not "light aircraft" they are used for photographic reconnaissance and aerial surveys. I am currently making further enquiries to see if there are any surviving photographs that may have been taken of this area on this date and I will write to you again shortly when I have further information.

I hope this is helpful. If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H, Section 40
Main Building

Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

31 January 2006

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 30 January 2006 09:34
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST 30-01-2006-093209-005 Section 40

Categories: FOI Information Request

Good Morning Section 40

Green men!

Regards
Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 27 January 2006 19:32
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST 30-01-2006-093209-005 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Friday, January 27, 2006 at 19:31:42

FirstName: Section 40

LastName: Section 40

occupation: n/a

Company: n/a

Address1: Section 40

Address2: Section 40

City: FILEY

State: NORTH YORKSHIRE

Zip: Section 40

Country: United Kingdom

e-mail: Section 40

telephone: Section 40

preferred format: electronic

infosubject: Dear sir or madam
I am looking for information about a group that my have written to your department about a ufo landing in North Wales location called the Berwyn mountains.
This group is called APEN. They may have written in the same year 1974.

Thanks
Yours Section 40

submit: Send Form

Case reference number ***

30-01-2006-093209-005

Brief description of case (e.g. requestor, information sought, etc.)

Section 40 -Information about a group called APEN that may have written to the MOD about a UFO landing at the E

Case type ***

Freedom of Information (FoI) request

Date received ***

30/01/2006

Date of response (leave blank if not yet complete)

31/01/2006

Outcome

Refused - cost of response would exceed limit

Exemptions used (if any)

Tick if request involved:

- ☐ Consideration of Public Interest issues
- ☐ Submissions to / meetings with Board-level officials
- ☐ Submissions to / meetings with Ministers

*** - *Required data items*

Use this table to record casework time in minutes (rounded as appropriate) for this case

Official's Grade (equivalent) **in your department**	**Official's Work Area in your department**	**(1) Allocation, Logging and Case Admin.**	**(2) Searching for / Obtaining Information**	**(3) Reading time**	**(4) Considering response under FoI Act / EIRs** (within Department)	**(5) Discussion elsewhere in central government** (inc. DCA Clearing House)	**(6) Consultation outside central government**	**(7) Drafting submissions / consultation** with Board-level officials / Ministers	**(8) Drafting of response** (including redaction), **and internal sign-off**
EO	Policy	10	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	N/A	N/A	20
(A) Total for officials in other Government dep'ts **except** DCA Clearing House									

Aerial Phenomena Enquiry Network

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

The **Aerial Phenomena Enquiry Network** (usualy shortened to **APEN**) are an unknown group of investigators that specialise in the field of UFO's who regularly contact researchers via letter and cassette tape offering pieces of information yet never supply contact details.

They were first encountered in 1974 when British UFO researcher Jenny Randles recieved a one hour length audio cassette tape through the post. Contained on the tape was an introduction from a male American voice claiming to be J.T. Anderson, Supreme Commander of **APEN**. The tape contained television and radio broadcasts of UFO reports, occassionally interupted by other voices claiming that UFO's were hostile and the listener should be aware of their intentions.

Notably, they are known for their involvement in bringing the Berwyn Incident in Wales to UFOlogists attention when the only the British government was aware of it at the time.

They have been linked with the Men in Black phenomenon.

Contents

Communication

Between December 1974 and April 1975 UFO researchers around the United Kingdom received letters through the post from APEN, sometimes containing cassette tapes. The letters were a mixture of advice, information and references to APEN's organisational structure. The letters, although on headed notepaper contained no contact information and as a result all communication with APEN was one way. The format of the letters received was also strange, using a lot of bureaucratic references e.g. "Code=7 Case number 174L 74-71/349 ST Classification=Jasmine Clearance date=02 DE 74".

Personal Contact

There have been occasions where APEN have contacted UFO researchers in person, such as an incident in October 1975 where two men visited a BUFORA member, Peter Bottomley at his home in Manchester.

They introduced themselves as "APEN Operatives" and added that they would prefer not to give names. After a confusing explanation of APEN's organisational structure (something which was echoed on the cassette tapes first sent to researchers) they explained to Bottomley that their intentions of staying secretive were necessary as they could work more "efficiently in this manner".

The two men then explained to Bottomley that they had been required to pick a "neutral" and that he was their choice, however they could not disclose how they had come to this decision. They gave him an address and unlisted phone number as well as a code so that he could be identified. He was to help them as a "go between" in investigations and would be paid expenses in return for his help.

Bottomley discussed this with his wife as well as other UFO researchers and after dwelling on the offer, decided that

helping APEN wouldn't be in his own interest due to the distrust for them which he encountered with the other researchers. Someone claiming to be from APEN telephoned Bottomley at his home address a few weeks later. Bottomley politely declined their offer and he never head from them again.

Sinister Behaviour

Part of Bottomley's decision to decline APEN's offer was reached through talking to the UFO researcher, Jenny Randles. A few weeks after Bottomley's telephone call, Randles moved house. On entering her newly bought home she found a 'Welcome to your new Home' card from APEN. Inside it read "Never call anyone bigger than yourself stupid".

A UFO group based in the East Midlands were victims of what looked like a burglary which had been attempted in the middle of the night. The offenders had entered a property belonging to the group, nothing had been stolen, however an untidy search of files containing UFO reports had been carried out. A few days later, the group received a letter from APEN apologising for the "behaviour" of it's "local agents".

In the 1980's APEN contacted one UFO group regarding the Rendlesham Forest Incident in Suffolk. They requested that members of this group meet them in the middle of the night at a railway station some distance away from where any of the members lived. They were offering to tell the group "the truth" about the incident and a government plan to create fake UFO's. Understandably, the group did not respond or take up the invitation.

Hoax

Many researchers chose to ignore the correspondence from APEN, putting it down to an individual or a group of people playing games with the UFO community. To this day, no-one has ever stepped forward to publicly admit that the APEN organisation is a hoax, or to take any responsibility for the actions of APEN.

References

- Jenny Randles (1997) "The APEN Mystery" *Men in Black: Investigating the Truth Behind the Phenomenon* (http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/0749917210/qid=1136137132/sr=1-15/ref=sr_1_0_15/202-5861748-8582243) pp.154-162 ISBN: 0749917210

See also

- Men in Black
- UFO conspiracy theory

External links

- Word document about the Berwyn incident with references to APEN (http://www.flyingsaucery.com/files/Berwyn%20Mountain%20UFO%20Crash.doc)

- Privacy policy
- About Wikipedia
- Disclaimers

ENCLOSURE 18 NUMBER

Dear Section 40

I am writing regarding your recent letter and two e-mails in which you have requested information concerning alleged UFO events. All of these have been registered as Freedom of Information Act requests and allocated case reference numbers as indicated below.

With regard to your first request (your letter) (FOI case reference 18-01-2006-143336-002), I should inform you that the UFO related files for this period are no longer held by the MOD but have been transferred to The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey. Details of how to access these records and an online catalogue can be found on their website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk. You may wish to be aware, however, that a letter from the US of S (RAF) to an MP would most likely have been placed on a parliamentary correspondence file and the earliest such surviving file concerning UFOs dates from 1977. It is therefore possible that the paper you are seeking has been destroyed.

In your first e-mail (FOI case reference 30-01-2006-093209-005) you requested information about a group called "APEN" that may have written to the MOD, possibly in connection with the Berwyn Mountains incident in 1974. I am not familiar with any group called "APEN" but if they did correspond with the MOD in 1974, this correspondence will now be open for viewing at The National Archives. If they have corresponded with the MOD in the last 25 years their correspondence could be amongst the files still held by the MOD. However, if we were to search all of our files for any relevant information the costs would quickly exceed the permitted £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the Ministry of Defence is not obliged to conduct such an exercise. If however, you could be more specific about the information you are seeking we may be able to assist you.

In your second e-mail (FOI case reference 30-01-2006-093909-006) you asked for any information about "a light aircraft that took off from RAF Huntingdon taking photographs of the area in connection with the incident at Llandrillo on 24 January 1974". It may be helpful if I explain that there is no such RAF Station as RAF Huntingdon. There are several RAF Stations in this area and I think you may be referring to RAF Wyton. There are Canberra aircraft based at RAF Wyton and while these are not "light aircraft" they are used for photographic reconnaissance and aerial surveys. I am currently making further enquiries to see if there are any surviving photographs that may have been taken of this area on this date and I will write to you again shortly when I have further information.

I hope this is helpful. If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H, Section 40
Main Building

Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

31 January 2006

18-01-2006-143336-002
Expiry: 15 Feb 2006

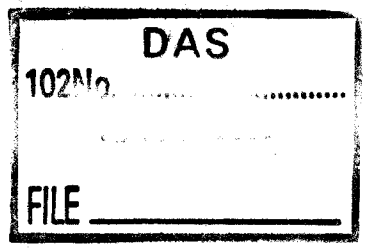
Section 40

Section 40

FILEY. NORTH YORKSHIRE

Section 40

TEL Section 40



Dear Section 40

You may recall in your letter 20 September 2001 you gave me information about an incident back in 1974 Some information had been withheld under Exemption 2 of the Code.

But in not looking for information about that, I am interested in information from the Abstract of a letter from the US OS (RAF) to an MP dated 16 May 1974. In that letter it mensions, Reports that Came from

QUOTE

Home Counties, Lincolnshire and Sussex

Could i have more information about them.

thank you

yours Section 40

ENCLOSURE 17 NUMBER

AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: Section 40 [redacted]

Case Number: 2-01-2006-163833-010 **Expiry**: 09/02/2006

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

1) Please can you tell me how many sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects have been reported to the Ministry of Defence over Stoke-on-Trent in the last five year?
2) How many sightings of UFOs have been reported to the Ministry of Defence over Staffordshire in the last five years?
3) How many sightings of UFOs have been reported to the Ministry of Defence over Cheshire in the last five years?
4) How many sightings of UFOs have been reported to the Ministry of Defence in Britain over the last five years?

Case for release of information

I informed Section 40 that it would be more than the £600 limit set by the Freedom of Information Act to search through the files for five years to find the amount of sightings for the areas of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, Cheshire and the whole of Britain. I informed him that we are compiling a database and have completed the years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and to date in 2006.
I found four reports from those years. Two for Staffordshire and two for Cheshire. I have also included a table of the number of reports received each year in the MOD in Britain from 2000, to date in 2006.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation for the release of the aforementioned information to the Applicant.

Grade/Rank: D..... Name:... Section 40 [redacted] .....

Signature.. Section 40 [redacted] .....

Date: 26/1/2006.....

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding the number of UFO sightings, that have been seen over Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire and Cheshire, and the number of sightings that have been reported to the Ministry of Defence in Britain over the last five years. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFOs.

The records the MOD holds of reported UFO sightings are not held electronically but are filed in the order in which they are received. In order to provide details for the full period of your request a manual search of thousands of records would be required. A search of all these records would exceed the permitted £600 cost limit for compliance with the FOI act. However, we are currently in the process of compiling a database of UFO reports and this has now been completed for the years, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and to date in 2006. I have examined these records and have found four sightings, two from Staffordshire and two from Cheshire. No reports were found for the area of Stoke-on-Trent.

Staffordshire	2002	1
	2005	1
Cheshire	2003	1
	2005	1

Below is a table of sightings that have been reported to the Ministry of Defence in Britain over the last five years.

2000	211
2001	203
2002	100
2003	99
2004	86
2005	158
2006	3

I hope this is helpful. If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may wish to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

E.mail – das-ufo-office@mod.uk

26 January 2006.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 12 January 2006 16:41
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST 12-01-2006-163833-010 Section 40

Dear Section 40
Please see request. Would you please action. Many thanks.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 12 January 2006 16:21
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST 12-01-2006-163833-010 Section 40 Enquiry 9 Feb 2006

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Thursday, January 12, 2006 at 16:20:36

FirstName: Section 40

LastName: Section 40

occupation: journalist

Company: The Sentinel

Address1: your address line 1

Address2: your address line 2

City: enter your town/city

State: enter your state/county

Zip: enter your zipcode/postcode

Country: United Kingdom

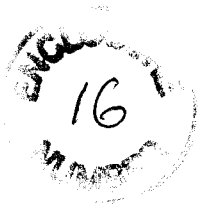
e-mail: Section 40 @thesentinel.co.uk

telephone: Section 40

preferred format: electronic

infosubject: Please enter the full details of your Information Request (please be as specific as possible)
1 Please can you tell me how many sitings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) have been reported to the Ministry of Defence over Stoke-on-Trent in the last five years?
2 How many sitings of UFOs have been reported to the Ministry of Defence over Staffordshire in the last five years?
3 How many sitings of UFOs have been reported to the Ministry of Defence over Cheshire in the last five years?
4 How many sitings of UFOs have been reported to the Ministry of Defence in Britain over the last five years.

submit: Send Form



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: Section 40 [redacted]

Case Number: 09-01-2006-081314-001 **Expiry**: 03/02/06

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Please could you tell me how many reported sightings there have been in Hertfordshire in the past five years, and the dates and locations of any such sightings?

Case for release of information

I informed Section 40 [redacted], that our files are not held electronically and that we are currently working on a database and had completed the years, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and to date in 2006. I examined the records and found two reports from Hertfordshire for which I gave Section 40 [redacted] the details of.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation for the release of the aforementioned information to the Applicant.

Grade/Rank: ..D..... Name: Section 40 [redacted].....

Signature. Section 40 [redacted].....

Date: 25/1/2006.....

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding the number of UFO reports that have been reported in Hertfordshire in the past five years, and the full details of each report. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFOs.

The records the MOD holds of reported UFO sightings are not held electronically but are filed on paper files in the order in which they are received. In order to provide details for the full period of your request a manual search of thousands of records would be required. A search of all these records would exceed the permitted £600 cost limit for compliance with the FOI act. However, we are currently in the process of compiling a database of UFO reports and this has now been completed for the years, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and to date in 2006. I have examined these records and found two reports for Hertfordshire from those years, the details of which are as follows.

09/12/02	17.30	Bishop's Stortford	Hertfordshire	Small round, dull light seen.
Seen sometime in 2002.		Welwyn Garden City	Hertfordshire	One disc shaped object, that was tangerine coloured. Zig-zagged for a while and then departed after fifteen seconds.

I hope this is helpful. If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may wish to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcomissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

E.mail – das-ufo-office@mod.uk

25 January 2006

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 06 January 2006 16:09

To: DAS-UFO-Office

Subject: FOI request

Dear Sir/Madam

Please could you tell me how many reported UFO sightings there have been in Hertfordshire in the past five years, and the dates and locations of any such sightings?

I already have a copy of the MOD Policy on UFOs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any clarification of this request. Thank you in anticipation of your help.

Yours sincerely

Section 40
Hertfordshire Mercury
Tel: Section 40

Dear Section 40

Thank you for message. I will now withdraw your request as you have asked.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

26th January 2006

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 26 January 2006 09:57
To: DAS-UFO-Office
Subject: Re: FoIA 23-01-2005-112807-001

Hi Section 40

It looks as though this would require several requests over a period of a year, and this would interfere with more important requests.

In light of this, I withdraw the request and will submit a different one shortly.

Sincere apologies for taking up your time,

Section 40

DAS-UFO-Office wrote:
>
>
> Dear Section 40
>
>
>
> Thank you for your message. Please see below a list of files covering
> the period of your requests. Please note we do not hold any files
> specifically on "Crop Circles" or "Animal mutilations".

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your message. Please see below a list of files covering the period of your requests. Please note we do not hold any files specifically on "Crop Circles" or "Animal mutilations".

FILE REFERENCE	TITLE	PERIOD OF CONTENTS
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part H	UFO Correspondence	25.6.1990 – 15.8.1991
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part I	UFO Correspondence	15.8.1991 - 24.7.1992
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part J	UFO Correspondence	1992
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part K	UFO Correspondence	1992
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part L	UFO Correspondence	1993
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part M	UFO Correspondence	1993
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part N	UFO Correspondence	1993
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part O	UFO Correspondence	January – March 1994
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part P	UFO Correspondence	March – June 1994
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part Q	UFO Correspondence	20.6.1994 – 24.11.1994
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part R	UFO Correspondence	25.11.1994 – 23.3.1995
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part K	UFO Reports	4.1.1991 – 9.1.1992
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part L	UFO Reports	1992
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part M	UFO Reports	1993
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part N	UFO Reports	4.1.1994 – 6.1.1995

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information

25th January 2006

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 23 January 2006 19:20
To: DAS-UFO-Office
Subject: FoIA 23-01-2005-112807-001

Hello Section 40

thanks for the response. I was unaware of the number of files covering this period. It would be helpful if you could provide a list of the file titles, date range, and references, so that I could then limit the request to what I think are the most relevant files.

Regards,
Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 23 January 2006 19:20
To: DAS-UFO-Office
Subject: FoIA 23-01-2005-112807-001

Hello Section 40

thanks for the response. I was unaware of the number of files covering this period. It would be helpful if you could provide a list of the file titles, date range, and references, so that I could then limit the request to what I think are the most relevant files.

Regards,
Section 40 [redacted]

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your message in which you make a new Freedom of Information request. Your request has been registered and allocated the reference number 23-01-2006-112807-001.

First, I would like to clarify what information you are seeking. If you are looking for documents which show MOD investigations into this phenomena, I should inform you that there is no evidence to suggest that "Crop Circles" are caused by anything of defence concern and the MOD does not therefore investigate reported sightings or carry out any research into them. Neither does the MOD investigate reports of "Animal mutilations". Criminal aspects of animal mutilations are matters for the civil police, and could only be investigated in light of any evidence associated with such an occurrence. We understand that the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs sometimes receives queries about animal mutilations. However, they would only conduct an investigation into animal mutilation from an animal welfare perspective.

If you are seeking any documents held by the MOD which may mention these phenomena, I can inform you that members of the public sometimes associate crop circles and animal mutilations with UFOs and it is possible that they may have included comments on these when corresponding with the MOD. However, we hold no files specifically about such phenomena and in order to look for and provide information for the full period of your requests would involve a manual search of fifteen paper UFO files. I estimate to conduct such an excise would exceed the £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the Ministry of Defence is not obliged to comply with your request. If however, this is the type of information you are seeking and you could be more specific or limit your request I may be able to assist you.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information

23 January 2006

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 21 January 2006 14:21
To: DAS-UFO-Office
Subject: New FoIA

Hello,

I respectfully submit the following request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. Any documents held by the MoD from internal or external sources, relating to the topic of "Crop Circles" or synonyms for such between July 1991 and December 1994.

2. Any documents held by the MoD from internal or external sources, relating to the topic of "Animal mutilations" or synonyms for such between July 1991 and December 1994.

I am happy to receive such information via email, or if more appropriate, via post. My postal address is:

Section 40

Section 40

Stoke on Trent

Section 40

Regards,

Section 40

23-01-2006-112807-001
Expiry: 20 Feb 2006

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 21 January 2006 14:21
To: DAS-UFO-Office
Subject: New FoIA

Hello,

I respectfully submit the following request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. Any documents held by the MoD from internal or external sources, relating to the topic of "Crop Circles" or synonyms for such between July 1991 and December 1994.

2. Any documents held by the MoD from internal or external sources, relating to the topic of "Animal mutilations" or synonyms for such between July 1991 and December 1994.

I am happy to receive such information via email, or if more appropriate, via post. My postal address is:

Section 40

Stoke on Trent
Section 40

Regards,

Section 40

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) 020 7218 Section 40
e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

ENCLOSURE 14 NUMBER

Section 40

Stroud
Gloucestershire
Section 40

Our Reference
20-12-2005-133709-008

Date
19 January 2006

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your request for information about extra-terrestrial activity. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for matters concerning unidentified flying objects.

With regard to your questions about whether there has ever been any extra-terrestrial activity or aliens landing in the UK, I should inform you that the MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms. We are aware that many people claim to have had experience of such phenomena and we remain open-minded, but to date we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

The MOD's examines any reports of sightings we receive solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit

With regard to your question as to how the country would respond to an alien invasion, I can confirm that as there is no evidence of such a threat, there are no particular plans for such a hypothetical situation. I can assure you, however, that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Policing Area by the Royal Air Force and any threat to the UK Air Policing Area would be handled in the light of the particular circumstances at the time.

I hope this is helpful. If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

Section 40 [redacted]

D/Sec(AS) 12/3 Pt H UFO Correspondence (25.6.90–15.8.91)
D/Sec(AS) 12/3 Pt I " " (5.8.91–24.7.92)
D/Sec(AS) 12/3 Pt J " " (1992)
D/Sec(AS) 12/3 Pt K " " (1992)
D/Sec(AS) 12/3 Pt L " " (1993)
D/Sec(AS) 12/3 Pt M " " (1993)
D/Sec(AS) 12/3 N " " (1993)
D/Sec(AS) 12/3 O " " (Jan–Mar 1994)
D/Sec(AS) 12/3 P " "
D/Sec(AS) 12/3 Q " " (20.6.94–24.11.94)
D/Sec(AS) 12/3 R " " (25.11.94–23.3.95)

(11 files)

D/Sec(AS) 12/2 Pt K UFO Reports (4.1.91–9.1.92)
D/Sec(AS) 12/2 Pt L " " (1992)
Pt M (1993)
Pt N " " (4.1.94–6.1.95)

(4)

D/Air Def/111/6/4 Pt F – (15.3.91–91) DAO file
D/Air Def/111/6/4 Pt G – (1992–95)

(2)

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCD/

22 December 0!

Home | My Cases | Log New Request | Policy Guidance | Help

Request: Section 40 0-12-2005-133709-008

Days Left: 15

Received: 14 Dec 05
Expiry Date: 16 Jan 06
Status: Open

All sources

Workflow Options
- AIT Main

View
- Audit Trail
- Comments Log
- Saved Search Result
- Contact Details
- Documents

Actions
- Assign Within My Group
- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.
The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search results.

Date request received: 14 December 2005

Applicant Details

Title:	Section 40	Other:	
First Name:	Section 40	*Surname:	Section 40
Organisation:			
Applicant Type:	Other	Other:	Student

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1:	Section 40		
Address Line2:			
Address Line3:			
Town/City:	Stroud		
Postcode:	Section 40	Country:	United Kingdom
Email:	Section 40		
Telephone:	Section 40	Fax:	

Clear | Back | Next | Cancel

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCD/

22 December 0!

Home | My Cases | Log New Request | Policy Guidance | Help

Request: Section 40 20-12-2005-133709-008

Days Left: 15

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- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.
The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search results.

Request Details

Response Format Requested: hardcopy

Language Requested ☐ Welsh

*Enter the request for information:

Has there ever been any extra-terretrial activity

Have aliens ever landed in the country

If a alien space craft landed in Britain how would the country responde

Record storage location of Applicant request (or upload document).

Clear | Back | Next | Cancel

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) 020 7218 Section 40
e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

ENCLOSURE 13 NUMBER

Section 40

Handsworth
Sheffield
Section 40

Our Reference
24-11-2005-094037-001

Date
22 December 2005

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request for copies of letters sent to the Ministry of Defence by members of the public between October 2001 and 30 April 2002 requesting copies of The Flying Saucer Working Party, Report No.7. Your request has been passed to this department as we are the focal point within the MOD for correspondence about unidentified flying objects.

We have no record of any requests for this report during the period you have specified. We received a letter in January 2002 requesting any de-classified information on UFOs available to the public and a copy of the Flying Saucer Working Party report was sent as part of the response. For your information I enclose a copy of this letter and the MOD's response. Information not relevant to your request has been removed.

You also asked for any other papers and any electronic internal e-mails created between 22 October 2001 and 30 April 2002 that may relate to The Observer article. I have examined our records for this period and can find no relevant documents.

I hope this is helpful. If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Copied from

UFOs — Public Correspondence & Requests for Information Part X

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
WC2N 5BP

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) 020 7218 Section 40
(GTN) #

14

[redacted]
REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
29 January 2002

Dear REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Thank you for your letter of 3 January concerning your forthcoming monthly meeting on the subject of 'unidentified flying objects'. This office is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to 'UFOs' and I have been asked to reply.

[redacted]
REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

With regard to your request for any information that has been released to the general public, I enclose with this letter two sets of documents that may be of interest to you.

[redacted]
REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted] REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT [redacted]

The second document was produced in June 1951 by the Flying Saucer Working Party and was recently found on an unrelated file during a routine review of files for possible release to the Public Record Office. It has now been downgraded and released into the Public Record Office. It may be helpful if I explain the background to this document.

During the summer of 1950 there was an increase in reports of unidentified aerial phenomena in the UK and in August a Working Party was set up (at the suggestion of Sir Henry Tizard) who thought "flying saucers should be investigated". At the 11th meeting of the Joint Technical Intelligence Committee the Chairman of the Flying Saucer Working Party presented his Report. The Committee decided that the document should be regarded as the final report and in view of the conclusions the Working Party should be dissolved. This document is a copy of that Report. You will wish to note that two short passages have been deleted. These have been retained under Section 3(4) of the Public Record Act 1958 and are the subject of discussions between the MOD and the relevant party.

If you are interested in the Flying Saucer Working Party further documents may be contained in the following files which are open for inspection at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU. Telephone: 0208 876 3444 Fax: 0208 878 8905.

DEFE 41/74	DSI/JTIC Minutes	1950
DEFE 41/75	DSI/JTIC Minutes	1951
DEFE 41/76	DSI/JTIC Minutes	1952-54
DEFE 10/496	DSI/JTIC Minutes of Meetings	April 1950-December 1951
DEFE 10/497	DSI/JTIC Minutes of Meetings	January 1952-October 1954

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Public Relations Dept.
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London

[redacted]

3rd January 2002

Dear Sir/Madam.

I am currently planning an organised debate, at one of our monthly meetings, with the topic under the following heading:- "Close encounters, U.F.O's and Little Green Men - Fact or fiction".
I will be contacting various professional bodies asking if representatives from each would be interested to form a for and against scenario, e.g. a solicitor, a judge, phycologist etc.
Therefore may I request

[redacted]

Yours Sincerely

[redacted]

P.T.O

from you as much de-classified info. available to the general public in connection with official reports regarding U.F.O's, or where I can obtain this material.

This would be of great help towards our meeting, Thankyou for your time and assistance.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCD/

25 November 0

Home | My Cases | Log New Request | Policy Guidance | Help

Request: Section 40 24-11-2005-094037-001

Days Left: 19

Received: 23 Nov 05
Expiry Date: 21 Dec 05
Status: Open

All sources

Workflow Options
- AIT Main

View
- Audit Trail
- Comments Log
- Saved Search Result
- Contact Details
- Documents

Actions
- Assign Within My Group
- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.
The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search results.

Date request received: 23 November 2005

Applicant Details

Title: Section 40 [redacted]

Other:

First Name:

*Surname: Section 40 [redacted]

Organisation:

Applicant Type: Not Specified

Other:

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1: Section 40 [redacted]

Address Line2: HANDSWORTH

Address Line3:

Town/City: SHEFFIELD

Postcode: Section 40 [redacted]

Country: United Kingdom

Email: [redacted]

Telephone:

Fax:

Clear | Back | Next | Cancel

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCD/

25 November 0!

Home | My Cases | Log New Request | Policy Guidance | Help

Request: Section 40 24-11-2005-094037-001

Days Left: 19

Received: 23 Nov 05
Expiry Date: 21 Dec 05
Status: Open

All sources

Workflow Options
AIT Main
View
Audit Trail
Comments Log
Saved Search Result
Contact Details
Documents
Actions
Assign Within My Group
Change Alert Settings
Edit Request Details
Upload Document
Close Case
Take Ownership

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.
The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search results.

Request Details

Response Format Requested: HARD COPY OR E-MAIL

Language Requested ☐ Welsh

*Enter the request for information:

Letter received in hard copy on 23 11 05.

18 /11/ 05

Dear FOI Officer

Record storage location of Applicant request (or upload document).

Clear | Back | Next | Cancel

Letter received in hard copy on 23 11 05.

18 /11/ 05

Dear FOI Officer

This is a request under the FOI Act.

My request is about the MoD Committee called "The Flying Saucer Working Party" set up in 1950, a copy of which I have seen on your website. I found this investigation was first mentioned in public in an article by Paul Harris published in the Observer newspaper on 21 Oct 05 (copy attached)

Under the FOI I would like to ask for copies of letters sent to your ministry by members of the public enquiring about or asking for copies of the "Working Party Report between publication of the newspaper article in Oct 2001 and 30 Apr 02 (before the report itself was made available on your website. I understand that you will have to remove personal details from these letters before you can release them to me.

Please could you also include in this request any other papers (e.g. replies sent to letters from the public) and any electronic records including internal e-mails that may relate to the Observer article created between 22 0ct 01 & 20 Apr 02

If I can help you to clarify this request please write to me at the above address or by e-mail at Section 40 [redacted]

I look forward to hearing from you promptly, as required by legislation, and in any case within 20 working days.

Yours faithfully

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your request for information regarding UFO / lights in the sky over Hertfordshire / M25 /London area on 20th October 2005. I apologise for not replying sooner.

The MOD received only one UFO report on the 20th October from a member of the public travelling on the M25. For your information, please find attached a copy of this report. Personal data about the informant has been removed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. This report was sent to the MOD twice, each worded slightly differently, so I have included a copy of both versions.

With regard to your request for information about radar reports and interception by RAF aircraft, these points were addressed in my letter dated 24 October in response to your previous request for information. With regard to your question about whether there were any military aircraft in the skies at the time, I should advise you that each pilot plans their sorties individually and records of flight plans are not held centrally. The only way to provide this information would be to contact all RAF, Army and RN flying stations and check the flight plans of every flight at the appropriate time. To conduct such an exercise would exceed the permitted £600 cost limit set by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act and the MOD is not obliged to provide this information. Finally, you asked why the MOD is "so unconcerned with unidentifieds continuously violating our airspace". It is not the case that UK airspace is being violated by unidentified aircraft or objects. The UK's airspace is continuously policed by the RAF and all attempts are made to identify any aircraft entering our airspace. Any that can not be positively identified and are considered to represent a potential threat will be challenged by air defence aircraft.

I hope this is helpful. If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

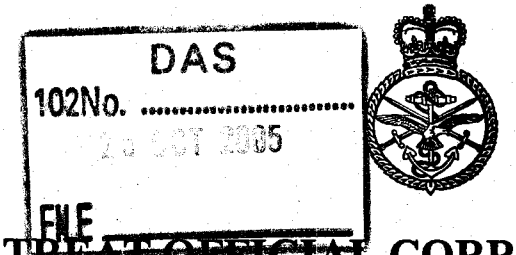
Section 40

Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H, Section 40
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

21st December 2005

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **



Low flying/UFOs/E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS (LA) PSP **TO Ref No** 30444 **/2005**

CC.

Date 25/10/05

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days of the above date.** If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

Most correspondence involves some form of request for information – even if it is only a request for clarification of Government policy – and is therefore covered by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) from January 2005. In general, if you meet the deadline for responding to correspondence, and comply with any requests for information, there is no need to do anything differently as this will meet the requirements of the Act. However, if the correspondence requests information which is not already in the public domain, and which might need to be withheld, then you should treat it as a FOIA request, track it using the Access to Information toolkit, and comply with the separate FOI guidance from DG Info (see http://aitportal/default.aspx for details). However, the deadline for responding to correspondence will still apply. If you are in any doubt as to whether a piece of correspondence should be treated as an FOIA request, you should ask your FOI Focal Point or refer to the guidance produced by DG Info.

It is vital that branches ensure they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public. This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against the targets for answering correspondence published in the Spending Review 2000 Service Delivery Agreement for the Ministry of Defence.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Floor 5, Zone A, Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB
Section 40
f: Section 40 ; DII: Ministerial Correspondence; e: Ministerial-Correspondence@mod.uk.

Detailed guidance on handling TO Correspondence can be found on the Defence Intranet at *http://main.defence.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/TOGuid.htm*
If you do not have access to the Intranet, please inform the Ministerial Correspondence Unit.

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

26-10-2005-115056-007
Expiry: 22 Nov 05

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 22 October 2005 19:01
To: public@ministers.mod.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

To whom it may concern, i am trying to find information regarding a incident a few days ago. On Thursday 20th of October, close 50 bright lights or LITS (lights in the sky/UFO) were spotting flying over the Hertfordshire/M25/London area in a loose erratic formation. I am requesting information you may have about this sighting, please include the following:

- Any Radar reports concerning the objects
- Any reports from members of the public concerning the objects
- If any aircraft used by the military were in the skies at that time
- If any effort was made by the RAF or FAA(RN) to intercept and identify the objects
- Why you seem so unconcerned with unidentifieds continously violating our airspace (although i do have a clue about that, quite obviously your inability to stop these things from violating our airspace makes us look weak, not a image you would like potrayed.)

The above is to be sent to this address:

Section 40 [redacted] Hatfield, Herts, Section 40 [redacted]

I know you MOD types are a bit anal with information when it comes to these sorts of things, but as a member of the public, i feel i am entitled to any information you may hold.

Thank You.

Section 40 [redacted]

24/10/2005

SECTION 7 - MISCELLANEOUS

Return to General Policy & Guidelines Home Page

Duplicate.

REPORT OF UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

1. Date, time & duration of sighting	20-10-05 @ 20.17 hours Duration approx 30 minutes.
2. Description of object (No. of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise)	7-8 ORANGE Glows, No Noise described as Like " PARACHUTE FLARES
3. Exact position of observer (Indoors / outdoors, stationary / moving)	OUTDOORS, Woodman Public house. A113 STANFORD Rivers road. STATIONARY.
4. How observed (Naked eye, camera, camcorder, binoculars or other optical device)	NAKED EYE, whilst driving b/b Stopped and exited Vehicle to look.
5. Direction in which object first seen (A landmark may be more useful than a roughly estimated bearing)	Above M25 J/W A127 Moving right → left in imfts View towards CHELMSFORD.
6. Angle of sight (Estimated heights are unreliable)	45 Degrees.
7. Distance (By reference to a known landmark)	20 + miles over landmark of M25 J/W A127.
8. Movements (Changes in 5, 6 & 7 may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)	Drifting right → left Very Slowly Not losing height
9. Met. Conditions during observations (Moving clouds, haze, mist, etc.)	High thin Cloud cover
10. Nearby objects (Telephone lines, high voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with floodlights or night lighting)	None mentioned,
11. To whom reported (Police, military, press etc.)	Police (Essex Police) Fin Boss. CAD TAKEN.
12. Name, address and telephone number of informant	Mr. REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT CHIGWELL ESSEX. [redacted]
13. Any further detail volunteered	N/A
14. Other witnesses	Mr [redacted] REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT (BRENTWOOD ESSEX (Travelling M25 J/W A127).
15. Date and time of receipt	20-10-05. 20.23 hours.
16. Remarks	Similar Sighting One month previous reported in local press as possibly being "CANDLE LANTERNS" which fly like balloons once lit".

SECTION 7 - MISCELLANEOUS

Return to General Policy & Guidelines Home Page

REPORT OF UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

1. Date, time & duration of sighting	20/10/05 20:17 pm
2. Description of object (No. of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise)	7 or 8 orange glows above cloud cover Quiet planes below. Solid orange glow no flashing lights.
3. Exact position of observer (Indoors / outdoors, stationary / moving)	Driving then pulled over near to woodmen Public house, on edge of layby,
4. How observed (Naked eye, camera, camcorder, binoculars or other optical device)	naked eye.
5. Direction in which object first seen (A landmark may be more useful than a roughly estimated bearing)	looking over hedges M25 junction but believe this to be South. Objects going towards the
6. Angle of sight (Estimated heights are unreliable)	45°
7. Distance (By reference to a known landmark)	several miles 20+ Miles
8. Movements (Changes in 5, 6 & 7 may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)	slowly bending right to left no flashing very slow like Parachute flares
9. Met. Conditions during observations (Moving clouds, haze, mist, etc.)	clear skies very slight cloud high up
10. Nearby objects (Telephone lines, high voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with floodlights or night lighting)	None
11. To whom reported (Police, military, press etc.)	Police
12. Name, address and telephone number of informant	[redacted] Chigwell REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
13. Any further detail volunteered	
14. Other witnesses	Knocked on a strangers door who also saw the lights
15. Date and time of receipt	

Fax from : Section 40 21/10/05 10:29 Pg: 1

ESSEX POLICE

Crown Gate The High Harlow Essex CM20 1HG

Telephone: Section 40
Facsimile:

Our ref:
Your ref:

FACSIMILE MESSAGE

TO: WEST DRAYTON **FAX NO.** Section 40 Section 40

For attention of:

From: APS Section 40

Number of Pages: 2 (including this one)

Message:

Please find attached notification of a Sighting of UFO's.

Not sent to applicant.

Thank You.

DATE: 21-10-05 **TIME:** 1000

SIGNED: Section 40

If there are any problems regarding this transmission or the contents thereof, please telephone ext Section 40

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) 020 7218 Section 40
e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

ENCLOSURE 11+2 NUMBER

Section 40

Rumney
Cardiff
Section 40

Our Reference
17-10-2005-163812-010

Date
18 January 2006

Dear Section 40

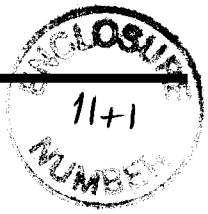
Further to my letter of 16th December 2005 in response to your Freedom of Information request about several UFO related stories in the press in 1995 and 1996, I am now pleased to be able to provide the copy of the video recording taken by Skegness Police in October 1996 as promised.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]



From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 23 December 2005 13:51
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: FOIA Requests

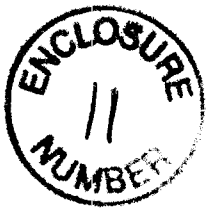
Dear Section 40 [redacted]

I'm e-mailing to thank you for sending the results of my recent FOIA request which arrived yesterday. Also thanks in advance for the video footage which you are arranging to have sent to me. It's good to see that there seems to be a satisfactory explanation for all of the alleged UFO sightings I asked about, despite the newspaper reports suggesting otherwise.

I hope that you have a great christmas and new year!

All the best,

Section 40 [redacted]



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: Section 40

Case Number: 17-10-2005-163812-010 **Expiry**: 14 November 2005

The Applicant has made the following requests for information:

1. Reference an article in the News of the World on 3 March 1996 entitled 'Flying saucer scare at Balmoral'. Any reports made by members of the public on or around the time of the incident (either to the local police or military), or any sighting reports made by RAF personnel in relation to this event, as well as any documentation regarding Section 40 's enquiries on the matter or the RAF spokesperson quoted in the article.

2. Reference an article in The Sun on 24 November 1995 entitled ' Three Tornadoes Scrambled to Intercept UFO'. Any documented information on the alleged incident in the form of sighting report forms from staff at Edinburgh Airport, members of the public around the time, RAF pilots and the statement to the paper made by the RAF Leuchars spokesman.

3. Reference an article in The People on 10 November 1996 entitled 'RAF in X-File Alert'. Any documented correspondence with the MOD by the late MP for Don Valley Martin Redmond, who tabled several Parliamentary questions re UFO sightings during 1996. I am particularly interested in the letter to Martin Redmond by the then Defence Minister Earl Frederick Howe, as quoted in the article below.

4. Any documented information in relation to the UFO sighting during October 1996 over East Anglia as mentioned in the above article from The People. Also the video taken by Police, which was allegedly given to the MOD and any documentation relating to that, as well as any documents relating to the alleged radar target tracked at RAF Neatishead and RAF Northwood.

Case for release of information

This case has taken a long time to complete due to the need to retrieve and search 13 paper files. The applicant has been sent an interim reply explaining the delay.

1. Our files contain a newspaper cutting from The Times dated 4 March 1996 which briefly refers to the News of the World article. Two UFO reports for sightings on the relevant day in Scotland, forwarded to us from RAF Leuchars. Section 40 's letter to the MOD dated 15 April 1996 and our reply. A file note written by Section 40 regarding enquiries she made in order to answer Section 40 's letter.

I propose to send the applicant a copy of the two UFO reports (personal and not relevant information removed) and a copy of Section 40 file note which contains basically the same information given to him in the reply to his letter.
It is still not clear where we stand with Copyright issues for newspaper cuttings, so I have not included a copy of The Times article. I assume Section 40 has his own letter and our reply so this has not been included.

2. The only papers we have regarding this incident is one letter from a member of the public and our reply. Flt Lt Section 40 , RAF Leuchars, Media and Communications Officer has confirmed that they would have no documents recording statements to the media from 10 years ago.

In my draft response to the applicant I have quoted the relevant paragraphs from both letters. The remaining information in these letters is not relevant to this request. I have informed the applicant that RAF Leuchars has no records.

3. Our files contain 33 PQs from Martin Redmond MP in 1996. Some of these were answered individually and the answers would have been published in Hansard. On one occasion when 15 were tabled together Nicholas Soames undertook to write to the MP and Earl Howe responded. One of these referred to RAF Standing Instructions as mentioned in The People article on 10 November 1996.

I propose to release a copy of the questions and Earl Howe's letter.

4. Our files contain Martin Redmond's letter to Michael Portillo regarding these events and Earl Howe's reply. As the MP was making serious accusations regarding the RAF's ability to defend UK airspace, DAO made extensive enquiries into this incident and our files include details of these and the outcome. We also have a few other internal Loose Minutes between Sec(AS), DI55 and DAO. We hold a copy of the video made by Skegness Police.

I propose to release Martin Redmond's letter and Earl Howe's reply, plus a copy of the report written by DAO. Names and telephone numbers of those involved have been removed. These documents have already been released to Section 40 on 9 December 2002 in response to Code requests. Lincolnshire Police have already released copies of their video to members of the public and Sgt Section 40 , Lincolnshire Police Forces Press Officer has confirmed that they are content for us to release a copy of the video to Section 40 DGMC PRNavChPhot has agreed to copy the video, but their machine is currently away being repaired. I will forward the copy to Section 40 as soon as possible.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation for the release of the aforementioned information to the Applicant.

Grade/Rank: ... B2 Name:... Section 40 .....

Signature..... Section 40 .....

Date:.....16/12/05.....

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) 020 7218 Section 40
e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

Rumney
Cardiff
Section 40

Our Reference
17-10-2005-163812-010

Date
16th December 2005

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request for four sets of information in connection with Newspaper articles about UFOs which were published in 1995 and 1996. I apologise for the delay in sending a substantive answer. This was caused by the need to retrieve and search a large number of paper files covering the relevant periods. I appreciate your patience and hope you will be happy with the results. I will address your requests in the same order as your letter.

News of the World article dated 3 March 1996 - 'Flying Saucer Scare at Balmoral"
Our files contain a newspaper cutting from The Times newspaper dated 4 March 1996 entitled "Royal couple buzzed by unidentified flying gossip" which briefly mentions the News of the World article. On the day this incident is alleged to have occurred (28 February 1996) there were also two UFO sighting reports made to RAF Leuchars by members of the public living in Scotland. It is not clear whether these are linked to this article, but I have enclose copies for your information. We also hold your letter to the MOD dated 15th April 1996 and a copy of Section 40 Section 40's response of 16 May 1996. I have not included copies as I assume you already have these. Finally, our records contain a file note detailing the enquiries made by Section 40. A copy of this is also enclosed. Where appropriate information not relevant to your request has been removed.

The Sun article dated 24 November 1995 – 'Three Tornadoes Scrambled to Intercept UFO'
Our files contain only one letter from a member of the public who asked "What do the MOD do with the subject of 'UFOs' because last week a UFO was seen over Edinburgh Airports and it was believed that two RAF planes were told to chase it, but the UFO was too fast for the RAF planes and out sped them". The MOD letter sent in response states "I know of no evidence which supports the claim that RAF aircraft chased a 'UFO' in the Edinburgh area as has been alleged; the most likely explanation is that the witness saw several RAF aircraft taking part in a routine flying training exercise and miss-identified the lead aircraft". With regard to the comment from the 'RAF Leuchars spokesman' I can confirm that RAF Leuchars hold no documents recording statements to the press from 10 years ago.

Documented correspondence with the MOD by the late Martin Redmond MP who tabled several Parliamentary Questions during 1996, in particular the letter to Martin Redmond by Defence Minister Earl Frederick Howe as mentioned in The People article dated 10 November 1996 – 'RAF in X-File Alert'.

Our records show that in 1996 Martin Redmond MP tabled a number of parliamentary questions regarding UFOs and Nicholas Soames undertook to write to him. The matter fell to the Under Secretary of State for Defence and The Earl Howe responded on 28th October 1996. For your information I enclose a copy of these questions and Earl Howe's reply. One of the questions referred to RAF Standing Instructions as mentioned in The People newspaper article on 10 November 1996 and paragraph three of Earl Howe's letter addressed this.

UFO sighting during October 1996 over East Anglia as mentioned in The People on 10 November 1996

Please find attached copies of Martin Redmond MP's letter to the then Secretary of State for Defence, The Rt. Hon. Michael Portillo MP, dated 24th October 1996 and The Earl Howe's reply dated 21st November 1996. As Mr Redmond's letter included serious criticism of the RAF and the UK Air Defence System, exceptionally in this case considerable enquiries were made into these events. I have also attached a copy of a document detailing these enquiries.

With regard to the video tape I can confirm that a video was taken by Skegness Police and sent to the MOD by Lincolnshire Police Headquarters on 5 November 1996. The MOD still holds a copy and Lincolnshire Police have confirmed that they are content for us to send you a copy. I have arranged for this to be copied and I will forward it to you as soon as possible. Comments on the contents of the video can be found in the document mentioned above.

I hope this is helpful. If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

TOP

FEED DIRECTION

ENCL No. 85

U N C L A S S I F I E D

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 282050Z FEB 96

FROM RAF LEUCHARS
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D
REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
FOR CAB/SEC(AS)
SUBJECT AERIAL PHENOMENA
A. 282010
B. YELLOW STAR WITH SMALL HEAD TOP AND BOTTOM
C. OUTDOORS Section 40 BLAIRGOWRIE
D. BINOCULARS
E. WESTERLY
F. 40 DEGREES
G. NOT KNOWN
H. STEADY BUT COLOUR FADING
M. REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT BLAIRGOWRIE REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
BT

DISTRIBUTION REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
F
REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Request 1
Copied from
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt B
-UFOs Sighting Reports.

-Sent to Section 40

TOP

FEED DIRECTION

ENCL No. 86

U N C L A S S I F I E D

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 282100Z FEB 96

FROM RAF LEUCHARS
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D
REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
FOR CAB/SEC(AS)
SUBJECT SERIAL PHENOMENA
A. 281900
B. ORANGE/WHITE/RED COLOUR-SHAPE UNKNOWN. SLOW MOVING
C. INDOORS
D. NAKED EYE
E. SOUTHERLY-NORTHERLY
F. 20 DEGREES
G. 300 FEET
H. SLOW MOVING LIKE GLIDER-NO NOISE HEARD
M. [redacted] CURTAIN OF CRAIG FERRYDEN. IFL[redacted]
REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
BT

DISTRIBUTION REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
F

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Request 1
Copied from
D/Sec(AS) 64/2 RB
– UFOs Sighting Reports

ENCL No 47

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

5 Mar 96

F I L E N O T E

PRESS ARTICLES ABOUT HARRIER AIRCRAFT
CHASING "UFOs" NEAR BALMORAL ON WED 28 FEB 96 AT 2200 HRS

1. Following the New of the World and The Times articles about the above mentioned alleged incident, the low flying complaints cell established that two Harrier aircraft from No 4 Squadron which were on detachment at RAF Leuchars from Laarbruch were conducting flying training in the rough area at the time in question.

2. Spoke to CRO at Leuchars, [redacted], who confirmed the above. He had received a few enquiries about this matter. The crews were undertaking routine Night Vision Goggle training and saw nothing unusual.

3. There was no question (as usual) that they were 'scrambled' to chase off any "UFOs".

Section 40 [redacted]

Request 1

Copied from
D/Sec(AS)64/1 Pt A
– UFOs Policy.

Request 3

Copied from
D/Sec(AS)64/4 Pt B
– UFOs PQ/PES.

Copies sent to [redacted] Section 40

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 37

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/FH/PQ2100H/2101H/2105H/2106H/
2109H/2111H/2112H/2114H/2118H/2123H/
2124H/2127H/2130H/2131H/2136H/96/M

28th October 1996

Dear Mr. Redmond,

Nicholas Soames undertook to write to you in his reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about UFOs. (Official Report, cols 1092-1093 and 1095, copies attached). I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

The MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena (Question 1) is limited to whether the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, we do not investigate further or seek to provide an explanation for what might have been observed. We have no expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters and, so far as the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms is concerned, we remain open minded but know of nothing that proves they exist. Our policy in this respect has not changed during the last thirty years.

RAF Standing Instructions (Question 2) require all RAF Station Commanders to forward reports of all 'UFO' sightings whether made by members of the public or on-duty Service personnel to the Secretariat (Air Staff), Branch 2a. Sec(AS)2a look at all 'UFO' sighting reports (Question 3) whether military or civilian reported. Reports are assessed in consultation with other MOD branches as required to determine whether there is any defence interest in what has been reported. Over the last twelve months there has been one instance of an on-duty member of the Services reporting an 'unexplained' aerial sighting, and this was not judged to be of any significance.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Hd Sec.(AS).
OCT 1996
FILE 64/4

Martin Redmond Esq MP

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

We have no evidence (Question 4) that any structured craft of unknown origin has penetrated the UK's Air Defence Region. I am unable to provide the information you seek about reports of alleged landings (Question 5) since records are maintained only of 'UFO' sighting reports which are not broken down further into specific categories.

You ask at Questions 2a, 2b and 6-12 about collaboration and consultation with a number of foreign governments. My Department has regular discussions with a number of countries on a wide range of topics of mutual interest but such discussions have not extended to 'UFO/flying saucer' issues or the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms.

I can confirm (Question 13) that my Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch holds no records under extended closure for any period in excess of 30 years. So far as the information sought at Question 14 is concerned, the PRO has confirmed that the class list giving details of preserved records is available to researchers at Kew.

Finally, I can also confirm (Question 15) that there is no unit within the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF) based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or anywhere else) specialising in investigations into unidentified flying objects. I should add that despite continuing misunderstandings about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor in alleged 'UFO' investigations, the Station is not and never has been involved in this way.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

THE EARL HOWE

Unidentified Flying Objects

10. **Mr. Redmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects: and if he will make a statement: [41048]

15. (2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations: and if he will make a statement: [41036]

13. (3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for *(a)* 50 years, *(b)* 75 years and *(c)* 100 years: how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects: and if he will make a statement: [40911]

11. (4) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Royal Australian air force in respect of unidentified flying objects: and if he will make a statement: [41042]

7. (5) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's intelligence section of the Spanish air forces air operations command in respect of unidentified flying objects: and if he will make a statement: [41050]

1. (6) if he will make statement on his Department's policy towards unidentified flying objects and on how this has developed during the past 30 years; [40913]

6. (7) what co-operation there is between the Royal Air Force and the United States air force in respect of establishing the facts relating to unidentified flying objects: and if he will make a statement: [40918]

5. (8) how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date: how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel: which of these had been traced by radar and with what result: and if he will make a statement: [40921]

8. (9) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Italian Ministry of Defence air force general staff (2. Department) in respect of unidentified flying objects: and if he will make a statement: [41049]

2. (10) what instructions have been sent to the commanders of Royal Air Force stations to collect reports from air crews having allegedly sighted unidentified flying objects: what inquiries have been held following such sightings: to what extent there has been collaboration between his Department and departments in *(a)* Canada and *(b)* the United States of America on this problem: and if he will make a statement: [40917]

12. (11) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with New Zealand's Ministry of Defence in respect of unidentified flying objects: and if he will make a statement: [41043]

9. (12) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's joint staff of the armed forces intelligence division in respect of unidentified flying objects: and if he will make a statement: [41051]

3. (13) how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months: what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations: and if he will make a statement: [40910]

4. (14) if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region: and if he will make a statement. [40919]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Nicholas Redfern

14. **Mr. Redmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the titles of the records of the Ministry of Defence's scientific intelligence branch in respect of correspondence sent to Mr. Nicholas Redfern by the Public Record Office, Kew on 21 September 1990. [40889]

Mr. Soames: I will write to hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library in the House.

Request 4

Copied from
D/Sec(AS)64/4 A
- UFOs PE/PQs-
Copies sent to [redacted] Section 40

MARTIN REDMOND, M.P.

USofS
Sec(AS)
UFOs

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

24th. October, 1996

The Rt. Hon. Michael Portillo, M.P.,
The Secretary of State,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
S.W.1A 2HB.

Dear Michael,

I am very concerned about an incident that occurred off the East Anglian coast recently, involving a visual unidentified flying craft sighting which was correlated by various different military radar systems. I have attached, for your information, copies of some recent press reports.

From these press reports it would seem as if the unidentified flying craft was seen by the crew of a tanker; the crew of a civil aircraft; police at Skegness (who took a video), and police at Boston. Simultaneously, the object seems to have been picked up on military radar systems at R.A.F. Neatishead, R.A.F. Waddington, and R.A.F. Northwood, together with systems at London and at Anglia radar.

What strikes me as incredible is that no aircraft were scrambled when an uncorrelated target was picked up so close to the coast. This raises for me, serious issues about the way in which we police the U.K. Air Defence Region (U.K.A.D.R.). Given that we have Tornado F.3 aircraft based at R.A.F. Leuchars; R.A.F. Leeming; and R.A.F. Coningsby, should not one of these bases have had Air Defence aircraft on Quick Reaction Alert (Q.R.A.), and should a launch not have been ordered? I am also unclear as to the involvement of R.A.F. Kinloss in Scotland, home of our Nimrod Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

A story seems to have been put around that the radar systems were picking up Boston's church tower! Although "ground clutter" can give spurious returns around certain radar heads, my understanding is that the locations of such areas are well known, and that such an effect is unlikely to be repeated on so many different radar systems. Some of the Air Traffic Control radars might have difficulty with ground clutter, but Air Defence radar systems and their skilled operators should know the difference. This "explanation" also fails to take account of the visual sightings.

/Cont. 2

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Naturally, all sorts of rumours are circulating: no Q.R.A. aircraft were available at R.A.F. Coningsby, which is just a few miles from the Wash; the R.A.F. wanted to scramble aircraft but were overruled "at the highest level"; the video taken by the police has disappeared into the bowels of your Ministry's Main Building. While I am interested in finding out what was seen, my primary concern stems from the absolute shambles that such events seem to cause. The R.A.F. are supposed, or so I believed, to be responsible for keeping a watchful eye on activity in the U.K.A.D.R., but seem to have no idea as to what is going on. Do they have no standard procedure for such incidents? They had enough time to think about it, because the object was on radar for upwards of seven hours! These concerns remain, even if there is a prosaic explanation for this specific incident.

I could think of countless other questions that concern me based on the points I have raised in this letter and in the various press reports, but I will confine myself, in addition to the above, if you will answer the following questions in respect of the unidentified flying craft sighting that occurred on 4th./5th. October in the vicinity of the Wash, and subsequently reported to your Department:

1. If you will detail the role played by those military establishments who picked up on their radar systems or were otherwise involved in events, and if you will comment on the video of the sighting sent to your Department by the Boston police?

2. Why no aircraft were scrambled to investigate the unidentified flying craft seen by the police; the crew of a civil aircraft; and the crew of a tanker on 4th./5th. October, given that at least three military establishments reported having detected the unidentified flying craft on radar?

3. Whether it is the R.A.F's standard practice to ignore sightings of unidentified flying craft which are correlated by radar, or whether there is a requirement to investigate such phenomena by scrambling aircraft?

I look forward to your reply with great interest.

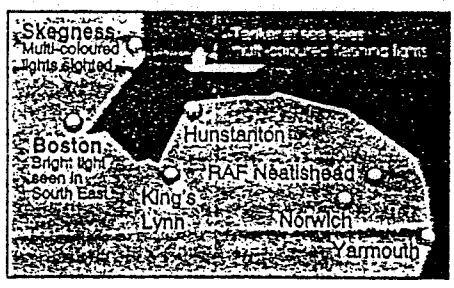
Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Out of this world

This is the transcript of the conversations between coastguards, RAF stations in Norfolk, Scotland and London, police and North Sea tanker Conocoast when strange lights were seen in the night sky at the weekend. It is the recording taken at Yarmouth Coastguard headquarters:

0314 Skegness police: "We can see a strange red-and-green rotating light in the sky directly south-east from Skegness. It looks strange as it is stationary and there is no aircraft sound in the area."
0326 RAF Kinloss: "Northwood have a radar contact bearing 221 degrees at 16 miles, it looks to be stationary and there is no way of determining its height but it must be quite a size to be visible from Skegness."
0331 Kinloss: "Neatishead now confirms a couple of radar contacts in the area but no height, they seem to be stationary. There are definitely no military aircraft in the area and no notified civil flights should be there."
0346 Conocoast tanker: "We have these lights on visual. Now they are flashing red, green and white. Cannot identify it as an aircraft as it looks stationary and it is approximately one mile high."
Yarmouth Coastguard: "Did you see from which direction it appeared?"
Conocoast: "No. It just appeared and is stationary."
0353 Kinloss: "Neatishead say it could be caused by the weather"
Coastguard: "I don't think so as we have visual contact."
Kinloss: "Well, Neatishead and Northwood report that there is no transponder on this



object and therefore no means of interrogation. It is obvious that whatever it is it does not want anyone to know that it is there. Also Neatishead report its position as directly over Boston."
0408 Conocoast: "It is still stationary and flashing red, green, blue and white. It looks very high, north of us, and there is no engine noise.
0417 Coastguard: "Skegness, can you get video footage as the RAF are very interested and may require it later."
0427 Kinloss: "Neatishead are keeping a log of what looks like clutter on the radar."
0445 Yarmouth Coastguard: "Conocoast, can you give us an update?"
Conocoast: "We can see two lights flashing green and red."
0501 Coastguard: "Give us both bearings of the two lights"
Conocoast: "There is one stationary light at 345 deg true and the other at 160 true, the lights are both visible with the naked eye and both exhibit the same characteristics flashing red, blue, green and white."
0517 Boston police: "We can still see the light. It is towards the south-east and seems about 40-45 degrees in the sky. It is just a bright light to us."
0521 Kinloss: "Neatishead are running a trace on this and cannot explain it. If they are helicopters they are fast approaching the end of their endurance as it is well over two hours since the first report let alone how long they were up there before they were actually sighted."
0552 Conocoast: "We can still see the lights, and they are on their original bearings and flashing the same colours but they seem higher and dimmer"
0708 Flight Lieutenant McFarlane, Neatishead: "We had a report from Northwood that a civil flight had also reported strange lights in the area. They fit exactly what was seen from the ground, multi-coloured, flashing, stationary lights."
0731 Flight Lieutenant George, Northwood: "This echo is still on our screens and we cannot explain this at all apart from it being a meteorological phenomenon but then again we have visual sightings also. The civilian flight that reported these lights as a flare was six miles away at the time. All very strange."
1109 Neatishead: "The object still has not moved, London radar and Waddington can also see it."
1920 Anglia radar: "There is nothing there now. we are of the opinion that it was the Boston Stump."
Wind: Force Four. Visibility: 20 miles.

Did you see the mysterious bright lights?

The source of "strange" bright lights spotted in the sky off East Anglia at the weekend remained a mystery last night.

Police, the RAF and shipping reported the appearance of two large, unexplained objects above the Wash in the early hours of Saturday.

Baffled personnel at RAF Neatishead spent hours tracking the UFOs, described by witnesses as large, about a mile up in the sky, and with blue, white, red and green flashing lights.

The Ministry of Defence said it was taking the sightings seriously and "all possibilities" would be covered.

Spokesman Nigel Sergeant said: "We are trying to prove that it does not represent any sort of security threat and that it was not an aggressive intrusion into our airspace. This is one of the bigger sightings recently and has caused quite a bit of interest."

Skegness police called the coastguards at 3.14am on Saturday after seeing a number of objects flashing in the sky, which were also spotted by colleagues at Boston.

Sightings, which continued until the objects disappeared off radar screens at about 11am on Saturday, later came from a tanker and a civilian aircraft, while two military radar stations verified "strange" traces.

Flt Lt Keith Sweatman, of RAF Neatishead, said: "We have not been able to offer an explanation.

"The number of independent reports we have had suggest there is something to follow up. We will be investigating thoroughly."

Witnesses heard no aircraft noise and military radar showed no aircraft, civil or military, in the area, apart from the civilian flight which reported "strange lights."

Military officials said no airforce planes had been scrambled to investigate.

Coastguards yesterday suggested the lights might have been Venus. But Ian Morison, a scientist at the radio astronomy observatory at Jodrell Bank, said this was unlikely as the planet would not have been visible after sunrise. Did you take a photograph of the mysterious lights? If so, ring the EDP newsdesk on 01603 628311.

EASTERN DAILY PRESS 8 OCT 1996

UFOs expose 9-5 defence danger

Mystery lights in the sky highlight a problem or two

I READ with interest how our ever vigilant police forces, coastguards and military radar observers spent from 3.15am to 11.09am on Saturday, October 5 watching an unidentified brightly lit flying object.

In the shadow of "Independence Day" hysteria, what is indeed phenomenal is the fact that "Military officials said no air force planes had scrambled to investigate."

Our multi-billion pound defence budget to which we, the tax paying public are forced to contribute, equips our national protection with Tornadoes, Jaguars and F18 fighter aircraft at £30-million a throw and pilots to fly them costing £5-million each to train.

It all seems pretty pointless if they only fly 9-5 on Monday to Friday.

We must think ourselves fortunate the bright lights over the Wash were not Saddam Hussein or some other crackpot targeting us for nuclear obliteration, because if it had been, you would not be reading this letter.

Damian O'Connor, King Street, Norwich.

■ WITH everyone's minds on strange things in the sky (Evening News, October 7) now seems a good time to ask whether anyone else saw the silent object I did over the centre of Norwich at around 9am on December 27 last year, a date and time which meant the city was virtually empty.

It certainly wasn't a flying saucer, more a brightly coloured flying object, and appeared at first to be a giant kite about the dimensions of a single-decker bus.

As the fair was here at the time it might well have been a publicity stunt to attract attention. It might have been any number of things — but quite what is the puzzle.

Malcolm Chamberlin, Highland Road, Norwich.

■ IN YOUR leader (October 7) referring to the mysterious lights seen over The Wash at the weekend, you comment: "The strange sightings of a *stationery* object over East Anglia have so far defied a rational explanation."

I take it you mean there is no cause for concern as it is no more than a *paper* exercise?

Warren King, Amderley Drive, Norwich.

■ **Editor's note:** Oops! Looks like one of the little green men got into the works – perhaps the same one which dated Mr King's letter as March 8. Sorry about the slip. We will try to do better.

Eastern Evening News, 12/10/96

FO probe into
ndar mystery

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
224-236 Walworth Road,
London SE17 1JE
Extract from
Southend Evening Echo - Essex
- 8 OCT 1996

UFO hunt is on says the RAF

THE MINISTRY of Defence and RAF were today investigating multiple sightings of a UFO.

Reports of a bright white shining object were received by Boston and Skegness police forces in Lincolnshire and over the Norfolk coast near The Wash.

RAF Neatishead, near Wroxham, Norfolk, confirmed it had tracked a mystery signal on their radar.

Flight Lieutenant Keith Sweatman said: "The object appeared on our radars and stayed there for a number of hours.

"It moved some 50 miles down the coast at a speed which suggested it wasn't a weather balloon."

He said the RAF would be investigating the matter thoroughly and confirmed they were already collating their information.

"The number of independent reports we've had suggests there is something to follow up," he said.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
224-236 Walworth Road,
London SE17 1JE
Extract from
Eastern Daily Press - Norwich
8 OCT 1996

Shedding some light

High over the coast near Boston it hung, a strange flashing, red and green rotating light which the Ministry of Defence is now investigating to see whether it was a "threat to our security".

According to RAF Kinloss, it seemed obvious "that it does not want anyone to know that it is there". Not surprisingly, even normally sceptical UFO researchers are impressed.

We confess to being intrigued, and will feel hugely let down if, as in Anglia radar's view, this revolving aerial show proves to be nothing more extra-terrestrial than the tower of Boston's famous church.

Sightings off coast tracked by air base

THE MINISTRY of Defence is today investigating a possible UFO sighting off the county coast which was picked up by RAF radar.

Reports of a bright white shining object in the sky were received by Skegness and Boston Police together with the coastguard at about 3am on Saturday.

by Jason Mellor

The mystery object was also reported around The Wash. The MoD and RAF officials are looking into the incident.

RAF Neatishead, near Wroxham, Norfolk, was the nearest base to the incident.

Flight Lieutenant Keith Sweatman, said: "The object appeared on our radars and stayed there for a number of hours. It moved some 50 miles down the coast at a speed which suggested it wasn't a weather balloon.

"We will be investigating the matter thoroughly and are already collating all the information we have. The number of independent reports we have had suggest there is something to follow up."

It was confirmed that the base had not been conducting operations in the area at the time of the sighting.

Special

Special 'Q' aircraft normally investigate UFO sightings, but there were none available at the time as the nearest one was at RAF Leuchars in Scotland.

The MoD has a special cell which investigates all reported UFO sightings. It will be carrying out extensive checks into what was seen.

A spokesman for Skegness Police said: "We had calls which suggested a large bright object over the coast. In the past, sightings like this have been either a plane or a weather balloon but we have not yet had this confirmed."

LINCOLNSHIRE DAILY ECHO
7 OCT 1996

EASTERN DAILY PRESS OCT 11 96

new theory about those strange lights in the sky

Stumped?

Not any more. . . the great Wash UFO sighting finally explained

By STEVE DOWNES

The truth was out there.
But even agent Mulder of the X-Files would find it hard to believe.
The great East Anglian UFO mystery was solved last night – and turned out to be just a storm and a church tower.
The weekend sightings of colourful flashing lights over the Wash captured the imagination of would-be X-Files sleuths across the region.
Letters and telephone calls flooded into the EDP after the sightings, which coincided with the appearance of a mysterious object on radars.
One theory was that the culprit was planet Venus.
But Norfolk RAF investigators have now found logical explanations – and have ruled out the possibility of little green men peering down on us.
Flight Lt Keith Sweatman, of RAF Neatishead, said: "We now know that the radar trace was Boston Stump – the church tower at Boston.
"And the weather people said that the coloured lights in the sky coincided with an electrical storm over the Wash.
"You do get weird experiences with electrical storms, and they can produce lots of different colours."
The 200ft church tower would have been ruled out if it had been picked up by a more advanced RAF radar, which can computer-enhance images.
But the air traffic control radar did not have similar facilities, and operators jumped to the conclusion that it must have been linked with the flashing red, blue, green and white lights, seen by the tanker Conocoast.
Following the weekend sightings, an investigation was launched by the Ministry of Defence to ensure they did not pose a threat to national security. That has now been discounted.
The mystery is expected to be cleared up once and for all in the next couple of days when experts at RAF Neatishead view video footage of the lights. They are waiting for the video to arrive after being sent from Boston police.
Flight Lt Sweatman stressed they would be keeping an open mind.
"I don't totally discount UFOs," he said.
"I'm not a disbeliever, but I'm not a believer either."


Out of this world
Did you see the mysterious bright lights?

FLASHBACK: How the EDP reported the sighting on Tuesday this week.

Request 4

Copied from
D/Sec(AS)64/4 pt B
UFOs - PQ/PEs.

64/4

21 NOV 1996

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 64

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/FH 4168/96/M

21st November 1996

Dear Mr. Redmond,

Thank you for your letter of 24 October to Michael Portillo expressing concern about the effectiveness of the UK air defence system. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

I must say at the outset that much of the content of the press reports enclosed with your letter is incorrect, ill-informed and speculative. Much of what you say in your letter is also incorrect.

The facts are that our air defence system found no evidence of unidentified flying craft throughout the period in question. The only radar plot observed, which was identified on the National Air Traffic Services Claxby radar in the position of Boston, was judged by experienced operators at two separate locations to be a permanent echo, caused by a natural phenomena (something that does occur in certain weather conditions), not suspicious in nature nor of any significance to air or maritime safety, and of no air defence or air concern. The characteristics of the radar plot confirm beyond reasonable doubt that this judgement was sound.

There is very little reliable or accurate bearing or elevation information in connection with any of the sightings of lights observed in the area of The Wash. From that provided, including the video which was not fowarded to us by the Lincolnshire Police HQ until 5 November, the Greenwich Observatory view is that the lights were of celestial origin and likely to be Venus which had been exceptionally bright during the week in question.

Martin Redmond Esq MP

I am confident that there is no evidence that the UK Air Defence Region was compromised. There was, of course, no reason whatsoever, in the light of the above for any further military action.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

THE EARL HOWE

64/4

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 61

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAO/1/13

13 Nov 96

Sec(AS)2a1

Copy to: AOAD1

LETTER TO SOFS FROM MR MARTIN REDMOND MP CONCERNING ALLEGED `UNIDENTIFIED FLYING CRAFT SIGHTINGS' ON 5 OCT

Reference: Mr Redmond's letter to SofS dated 24 Oct 96.

1. At Reference, Mr Martin Redmond MP raises several points concerning visual and radar observations which occurred during the early hours of Saturday 5 Oct 96 and which are referred to, incorrectly, as `a visual unidentified flying craft sighting which was correlated by various different military radar systems'. The substance of Mr Redmond's letter is based on various reports which appeared in the local press, some incorrect, ill-informed or speculative, which I understand were provided to him by [redacted] of the Staffordshire UFO Group. In addition, the letter includes serious criticism of the Service, and of the UK Air Defence system in particular; for this reason, exceptionally, the facts surrounding the incident have been established in considerable detail and set out below, together with resumes of observations, actions and explanations. A map showing the location of key agencies, equipment and observations is at Annex A.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

2. Initial Observations. At approximately 0205Z on 5 Oct 96 a Skegness police officer on mobile patrol at nearby Addlethorpe observed stationary multicoloured lights to the east and low in the sky which he reported to the control room in Skegness. As a precaution, the control room relayed the sighting to Great Yarmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), suspecting it could be related to an incident at sea. The MRCC, unaware of any maritime activity, asked the Air Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) at RAF Kinloss whether they were aware of any air activity or incident in the Wash area. The ARCC had no knowledge of any such air activity and, in turn, asked the Control and Reporting Centre (CRC) at RAF Neatishead if any aircraft activity was present on the radar in that area; Neatishead had no unidentified radar contact on the air defence radars being used to provide air surveillance in the area and ARCC subsequently asked the Distress and Diversion (D&D), located at the London Air Traffic Control Centre (LATCC) West Drayton (not at RAF Northwood as the Coastguard erroneously assumed and the press subsequently reported). The D&D Cell reported a radar plot on the National Air Traffic Services Claxby radar over Boston to ARCC, thence to MRCC. At the same time, CRC Neatishead, which had conducted a search on

all available displays, observed the same plot on the same Claxby radar in the same position. This information was also relayed to ARCC thence to MRCC; by now, MRCC had consciously or subconsciously associated the reports of lights with the Boston radar return and assumed an investigative and coordination role for the rest of the night.

3. Actions by Air Defence System. Meanwhile, CRC Neatishead's inquiries had revealed no sign of air movements or military exercises in the area and there was no evidence of unidentified air activity on any radar; the stationary radar plot, without associated height or IFF/SSR support, therefore, was judged by experienced operators at both Neatishead and the D&D Cell to be a permanent echo, and the separate stationary lights as some form of natural phenomena of no air defence or air concern. It was clear that no flying craft had penetrated the UKADR or was present on any radar; furthermore, the unrelated stationary light reports were not suspicious in nature or of significance to air or maritime safety, therefore, no recommendation to scramble a Quick Reaction Alert aircraft from RAF Leuchars to investigate either the permanent echo or the reported lights was sought.

4. Subsequent Reporting. Updates and further information on both the plot and lights continued to be sought by MRCC from several sources on open circuits and reported, and sometimes distorted, in the process. Further interest in the radar plot was kept alive at the instigation of the coastguard, leading to the eventual involvement of several other control agencies including LATCC(Civil), LATCC(Military), Anglia Radar and Waddington Approach. Further interest in the lights was maintained by the coastguard until they disappeared with the dawn, involving a tanker vessel at sea, Boston and Skegness Police Forces and LATCC(Civil).

INVESTIGATION OF RADAR PLOT AND VISUAL SIGHTINGS

5. The various observations which occurred in the early hours of 5 Oct 96 and the various phenomenae have been investigated in considerable detail. The relevant logs maintained by on-duty Military and Civilian personnel have been studied and, where possible, key observers and operators, both civil and military, have been interviewed by telephone.

THE BOSTON PLOT

6. Plot Characteristics. A radar Plot was observed in the position of Boston, Lincs, on the National Air Traffic Services (NATS) sensor at Claxby, near Market Rasen, when attention was drawn to the area by Great Yarmouth Coastguard. It was observed by the D&D Cell from approximately 0225Z and by CRC Neatishead from 0230Z; both organisations have access to the same radar display although neither uses that radar on a routine basis for surveillance or aircraft control in the Wash area. Later, the plot was observed by Anglia Radar at Stanstead, which opened at

0600, again on the Claxby radar display. The radar plot was always single and stationary and defied attempts to obtain height or IFF/SSR information on it. Significantly, the plot was never present on radar displays from the NATS sensors at Cromer and Debden nor on the air defence radar at Trimmingham; although a stationary return was detected on the AR15 approach radar at RAF Waddington at 0749Z, this was inaccurate reporting of a separate permanent echo. Three aircraft, which transitted the Boston area at 0710Z, 0830, and 1105, failed to sight any airborne object. A map showing radar locations and the position of the plot is at Annex B.

7. Plot Analysis. The characteristics of the plot confirm beyond reasonable doubt that it was a permanent radar echo, and the fact that it could only be detected by a single nearby sensor indicates a relatively low physical feature which, however, appears as a permanent radar echo only in certain weather conditions; for example, it was not present on the Claxby radar on 8 Nov but could be seen on 11 Nov. It is highly probable that the echo was caused by the 273ft Spire of St Botolph's Church, Boston (the `Boston Stump), as suggested at 1105Z by Anglia Radar, a unit familiar with operating aircraft in the Wash area; however, it is not possible to be absolutely certain without conducting further detailed technical study.

THE STATIONARY LIGHTS

8. Analysis of Observations. Various sightings of either stationary, multicoloured, flashing lights or a stationary bright white light were made between approximately 0205Z and dawn by observers at Skegness and Boston and on board the MV CONOCOAST some 8 miles to the east of Skegness. However, when asked at 0227 and 0240Z respectively, police at Kings Lynn and the MV NAUTIC W, some 16nms ENE of Skegness, observed no lights which they considered unusual. In addition, the crews of two civilian airliners flying through the area at between 0520 and 0530Z reporting no sightings of lights when asked by LATCC(Civil). Only one unsolicited observation of lights seems to have occurred: by PC [redacted] at approximately 0205Z on patrol at Addlethorpe near Skegness. All other recorded observations were made on the instigation of Great Yarmouth Coastguard. Moreover, while various reference has been made to an object associated with the lights, this has been by inference only on the part of the observers. A full synopsis of sightings, times, bearings and angles is at Annex C together with maps showing the locations of observation. There is little reliable or accurate bearing and elevation information since several observers confessed to being either unconcerned, not very interested, or admitted to being poor at angles; the only accurate measurements are derived from the Skegness police video tape of the lights, filmed at 0350Z and from the Section 40 [redacted] at 0401Z which measured bearings based on the Ship's compass. While the lights were generally regarded as unusual, no observer confessed to being alarmed by them; indeed, the initial observer watched the multicoloured flashing lights change characteristics and elevation until dawn when `they looked just like any other star'.

9. Expert Opinion. The observations were examined by the Royal Greenwich Observatory and a report of its findings is at Annex D. The report acknowledged the uncertainties in the estimates of azimuth and elevation of the observations and could only provide a best guess of the likely light source(s) as summarized below.

a. The Boston Police may have been looking at the planet Venus which was exceptionally bright in the early morning sky on 5 Oct, rising at 0209Z on a bearing slightly north of east; this is consistent with the first Boston observation.

b. Based on measurements obtained from the police video, the Skegness observations could also have been Venus. The Observatory notes that when a bright star or planet is low in the sky, even to elevation 20^0, it is quite common for it to appear to show colours which are often described as flashing or rotating. These characteristics and the report of the first Skegness observer tend to favour the Venus theory.

c. The Observatory can offer no likely celestial explanation for either sets of lights observed from the Section 40 Section 40 .

SUMMARY

10. Following extensive investigation, it can be concluded that the radar plot observed in a position at Boston was a permanent radar echo; it was correctly assessed as such by CRC Neatishead at the time and no further air defence related action taken. The bright stationary lights observed from Boston and Skegness were probably due to light from the planet Venus which began rising at the time of the first observation; it was particularly bright and could have appeared multicoloured and flashing to some observers. No explanation can be offered for the two sets of lights observed from Section 40 .

11. For completeness and further reference, various notes are attached at Annex E, together with a list of organizations and persons consulted in the course of this investigation. In addition, abbreviated comment on the detail contained in Mr Redmond's letter to SofS are at Annex F. A copy of the video of the Skegness lights, copied by Lincolnshire Police HQ, is attached.

12. This report is the result of almost full time, painstaking investigation over a period of 8 working days and, although all the light phenomenae have not been conclusively explained, research has not revealed evidence or admissions that alarming or extraordinary events were being witnessed. It is likely that similar detailed investigation into light phenomenae would produce

equally less than conclusive but unastonishing results; they could not be achieved on a routine basis, however, without dedicated resources being allocated to the task.

[redacted]
REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Wg Cdr

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

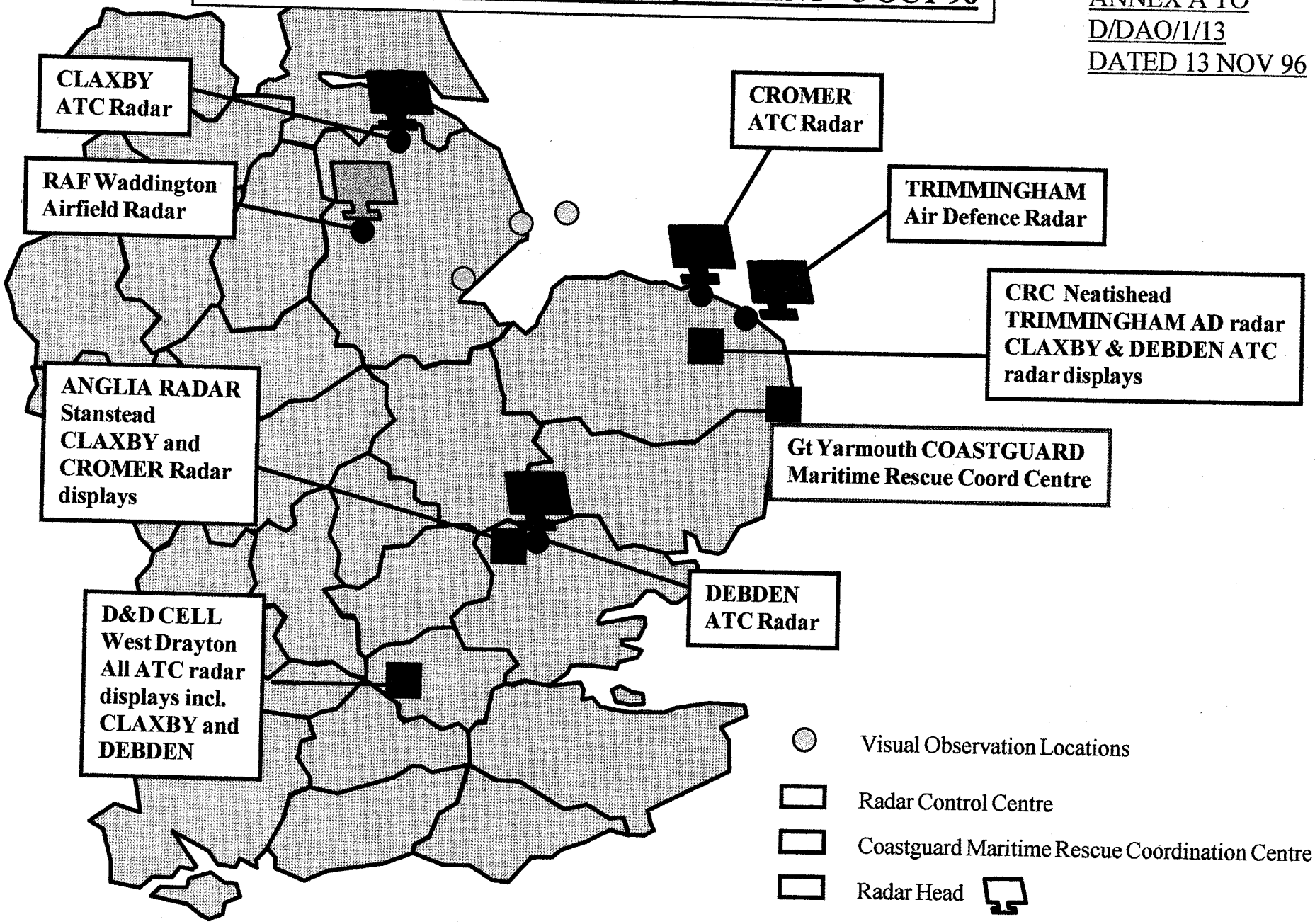
Annexes:

A. Agencies, Locations and Equipment.
B. Radar Plots over Boston.
C. Synopsis on Observations of Lights.
D. Royal Greenwich Observatory Report.
E. Miscellaneous Notes
F. Abbreviated Comments on Mr Redmond's Letter.

Attached: Lincolnshire Police copy of Skegness Video

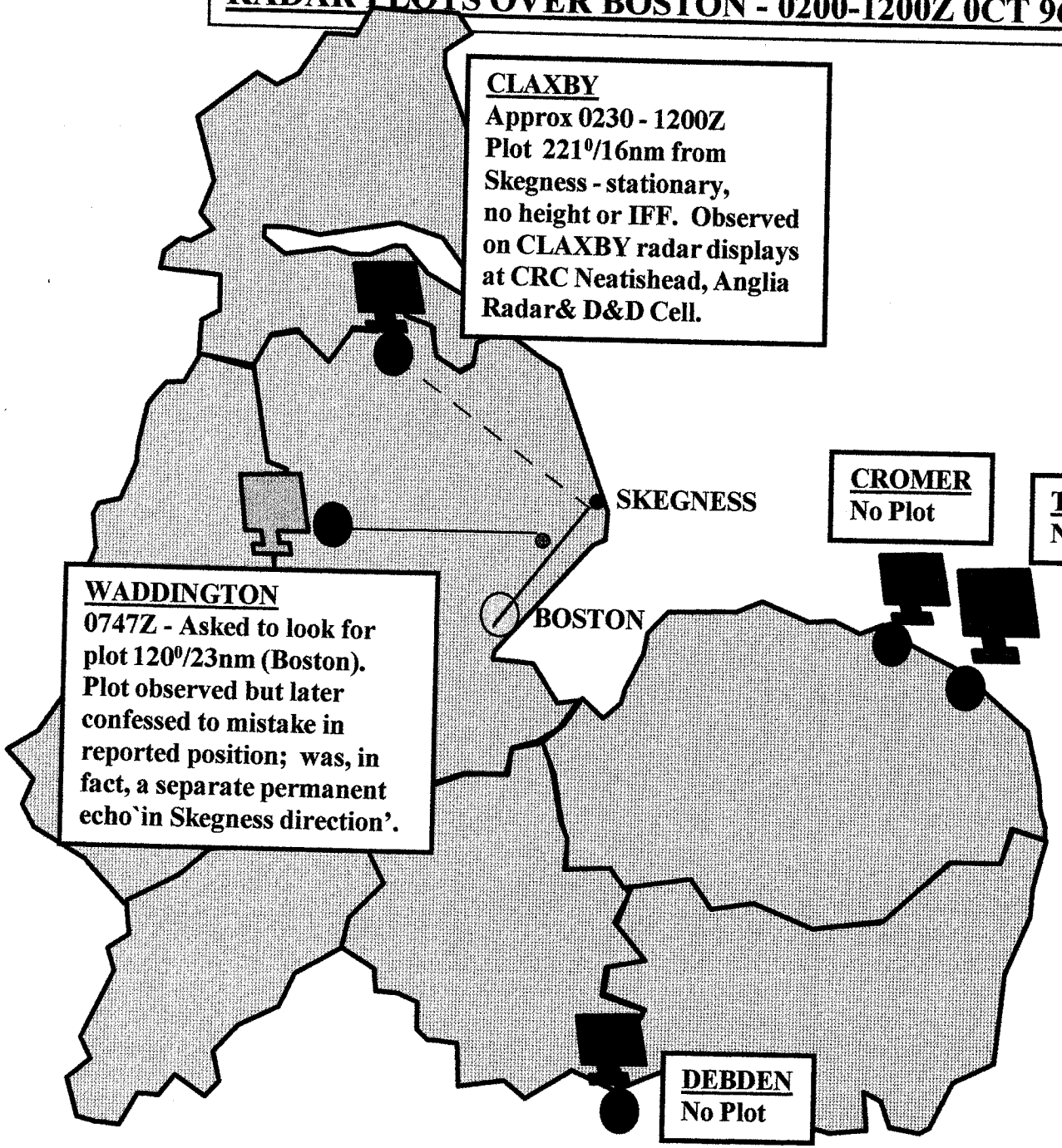
AGENCIES, LOCATIONS AND EQUIPMENT - 5 OCT 96

ANNEX A TO
D/DAO/1/13
DATED 13 NOV 96



RADAR PLOTS OVER BOSTON - 0200-1200Z 0CT 96

ANNEX B TO
D/DAO/1/13
DATED 13 NOV 96



Boston Plot - Active Investigation

0710 - London Mil 6153 squawk passed 3nm from plot FL150 - no contact

0830 - Anglia radar 7000 squawk flew through plot at 900ft - no contact

1105 - Waddington Approach 1743 squawk transitted Boston area at 2000ft - nothing seen

ANNEX C TO
D/DAO/1/13
DATED 13 NOV 96

SYNOPSIS OF OBSERVATIONS OF UNUSUAL LIGHTS - 5 OCT

SKEGNESS POLICE

Observer: PC [redacted] Mobile patrol at Addlethorpe. Stationary, blue green red lights to the East, appeared elongated, low in the sky. Observed at about 0200Z then periodically until 0400Z; light remained stationary but became progressive higher and clear; by 0400Z `the star was fairly high in the sky looking very similar to the rest'.

Observer: PC [redacted] at Skegness. First seen 0205Z following information from PC [redacted] static white light with red green and yellow lights rotating around it - much lower than any star, estimate 50,000ft. Last observed at 0420 when 'it looked just like any other star'.

Observer: Mr [redacted] (Control Room - [redacted] - visual plus video
Position: Visual from 3rd floor window, video from roof above.
Four observations at 0214, 0350, 0450(when lights videoed) and just before going off duty at 0600Z. Stationary red, green, blue and white flashing light. Observer admitted to being `not very interested' in the lights.

BOSTON POLICE

Observer: Inspector [redacted]
Position: Through 3rd floor window of Police station and outside.
Observed intermittently between approx 0230 and dawn: stationary bright white light, constant azimuth and elevation - slightly north of east and about 40 degrees up - `did not fit the description of the lights being reported by Skegness' - saw the same light `a couple of months ago but further north on that occasion'

Observer [redacted] (Control Room - [redacted]
Position: Through control room window on 3rd floor.
Two observations at 0412 and 0503 - Just a fixed bright light, not flashing, no colours.

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

KINGS LYNN POLICE

O227Z - No reports of unusual lights.

Section 40 [redacted]

Tanker operating from Rochester carrying fuel to Dredgers off Ingoldmells on north westerly heading - 4 crew
Crew: [redacted] (Master), [redacted], AN Other (now on ONWARD MARINER - phone [redacted] and [redacted] Still on
Section 40 [redacted]
Two sets of similar lights to north and south; observed by all crew members intermittently (busy working the ship) from 0246 til daybreak. - observed about every 30 mins or so. Constant azimuth from ship, 345 and 160 degrees, could not say whether relative bearing changed since ship was moving - elevation about 20 degrees according to Ship Captain; other observer states northerly light about 10 degrees above the horizon and southerly 30 degrees. Both sets of lights bright and flashing red, green, blue and white lights to the south were brightest.

Section 40 [redacted]

Cargo vessel by North Race Buoy at 0240Z (53.14.97N, 000.44.00E)
No lights observed.

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

TABLE SHOWING CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF OBSERVATIONS

Time	Source	Observation	Remarks
0200ish	**PC [redacted] Skegness**	**Stationary, blue green and red lights to the East, appeared elongated, low in the sky. Observed at about 0200Z then periodically until 0400Z; light remained stationary but became progressive higher and clear; by 0400Z `the star was fairly high in the sky looking very similar to the rest'.**	**Assume azimuth 090 +or- 15/20, elevation 5-20 degrees.**
0214	**Mr [redacted] Skegness**	**Very bright, stationary but rotating coloured lights in easterly direction; position about 5 degrees higher in elevation than when video taken (0450) and 5-10 degrees further to the north in azimuth. Lights appeared over LHS of roof of 3 storey block of flats as seen in the video.**	**Elevation approx 20-25 degrees Azimuth approx 110 degrees**
0230ish	*Insp [redacted] Boston*	*Single bright white light, not coloured or flashing, direction ENE (based on it being `south of the direction of Skegness'), fairly high about 40 degrees elevation. Constant azimuth and elevation until it disappeared as dawn broke - observer confessed to be poor at angles.*	*Assume azimuth about 070 degrees +or- 20; assume elevation 30 +or- 0*
0227	Police - Kings Lynn	No unusual lights reported.	
0240	Section 40 [redacted]	No lights seen.	
0246	Section 40 [redacted]	) MV heading NW. Two sets of stationary red, green and white)flashing lights; one set to north, other off port quarter, ie southerly,)one mile high. First noticed approx 0225 (continues..../)	)Assume azimuth 345 and 160)degrees from 0225 until 0550)Assume elevation constant at 20)degrees

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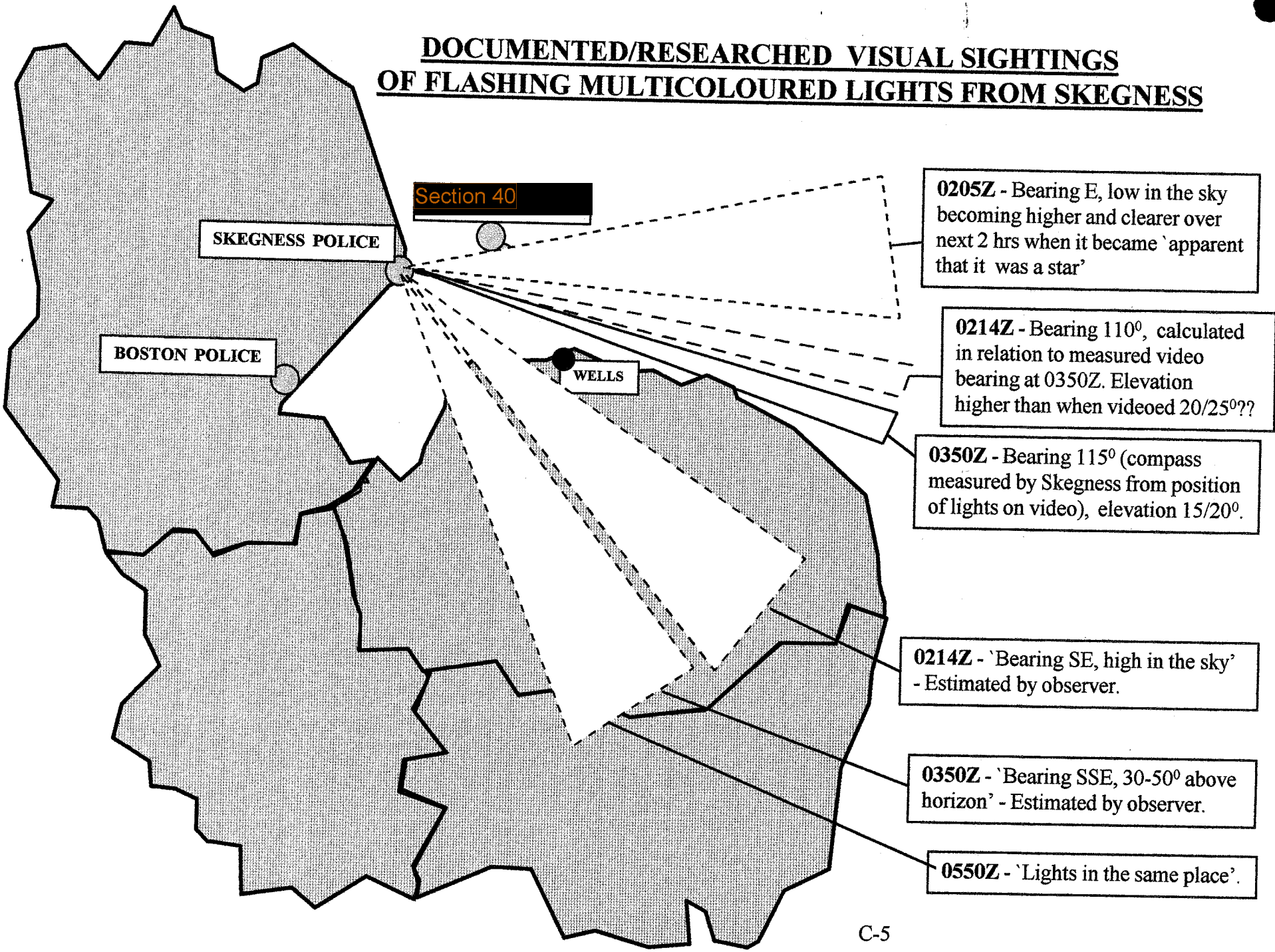
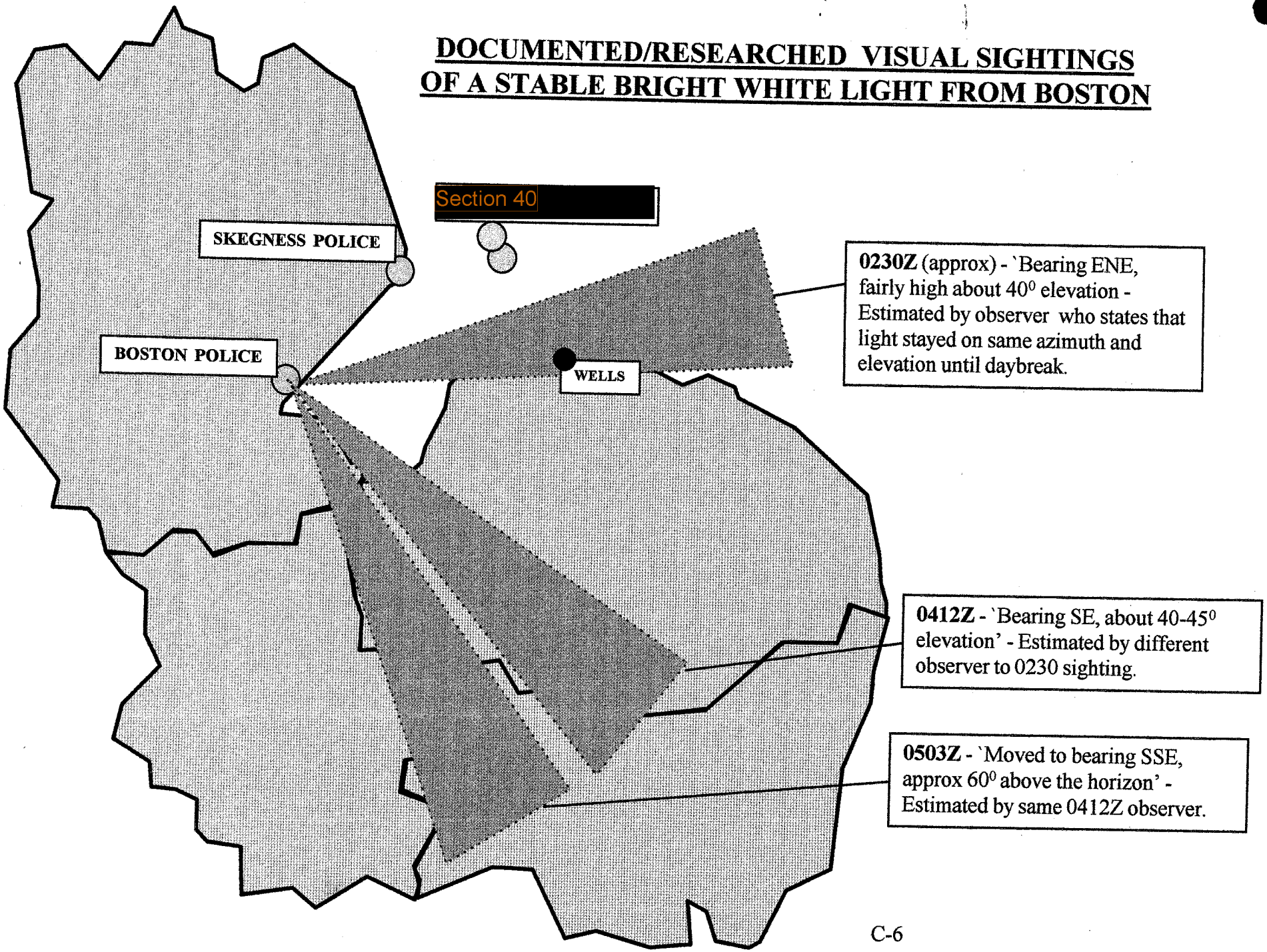
0308 0345	Section 40 Section 40	)Lights stationary on seemingly constant bearing (but ship was)moving). Constant elevation assessed at 20 degrees. Southerly set of)lights were brightest. Lights observed every 30 minutes or so until)daybreak at constant azimuth and elevation -)bearing 345 and 160 degrees true at 20 degrees elevation.	)Assume mean position 53 12N,) 00 34E
0350	**Mr [redacted] Skegness**	**Video made of lights. Position measured (7 Nov by duty staff through Police HQ Lincoln - Sgt Stowey) at 15-20 degrees elevation and 115 degrees azimuth.**	**Azimuth 115 degrees, elevation 15-20 degrees**
0401	Section 40	Same characteristics as before	
0412	*Mr [redacted] Boston*	*Fixed bright white single light to SE (cardinal estimated using St Botolph's spire as reference) 40-45 degrees elevation.*	*Assume azimuth 135 degrees +or- 15/20; elevation 40 degrees +or- 10/15.*
0445	**Mr [redacted] Skegness**	**Lights still `quite bright and flashing bearing SSE and 30-50 degrees above horizon.**	**Assume elevation 40 degrees +or- 10; Assume azimuth 135 + or - 10/15?**
0503	*Mr [redacted] Boston*	*Lights moved to SSE, 60 degrees elevation, same fixed bright white stable light.*	*Assume elevation 60 +or- 10/15 degrees, Azimuth 157 +or- 10/15 say between 140 and 170 degrees.*
0552	Section 40	As above: Azimuth still 345 and 160 degrees, Elevation 20 0r 30 degrees.	
0550 approx	**Mr [redacted] Skegness**	**Lights still in same place.**	**Unreliable observation for exact coords.**

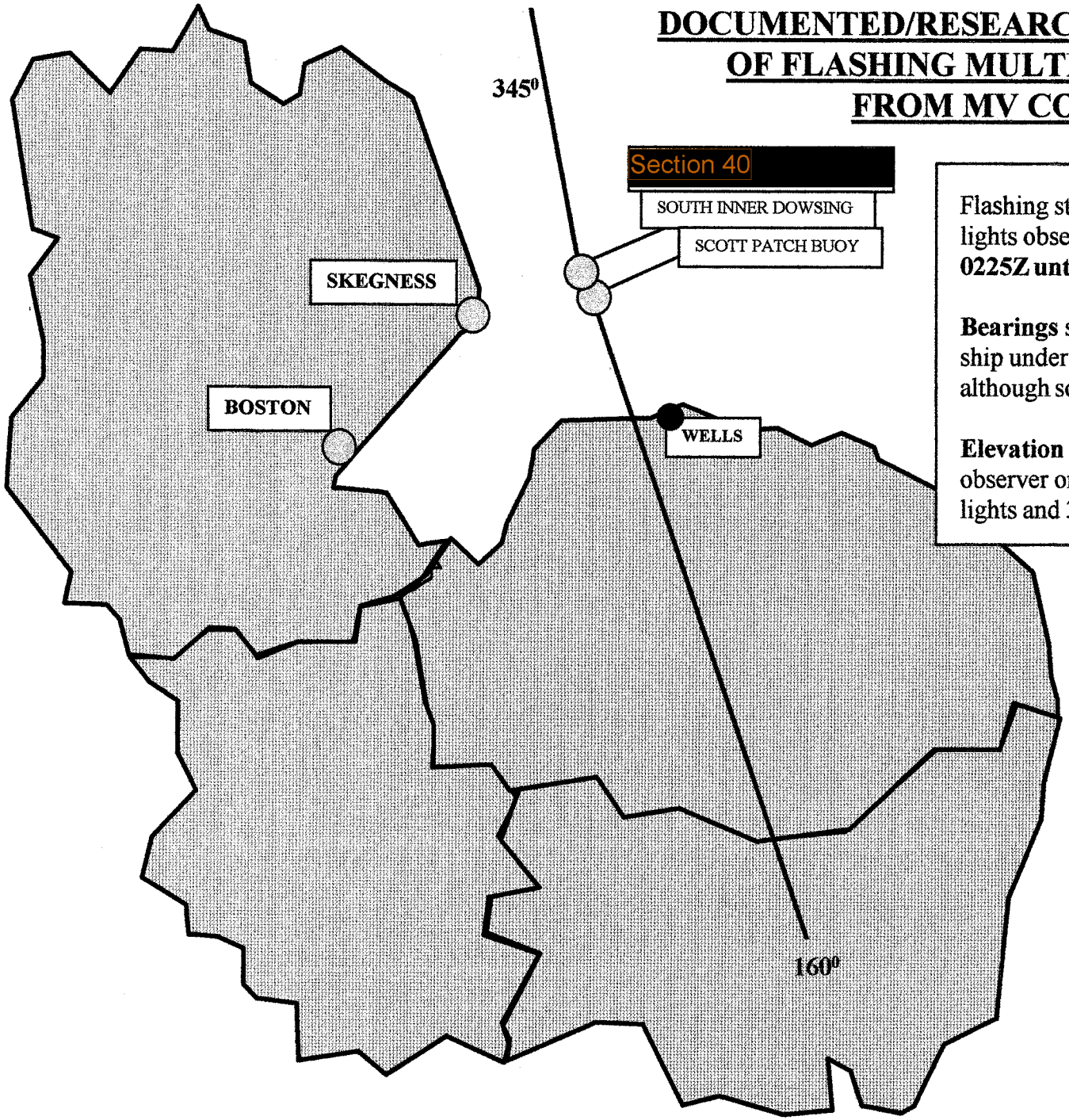
DOCUMENTED/RESEARCHED VISUAL SIGHTINGS OF FLASHING MULTICOLOURED LIGHTS FROM SKEGNESS



DOCUMENTED/RESEARCHED VISUAL SIGHTINGS OF A STABLE BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT FROM BOSTON



DOCUMENTED/RESEARCHED VISUAL SIGHTINGS OF FLASHING MULTICOLOURED LIGHTS FROM MV CONOCOAST

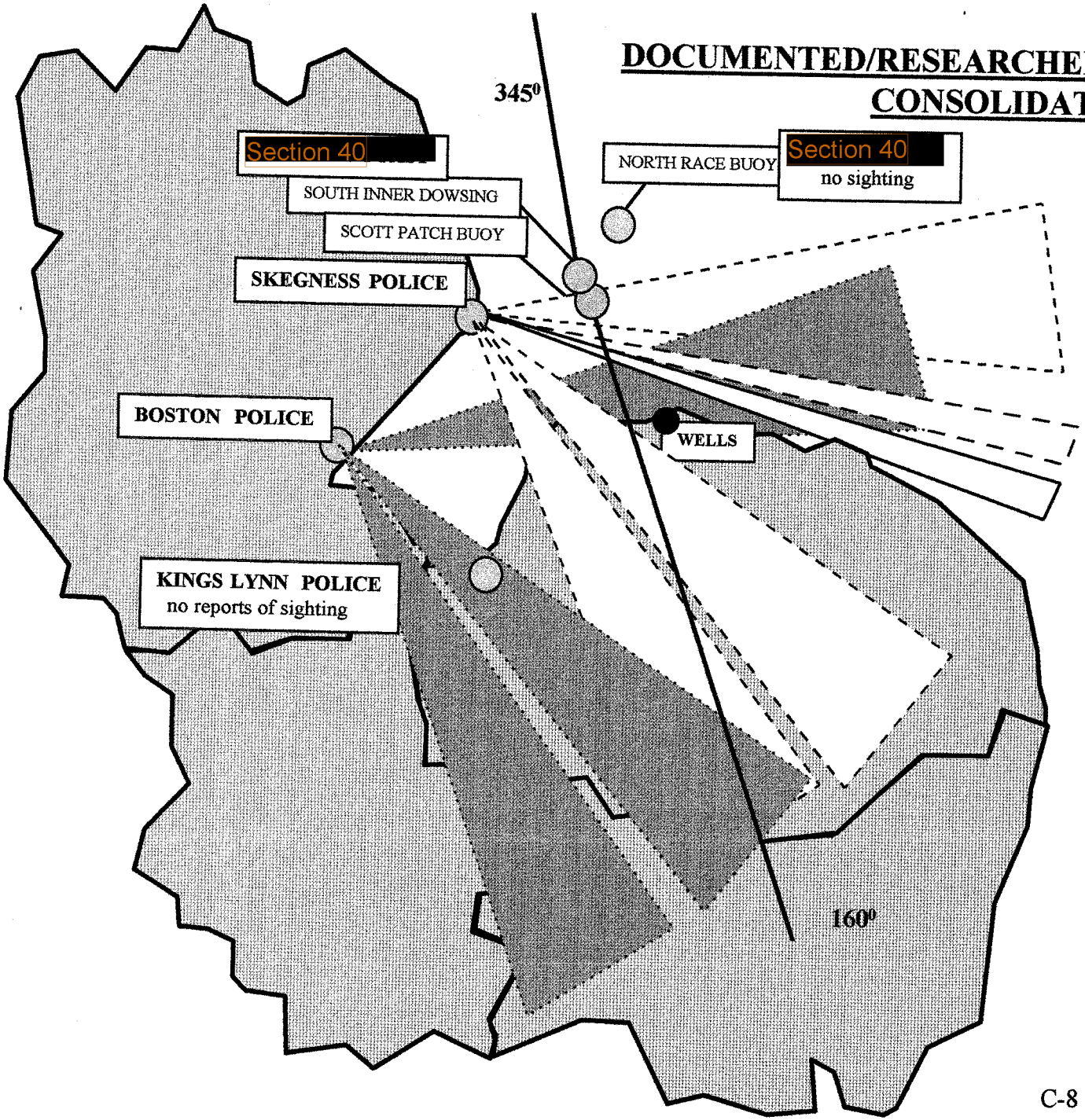


Flashing stationary red, green, blue and white lights observed about every 30 mins from approx **0225Z until 0550Z**.

Bearings seemingly constant at 345⁰ and 160⁰ but ship under way. Lights on both bearings identical, although southernmost set brightest.

Elevation constant: assessed at 20⁰ by one observer or by another at 10⁰ for the northern lights and 30⁰ for the southern.

DOCUMENTED/RESEARCHED VISUAL SIGHTINGS CONSOLIDATED



PPARC

Royal Greenwich Observatory

Madingley Road
Cambridge CB3 0EZ
United Kingdom
Telephone +44 (0) 1223 374000
Facsimile +44 (0) 1223 374700

[redacted]
ADGE 1, MOD

FAX [redacted]

ANNEX D TO
D/DAO/1/13
DATED 13 NOV 96

Direct [redacted]
email: [redacted]

13 November 1996

Dear [redacted]

I have examined the reports of bright lights seen on October 5 as set out in your fax of 11 November.

When a bright star or planet is low down in the sky (even to elevation 20°) it is quite common for it to appear to show colours, which are often described as 'flashing' or 'rotating'. It is important to consider a person's eyesight in interpreting their descriptions of sightings.

It seems to me in this case that the different observers may have been looking at different objects. Because of the uncertainties in the estimates of elevation and azimuth I cannot be certain as to what was seen, but this is my best guess.

I think that both Inspector [redacted] and [redacted] of Boston Police may have been looking at Venus. Venus has been exceptionally bright in the early morning sky over the past weeks and has stood out from all around it. The actual positions of the planet on October 5 are as follows.

UT	BST	Altitude	Azimuth	
02:00	03:00	-2°	68°	
02:09	03:09		70°	Venus-rise
03:00	04:00	+7°	80°	
04:00	05:00	+16°	92°	
05:00	06:00	+25°	105°	
06:00	07:00	+33°	118°	
07:00	08:00	+40°	135°	

I confess to being puzzled as to what the crew of Section 40 [redacted] were watching. Presumably they would have had a clear view of the whole sky. Can you rule out that they may have been seeing some laser show with the beams reflected in a hazy sky? I am also puzzled as to why they saw two sets of lights at approximately 180° apart.

(continued)

Mr [redacted]s observations are also hard to interpret. What does he mean when he says he was 'not very interested'? Why did he take the video? It is possible from his own record of his observation that he was looking at the same lights as the crew of Section 40 [redacted] seen at azimuth 160°, although the later compass measurement of the light seen on the video could have been Venus!

Also, one should note that the Moon was just past Last Quarter on 4th October, rising at 23:36 BST on October 4 and setting at 15:13 BST on October 5. This would have had the effect of 'washing out' all but the brightest stars. If this was so then the bright stars Sirius or Canopus might be candidates for these sightings. However, if the sky was really clear I don't think either of these objects would have fooled people who are presumably all quite used to working at night and therefore are quite familiar with looking at the sky.

I hope this has helped.

Best regards

[redacted]

Head, Education and Information Services

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

ANNEX E TO
DAO/1/13
DATED 13 NOV 96

LIST OF PERSONS/ORGANISATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Skegness Police Station
Obs: PCs [redacted] and [redacted]
Obs: Mr [redacted] on duty in police control room until 0600Z 5 Oct [redacted] extension

Boston Police Control Room
01205 312280
Obs: Inspector [redacted] on duty 5 Oct
Obs: Mr [redacted] (on duty 5 Oct 96)

Kings Lynn Police
0237Z No lights reported

HQ Lincolnshire Police
Head of Media Services
Nettleham
LINCOLN
[redacted]
Sgt [redacted] Ext [redacted]

Skegness Police Video sent by HQ Lincolnshire Police to MOD ADGE 1 on 5 Nov 96, received 6 Nov together with copies of Skegness police incident log and statements from PCs [redacted] and [redacted]
Video taken from Police Station roof (3rd storey)
Runs for about 5mins - taken at approx 00350Z - lights on a bearing of 115 degrees true about 15-20 degrees elevation.
Building in bottom left corner is 3 storey block of flats

Copy of Video sent to:
[redacted] Briggate
North Walsham
Norfolk [redacted]
Tel: [redacted]
(`independent UFO Researcher' and believed to be collaborating with [redacted] of the Staffordshire UFO Group who is investigating the incident and who confesses to have `got Mr Redmond to ask the questions' - Tel [redacted]

Copy of video requested by:
Lincolnshire UFO Research Team [redacted]
[redacted]
Sleaford [redacted]
Lincoln UFO Research Team
Tel: [redacted]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Anglia Radar
Tel: [redacted]
Access to Claxby and Cromer Watchman Radars

Gt Yarmouth Coastguard
Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre
Mr [redacted] on duty 5 Oct
[redacted]

Section 40 [redacted] (out of Rochester on 5 Oct with fuel for Dredgers off Ingoldmells) - 4 crew, very busy, observed lights intermittently every 30 mins or so- bearings measured using ship's compass.
Spoke to [redacted] 8 Nov on Section 40 [redacted] - lights consistently 10 deg and 30 deg up (N & S respectively)
[redacted] & [redacted] part of crew on 5 Oct now on `ONWARD MARINER' [redacted] Spoke to [redacted] (Master of vessel who was at wheel) on 11 Nov 96 - confirmed observation from about 0225 til dawn - two sets of lights 346 & 160 (brightest), both about 20 degrees above horizon

Section 40 [redacted] (callsign Section 40)
Cargo Vessel registered in St Vincent
Position by North Race Buoy at 0240Z (53.14.97N 000.44.00E)
No lights observed

CRC Neatishead
Flt Lt [redacted] duty Track Production Officer and Station Duty Officer 5 Oct til 0700Z then relieved by Flt Lt [redacted]
[redacted] home: [redacted]

Kinloss Air Rescue Coordination Centre
Flt Lt [redacted]
[redacted]

LATCC Distress and Diversion Cell, West Drayton
[redacted]
Duty Controller 5 Oct: Flt Lt [redacted]

LATCC(Civil) Controller Mr [redacted] (Civil Supervisor number) working N Sea radar on 5 Oct - Asked 2 civil aircraft between 0520 and 0530Z if they could see any unusual lights in area of Wash/East Anglia as they flew by.

- Aircraft 1, DELTA Airlines FL 370 from USA on track from Isle of Man to Amsterdam; asked when near Scunthorpe, no contact in Wash/East Anglia area but saw `indistinct lights which might have been flares' about 20 minutes previously in Irish Sea area.

- Aircraft 2, UK Air out of Manchester to Continent; asked when 30nm south east of Ottringham heading south east; nothing seen.

Waddington Approach AR15 radar
[redacted]
DSATCO [redacted] Flt Lt [redacted]
Lower Airspace Radar Service for Civil and Military aircraft within 30nm and up to FL95.
Fg Off [redacted] on duty 5 Oct 96

Met Office Bracknell
Weather Records
[redacted]
No thunderstorm activity on 5 Oct - clear night

Royal Greenwich Observatory, Cambridge
[redacted]
Fax [redacted]

ANNEX F TO
D/DAO/1/13
DATED 13 NOV 96

ABBREVIATED COMMENTS ON MR REDMOND'S LETTER

1. General. Mr Redmond's comments are largely based on radio traffic between Gt Yarmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre and various agencies which was either released or intercepted then reported in the press and interpreted in various ways; erroneously, the visual observations of lights have been linked with persistent radar returns from a permanent echo at Boston Lincs.

2. Para 1. There was no visual identified flying craft only unusual lights; correlation by `various different military radar systems' did not occur.

3. Para 2.

a. Lights with different characteristics were observed to the E and/or SE of Skegness and Boston by Police and by the crew of Section 40 [redacted] some 8 miles east of Skegness. A separate stationary object was detected on one ATC radar at Claxby, Lincs, over Boston and observed on the same radar display at Neatishead, Anglia Radar (later) and the D&D Cell at the London Air Traffic Control Centre (LATCC) West Drayton; a stationary object was also detected much later on the Waddington approach radar, however this was in a separate position, not over Boston. Three aircraft subsequently flew close to the `object' but no sighting of an airborne vehicle was made.

b. RAF Northwood was never involved in this event. confusion has arisen because Gt Yarmouth Coastguard, referred incorrectly to `D&D Northwood' instead of `D&D West Drayton' in several transmissions or conversations; this error was reproduced in press reports.

4. Para 3.

a. Aircraft were not scrambled because there was no evidence whatsoever of an unidentified airborne vehicle in the vicinity.

b. Tornado F3 QRA aircraft are held on high alert at RAF Leuchars but not routinely at Leeming or Coningsby.

c. The RAF Air Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC), Kinloss was only involved by Gt Yarmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) to ascertain whether they knew of any air activity in the area. ARCC, in turn, asked CRC Neatishead and D&D who replied in the negative; ARCC subsequently relayed several messages between D&D/Neatishead and the MRCC concerning the stationary radar plot.

5. Para 4. Locations of permanent echoes are well known to

radar operators who work routinely in particular areas using the same radar head, as is borne out by the information from Anglia concerning the Boston Stump. No Air Defence radar detected the Boston echo. Neatishead's `skilled operators' rarely use the Claxby ATC Radar in the Boston area, nor do D&D and, hence, had not encountered this particular radar echo before; the echo was seen by 3 control agencies using the same radar at Claxby; Waddington reported an echo at 0749 when they were asked to look 120^0/23nm (over Boston), however, investigations revealed a reporting error and this plot was a separate permanent echo towards Skegness. The radar plots could not be correlated with the visual sightings of lights and, geographically, were quite separate.

6. Para 5

a. The video taken by the Skegness police did not disappear into the bowels of the Ministry's Main Building. It was sent by Inspector [redacted] of Skegness police to Lincolnshire Police HQ and held by the Head of Media Services. A copy was supplied to Mr [redacted] an `independent UFO researcher' on 18 Oct and to MOD, DAO ADGE 1, on 5 Nov 96. No copy was sent to Neatishead.

b. RAF Air Defence Ground Environment units, including CRC Neatishead, produce a Recognised Air Picture of air activity in the UKADR 24 hours a day. Standard procedures exist for investigating unidentified aircraft and these were followed in this case. Experienced operators carefully judged that there was no evidence of unidentified flying craft present in the UKADR and did not, therefore, seek authority to scramble air defence aircraft held on alert at RAF Leuchars.

7. Para 6

a. Question 1

- CRC Neatishead - Responsible for:

  -- the compilation of the Recognised Air Picture in that portion of the UKADR south of 55 degrees north.

  -- Control of Air Defence aircraft on missions to preserve the Integrity of UK airspace.

- ARCC Kinloss - To liaise with and support national emergency organisations by allocating air search and rescue resources to incidents.

- D&D Cell, West Drayton - Provide Air Traffic Control Emergency and Fixer services to Civilian and Military aircraft operating in the London Flight Information Region

- RAF Waddington - Task includes the provision of a Lower Airspace Radar Service (LARS) to Military and Civil ac on request out to 30nms (or further if airspace quiet) and up to FL095

- Video - see above.

b. Question 2

- There was no evidence of unidentified aircraft being present in the UKADR on 5 Oct 96, therefore, there was no reason to scramble aircraft on alert. Police and the tanker Section 40 [redacted] saw LIGHTS not objects or any flying craft. No lights were observed by any aircraft in the area; negative reports were received from 2 civilian aircraft which flew by the area at 0520-0530Z

c. Question 3

Procedures exist to scramble aircraft to investigate unidentified aircraft detected on radar, which was not the case on 5 Oct.

Notes on Section 40 requests

Request 1.

Incident – RAF jets chased UFO over Balmoral 28 February 1996

Files checked

D/Sec(AS)64/1 pt A – UFO Policy (4.9.95 – 8.1.97)
Found - Newspaper cutting from The Times 4 March 1996 (Enc 46).
File note dated 5 March 1996 (Enc 47) detailing enquiries made with the low flying complaints cell and RAF Leuchars.

D/Sec(AS)64/2 pt A – UFOs – UFO Sighting Reports (1.9.95-8.1.96)
Nothing relevant on this file.

D/Sec(AS)64/2 pt B – UFOs – UFOs Sighting Reports (5.1.96-3.6.96)
Found - Two UFO reports (Encs 85 & 86) from members of the public in Scotland on 28 February 1996, reported to RAF Leuchars.

D/Sec(AS)64/3 pt B – UFOs – Public Correspondence (16.11.95-4.3.96)
Nothing relevant on this file.

D/Sec(AS)64/3 pt C – UFOs – Public Correspondence (4.3.96-26.4.96)
Nothing relevant on this file.

D/Sec(AS)64/3 pt D – UFOs – Public Correspondence (26.4.96 -9.7.96)
Found – Letter from Mr Fowler dated 15 April 1996 and MOD response dated 16 May 1996 (Enc 20)

D/Sec(AS)64/4 pt A – UFOs – PQs / PEs pt A (15.9.95-3.10.96)
Nothing relevant.

Request 2

Incident – Three Tornadoes scrambled to intercept UFO buzzing Edinburgh Airport in November 1995.

D/Sec(AS)64/1 pt A – UFO Policy (4.9.95 – 8.1.97)
Nothing relevant.

D/Sec(AS)64/2 pt A – UFOs – UFO Sighting Reports (1.9.95-8.1.96)
Nothing relevant.

D/Sec(AS)64/3 pt B – UFOs – Public Correspondence (16.11.95-4.3.96)
Found – One letter from member of the public mentioning the incident and MOD reply (Enc 25).

Request 3

Incident – Letter to Martin Redmond MP by the then Defence Minister Earl Howe regarding The People article on 10 November 1996 stating that "the Defence Minister Earl Frederick Howe reveals that ALL RAF Station commanders are under orders to report UFO sightings and he adds "so far as the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms is concerned we remain open-minded".

The applicant should be informed that an MP tables a parliamentary question with the Table Office of the House of Commons (or Lords) and they allocate it to the appropriate Government Department. The Department sends a response to the Table Office for inclusion in Hansard. The Department does not correspond directly with the MP. The only difference is where S of S, US of S etc says they will write to the MP. A copy of the answer then goes into the library of the House.

D/Sec(AS)64/4 pt B – UFOs – PQ / PEs (16.9.96 – 22.11.96)
Found – Martin Redmond tabled 22 PQs and Min(AF) said he would write. Final reply from Earl Howe at (Enc 37 +2).

Request 4

Incident – UFO sighting during October 1996 over East Anglia as mentioned in The People article. Also the video taken by the police and any documents relating to it. Also any documents relation to the alleged radar target tracked by RAF Neatishead and RAF Northwood.

D/Sec(AS)64/4 pt B – UFOs – PQ / PEs (16.9.96 – 22.11.96)
Found – Letter from Martin Redmond dated 24 October 1996 to Michael Portillo regarding an alleged incident on 5 October 1996 (Enc 42). Also at (Enc 60).

LM to ACAS from DAO dated 11 November 1996 who were looking into the incident because of the MPs criticism of the AD system. Interim response which mentions the Police video. (E54).

Final report of investigation into the incident LM to Sec(AS)2a1 from DAO dated 13 November 1996 (Encs 61 & 62)

Final letter to Martin Redmond dated 21 November 1996 (Enc 64).

D/Sec (AS)64/1 pt A – UFOs – Policy
Found – Defensive press lines (Encs 93 & 94)

LM to Sec(AS)2a1 from DI55 dated 1 November 1996 (Enc 96).

LM to ADGE1 from Sec(AS)2a1 dated 5 November 1996 (Enc 97)
LM to Sec(AS)2a1 from ADGE 1 dated 20 November 1996 (Enc 101)

LM to DI55c from Sec(AS)2a1 dated 26 November 1996 (Enc 102)

Also MOD holds the video taken by Skegness Police which was passed to Lincolnshire Police and then to MOD. We also have a copy of the video. DAO's report of 13 November 1996 states that the video has already been released to David Dane an 'independent UFO Researcher' who was thought to be collaborating with the Staffordshire UFO Group.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 17 November 2005 16:30
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOIA Request made on Oct. 17th

Dear Section 40

thanks for your e-mail in reply to mine. I do fully appreciate that you have been a bit overwhelmed with requests when the FOIA came into action, many of them time wasting. If my request(s) exceed the limit, I am more interested in the first three questions in my request of October 17th if that is possible?

I have recently been given a date as 3-4 August 1990 for alleged UFO footage taken near Silbury Hill, Wilstshire by the army with night vision equipment. A segment of this footage is shown on the Crop Circle documentary Crop Circle Communique (1992). Offhand, do you know if there is any record of this and who within the MoD would possibly know more about it? I could put the footage onto a DVD if you wish to see it as a reference.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Original Message:

From: Section 40
Date: Wed, 16 Nov 2005 16:05:43 -0000
To: Section 40
Subject: FOIA Request made on Oct. 17th

Dear Section 40

I can confirm that I have received your FOIA request and it is receiving attention. I am sorry I have been unable to provide a response to date.

We do not hold files for this period in our office and in order to answer your requests we have to retrieve a number of paper files from an archives in Derbyshire. Once received they have to be manually search for any relevant information. This can be very time consuming particularly where, as in your case, information is sought for more than one event. Although requests such as this are likely to exceed the £600 costs limit for compliance with the FOIA we appreciate the public interest in UFO information and endeavour to release as much requested information as possible. However, this unfortunately means that we are sometimes unable to reply to all requests within the 20 day deadline set by the Act.

I appreciate your patience and will provide you with an update on progress as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 16 November 2005 14:09
To: Section 40
Subject: FOIA Request made on Oct. 17th

Dear Section 40

I'm e-mailing to ask if you have recieved my FOIA request (made on-line) on October 17th and how long you think it may take?

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

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mail2web - Check your email from the web at http://mail2web.com/ .

---

mail2web - Check your email from the web at http://mail2web.com/ .

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted] FOI REQUEST

Please could you request the following files from TNT.

D/Sec(AS)64/2 Part A - UFOs – Sighting Reports *(Sent to Archives 30.10.2003)*
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Part D - UFOs – Sighting Reports *(Sent to Archives 30.10.2003)*

D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part B - UFOs – Public Correspondence *(already had from TNT and returned)*
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part D - UFOs - Public Correspondence *(Sent to Archives 30.10.2003)*
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part F - UFOs – UFOs Public Correspondence *(Sent to Archives 30.10.2003)*
D/Sec(AS)64/4 Part B - UFOs – Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries *(Sent to Archives 28.6.2004)*

Thanks

Section 40

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCD/

04 November 0

Home | My Cases | Log New Request | Policy Guidance | Help

Request: Section 40 17-10-2005-163812-010
Days Left: 7

Received: 17 Oct 05
Expiry Date: 14 Nov 05
Status: Open

All sources

Workflow Options
AIT Main
View
Audit Trail
Comments Log
Saved Search Result
Contact Details
Documents
Actions
Assign Within My Group
Change Alert Settings
Edit Request Details
Upload Document
Close Case
Take Ownership

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.
The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search results.

Date request received: 17 October 2005

Applicant Details

Title: Section 40 [redacted]
Other:
First Name:
*Surname: Section 40
Organisation:
Applicant Type: Not Specified
Other:

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1: Section 40 [redacted]
Address Line2:
Address Line3:
Town/City: Cardiff
Postcode: Section 40 [redacted]
Country: United Kingdom
Email:
Telephone:
Fax:

Clear | Back | Next | Cancel

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCD/

04 November 0

Home | My Cases | Log New Request | Policy Guidance | Help

Request: Section 40 17-10-2005-163812-010

Days Left: 7

Received: 17 Oct 05
Expiry Date: 14 Nov 05
Status: Open

All sources

Workflow Options
- AIT Main

View
- Audit Trail
- Comments Log
- Saved Search Result
- Contact Details
- Documents

Actions
- Assign Within My Group
- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.
The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search results.

Request Details

Response Format Requested: hardcopy

Language Requested ☐ Welsh

*Enter the request for information:

infosubject: 1/ I am looking for any documented information on the following alleged UFO sighting reported in the News Of The World on March 3rd 1996, also referenced in a letter to me by Section 40 [redacted] Sec. AS 2a1, dated 16th May 1996.

I'm interested in any reports made by members of the public on or around the time of the incident (either to the local police or military), or any sighting reports made by RAF personnel in relation to this event, as well as any

Record storage location of Applicant request (or upload document).

To be held by helpdesk until alloacted.

Clear | Back | Next | Cancel

AITCases

17102005: Section 40 17-10-2005-163812-010

New Item | Edit Item | Delete Item | Alert Me | Go Back to List

Title:	Section 40 17-10-2005-163812-010
Person_Title:	Section 40
First_Name:	[redacted]
Surname:	
Organisation:	
Applicant_Type:	Not Specified
Address_Line_1:	Section 40 [redacted]
Address_Line_2:	
Address_Line_3:	
TownCity:	Cardiff
Postcode:	Section 40
Country:	United Kingdom
Email:	Section 40 [redacted]
Telephone:	
Fax:	
Request_Details:	infosubject: 1/ I am looking for any documented information on the following alleged UFO sighting reported in the News Of The World on March 3rd 1996, also referenced in a letter to me by Section 40 Sec. AS 2a1, dated 16th May 1996.

I'm interested in any reports made by members of the public on or around the time of the incident (either to the local police or military), or any sighting reports made by RAF personnel in relation to this event, as well as any documentation regarding Section 40 enquiries on the matter or the RAF spokesperson quoted in the article.

News Of The World article, March 3, 1996:-

Close Encounter at Queen's Highland castle

FLYING SAUCER SCARE AT BALMORAL

Exclusive by David Leslie

RAF jets chased a UFO from the Queen's Balmoral home.

Two Harrier GR7 jump-jets were scrambled on Wednesday after locals reported seeing a mystery light over the Scottish castle.

One of the witness claimed the RAF planes appeared to be locked in a dogfight with the UFO. The light appeared just after 10pm and was seen clearly eight miles away in Ballater.

One local said: "It seemed to appear from nowhere right over Balmoral. Within minutes

two jets had zoomed in and appeared to be chasing it. They seemed to climb very quickly, almost standing on end. It was almost as if they were in some sort of dogfight with the light."

Another revealed: "It was like something out of a science fiction film. The sky was clear and suddenly a circular light was over Balmoral. It didn't seem to come from any particular direction, it was just there all of a sudden."

"Next thing all hell had broke loose as the jets roared in. they were shooting around in circles."

"Suddenly the light vanished and after circling the castle the planes flew off in the direction which they came."

Security around the Royal Family's Highland holiday home has been tightened since the IRA ceasefire ended.

And a strict exclusion zone bans all aircraft from the skies above the 55,000 acre Balmoral estate on Deeside. None of the Royal Family were there when the scare happened.

An Raf spokesman said: "There were two aircraft in the area. They could have been on some kind of exercise. Pilots are not going to report such things as UFOs to anyone and I've been unable to get anything out of them."

Balmoral lies on a line running north from the Lothians on which strange lights – thought to be flying saucers by UFO investigators – have been reported.

Excerpt of letter from Miss K. Philpott (Sec. AS 2a1) to me dated 16 May 1996:-

Balmoral – 28 Feb. 96. Following the News Of The World article, you may be interested to know that I was able to establish that two Harrier aircraft from No. 4 Squadron, which were on detachment from RAF Leuchars from RAF Laarbruch in Germany, were conducting routine Night Vision Goggle training in the Balmoral area at the time the sighting was reported. There is no question that they were sent up to intercept "UFO/flying saucers".

2/

I am looking for [redacted] documented information on the following alleged incident (reported in the article below) in the form of sighting report forms from staff at Edinburgh Airport, members of the public around the time, RAF pilots and the statement to the paper made by the RAF Leauchars spokesman.

The Sun, Friday, November 24 1995

Three Tornadoes 'Scrambled To Intercept UFO'

Exclusive by Georgina Reid

Three RAF jets were scrambled to intercept a UFO that was buzzing Edinburgh Airport, a pilot claimed last night.

The Tornadoes were sent up to investigate the flying saucer after it was picked up on the airport's radar and seen by ground staff, he said.

The flier – who fears he would lose his licence if he was identified – claimed the incident was confirmed to him by a flight officer at RAF Kilnoss a few weeks later.

He said: "The guy told me the Tornadoes had the UFO in their sights. They were closing in on it when it suddenly shot straight up in the air and left them for dead.

"The jets just couldn't keep up with the thing."

He added: "No one at the RAF will talk about it officially – they've been ordered to shut up."

The pilot told how he heard about the UFO when he flew into Edinburgh on a mil plane minutes after it had been spotted.

He said airport control tower staff told him a commercial plane was diverted to check ut the object before RAF Leuchars was alerted.

Cover-up

The experienced flier added: " Everyone was talking about it. It was seen by the control tower, ground control and security.

"The tower had a visual on it and it showed up on the radar screen."

An insider at Edinburgh Airport said: "I remember the exact incident but no one will say anything on record."

An RAF Leauchars spokesman denied jets were scrambled from there but added: "I can't speak for other stations."

UFO expert Ron Haliday said: "The MoD want to suppress these sightings. There's always a cover-up."

3/

I am looking for any documented correspondence with the MoD by the late MP for Don Valley Martin Redmond, who tabled several Parliamentary questions re. UFO sightings during 1996. I am particularly interested in the letter to Martin Redmond by the then Defence Minister Earl Frederick Howe, as quoted in the article below.

[redacted], November 10, 1996

RAF In X-File Alert!

By Nigel Nelson

ALIENS from outer space may be visiting

Britain, the Governmentt has sensationally admitted.

In an incredible letter obtained by The People, Defence Minister Earl Frederick Howe reveals that ALL RAF station commanders are under orders to report UFO sightings.

Letter dated 28th Oct 1996 Enc 37+2

And he adds: " So far as the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms is concerned we remain open-minded." The letter was sent to Don Valley Labour MP Martin Redmond, who is trying to lift the veil of secrecy over flying saucers.

See request below

He is concerned about a UFO with a red and green rotating light that appeared over East Anglia last month.

It was tracked by radar at RAF Neatishead and RAF Northwood for several hours as it hovered in the sky before flying 50 miles down the coast.

It was spotted by the crews of a tanker and civilian plane, while a video – now in the MoD's hands – was taken by the police.

"It's incredible no aircraft were scrambled when a target was picked up so close to the coast," Mt Redmond told Defence Secretary Michael Portillo.

"This raises questions on the way we police the UK Air Defence Region."

Earl Howe replied that the RAF does not respond unless there is evidence UK air space has been "compromised". He added: "To date no such sighting has provided such evidence.

We do not investigate further or provide an explanation for what might have been observed."

Mr. Redmond is accusing the Government of covering up information on UFOs and says if there is no defence threat, there is no excuse for secrecy either.

"The answers I've been given lead me to think there is something more to this," added the MP.

"The only thing I know for sure is that the whole issue is shrouded in secrecy."

Last week Defence Minister Nicholas Soames refused to reveal how many UFOs RAF pilots have spotted since 1966. He said the information would cost too much to obtain.

But he added: "Unidentified contacts penetrating UK airspace are identified by all available means, including interception."

4/

Enc

I am looking for any documented information in relation to the UFO sighting during October 1996 over East Anglia as mentioned in the above article from The People. I am also interested in the video of the UFO taken by Police, which was allegedly given to the MoD and any documentation relating to that, as well as any documents relating to the alleged radar target tracked by RAF Neatishead and

	RAF Northwood.
Case_Number:	17-10-2005-163812-010
Originator:	Section 40
User_Group:	GxAITESTInfoAcc
Date_Received:	17/10/2005
Date_Due:	14/11/2005
Status:	Internal Transfer
Responder:	GxAITESTPTCDAS
Vexatious_Type:	
Vexatious_Reason:	
Quick_Response_Type:	
Quick_Resp_Cov_Letter_Issued:	No
Media_Preference_Met:	
Media_Date_Sent:	
Media_Response_Sent:	
Media_Preference_Comments:	
Closed:	
Date_Closed:	
Media_Type:	hardcopy
Requested_Language:	English
Standard_Response_Comment:	
Offline_Assigned_To:	
Offline_Date_Due:	
Offline_Date_Responded:	
Ext_Ref_Department_Name:	
Ext_Ref_Sent_To_PRO:	
Ext_Ref_Date_Sent_To_PRO:	
Ext_Ref_PRO_Accepted:	
Ext_Ref_Date_PRO_Accepted:	
Vexatious_Supporting_Cases:	
Vexatious_Authorised_By:	
Vexatious_Date_Authorised:	
Vexatious_Reference:	
Request_Location:	
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Hold_Resp_Request_Type:	
Hold_Resp_Date_Response_Expected:	
Hold_Resp_Letter_Sent:	
Hold_Resp_Date_Letter_Sent:	
On_Hold:	
Exemption_Applied:	No
Exemptions_Authorised_By:	
Exemptions_Date_Authorised:	
Exemptions_Ref_Number:	
Std_Resp_Authorised:	
Std_Resp_Authorised_By:	
Std_Resp_Date_Authorised:	
Std_Resp_Reference:	

Fees_Total_Cost:	
Fees_Resp_Justification:	
Fees_Resp_To_Applicant:	
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Fees_On_Hold:	
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Fees_Offline_Authorised:	No
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Fees_Auth_Ref_Number:	
Fees_Online_Authorised_By:	
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Fees_Ref_Letter_Date_Sent:	
Fees_Refusal_Notice_Sent:	
Fees_Close_Case:	
Attachments:	Comments.xml SearchResults.html Tracing.xml

Created at 17/10/2005 16:38 by AccelK2_svc
Last modified at 18/10/2005 09:53 by AccelK2_svc

Request 1

Copied from

D/Sec (AS) 64/3 pt D

UFOs Public Correspondence

NOT SENT TO [redacted] Section 40

Citizens Charter agreed - see Citizen Charter file 68/1/9

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 28

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40

Cardiff
S Wales
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
16 May 1996

Dear Section 40

1. I refer to your letter of 15 April concerning the subject of "alien" abductions and "UFO/flying saucers". The MOD's position with regards to the subject of reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings and "alien" abductions has been explained to you in numerous letters and there is little more that I can add.

2. The MOD is often misquoted as saying that it does not believe "UFO/flying saucers" to be a threat; this is a distortion of the MOD's stated position which is that to date we have seen nothing which could be classed as proof that extraterrestrial life exists. As previously stated the MOD's only purpose in looking at reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings is to establish the presence of a matter which is of defence importance, such as unauthorised or hostile military aircraft in UK airspace. To date no "UFO" report has thrown up such evidence. You will wish to be aware that having assessed the sighting which you observed on 11 May, which you reported to RAF St Athan on 13 May, I can confirm that we are content that the sighting was not of defence concern.

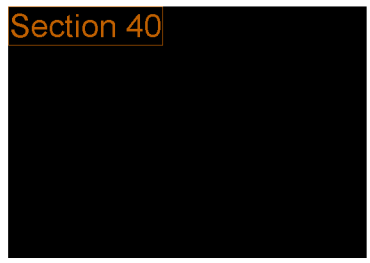
3. I enclose the video tape which you sent to this office with your latest letter. As explained I am under remit to look at the tape to determine if there is a UK defence interest. I am satisfied that none of the footage taken in the UK is of defence interest. Footage taken in the United States, Ukraine, Russia and Germany are matters for the Governments of those countries to address.

4. Balmoral - 28 Feb 96. Following the News of the World Article, you may be interested to know that I was able to establish that two Harrier aircraft from No 4 Squadron, which were on detachmentat RAF Leuchars from RAF Laarbruch in Germany, were conducting routine Night Vision Goggle training in the Balmoral area at the time the sighting was reported. There is no question that they were sent up to intercept "UFO/flying saucers".

5. Manchester - 6 Jan 95. I can confirm that as a matter of routine the MOD was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority about the British Airways pilots' report of 6 Jan 95 shortly after the incident occurred. At the time I discussed the matter with Departmental air defence experts who confirmed that they were not aware of anything which would indicate a matter of defence relevance associated with the sighting. Furthermore there was no evidence to suggest that the UK's air defence have been compromised. As is usual with airmiss incidents involving civil aircraft, the CAA Joint Airmiss Working Party (which is a joint Civil/Military body which has complete access to all sources of civil and military information available) investigated the report. The Group were not able to determine the precisely what the pilots saw, but ruled out any military aircraft activity. However there is no suggestion in the report that what the pilots observed was extraterrestrial in origin. Without any evidence to suggest that the incident was of defence relevance MOD interest in this sighting has long since concluded.

6. If I may now turn to your comments concerning "UFO" reports files held in our archives under the 30 year rule. Under the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967, all Government files are to remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the date of the last action on the file. This Act of Parliament, relates to all Government and MOD files, and not just the MOD's "UFO" files. The files contain references to individuals who are still serving, and they also contain information about witnesses who have approached the MOD in complete confidence. Most would wish their confidence to be respected and would not want to be approached by over-zealous "Ufologists". All such information would have to be sanitized to preserve witness confidentiality and as the MOD has received over 8,500 reports over the last 30 years it would require a considerable amount of effort to delete witness details thus diverting resources established for defence purposes.

Yours sincerely,



Archived 64/3

Section 40
[redacted]
Cardiff,
S.Wales,
Section 40

Monday 15th April 1996

Dear Section 40 [redacted]

Thank you for your letter of April 9th in reply to my letter.

1. Regarding your statement that we seem to be going around in circles with the argument referring to abduction by aliens; there is evidence which is available by qualified professional doctors and psychiatrists which can lend credibility to the abduction scenario. When you refer to there being no evidence, I do not know if you are speaking from a personal viewpoint or from an official viewpoint determined by a ruling on the issue. I suspect that you are speaking from an official standpoint, and if this is the case, can you cite your information source which claims that there is no good evidence. If it is a case of the MoD making assumptions that there is no evidence, we will have to supply you with some. If it is a case that there has been an investigation into the possibility of alien abduction, then can you please tell us where this information came from, and who was involved in the study.

The circularity of our recent conversation seems to be based on the premise that UFOs either do not exist, or do not represent a threat to national security, and as such are of no defence significance. On many occasions, in our correspondence, you specifically refer to there being no defence significance. To have come to this conclusion, somebody in the MoD, at some point, must have investigated the matter. This has to be the case, otherwise you would not be able to make this statement. It may be indeed that investigations into UFOs are not undertaken currently, but for this we only have your word. However, it is a certainty that in the past UFOs have been investigated by the MoD (as the evidence from the public records office shows), and these investigation are of interest to ufologists for their subsequent conclusions.

If the MoD has quite reasonably been able to state that there really is no defence significance to UFOs after a detailed study, then surely, if such a study report was released, the public would see it the same way. As the MoD does not wish to admit to having done a study, we are in the position where you will not accept the concept or possibility of UFOs, so will not then allow yourself to speak on the subject of alien abduction. I must stress, however, that my interpretation of why you will not tackle the alien abduction scenario is because it seems connected with UFOs.

Let us be scientific and remove ourselves from the possibility of there being a connection between aliens and UFOs. If you take each subject separately and remove the preconceived ideas about the origins of both alien abduction and UFOs, then there may still be a defence interest in the alien abduction scenario because we do not know how

aliens arrive in our country, and we do not know for certain that they represent some foreign government operation, which has been misperceived as an alien/extraterrestrial phenomena.

To give you an example, in some alien abduction events there have been reports of humans being present whilst the abduction takes place. Indeed, some of the humans have been dressed in military uniforms. If the witnesses are to be taken seriously (and in many cases they should!), then a foreign military power manipulating British subjects in the guise of aliens under an abduction guise would be seen by **any** defence organisation as a threat. It may also be taken as an act of war. Before the subject is again dismissed, please avail yourself of the information which exists from public sector sources, relating to alien abduction and if necessary then pass this information (which must be taken seriously due to the professional credentials of the originators, and the investigators such as police, doctors and psychiatrists) and pass this on to the relevant departments in the MoD so it can be studied.

With regards to your anticipated response regarding the "No Defence Significance" issue, I really do need to know which department or organisation, with the reports that make this conclusion, have not properly released this to the public records office (if date depletion allows this).

2. On the subject of ongoing research and investigation of airspace incursions by " 'unexplained' aerial sightings " (your words) - if something unusual was sighted over an airbase, or found to be intruding into UK airspace without authority, who exactly would be the person or organisation to properly investigate this matter. Then could you please be specific in the internal workings of the department, i.e.: who gets the report and where does it go - point by point. (Both you and Mr Pope have intimated that there is still a mechanism for such investigation of unexplained aerial sightings or incursions.) This is great interest to ufologists because we could then assume that the same people are in probability investigating the UFO phenomena proper.

3. I have included a copy of the programme which featured the footage of a UFO filmed over Swindon (Fortean Review of 94), which stated that RAF Lyneham admitted that the UFO turned up on their RADAR screens. As well as this, I have included some other UFO video footage that has been taken in the UK, as well as other interesting items taken in other countries.

I have also included some photocopied articles relating to some of the footage that has been taken in Gulf Breeze, Florida during 1993. I hope you can take time to study the video footage and welcome both your personal opinions and those of the MoD as to whether this footage is genuine and represents something worthy of study.

Most importantly there is a segment of footage on the tape which you should make special effort to watch, because it refers to an incident which took place in Byelokoroviche in the Ukraine on Oct 4th 1982. It was featured on an American ABC prime-time live

news report about the Soviet governments investigations into UFO phenomena. The segment explains that a Nuclear silo had become activated whilst a UFO hovered overhead. The conclusion is that nothing was wrong with the equipment at the silo; the UFO may in some way have been the cause of the unauthorised and unexpected activation of the nuclear silo systems for a period of 14 seconds; control had been lost of the nuclear weapons launch systems, which could have resulted in a launch and subsequent war situation.

Whilst I understand that sometimes there is a tendency in news media circles to exaggerate UFO stories, I would be grateful if you could respond as to the MoD's interest in this matter. The MoD will have obviously been alerted to this event - through intelligence channels - and will have made conclusions as to it's authenticity. Can you please tell me what conclusions have been made in respect of this event. I do not mind if you respond separately to this question as I realise that it may involve a time consuming back investigation to uncover further details.

4. Can you please tell me the MoD's position regarding verbal and written witness testimony of UFO events. I can refer to many hundreds of credible witness testimonies, some of which have additional backup by secondary sources such as police reports, RADAR operator testimony and RADAR tapes, and other forms of evidence, and my questions are as follows:

a) Seeing that some individuals who are considered sane, competent and qualified are making statements relating to UFO's and threats to public safety, would the MoD like to comment as to how they interpret these peoples statements.

b) Bearing in mind that if there were a legal case presented in a Court of Law, these witnesses would have to be taken seriously, this would lead to an embarrassing situation whereby UFO's would have to be officially acknowledged. My question is would the MoD like to comment on the defence significance standing of recent disclosures such as the UFO spotted over Balmoral (with subsequent Jet fighter scramble), and the UFO sighted near Manchester airport which nearly caused a collision with a 737 trying to land.

c) I am eager to hear if the events referred to in section (b) are considered of defence significance.

5. In relation to the matter of MoD funding for private investigation of UFO's being supplied. I would like to point out that there is a growing concern in the area of UFO phenomena in the public mind. If the MoD does not take the subject seriously soon, then the public masses will demand for the MoD to do so through parliamentary pressure. This is already happening in the United States, where congressional hearings have been undertaken in respect of the Roswell story. Additional pressure is being sought at the moment for full congressional hearings on the subject of UFOs and will make use of

credible witnesses who range from political figures, through to astronauts and government employees who have top secret clearances. Before congressional hearings can take place, immunity for breaking security oaths has to be given by presidential authority for some witnesses. This too is being sought.

In the United Kingdom a group known as Operation Right to Know has been active in seeking political movement in respect to British UFO cases, specifically Bentwaters UFO incident of Dec 1980.

Whilst you feel there is no significance in UFOs at present, and no need for funding of research via outside organisations, I would put it to you that quite soon through growing pressure the situation may arise where funding will be granted, or military involvement in investigation will be sought.

Due to the decline of the offer of outside investigation help, and MoD funding, would the MoD like to make a gesture of good will in respect of the UFO subject, and allow greater access to records of unusual sightings ahead of release to the public records office, with related time release protocols. This to be done before public pressure forces it to happen... Costs and resources for investigation of the MoD's files will be supplied by the organisations that I am connected with, under their research funds allocations. I ask this in the spirit of the new open government initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Australian Visitors Join Local Team

by Bland Pugh
May 12, 1993

The Gulf Breeze UFO made a visit on Friday evening about 9:00 p.m. I would guess there were between thirty to thirty five people at Shoreline Park during the sighting.

I arrived somewhat late and walked out onto the pier, a friend walked out to speak to me and as we were talking he asked me if that was an airplane just above the Bob Sikes Bridge. I looked at it and confirmed that, yes, it was an airplane but in my peripheral vision I saw something, that wasn't an airplane. It appeared brighter than any star in the sky at the time and was pulsing. The object appeared to be directly over the Slide/Water Tower area at Pensacola Beach. It began to move to the West at a steady speed, pulsing and glowing as it went.

Several people began to walk out onto the pier with us and asked what they were seeing. When I told them they seemed completely awed by the Gulf Breeze UFO. One couple talked to each other as they walked on further out onto the pier saying "See honey, I told you we'd see the UFO if we came to Pensacola."

The UFO remained visible for approximately four and a half minutes and seemed to be moving towards the WNW slowly, covering some 20 degrees in movement. It also appeared to be moving towards us or climbing. At night and without a second angle it is very difficult to make that determination.

We had visitors from as far away as Australia skywatching. They seemed pretty excited about the UFO. Most people probably don't understand what skywatching is all about, let me briefly explain it to you. You get some friends together, pull out your favorite beach chair, you know the one that the bottom is sagging in, you get the old binoculars out, fix a cooler of your favorite beverage (non-alcoholic please) turn off that stupid TV set and drive to Shoreline Park in Gulf Breeze at sundown to enjoy the Real World. You don't have to be into UFOs, there's plenty of other things up there that will keep your mind busier than a re-run of Murphy Brown or some other garbage that you might have subjected yourself to. Who knows you might even learn what some of those things are that we call stars, constellations, nebula, planets, etc.

RE: article written back in January about the hand markings. I asked for people to please write to me if they had experienced anything similar. Well folks, the letters have been coming in and it will amaze you. I will write an article on it one day. *The Islander* UFO articles are picked up by Lucius Farish's News clipping service. They are then distributed all over the world. I have heard from people as far away as Germany, England, and South Africa. All have read *Islander* articles.

Physicist Analyzes Daylight Video

By Bland Pugh
May 19, 1993

Again, Dr. Bruce Maccabee, optical physicist for the Naval defense lab in Maryland was asked to help investigate a local UFO sighting. This time he is being called upon to analyze the daytime photo and video taken on Pensacola Beach by Martin "Allen."

When scientists take up an investigation they do so with a thoroughness not usually found with layman investigators. Such is the case with Bruce Maccabee, a physicist with a Ph. D. from American University in Washington D.C. As a researcher for the United States Navy in underwater sound, high power lasers, and weapons lasers, he has the training and resources to get to the heart of questions about the UFO phenomenon.

First interested in 1965 by a book, "Flying Saucers -- Serious Business." Dr. Maccabee attended a lecture sponsored by NICAP and offered to join in order to help with their work.

Dr. Maccabee is also on the Executive Committee of the Fund for UFO Research Inc., as well as a scientific consultant to MUFON. After examining the photo and video taken on Pensacola Beach, Dr. Maccabee made the following statement concerning the case:

This is his assessment of the March 24 sighting. "A frame by frame analysis shows that the object moved so fast it traveled several times its own length in each frame, making rectangular images on the screen. It only took about one second to cross the nearly 30 degree field of view of the camera. Unfortunately, the actual speed cannot be determined because the distances are not known, but estimates range from several hundred to several thousand mph corresponding to distance estimates of 1,000 to 10,000 ft."

The following refers to the video of March 31. "The Video shows a compact image with a bright area which may be the sun glint from a metal surface. As he tracked the object it suddenly disappeared from his viewfinder. When viewing the video at normal playback speed the object appears to streak to the right off the screen, almost too fast to see. Frame-by-frame analysis shows that the object accelerated at a tremendous rate. The actual acceleration cannot be calculated because, again, the distance is not known. However, if the assumed distances are only 1,000 ft., then the videotape shows that it accelerated at about 500 g's (500 times the acceleration of gravity, which is 32 feet per second per second; this is about 100 times greater than a jet) and reached a speed twice that of sound before it passed out of view of the camera. Yet there was no sound! At an assumed 1,000 ft. distance the size of the object was a bit less than 10 feet. For other assumed distances the size, acceleration and departing speed are proportional to the distance."

About the photo taken on April 2, Dr. Maccabee said "This photo shows a circular object to the south at an angular elevation of 60 to 79 degrees. The sun in the east made a shiny glint at the left side. In the perspective view from below the object appears like a layer cake with the upper layer having a larger diameter than the lower layer. The bottom of the inside image is too small and at the wrong angle to reveal any windows in the side of either layer. There is a slight hint of a protuberance at the top, but this might be a photographic artifact.

Expert Presents Validation Techniques

Bland Pugh
May 26, 1993

The principal investigators in the Martin Allen case all agreed. We wanted these videos and photographs validated or rejected prior to any press releases for many obvious reasons. Our decision was easy. Jeffrey Sainio is a relative newcomer to MUFON. He is manager of Imaging Research and Development at the Quad/Tech Division of Quad/Graphics in Wisconsin. Sainio has also been instrumental in the investigation of the most prominent UFO cases over the past couple of years. In a presentation to the MUFON symposium in Albuquerque, NM in 1992, Sainio had made the following statements thus paving the way to our recent decision:

There are three basic techniques, said Sainio, the first being the most obvious (and sometimes overlooked), which is simple visual inspection of the photograph itself. Do all the elements fit together and make sense? For example, are all the pictured objects (UFO, trees and buildings) illuminated by the same angel of sunlight? Secondly, Sainio advises trying to replicate the original picture as closely as possible, including the use of the same equipment under similar conditions. "Many Monday-morning quarterbacks," he said, "frequently hypothesize how a particular photograph might be replicated but fail to test their ideas using this simple but often time-consuming process."

The third approach involves sophisticated computer analysis that can often be carried out, at increasingly affordable prices, on a desktop home computer, preferably either a 386-based PC or 68020-based Macintosh (or higher) system. Images can be digitally enhanced by computer and various picture elements analyzed for edge-sharpness, color contrast and density and so on.

Sainio further stated: "Despite lower resolution (or less information) than still film, videos are harder to fake and they "often add another dimension, time, to the record of events," along with sound, or a lack of same, and a better sense of distance.

On April 12, 1993 the video tapes were sent to Jeffrey for analysis, after several calls for additional information such as weather reports, conditions, etc. and approximately two weeks of intensive test and studies the results were returned to the investigative team, Bland Pugh, Gary Watson, and Charles Flannigan State Director of MUFON. Those results were as we suspected, Positive.

The UFO speed in relation to its size eliminates all aircraft as a cause, since known airplanes can't move this fast. A 100-foot long fighter jet would need to move 300 feet, 3 times it own length, in 1/30 second, or 9,000 feet/second or about 6,000 mph, over Mach 9, below clouds at 7,000 feet. To stay below the sound barrier, a plane length of 10 feet would be required, Sainio said of the first video of the UFO.

Of the second video he said: A few days later, he filmed his quarry float motionless over the water, then flash toward the southwest. MUFON photo analysts' initial calculations show the UFO accelerated, slowed 20%, then surpassed 2,000 mph, all in under 1/10th of a second.

A possible answer to the "Red Light" that has been reported in the area over past years; As to the inevitable question of whether the red bottom might be the nocturnal red light that has been seen in this area hundreds of times, this is difficult to say. Videos have shown that the red light is limited to downwards only, and the UFO photographed would have this property. The problem is that nighttime lighting is so far different from daytime, that the dim red spot seen here cannot be determined to be glowing. Full moonlight is about one million times dimmer than full sunlight, so a sub-noticeable glow in daytime might be a brilliant light at night.

Sainio said about the color of the UFO: The lack of blue in the UFO bottom and shiny spot indicates the UFO simply doesn't reflect blue. It is yellow. I suspect the UFO would look more greenish on a cloudy day, since the dark close side is lacking in red, and is mostly green.

The photo taken by Thomas "Bryant" is being sent to Jeff Sainio for initial analysis.

Martin "Allen" Videotapes UFO Daytime Visits

by Bland Pugh June 9, 1993

On March 25, Martin "Allen," was getting out of his vehicle, for some reason he looked up and saw something coming out of the northwest at a tremendous rate of speed. The object was moving to the southeast. His first reaction was, "It must be some type of aircraft he'd never seen before." Later as he was walking to his mailbox the object reappeared, again moving towards him from the same direction. Thinking to himself that if this thing had come over his house twice from the same direction then maybe it would come back. So he set up his camcorder on his sun deck facing the southeast (the direction the object had gone in both times). That evening he reviewed the tape to only find several helicopters on the screen.

The next day, Allen decided to set up the video camera again, this time with his video camera set up pointing towards the south. He then went into the house to get an apple. Walking back outside, he was amazed to see the UFO coming at him from the southeast. On this occasion, the camera recorded the UFO as it sped across the screen.

Allen called me because he had read the many UFO articles I had written over the past year or so for *The Islander* Newspaper. We talked at great length about the sighting, he said "I couldn't believe my eyes when I first saw that round silver thing racing across the sky. But, when it shot overhead a second time I knew it wasn't a normal airplane. By God, I knew it was the UFO that I read about in the newspaper. It was round and kind of crown shaped with a lower level and a dark red circle in the bottom center." At that point we reviewed the video together, he has put one of the helicopter sequences and the UFO on a tape so that we could get an idea of the speed and size of the UFO. I must admit I didn't know what the heck it was, the helicopter took 4 seconds to cross the screen and the UFO took only one short second.

At that time I decided to involve another MUFON investigator, I called Gary Watson a seasoned investigator with many investigations under his belt.

Less than a week later, on March 31, I received another call from Allen. He'd videoed the UFO hovering over the Gulf of Mexico just south of his home. On this occasion Allen grabbed his camcorder, ran onto his deck, squatted beside a railing and began to video the UFO. After being recorded for approximately 40 to 45 seconds, the UFO made an extraordinary exit to the southwest. "It was fast, real fast. I video taped it. I couldn't believe this was happening and that it was happening in broad daylight."

Later that evening, he and I reviewed that tape and I must tell you I couldn't believe my eyes, hovering with the sun reflecting off of it and the clouds moving behind it, sat a UFO, the object was silver in color and reflected the light of the sun.

Again, I called Watson, we examined this tape as well. Both of us were completely astonished. The first one had just about blown us away, but this second one was even more awesome. It was apparent that we had a major sighting on our hands. Gary and I decided it was time to have the video tapes analyzed. I called Charles Flannigan and informed him of the sighting (at the time Art Hufford, President Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON, Inc., was on vacation).

On April 2, I received another call from Allen, he'd photographed the UFO with his Poloroid camera (at approximately 10:30 a.m.). The UFO had been hovering over the beach to the south of his home. Again, he called me at work and told me about the picture, I didn't even put the phone down, before I called Watson.

On Monday, I met with Charles Flannigan, Florida State Director of MUFON, after showing him the picture we made the decision to forward the videos and the picture to Jeffrey Sainio, Photo Analyst and manager of Imaging Research and Development at the Quad/Tech division of Quad/Graphics in Wisconsin.

Dr. Bruce Maccabee was also brought into the analysis of both videos and photo (both Sainio and Maccabee were given the original of the photo for analysis). The following are portions of Jeff Sainio's findings of the Allen tapes and picture:

Two videos and photos taken over the Gulf of Mexico will surely heat up the smoldering UFO debate. The witness reported something "crown shaped with a bottom layer" zip overhead twice in one day in late March. He left his camcorder running aimed over the Gulf, hoping to catch it. He succeeded the next day, recording a wingless object moving an estimated several thousand miles per hour.

Five days later, he filmed his quarry afloat motionless over the water, then flash toward the southwest. MUFON photo analysis initial calculations show the UFO accelerated, slowed 20%, then surpassed 2,000 mph, all in under 1/10 second. Several aspects of the videos make fakery quite difficult.

A few days later, the witness saw the UFO almost overhead, and with his camcorder batteries dead, got a Poloroid shot. Focus measurements of the UFO indicate the UFO was a distant object. The UFO appears metallic, round with a smaller round bottom, and a red spot at the base.

Cloud motion, sun angles, and sky brightness agree with the weather service data for the reported times and camera angles.

On Friday, April 21, I received a color slide and map from a gentleman named Thomas "Bryant", the map pointed to a location I am familiar with, called the Sugar Bowl in the Big Sabine area, the slide showed a beach scene, sand dunes, sea oats and shrub bushes, but most importantly it showed what appears to be the same UFO that Allen had photographed. This map contained a hand written note "April 2" and the time "2:30."

Both Sainio and Maccabee will have the opportunity to analyze it. At first blush there seems to be no doubt it is the same craft. One of the most significant parts about the slide is the date.

This is an ongoing investigation, all of the principal investigators are in agreement that it will probably remain an open book for quite sometime.

MUFON Documents Four Daylight Sightings

Object On Film Appears To Be Similar To Ed Walters' UFO Photos

by Bland Pugh

For the past year and a half I have written articles for *The Islander* about local UFO sightings. People have asked me over and over again, "Why don't we ever see them in the daytime?" Well folks here it is!

On March 26, 31 and April 2, four daylight UFO sightings were witnessed and have now been documented by a MUFON investigation (conducted by Bland Pugh and Gary Watson) and photo analysis. The witnesses' video taped and photographed what they described as "unbelievable."

A visiting elected official from Alabama, Thomas "Bryant" said, "At first I told myself that what I saw had to be something from the military, but I know of nothing that can suddenly appear, hover and disappear like it did." Mr. Bryant, who withheld his name for political reasons, was at the east end of Pensacola Beach near the area, locally called the "Sugar Bowl," where at about 2:30 p.m. on April 2, he saw and photographed the UFO.

On that same day Martin "Allen," a local resident, saw the UFO. One week earlier, he caught the UFO with his video camera. Martin said, "I couldn't believe my eyes when I first saw that round silver thing racing across the sky. But, when it shot overhead a second time I knew it wasn't a normal airplane. By God, I knew it was the UFO that I read about in the newspaper. It was round and kind of crown shaped with a lower level and a dark red circle in the bottom center."

Mr. Martin's video tape and photograph were sent to Jeffrey Sainio, photo analyst and manager of Imaging Research and Development at the Quad/Tech division of Quad/Graphics in Wisconsin. At the same time, to confirm the sighting, an investigation was conducted by MUFON to verify the sighting location, weather reports, wind velocity, cloud elevation, wind directions, etc.

Mr. Sainio verified the video tape and the photographs are consistent with the field investigation. He said, "A frame-by-frame analysis shows that the object seen in the first video tape moved so fast it traveled several times its own length in each frame, making rectangular images on the screen. It only took about one second to cross the nearly thirty degree field of view of the camera. Unfortunately the actual speed cannot be determined because the distance is not known, but estimates range from several hundred to several thousand mph corresponding to distance estimates of 1,000 to 10,000 ft."

Mr. Sainio continues, "The initial calculations on the second tape show the UFO accelerated, slowed 20%, then surpassed 2,000 mph, all in under 1/10 of a second." When asked about the still photograph, Mr. Sainio said, "Focus measurements of the image indicate the UFO was a distant object. The UFO appears metallic, round with smaller round bottom, and a red spot at the base.

Dr. Bruce Maccabee, an optical physicist, conducted another examination of the photograph and the two UFO videos. He said, "My conclusions agree with Mr. Sainio. The object in the second video accelerated at a tremendous rate. If the assumed distance to the object is only 1,000 feet, then the video tapes show it accelerated at about 500 g's (500 times the acceleration of gravity) and reached a speed twice that of sound before it passed out of view of the camera. Yet there was no sound! At an assumed 1,000 ft. distance, the size of the object was a bit less than 10 feet."

Both experts also agreed that, "The overall shape of the object resembles, but is not identical to, the shape of objects photographed by Ed Walters in 1987 and 1988, and which were published in the book *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*, in 1990. (Wm. Morrow Press, New York).

There it is folks, a daytime sighting, video taped, photographed and authenticated. It's pretty obvious that something is out there.

Local Photos Significant In Research

By Bland Pugh
July 21, 1993

Two weeks ago, I sent Jeffrey Sainio copies of the Thomas "Bryant" slide and the "Philip" video for analysis. Wednesday evening, he called to say that he'd just enough time to do a couple of preliminary tests on the two samples that I'd sent. I knew Jeff had been extremely busy, in that he has been analyzing my photos and tapes, plus others that have been sent to him from around the globe. Jeff was in Richmond, VA, at the MUFON International symposium over the 4th of July holiday weekend, where he showed the "Allen & Philip" video tapes and picture (slide). Those seeing this presentation were just a little more than excited. Both the "Allen" and the "Philip" tapes are highly significant in UFO research, as both show a UFO disappear. Accounts have been coming in for over 45 years from people saying they were observing a UFO when suddenly it would vanish. Now, the phenomenon has been captured on video tape. Jeff has said he feels that the UFO accelerated, then slowed as it exited the screen. He went on to say, it looked as if it were "cruising," just as you'd punch the accelerator on your car and then coast.

For those of you who have not seen this tape, let me attempt to paint a picture for you. The UFO is hovering in one spot for approximately ten to twelve seconds. It then darts to your left so fast that it becomes an elongated line. I'm sure many of you have tried to take a picture of the Blue Angels and when you have gotten your pictures back you probably were disappointed that they were streaked. This is caused by several things, camera movement, or the object moving faster than the film could absorb the image, thus causing a streak. If that explanation doesn't work for you, try setting your camera at 1/2 to 3/4 of a second, then take a picture of a car passing by several feet from you at about 55 m.p.h. while you hold the camera on one spot. I think you'll see what I mean.

A footnote to the "Philip" case...Sainio has requested more information concerning this video. Since I received this tape through the mail with a written note only, I have no way of knowing how to get in touch with "Philip." I would appreciate "Philip" contacting me again at: P.O. Box 6111, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561. I will know how to validate "Philip." We have need of more information as this will help authenticate this video and contribute to the solutions that the scientific community seeks in this phenomenon.

••••

I had a call this week from Holt, FL, a gentlemen there told me he saw four to six lights revolving in a clockwise motion for quite a long time. He, his wife and sister-in-law were sitting in their living room one evening last week when his sister-in-law began to hear something that sounded like a bug or buzzing sound outside the window. He went out to investigate and saw a group of lights moving around just above the tree line. He and the others watched this phenomenon for about thirty minutes when they decided to call a neighbor that lived down the way. The neighbor and his wife drove up to the house and watched the anomaly for quite sometime. After they had left a C-130 flew over, it had no bearing on the lights and did not disturb their pattern. After watching for quite a while longer, the man decided to go back into the house. He came back out thirty to forty minutes later and discovered that the lights had disappeared.

••••

While on skywatch this weekend, someone asked me what I meant by "my drift" in last week's article. I had written the following: "As many times as I have been in this area of the beach on skywatches it just never occurred to me that I was that far away from the Sound. My point about this marsh area is; it sure would be a good spot to put something you didn't want anyone to see, if you get my drift and I am not talking about a golf course!" "My drift" simply meant, dear hearts, if I were a UFO driver that swamp would be one heck of a place to park a UFO if I didn't want someone to see me. Dig?

That about wraps up the UFO update for this week, remember to keep looking up and behind you.

Expert Impressed With Film Quality

by Bland Pugh
July 28, 1993

It has been quite sometime since the Gulf Breeze UFO "red light" made an appearance. This has been a disappointment for some summer vacationers, as we last saw the UFO around June 10. There have been some anomalies seen and a few objects that have been confused as the UFO, but nothing that could be confirmed has been sighted.

I continue to receive reports from Jeffrey Sainio on the "Philip" tape, he seems to be extremely impressed with its quality. The following is an excerpt of a letter I received from Jeff:

A hovering spherical UFO is seen through a window for some 10 seconds, until the UFO zips leftward off-screen. The camera is presumably hand-held, and bouncy, but the windowsill (visible most of the time) is useful as a reference. Focus is proper for the duration. The Video quality is good; color is stable, exposure is OK, and the magnification is unchanging.

The photo published here shows a sub-pixel-resolved image derived from expanding and averaging 8 frames of the UFO while it hovered. The image verifies what seems apparent on the video; A bright spot, presumably sun-reflection, is consistent with the claimed direction, time, and sun position. There are presumed artifacts to the right, typical for video; the bright upper spot on the UFO causes a dark spot to its right, while the dark lower spot generates a light spot to its right. This is perfectly typical of camcorders and should not be assumed to be part of the UFO.....in an additional paragraph Sainio says; The UFO moves about 90 times its own diameter per second.

One more tid bit...Rebecca and Sotty Williams of Channel 12, Chattanooga, TN sent Gary Watson and me a copy of the broadcast she did on the evening news, Rebecca is the News Anchor for that station. Her report was a three part series. The first, was based on the current sightings occurring in the Chattanooga area. She then reported on the cattle mutilations and UFO sightings in Fyffe, AL. Third, Rebecca covered the Gulf Breeze sightings, showing the Martin "Allen, Philip, and Bryant" pictures & videos. Let me tell you something folks, the quality of that broadcast was amazing, it was totally void of sarcasm and cutesy remarks, only factual reporting and fair coverage were presented. What a breath of fresh air that was!

Humming Sounds Defy Explanation

By Bland Pugh
September 15, 1993

Parts of this report came from The *Taos* News...by Sherry Robinson...also credit portions to The Ufologists...Terry and Frances Ecker.

There is a phenomenon in Taos, New Mexico that has many people there saying "What is that sound? It's driving me crazy." Some have even left their homes and gone to other areas of the country hoping they can escape this mysterious noise. The sound seems to resemble a car idling or even a diesel engine idling, such as a large generator, a throbbing or droning hum.

Scientists and engineers from the University of New Mexico have measured acoustical, electromagnetic signals and seismic signals -- all the known energy sources of sounds or vibrations, additionally a team was formed from Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratories, Phillips Laboratory. They took measurements in four locations where hearers sense the hum strongly -- the home of Bob and Catanya Saltzman south of Ranchos de Taos Piedras area west of Taos and, at a later date, sites near Lumberton and El Rito.

"There was nothing unusual," said Joe Mullins, a UNM mechanical engineer professor. "There were no large signals we don't see other places, nothing out of the ordinary."

The team specifically looked for electromagnetic signals that might indicate radar, ELF (extremely low frequency) radio transmissions or other Department of Defense activities -- and found none. The report completed. It didn't say much. Scientists and engineers investigating the "Taos-Hum" did not detect the source of the mysterious and annoying sound heard by many Taos residents.

A report is also coming from Hucytown, AL, just to the west of Birmingham and Bessemer, AL. Residents have been complaining of the same type noise as the Taos hum. The underground area around Birmingham and the Bessemer area is riddled with old abandoned iron ore and coal mines, however there are many active coal mines currently in operations today. Jim Walters Mining Co. recently installed a 3500 hp, seven million dollar, ventilation fan with twelve foot blades. After the installation in 1991, people began to hear the hum. Jim Walters Resources, Inc. denies there is any evidence of the new fan being the culprit...The "hum" has been reported all over the country, Penn. Texas....we'll keep you posted.

One other interesting piece of news crossed my desk from two different directions this week, so I'll replay it for you.

Scientists trying to find intelligent life in outer space have located 164 possible messages after a year's research. They expect to know within a year if anyone's out there. Using the worlds most powerful and sensitive radio telescope -- the 1000 ft. wide antenna is located in Puerto Rico, after tracking over 30 trillion signals they have isolated 164 possible. After a complete and through investigation and analysis Dr. Charles Donnelly of the University of California says "We will be left with about 75 truly unexplainable signals that seem to have some kind of pattern to them."

"At that point we turn the telescope back around and try to find them again. They will be truly interesting if they are still there."

"If any of them are still coming in, we may have found something."

.....If you remember I wrote about this about 19 months ago, at the time there was quite a large contingent of Nay-Sayers, all exclaiming that 10 million tax dollars was too much to spend on this project that there was nothing out there. I wonder, I wonder.

Request 1

Copied from

D/Sec(AS)64/1 Pt A

– UFOs Policy

– Not supplied to applicant

Tour Operators' Association claims the terms of the sale of starting times to a London-based firm, Keith Prowse Hospitality, on behalf of an American finance company, are potentially restrictive. The tee times can be bought only as part of travel packages costing up to £900 per person for a two-day visit.

"A complaint has been lodged with us and we are looking into it," an OFT spokesman said. "We are concerned with establishing whether or not this distorts the competition, and if it does, then what do we do about it."

The investigation follows an Inland Revenue inquiry into the financial affairs of the body that administers the golf courses at St Andrews, the Links Trust. The trust currently enjoys charitable status for income and corporation tax purposes.

"We have a separate commercial arm known as St Andrews Links Ltd," Peter Mason, Links Trust's external relations manager, said. "St Andrews Links Ltd transfers profits to the parent company. It is a perfectly proper way of doing things. The National Trust does exactly the same. Our understanding is that our deal does not contravene any legislation."

The boom in the popularity of golf prompted the Links Trust to begin a big expenditure programme in 1986. It has spent more than £7 million since then on a new golf course, a new practice facility and a £3 million clubhouse.

CS spray used on one-eyed rugby player

By Richard Ford

POLICE used CS spray for the first time yesterday when they arrested Barrie McDermott, the 17½ stone rugby league international, outside a nightclub.

Mr McDermott, 23, a prop for England and Great Britain, has sight in only one eye after an accident with an air rifle when he was 15. Original trials of the spray were postponed after a Metropolitan Police officer taking part in training complained of burns to his eyes, for which he is now suing.

Police were called to the Cabaret Club, Oldham, as it closed at 2am to investigate allegations of criminal damage made by a taxi driver waiting to collect a passenger. Mr McDermott, who quit Wigan to join Leeds for £100,000 last year, was sprayed after allegedly becoming aggressive when officers tried to arrest him. Last night he said at his home near the club's Headingley ground: "I have been advised by police not to say anything."

Greater Manchester Police said that officers went to the club after a call from a private-hire driver. "Whilst attempting to effect the arrest of a male for an offence of criminal damage, the officers were subject to aggression. The officers deployed CS incapacitant spray. It effectively subdued the male sufficiently to be restrained and placed under arrest."

A spokesman for the force said that the man received medical treatment and appeared to suffer no lasting effects from the spray.

The rugby player was released on bail while police inquiries take place. He is to return to Oldham police station on Thursday. Mr McDermott, a joiner from Oldham, succeeded in being called up to the Great Britain rugby league squad despite the handicap of having lost his left eye.

He was sprayed less that 48 hours after 16 forces in England and Wales began a six-month trial with CS spray. Oldham is the only division in Greater Manchester where the spray is being carried by officers. Chief Superintendent Eric Hewitt, head of Oldham police, said that the value of the CS spray was in shocking an individual.

Royal couple buzzed by unidentified flying gossip

By Alan Hamilton

A BRIEF but merciful weekend lull in the Princess of Wales's public negotiations on her divorce forced yesterday's newspapers into the realms of frantic speculation.

The *News of the World* reported that two RAF Harriers chased an unidentified flying object from the skies above Balmoral, the Queen's Highland holiday home, on Wednesday night. Unnamed witnesses said the jets appeared to have engaged in a dogfight with a bright light, which was visible eight miles away in the town of Ballater.

But a flying saucer on Royal Deeside is as nothing compared with the enemy forces said to be buzzing the Instantly Identifiable Flying Object currently lying low in Kensington Palace while her estranged husband breezily skis the pistes of Klosters, where he has been visiting an exhibition of his own paintings at a local bank.

The *Sunday Express* reported that Tory backbenchers were pressing the Prime Minister to prevent the Princess ever becoming a Labour MP, not an ambition she had hitherto been suspected of harbouring.

For its part, *The Sunday Telegraph*, normally less excitable, claimed that during their private meeting at St James's Palace last week, the Princess suggested to her husband that they should appear together on television to announce their divorce, in the same way that they appeared together to announce their engagement.

The Prince, hardly surprisingly, is reported to have declined firmly to have anything to do with such an endeavour. No doubt he had an awful vision of himself and his wife lounging on pastel sofas like daytime television presenters while a procession of therapists offered passing and helpful thoughts.

Richard and Judy are married, apparently quite successfully; Anne and Nick are merely a professional pair who work well together. The Prince and Princess are neither.

Photograph, page 20

Request 2.

Copied from
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 pt B
-UFOs Public Correspondence

Extracts sent to
Section 40 [redacted].

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 8245
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax)

ENCL NO 25

Section 40
Edinburgh,
Scotland.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date 13 December 1995

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your recent letter in which you have requested further information regarding MOD policy with respect to the subject of "unexplained" aerial sightings. The MOD and HM Forces' role in relation to this subject was set out in paragraph 2 of my letter to you of 24 October 1995.

Reg 2

2. I know of no evidence which supports the claim that RAF aircraft chased a "UFO" in the Edinburgh area as has been alleged; the most likely explanation is that the witness saw several RAF aircraft taking part in a routine flying training exercise and mis-identified the lead aircraft.

3. Your second point queries the MOD's views on extraterrestrial life and "UFOs". We keep an open mind about the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial activity - the general "UFO" debate clearly falling outside our very specific remit relating to defence matters - we remain vigilant for anything which might indicate that the integrity of the UK's Air Defence Region has been compromised. I should point out that to date the MOD is not aware of any evidence which might substantiate the existence of craft or lifeforms of extraterrestrial origin, and no threat has ever been discerned which has been attributed to a "UFO".

4. You asked why the MOD's "UFO" files were destroyed up to 1967. Prior to 1967 there was very little public interest in the subject of "unidentified flying objects", and as there was pressure on storage space in Government Archives "UFO" files were routinely destroyed after 5 years. However, since 1967 there has been an increase in public interest in this subject, and it has been decided that such files should be preserved.

5. You also enquire why such files are closed from public viewing. In accordance with the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967, by law all government files are generally to remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action on the file has been taken. This Act of Parliament applies to all government and MOD files, and not just our "UFO" files.

6. Your letter requests information on the service which the Public Records Office can provide. You would need to visit the PRO to view the files which you wish to study and I understand that for a fee you

would be able to order photocopies of documents that are of interest to you. However, it is my understanding that the PRO does not offer a postal service. May I suggest that you contact the PRO direct for precise information in this respect. The address and telephone number are as follows:

Public Records Office,
Ruskin Avenue,
Kew,
Richmond,
Surrey.
TW9 4DU

Tel: 0181 876 3444
Fax: 0181 878 8905

7. Finally, you requested a detailed map which would show the geographical distribution of reported sightings in the Lothian area of Scotland. Unfortunately the map I sent you in my previous letter is the only one on which sightings are plotted.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Phone number - Section 40

Section 40
Edinburgh
Scotland
Section 40

Dear M.O.D.

I was the person that requested information on "UFO's" e.g files, documents and photographs etc. I thank you for the reply that I was given but their was a few questions I would like to be answered

1. "What do the M.O.D. do to do with the subject of "UFO's" because last week a UFO was seen over Edinburgh Airport and it was believed that two RAF planes were told to chase it (I believe that the RAF are part of the M.O.D.) but the UFO was two fast for the RAF planes and outspeed them. Do you ~~[illegible]~~ deny this? and what to the M.O.D. do to do with UFO's?

2. "Do the M.O.D. deny the chance of their being extra-terrestrial life and UFO's?"

3. "Why were ~~all~~ most of the files, documents and photographs destroyed from 1967 and why were files closed from public viewing?"

4. "These references of the files you gave me:-

AIR 16/1199	AIR 20/7390
AIR 2/17318	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9321	AIR 20/9994
PREM 11/855	
AIR 2/16918	
AIR 20/9320	
AIR 20/9322	

are they available for me to have these or some sort of copy of them personally? and if they are I would like them sent to the adress or delivered to me personally.

5. "Lastly the map you gave me which is very helpful I was wondering if I could get a more precise map especially in the Lothian Area.

Thank you for your time

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

3

Copied from
D/Sec(AB)64/3 PtB
- UFOs PQ/PEs.

Copies NOT sent to [redacted] Section 40

ANNEX D

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Service de Documentation Exterieur et de Contre-Espionnage in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40970]

(2) if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years, and this year to date, the number of occasions that MI6 has monitored unidentified flying objects investigations; and if he will make a statement; [40981]

(3) if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years and this year to date the number of occasions on which the Government Communications headquarters has monitored unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement. [40922]

Mr. David Davis: I shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what are his latest estimates of the expenditure on all external consultants, including management consultants, for each year since 1992, in 1996 prices, for his Department and its agencies; and what are the quantified annual cost savings which such expenditure has resulted in. [41178]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

New Buildings and Premises

Mrs. Bridget Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what was the total expenditure on new buildings and premises by his Department and its agencies; and if he will indicate the square footage of new office space purchased or newly rented in each of the last five years. [41144]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Telephone Interceptions

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list for each of the last 12 months the number of *(a)* interceptions and *(b)* monitorings of telephone calls (i) entering or (ii) leaving the United Kingdom, through the joint Government Communications headquarters—National Security Agency agreement; and if he will make a statement. [40972]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for United Kingdom policy on the use of nuclear weapons of the decision of the International Court of Justice on nuclear weapons. [41224]

Mr. David Davis: I shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Combined Heat and Power

Mr. Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what capacity of electricity used in his Department's buildings is generated in a combined heat and power plant; and what plans he has to increase that capacity. [41321]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

DEFENCE

Religious Discrimination (Caterick Camp)

Mr. Gabraith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received of religious discrimination at Catterick camp during June and July; and if he will make a statement. [40766]

Mr. Soames: There have been no reported incidents of religious discrimination at Catterick Camp during June and July. However, we treat any allegations of discrimination extremely seriously and if the hon. Member can provide any information which suggests that religious discrimination has taken place at Catterick Camp it will, of course, be fully investigated.

Suicides

Mr. Galbraith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 16 May to the hon. Member for South Shields (Dr Clark), *Official Report*, column *559*, if he will break down the number of suicides in the armed forces by *(a)* year and *(b)* service for each year since 1991. [40767]

Mr. Soames: Since January 1991 the total number of service personnel who have been confirmed as committing suicide is 130, which is broken down as follows:

(3) what research has been conducted on behalf of his Department by the national poisons information service into the causes of Gulf war syndrome. [41292]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Members and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Nicholas Pope

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what post Mr. Nicholas Pope was appointed by his Department after his tour of duty with Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A; and if he will make a statement. [40920]

Mr. Soames: Mr. Nicholas Pope was posted on promotion two years ago to a general finance policy branch.

Uranium-tipped Shells

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the current risk posed to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells in Kuwait. [41101]

Mr. Arbuthnot: My Department has conducted no formal assessment of the risks to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped ammunition in Kuwait.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement concerning the risk to soldiers of handling depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41100]

Mr. Soames: Depleted uranium has a very low level of radioactivity and the risks attached to the handling of depleted uranium ammunition are minimal.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the 1991 Atomic Energy Authority report on industrial technology concerning the risk of exposure to exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41102]

Mr. Soames: I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent by my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Smith) on 7 August 1996, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many depleted uranium-tipped shells were fired by British forces during the Gulf war; and what assessment he has made of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait. [41099]

Mr. Soames: British forces fired some 88 depleted uranium shells during the Gulf conflict. The Ministry of Defence has made no assessment of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait, as we judge the risk to human health posed by DU rounds to be negligible. It is likely, though, that a large proportion of the 88 shells was expended in Iraq rather than Kuwait.

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies have been conducted by his Department into the nephrotoxicity of the inhalation of uranium particles. [41296]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Married Quarters Estate

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what are the locations of the houses from the married quarters estate that have been released to Arrington Homes for immediate use by the private sector. [40931]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

RAF Rudloe Manor

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [40823]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Defence Intelligence Branches

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41040]

(2) what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41038]

(3) what is the current function of DI55; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41041]

(4) what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41037]

(5) what is the current function of DI10; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41039]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41048]

(2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement; [41036]

(3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for *(a)* 50 years, *(b)* 75 years and *(c)* 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40911]

(4) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Royal Australian air force in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41042]

(5) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's intelligence section of the Spanish air forces air operations command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41050]

(6) if he will make statement on his Department's policy towards unidentified flying objects and on how this has developed during the past 30 years; [40913]

(7) what co-operation there is between the Royal Air Force and the United States air force in respect of establishing the facts relating to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40918]

(8) how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date; how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel; which of these had been traced by radar and with what result; and if he will make a statement; [40921]

(9) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Italian Ministry of Defence air force general staff (2. Department) in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41049]

(10) what instructions have been sent to the commanders of Royal Air Force stations to collect reports from air crews having allegedly sighted unidentified flying objects; what inquiries have been held following such sightings; to what extent there has been collaboration between his Department and departments in *(a)* Canada and *(b)* the United States of America on this problem; and if he will make a statement; [40917]

(11) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with New Zealand's Ministry of Defence in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41043]

(12) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's joint staff of the armed forces intelligence division in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41051]

(13) how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months; what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations; and if he will make a statement; [40910]

(14) if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region; and if he will make a statement. [40919]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Tornado Crash (Blackpool)

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his oral statement of 14 October, *Official Report*, column 476, on what date the F3 Tornado which crashed on Blackpool beach in September, received its certificate of airworthiness. [41070]

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his reply of 14 October, *Official Report*, column 484, by whom the investigation into the crash of the Tornado F3 off Blackpool on 28 September will be carried out. [41336]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The Tornado F3 that crashed near Blackpool on 28 September 1996 had been authorised to fly by the Ministry of Defence on the same day as the accident.

The authorisation was issued, at British Aerospace Warton where the aircraft was being refurbished, in accordance with standard procedures for aircraft undergoing such work.

The aircraft which crashed was the ninth of a series of 16 aircraft being refurbished by British Aerospace. The previous eight had already been returned to the RAF in fully operational condition.

A Ministry of Defence board of inquiry is under way into the causes of the crash and not one by the Department of Transport as suggested by my right hon. Friend on 14 October, *Official Report*, column 484.

New Buildings and Premises

Mrs. Bridget Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the total expenditure on new buildings and premises by his Department and its agencies; and if he will indicate the square footage of new office space purchased or newly rented in each of the last five years. [41147]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces (Strength)

Mr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the strength of the British armed forces on 1 April 1992; and what will be its strength on *(a)* 1 April 1999 and *(b)* 1 April 2000. [41111]

Mr. Soames: The total service strength of the regular armed forces on 1 April 1992 was 302,400. The estimated strength on 1 April 1999 and 1 April 2000 is 213,500 for each year. Both figures include Gurkha strengths, Royal Marines and Queen Alexandra Royal Naval Nursing Service, and an element for personnel undergoing training.

HMS Sceptre

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the result of his Department's investigations into an incident on board HMS Sceptre on 22 July; and if he will make a statement. [40835]

Mr. Soames: The Royal Navy board of inquiry into the incident on 22 July, when two peace demonstrators were apprehended shortly after gaining access to HMS Sceptre, identified the need to tighten certain aspects of the specific security procedures relating to our nuclear hunter killer submarines. This has been done. It also recommended a number of additional security and

anagement measures to minimise the possibility of such n incident happening again. Many of these have already een put in place, and others are being addressed with the reatest urgency.

Mr. Nicholas Redfern

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for efence if he will list the titles of the records of the linistry of Defence's scientific intelligence branch in espect of correspondence sent to Mr. Nicholas Redfern y the Public Record Office, Kew on 21 September 1990. [40889]

Mr. Soames: I will write to hon. Member and a copy f the letter will be placed in the Library in the House.

Peninsula Barracks, Winchester

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department entered into an greement with the developers of Peninsula barracks, Winchester, so that his Department could share in any gain arising from development; and if he will make a tatement; [41227]

(2) if he will set out *(a)* the purchase and *(b)* the sale rice of Peninsula barracks, Winchester. [41228]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Combined Heat and Power

Mr. Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what capacity of electricity used in his Department's buildings is generated in a combined heat and power plant; and what plans he has to increase that capacity. [41317]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Foreign Police Officers (Powers)

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what authority *(a)* members of visiting forces and *(b)* US security police officers arrest and detain United Kingdom citizens on public highways for (i) theft and (ii) other alleged offences against United Kingdom law. [41328]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Epidemiology Research Proposals

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 17 July to the hon. Member for South Derbyshire (Mrs. Currie), *Official Report*, columns *532–33*, if he will now make a statement on the outcome of the Medical Research Council selection process on the 37 outline proposals for research into Gulf war syndrome mentioned in his answer. [41306]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Gulf War (Pesticides)

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if the organophosphate pesticide Denenton–S–Methyl was used by his Department's medical personnel in Operation Granby in the Gulf war; [41293]

(2) pursuant to the letter from the Minister of State for the Armed Forces to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent, on 4 October, if he will now correct his answer of 11 July 1994, *Official Report*, column *436*, on the use of pesticides during the Gulf war. [41294]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Euratom Treaty

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what activities of his Department come within the scope of the Euratom treaty. [41297]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

War Graves (France)

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement concerning the desecration of war graves in northern France. [41256]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

RAF Sealand

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects a decision on the market testing bids at RAF Sealand; and if he will make a statement. [41257]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Dominie Aircraft Contracts

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what prospects there are for the Raytheon Hawker jet work force at Broughton, Flintshire, obtaining contracts to service the MOD's Dominie aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [41258]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

A319 Tanker Airbus

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to purchase British Aerospace's planned A319 tanker airbus; and if he will make a statement. [41259]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Request 4

Copied from
D/Sec(AS)64/1 Pt A
– UFOs Policy

NOT SEN TO [redacted]

ENCLOSURE 102 NUMBER

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

26 Nov 96

DI55c

UNUSUAL AIR PHENOMENON - 5 OCT 96

Reference: D/DI55/108/15 dated 1 Nov 96.

1. At Reference you forwarded your personal observations in respect of early reports of the unusual aerial activity which was seen during the early hours of 5 October in the area of The Wash.

2. You may be interested to know that following a Parliamentary Enquiry received from Martin Redmond MP about these events, DAO's organisation undertook a very thorough investigation including interviewing key witnesses. This investigation was only considered necessary in view of Mr Redmond's serious allegations about the effectiveness of our Air Defence systems. In respect of the three points you specifically make at reference you may be interested in the following comments:

a. Para 2a. The Royal Greenwich Observatory states that 'when a bright star or planet is low down in the sky (even to elevation 20^0), it is **quite common** for it to show colours, which are often described as flashing or rotating'. DAO staff do not put much store by many of the estimates of elevation provided by the observers; the more reliable Skegness video and the Section 40 [redacted] (a maritime vessel) observations put the lights at $15-20^0$ elevation. Most significantly, the original observer watched the lights all night and saw them become higher, dimmer and whiter until 'it (became) obvious that it was just a star'.

b. Para 2b. The plot over Boston was only observed on one radar and its characteristics confirm beyond reasonable doubt that it was a permanent echo. It cannot be positively stated that the 'Boston Stump' (the 273ft spire of St Botolph's church) was the cause without conducting further detailed technical study, however, as the highest local physical feature in the area. DAO staff believe that this theory is highly probably.

c. Para 2c. Many of the 'reported facts' have since proved unreliable and a probable source of the lights has been provided by the Royal Greenwich Observatory as the planet Venus which apparently had been exceptionally bright during the week in question. There was no sign of air movements or military exercises in the area and there was no evidence of unidentified air activity on any radar, air defence or civil;

the separate stationary lights were not suspicious in nature or of significance to air or maritime safety and are judged to have been some form of natural phenomenon of no air defence, air or even maritime concern. All the elevation data on the lights, reliable or otherwise, confirms that, had the lights been associated with a normal flying object, it would have been within the coverage of at least four separate radar heads unless advanced stealth or other technology was being applied to remain electronically invisible; if a penetrating aircraft or device was so equipped, however, logic suggests that its crew would not have been so negligent as to have left the lights switched on.

3. As requested I forward a copy of the video footage taken by the Skegness Police. I hope this is helpful.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 82140MB

Enc.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAO/1/13

20 Nov 96

Sec(AS)2a1

UNUSUAL AIR PHENOMENON - 5 OCT 96

References:

A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 5 Nov 96.
B. D/DAO/1/13 dated 7 Oct 96.
C. D/DAO/1/13 dated 13 Nov 96.

1. At Reference A, you forwarded a minute from DI55c concerning the unusual air phenomenon observed on 5 Oct 96, where the author applied his own logic to an early report on the incident at Reference B and provided his own personal observations.

2. Much ink has already flowed on the events of the 5 Oct 96 and the answers to DI55c's comments can all be found in the detailed report at Reference C, however, I have extracted relevant notes below in response to his specific points.

a. Para 2a. The Royal Greenwich Observatory states that `when a bright star or planet is low down in the sky (even to elevation 20^0), it is **quite common** for it to show colours, which are often described as flashing or rotating'. I do not put much store by many of the estimates of elevation provided by the observers; the more reliable Skegness video and the Section 40 Section 40 observations put the lights at 15-20^0 elevation. Most significantly, the original observer watched the lights all night and saw them become higher, dimmer and whiter until `it (became) obvious that it was just a star'.

b. Para 2b. The plot over Boston was only observed on one radar and its characteristics confirm beyond reasonable doubt that it was a permanent echo. It cannot be positively stated that the `Boston Stump' (the 273ft spire of St Botolph's church) was the cause without conducting further detailed technical study, however, as the highest local physical feature in the area. I can positively state that this theory is highly probably.

c. Para 2c. Many of the `reported facts' have since proved unreliable and a probable source of the lights has been provided by the Royal Greenwich Observatory as the planet Venus. There was no sign of air movements or military exercises in the area and there was no evidence of unidentified air activity on any radar, air defence or civil; the separate stationary lights were not suspicious in nature or of significance to air or maritime safety and are judged

to have been some form of natural phenomenon of no air defence, air or even maritime concern. All the elevation data on the lights, reliable or otherwise, confirms that, had the lights been associated with a normal flying object, it would have been within the coverage of at least 4 separate radar heads unless advanced stealth or other technology was being applied to remain electronically invisible; if a penetrating aircraft or device was so equipped, however, logic suggests that its crew would not have been so negligent as to have left the lights switched on.

3. You may wish to send DI55c the attached copy of the Skegness video; perhaps DIS can shed some `light' on the subject!

Section 40

Wg Cdr
ADGE 1
MB4227 Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

5 Nov 96

ADGE1

UNUSUAL AIR PHENOMENON - 5 OCT 96

Reference:

A. D/DI55/108/15 dated 1 Nov 96.
B. D/DAO/1/13 dated 7 Oct 96.

1. Following the weekend of the lights over The Wash, as usual I copied the reports we had received to DI55c for information. To tie up the loose ends I also copied your note at Ref A for information to DI55c.

2. Following a period of absence, DI55c has returned to work and has had sight of the reports and Ref A. You will no doubt be interested to see his comments at Ref B. In view of the Parliamentary Enquiry we are both currently working on from Martin Redmond, and the serious nature of the allegations being made against our Air Defence system in the MP's letter, I should be grateful for a separate note which I can place on record dealing with the concerns raised by DI55c.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 82140MB

D/DI55/108/15

1 November 1996

Sec(AS)2a1

UNUSUAL AIR PHENOMENA - 5 OCT 96

Reference:

A. D/DAO/1/13 dated 7 Oct 96.

1. I have just returned from a prolonged period of absence and sighted Reference A. I would be most interested in the video if you obtain a copy.

2. I have no finance to investigate sightings but:

a. Very rarely, colour effects can be associated with planets, they are usually when the planet breaks the horizon. They **do not occur** when the planet is 40-45 degrees above the horizon, over a prolonged period, and they do not rotate.

b. Did the radar sites positively confirm that the stationary radar return geolocated with the Boston Stump. The reference does not positively state this.

c. The conclusion of the reference does not reflect the reported "facts". The "reported facts" indicate that multi-coloured flashing lights were present in UK airspace for a prolonged period. I know of no natural phenomena that could produce this effect. Logic would then suggest that these lights were artificial. If ADGE 1 could not relate these to any known flights then UK airspace was penetrated by an unknown aircraft or device. Surely this should concern the RAF!

3. These are of course only personal observations!

Section 40

Wing Commander
DI55c
Section 40

Fifty-FIVE

64/1

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 94

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
07/10/96	DPO(RAF)SO2	BOSTON UFO SIGHTINGS OVER THE	[ ]

Sent: 07/10/96 at 16:06
To: DPO(RAF)SO2
CC:

Ref: 841
Subject: BOSTON UFO SIGHTINGS OVER THE WEEKEND

Text: Section 40

ATTACHED DEFENSIVE PRESS LINES. PROPOSE WE DON'T GO BEYOND THE FIRST STATEMENT UNLESS WE ARE PRESSED.

Section 40

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

PRESS LINES

BOSTON UFO SIGHTINGS - EARLY HOURS OF SAT 5 OCT 96

All available sources of information have been examined and we are satisfied that the sightings were not of air defence significance. We are content that there was no associated threat to UK airspace.

IF PRESSED:

THE RADAR RETURNS

The radar returns have been assessed and were almost certainly caused by a permanent geographical feature (St Botolph's church spire in Boston, 273ft). The church spire is known in aviation circles as the 'Boston Stump' and appears occasionally on some radars in certain radar propagation conditions.

LIGHTS IN THE WASH AREA

The lights in The Wash area were observed from three separate locations high above the horizon and in the same general direction, but without corroborating radar data. No associated air vehicle was detected by civil or military radars. This suggests a distant celestial source.

There were no corroborating radar returns for the visual sightings.

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 64/T 93

8th October 1996
Section 40
London
Section 40

Tel/Fax Section 40

F.A.O.: SEC - AS/2

RE : UNIDENTIFIED LIGHTS OVER THE WASH - 5/10/96

Dear Sir / Madame,

I am a freelance writer and investigator compiling reports of UFO's.

I am trying to find out a little more about an incident in the vicinity of The Wash on Friday night 4/10 or Saturday morning 5/10.

I have received many other reports of strange lights and other phenomena on this night, and would be keen to learn as much as possible about anything anybody there might have seen or heard.

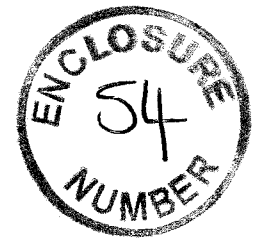
Have you been contacted by anybody else regarding this? Is there an official statement you are prepared to give?

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you can be of any help.

Yours sincerely and many thanks,

Section 40

[redacted]



LOOSE MINUTE

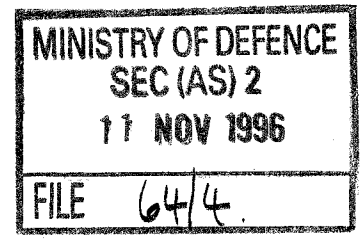
D/DAO/1/13

11 Nov 96

PSO/ACAS

Copy to:

PS/CAS
DPR
DAO
Sec (AS)2a1



REPORTED UFO SIGHTING OFF BOSTON - 5 OCT 96

Reference:

A. D/DAO/1/!£ dated 1 Nov 96.

1. You may know from the attached press report that the content of Mr Martin Redmond's letter to the SofS on the subject topic has reached the public domain.

2. I reported at Reference that we were taking a closer look at this incident in view of criticism of the RAF's AD system. That work is still underway but will be completed later in the week. Some primary witnesses have been uncontactable. On the evidence so far, we do not anticipate extraordinary conclusions.

3. As interim background:

a. There was only one unsolicited observer, others having reported lights on enquiry from the Yarmouth Coastguard.

b. The video has been in the MOD only since 6 Nov, having been requested from the police where it had been lodged with the Head of Media Services, Lincolnshire Police Services (it shows a single bright pinpoint light, the angle of which may be measured against a building in the foreground).

c. There was no radar correlated contact, the reporting system having tentatively identified, when the visual sighting was inaccurately reported, a stationary contact over Boston showing on the Claxby remote head, but subsequently discounted as a ground return probably the Boston "stump".

d. Reported aircraft sightings may be discounted, referring to enquiries made to a Delta airlines and UK Air aircraft in Blue One. Neither observed anything, although the Delta aircraft made reference to flares which he had seen some 20 minutes earlier and much to the West.

4. Much of the reported material, and its interpretation, would

seem to have come from overheard radio transmissions from the Yarmouth Coastguard.

Section 40 [redacted]

Gp Capt
AOAD1
MB4229 Section 40

The People
10 November 1996

Page No: 14

RAF IN X-FILE ALERT!

ALIENS from outer space may be visiting Britain, the Government has sensationally admitted.

In an incredible letter obtained by The People, Defence Minister Earl Frederick Howe reveals that ALL RAF station commanders are under orders to report UFO sightings.

And he adds: "So far as the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms is concerned we remain open-minded." The letter was sent to Don Valley Labour MP Martin Redmond, who is trying to break the MoD's veil of secrecy over flying saucers.

By NIGEL NELSON

He is concerned about a UFO with a red and green rotating light that appeared over East Anglia last month.

It was tracked by radar at RAF Neatishead and RAF Northwood for several hours as it hovered in the sky before flying 50 miles down the coast.

It was also spotted by the crews of a tanker and civilian plane, while a video – now in the MoD's hands – was taken by police.

"It's incredible no aircraft were scrambled when a target was picked up so close to the coast," Mr Redmond told Defence Secretary Michael Portillo.

"This raises questions on the way we police the UK Air Defence Region."

Earl Howe replied that the RAF does not respond unless there is evidence UK air space has been "compromised". He added: "To date no sighting has provided such evidence.

"We do not investigate further or provide an explanation for what might have been observed."

Mr Redmond is accusing the Government of covering up information on UFOs and says if there is no defence threat, there is no excuse for secrecy either.

"The answers I've been given lead me to think there is something more to this," added the MP.

"The only thing I know for sure is this whole issue is shrouded in secrecy."

Last week Defence Minister Nicholas Soames refused to reveal how many UFOs RAF pilots have spotted since 1966. He said the information would cost too much to obtain.

But he added: "Unidentified contacts penetrating UK airspace are identified by all available means, including interception."

Section 40 w/c Section 40

4227

26

ENCLOSURE 62 1 2m NUMBER

64/4 pt R

Copy Emailed to ADGE 1.

Vg Co. Section 40

+ PSO/ACAS.

1. RW-fi

2. file

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

15 Nov 96

PE Unit
(thro' Head of Se[redacted]S))

Section 40

LETTER FROM MARTIN REDMOND MP - US 4168/96

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Martin Redmond MP. The deadline was extended to COP today with the agreement of the Parliamentary Unit.

BACKGROUND

2. The substance of Mr Redmond's letter alleging 'unidentified flying craft sightings' is based on various reports some incorrect, ill-informed or speculative, which appeared in the local press.

3. Initial Observations. At approximately 0205Z on 5 October PC Section 40 a Skegness police officer on mobile patrol at Addlethorpe observed stationary multicoloured lights in the sky which he reported to Skegness control room who relayed the message on to Great Yarmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) suspecting it might be related to an incident at sea. The MRCC, unaware of any maritime activity, asked the Air Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) at RAF Kinloss about any air activity or incident in The Wash area, and with nothing to report, they in turn asked the Control and Reporting Centre (CRC) at RAF Neatishead to check their radar for that area. Neatishead confirmed they had no unidentified radar contact on the air defence radars being used to provide air surveillance in the area. ARCC subsequently checked with the Distress and Diversion (D&D) Cell (which is located at the London Air Traffic Control Centre (LATCC) West Drayton and not RAF Northwood as the Coastguard erroneously assumed and the press subsequently reported) for advice. The D&D Cell advised a radar plot on the NATS Claxby radar over Boston and this information was passed through ARCC to MRCC. CRC Neatishead having by now conducted a search on all available radar displays, observed the same plot on the same Claxby radar in the same position. For reasons that are unclear, MRCC associated the police officer's report of lights with the radar return over Boston.

4. Actions by Air Defence System. CRC Neatishead's inquiries revealed no sign of air movements or military exercises in the area and there was no evidence of unidentified air activity. The stationary radar plot, without associated height or IFF/SSR (Identification Friend or Foe/Secondary Surveillance Radar) was judged by experienced operators at both Neatishead and the D&D

Cell to be a permanent echo. The separate, stationary, lights were judged to be some form of natural phenomena, not suspicious in nature nor of significance to air or maritime safety, and of no air defence or air concern. No flying craft had either penetrated the UKADR or was present on any radar and no recommendation to scramble a Quick Reaction Alert aircraft from RAF Leuchars to investigate either the permanent echo showing on the stationary radar plot, or the reported lights, was sought.

5. Subsequent Reporting. MRCC assumed a coordination role and continued to seek further information on both plot and lights. At the instigation of the coastguard, further interest in the radar plot was kept alive and involved LATCC(Civil), LATCC(Military), Anglia Radar and Waddington Approach; and with the involvement of a tanker vessel at sea (Section 40), Boston and Skegness Police Forces and LATCC(Civil) in the lights until they disappeared with the dawn.

INVESTIGATION OF RADAR PLOT AND VISUAL SIGHTINGS

6. The Boston Radar Plot. The radar Plot was observed in the position of Boston on the NATS sensor at Claxby by the D&D Cell and CRC Neatishead, although neither uses that radar on a routine basis for surveillance or aircraft control in The Wash area. Later, the plot was observed by Anglia Radar at Stanstead and the Claxby radar display. The radar plot was always single and stationary and defied attempts to obtain height or IFF/SSR information on it. Significantly, it was never present on radar displays from the NATS sensors at Cromer and Debden nor on the air defence radar at Trimmingham. The characteristics of the plot confirm beyond reasonable doubt that it was a permanent radar echo. The fact that it could only be detected by the closest sensors indicated a relatively low physical feature which appears as a permanent radar echo only in certain weather conditions and was most likely the 273ft Spire of St Botolph's Church, Boston (the 'Boston Stump').

7. Stationary Lights. Various sightings of lights were made between approximately 0205Z and dawn by observers at Skegness and Boston and on board the Section 40 some 8 miles to the east of Skegness. However, neither the police at Kings Lynn when asked at 0227Z, nor the cargo vessel, Section 40 W, some 16nms ENE of Skegness, at 0240Z observed any lights which they considered unusual. The crews of two civilian airliners flying through the area at 0557Z reported no sightings of lights when asked by LATCC(Civil). Only the original report by PC Taylor was unsolicited. Although there is little reliable or accurate bearing and elevation information in connection with the sightings the observations have been assessed by the Royal Greenwich Observatory. They surmise the likely source of the Boston Police sighting as the planet Venus which was exceptionally bright in the early morning sky on 5 October. Their assessment of the Skegness Police video film (which was not, as reported, forwarded to MOD at the time but only after repeated requests for sight of it), was

that it was also likely to be the planet Venus. They could offer no explanation for either set of lights observed from the Section 40 Section 40

CONCLUSION

8. Detailed research has not revealed evidence or admissions that alarming or extraordinary events were witnessed on 5 October. The radar plot observed in a position at Boston was a permanent radar echo. It was correctly assessed as such by CRC Neatishead and no further air defence related action was necessary. The bright stationary lights observed from Boston and Skegness were probably the planet Venus.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION

9. Mr Redmond has tabled 33 'UFO'-related PQs during the last four weeks and is keen to exploit any opportunity to draw attention to what he perceives to be the Governments unwillingness to investigate each reported sighting in depth. This investigation was only considered necessary in view of Mr Redmond's serious allegations about the effectiveness of our Air Defence systems and involved the RAF staffs in very detailed work over a significant period. It is indicative of the effort that would be required to investigate all sightings, something Mr Redmond is keen we should do. We have explained to Mr Redmond on a number of occasions the limit of MOD's interest in 'UFO'-related issues, which is simply to determine whether there is any penetration of the UK Air Defence Region but it is unlikely he will be deflected from his attempts to discredit MOD's handling of 'UFO' reports. On balance we do not believe that the draft letter should provide a full and detailed explanation of the events of 5 October since to do so would only encourage Mr Redmond to write more frequently with this in mind. Mr Redmond has already informed the Media of his letter to MOD (The People, 10 Nov 96, copy attached) and it is likely that he will seek to interest them in the reply.

10. Finally, I apologise for the length of this background note but believe on this occasion it is warranted.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40

Enc.

DRAFT

D/USofS/4168/96 November 1996

Thank you for your letter of 24 October addressed to Michael Portillo expressing concern about the effectiveness of the UK air defence system. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

I must say at the outset that much of the content of the press reports enclosed with your letter is incorrect, ill-informed and speculative. Much of what you say in your letter is also incorrect.

The facts are that our air defence system found no evidence of unidentified flying craft throughout the period in question. The only radar plot observed, which was identified on the National Air Traffic Services Claxby radar in the position of Boston, was judged by experienced operators at two separate locations to be a permanent echo, caused by a natural phenomena (something that does occur in certain weather conditions), not suspicious in nature nor of any significance to air or maritime safety, and of no air defence or air concern. The characteristics of the radar plot confirm beyond reasonable doubt that this judgement was sound.

There is very little reliable or accurate bearing or elevation information in connection with any of the sightings of lights observed in the area of The Wash. From that provided, including the video which was not fowarded to us by the Lincolnshire Police HQ until 5 November, the Greenwich Observatory view is that the lights were of celestial origin and likely to be Venus which had been exceptionally bright during the week in question.

I am confident that there is no evidence that the UK Air Defence Region was compromised. There was, of course, no reason whatsoever, in the light of the above for any further military action.

THE EARL HOWE

Martin Redmond, MP

The People
10 November 1996

Page No: 14

RAF IN X-FILE ALERT!

ALIENS from outer space may be visiting Britain, the Government has sensationally admitted.

In an incredible letter obtained by The People, Defence Minister Earl Frederick Howe reveals that ALL RAF station commanders are under orders to report UFO sightings.

And he adds: "So far as the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms is concerned we remain open-minded." The letter was sent to Don Valley Labour MP Martin Redmond, who is trying to break the MoD's veil of secrecy over flying saucers.

By NIGEL NELSON

He is concerned about a UFO with a red and green rotating light that appeared over East Anglia last month.

It was tracked by radar at RAF Neatishead and RAF Northwood for several hours as it hovered in the sky before flying 50 miles down the coast.

It was also spotted by the crews of a tanker and civilian plane, while a video – now in the MoD's hands – was taken by police.

"It's incredible no aircraft were scrambled when a target was picked up so close to the coast," Mr Redmond told Defence Secretary Michael Portillo.

"This raises questions on the way we police the UK Air Defence Region."

Earl Howe replied that the RAF does not respond unless there is evidence UK air space has been "compromised". He added: "To date no sighting has provided such evidence.

"We do not investigate further or provide an explanation for what might have been observed."

Mr Redmond is accusing the Government of covering up information on UFOs and says if there is no defence threat, there is no excuse for secrecy either.

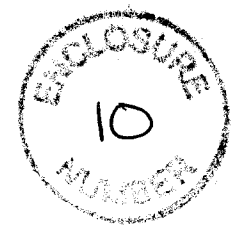
"The answers I've been given lead me to think there is something more to this," added the MP.

"The only thing I know for sure is this whole issue is shrouded in secrecy."

Last week Defence Minister Nicholas Soames refused to reveal how many UFOs RAF pilots have spotted since 1966. He said the information would cost too much to obtain.

But he added: "Unidentified contacts penetrating UK airspace are identified by all available means, including interception."

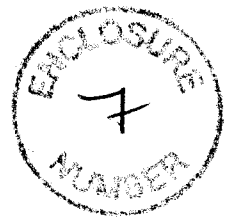
26



ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART D

ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART D

ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART D



ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART D

AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: Section 40

Case Number: 11-10-2005-1101134-004 **Expiry**: 1 November 2005

The Applicant has made the following requests for information:

1). Has the MOD (present or past) ever allowed the United States Air Force, CIA, or any other branch of government or military to test fly ANY of their secret advanced aircraft over the UK?

2). I'm sure you're familiar with the Area 51 Groom Lake facility in the United States (Nevada) where top secret aircraft are test flown. Is there any similar facilities in the UK? If so, what official MOD designations (or names) do they go by?

3) If the MOD did come across some evidence which provided proof of the existence of Extraterrestrials observing Earth and / or their space craft recovery, would you disclose that information or keep it classified? Why or why not?

4) Do any members of the MOD ever discuss the UFO subject with any members of the United States Government or military branches?

5) The UFO subject needs to be more open and all files need to be de-classified unless recent information would cause harm to national security. But no extraterrestrial UFO information should be kept from any human being. Don't you agree?

Case for release of information

1) I have made enquiries with DAS-VF, CT & UK Ops – Airspace Integrity and DIS. None hold this information or could suggest anyone else who would. The Ministerial Correspondence Unit could only suggest one of these three. Given the vast areas the US authorities have available within their own borders for test flying aircraft it seems unlikely that they would need to test them over a small, highly populated country like the UK. The attached draft reply includes a suitably general answer to this question.

2) I am unaware of any area in the UK similar to the Area 51 Groom Lake.

3) This is a hypothetical question. It is impossible to say what information would be released in such a situation as this would depend on circumstances at the time.

4) The MOD do not currently discuss UFO reports with the US Government or military.

5) The MOD is open about its interest in UFOs and a lot of information has already been released. The applicant has been advised where he can access this information.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation for the release of the aforementioned information to the Applicant.

Grade/Rank: B2 Name: Section 40 [redacted]

Signature. Section 40 [redacted]

Date: 19/12/05

From: Section 40
Sent: 20 December 2005 09:28
To: Section 40
Subject: Internet-authorised: Request for information about UFOs

Importance: High

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your request for information about UFO sightings. Your letter has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence about UFOs. I apologise for not replying sooner.

I will answer your questions in the same order as your letter.

1) We have consulted widely within the Ministry of Defence and have found no evidence that the US Air Force has made a request to test fly secret advanced aircraft in UK airspace. Given that the US authorities have vast areas within their own borders to conduct any such tests this is perhaps not surprising.

2) I can confirm that there is no area or facility in the UK similar to Area 51 at Groom Lake.

3) The MOD knows of no evidence of the existence of Extraterrestrial lifeforms, this is therefore a hypothetical question. The MOD responds to any threat to the UK, but it is impossible to say what information would / or would not be disclosed in such a situation as this would depend on circumstances at the time.

4) No, the MOD do not discuss UFO sighting reports with members of the United States Government.

5) The MOD is unable to disclose "Extraterrestrial UFO information" as we do not hold any such information. We are aware that there is a public interest in the UFO sightings reported to the MOD and information on UFOs can now be viewed in the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme, which can be found on the internet at www.foi.mod.uk. We intend to add further classes of information to the Scheme in the future. The Scheme also has a Reading Room where we have placed details of some of the recent Freedom of Information requests about UFOs we have answered. In addition, surviving MOD records from the 1950s to 1978 are fully open for inspection at The National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey. Details of these records and how to access information at The National Archives can be found on their website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk.

I hope this is helpful. If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H, Section 40
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Previous TOC 7055/05
5274/05
463/05
6991/04

LOW FLYING/UFOS /E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS(LA) P+P

TO Ref No 7526 /2005

CC.

Date 4/10/05

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days of the above date**. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

Most correspondence involves some form of request for information – even if it is only a request for clarification of Government policy – and is therefore covered by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) from January 2005. In general, if you meet the deadline for responding to correspondence, and comply with any requests for information, there is no need to do anything differently as this will meet the requirements of the Act. However, if the correspondence requests information which is not already in the public domain, and which might need to be withheld, then you should treat it as a FOIA request, track it using the Access to Information toolkit, and comply with the separate FOI guidance from DG Info (see http://aitportal/default.aspx for details). However, the deadline for responding to correspondence will still apply. If you are in any doubt as to whether a piece of correspondence should be treated as an FOIA request, you should ask your FOI Focal Point or refer to the guidance produced by DG Info.

It is vital that branches ensure they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public. This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against the targets for answering correspondence published in the Spending Review 2000 Service Delivery Agreement for the Ministry of Defence.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Floor 5, Zone A, Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB
t: Section 40 or Section 40
f: Section 40 ; DII: Ministerial Correspondence; e: Ministerial-Correspondence@mod.uk.

Detailed guidance on handling TO Correspondence can be found on the Defence Intranet at *http://main.defence.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/TOGuid.htm*
If you do not have access to the Intranet, please inform the Ministerial Correspondence Unit.

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **
** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

11-10-2005-110134-004
Expiry: 1 November 2005

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 03 October 2005 00:26
To: public@ministers.mod.uk
Subject: MOD - please respond

10/2/05

Dear Ministry of Defense,

My name is Section 40 I have sent you previous inquiries and you have always responded in a swift and honest manner and I truly appreciate that! I have a few more questions I'd like to ask you and I would ask that you please respond to each of my questions in complete honesty and openness...

Section 40 Has the MOD (present or past) ever allowed the United States Air Force, CIA, or Section 40 any other branch of government or military to test fly ANY of their secret advanced air craft over the UK?

2) I'm sure you're familiar with the Area 51 Groom Lake facility in the United States (Nevada) where top secret air craft are test flown. Is there any similar facilities in the UK? If so, what official MOD designations (or names) do they go by?

3) If the MOD did come across some evidence which provided proof of the existence of Extraterrestrials observing Earth and/or their space craft recovery, would you disclose that information or keep it classified? Why or why not?

4) Do any members of the MOD ever discuss the UFO subject with any members of the United States Government or military branches?

5)The UFO subject needs to be more open and all files need to be de-classified unless recent information would cause harm to national security.
But no Extraterrestrial UFO information should be kept from any human being. Don't you agree?

I hope to hear from you soon! Thank you!

Section 40

Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 04 November 2005 07:08
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI Request

I don't sorry.

Section 40
SO1 Airspace Integrity
DCT&UK Ops
Section 40
Internet account: Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 03 November 2005 14:39
To: Section 40
Subject: FOI Request
Importance: High

Dear Section 40

I have an FOI request about UFOs and one of the questions is as follows;

Has the MOD (present or past) ever allowed the United States Air Force, CIA, or any other branch of government or military to test fly ANY of their secret advanced air craft over the UK?

Do either of you know the answer to this or, if not, have any ideas about who I could ask?

Section 40
DAS-FOI

Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H, Section 40
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 07 November 2005 09:50
To: Section 40
Cc: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI Request

Section 40
The DIST deal with foreign threats to the UK and deployed forces as per the DIS mission statements

'DI provides all-source intel that will (1) guide dept decision making on the formulation of defence policy and the commitment to and employment of UK's mil forces, (2) inform decisions to the generation and maintenance of operational military capability, including through the Equipment Programmes and (3) contribute to wider national intelligence collection and assessment.'

I'm afraid the question is not in my part of ship and I cannot help on this matter.

You may wish to poise the question to BCR as the DIS FoI focal point and they may be able to trawl wider..

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 04 November 2005 12:07
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI Request
Importance: High

Section 40

Please see at the bottom of this string of e-mails details of a FOI request I have. DAS-VF have suggested this may be something for DIS. Any ideas?

Section 40
DAS-FOI
5-H-13
Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 04 November 2005 11:56
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI Request

Section 40

I'm afraid I can't be very helpful, I checked with Section 40 and his answer is below.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 04 November 2005 11:54
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI Request

We have had a similar question to this before and the answer is: we (DAS VF) have no record of any such clearances. But that said I am not convinced we are the right people to ask anyway, given the sensitive nature of this. How about the DIS or the FCO for example?

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 04 November 2005 11:41
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI Request
Importance: High

Any ideas?

From: Section 40
Sent: 03 November 2005 14:39
To: Section 40
Subject: FOI Request
Importance: High

Dear Section 40

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Do either of you know the answer to this or, if not, have any ideas about who I could ask?

Section 40
DAS-FOI

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 04 November 2005 12:07
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI Request
Importance: High

Section 40

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Section 40
DAS-FOI
5-H-Section 40
Section 40

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Section 40

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Sent: 04 November 2005 11:41
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI Request
Importance: High

Any ideas?

From: Section 40
Sent: 03 November 2005 14:39
To: Section 40
Subject: FOI Request
Importance: High

Dear Section 40

[redacted]ve an FOI request about UFOs and one of the questions is as follows;

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Do either of you know the answer to this or, if not, have any ideas about who I could ask?

Section 40
DAS-FOI

ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART D

ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART D

ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART D

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail requesting information about a UFO incident on 28th October 1970 at RAF Donna Nook. Your message has been passed to me as this department is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence about UFOs.

The MOD UFO records for 1970 are now open for viewing at The National Archives (formerly The Public Record Office) in Richmond, Surrey. Details of opening times and how to access these records can be found on their website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk. With regard to your question about a file number, while I can not be certain that the information you are seeking will be amongst these records, you may wish to look at the following files which are relevant to the period.

TNA Reference: AIR 2/18565 UFOs: Reports and Photographs 1970-1971
TNA Reference: BJ 5/311 Unidentified Flying Objects: Meteorological aspects 1968-1970

I hope this is helpful. If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H, Section 40
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

1 December 2005

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCD/

01 December 0!

Home | My Cases | Log New Request | Policy Guidance | Help

Request: Section 40 29-11-2005-103412-005

Days Left: 18

Received: 28 Nov 05
Expiry Date: 28 Dec 05
Status: Open

All sources

Workflow Options
AIT Main
View
Audit Trail
Comments Log
Saved Search Result
Contact Details
Documents
Actions
Assign Within My Group
Change Alert Settings
Edit Request Details
Upload Document
Close Case
Take Ownership

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.
The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search results.

Date request received: 28 November 2005

Applicant Details

Title: Section 40 Other:

First Name: Section 40 *Surname: Section 40

Organisation:

Applicant Type: Other Other: retired Police

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1: Section 40

Address Line2: alvechurch

Address Line3:

Town/City:

Postcode: Section 40 Country: United Kingdom

Email: Section 40

Telephone: Fax:

Clear | Back | Next | Cancel

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCD/

01 December 0!

Home | My Cases | Log New Request | Policy Guidance | Help

Request: Section 40 29-11-2005-103412-005

Days Left: 18

Received: 28 Nov 05
Expiry Date: 28 Dec 05
Status: Open

All sources

Workflow Options
- AIT Main

View
- Audit Trail
- Comments Log
- Saved Search Result
- Contact Details
- Documents

Actions
- Assign Within My Group
- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.
The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search results.

Request Details

Response Format Requested: electronic

Language Requested ☐ Welsh

*Enter the request for information:

Im currently researching into a UFO incident that is alleged to have happened on the 28th of October 1970 at RAF Donna Nook,when a Captain Robert Miller(USAF)was present when a UFO was seen to hover over the base during the late evening. I am led to believe that the assistant editor of the Grimsby Telegraph, Mr Patrick Otter (who passed away last year)obtained some documenatation relating to Captain Miller's sighting (as refered to in Alien Invesigator a book written by Mr Tony Dodd.) Can you please tell me whether this UFO sighting is still classified?
I presume not understanding that over 30 years have passed.

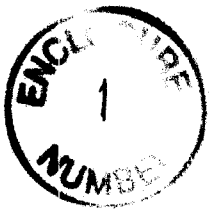
Record storage location of Applicant request (or upload document).

To be held by helpdesk until allocated

Clear | ◂Back | Next▸ | Cancel

Im currently researching into a UFO incident that is alleged to have happened on the 28th of October 1970 at RAF Donna Nook,when a Captain Robert Miller(USAF)was present when a UFO was seen to hover over the base during the late evening. I am led to believe that the assistant editor of the Grimsby Telegraph, Mr Patrick Otter (who passed away last year)obtained some documenatation relating to Captain Miller's sighting (as refered to in Alien Invesigator a book written by Mr Tony Dodd.) Can you please tell me whether this UFO sighting is still classified?
I presume not understanding that over 30 years have passed.
If 'not' is it possible to be furnished with a copy of Robert Millers report,and also any photographs taken of the UFO

In the event that you may refer me to the PRO, can you advise me whether there is a File number to assist me regarding this matter.



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: Section 40 [redacted]

Case Number: 31-10-2005-104833-006 **Expiry**: 28/11/2005

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Hello I wondered if the MOD has any information on this UFO sighting, or could you give me any information as to how I would be able to follow this up.

Case for release of information

The sighting was in Oct/Nov 1978, so I have informed Section 40 [redacted] where he can find the information, (if it was reported to the MOD), in The National Archives.
I have also given Section 40 [redacted] some references which will help him search through the year 1978, to see if the sighting is on file there.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation for the release of the aforementioned information to the Applicant.

Grade/Rank: B2 Name: Section 40 [redacted]

Signature.... Section 40 [redacted]

Date:.....

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 28 November 2005 12:39
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: Internet-Authorised: FOI Request.

Dear Section 40 [redacted]

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding information on a UFO sighting seen in Oct/Nov 1978. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFOs.

MOD UFO files were routinely destroyed after 5 years until 1967 when they were generally preserved for The National Archives. A few have survived before 1967 and these together with records up to 1978 are now available for viewing. The National Archives can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU or telephone, 020 8876 3444. The National Archives also have a website giving information about the records they hold and how to access them. This can be found on the internet at http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk.

These references at the National Archives may help you find (if it was reported to the MOD), the record that you are interested in.

DEFE 24/1207 – UFO Reports & Correspondence
DEFE 24/1208 – UFO Reports (Unedited reports)
DEFE 24/1209 – UFO Reports
DEFE 24/1210 – UFO Reports
DEFE 24/1211 – UFO Reports
DEFE 24/1212 – UFO Reports
DEFE 24/1290 – UFO Reports (Edited)
DEFE 24/1291 – UFO Reports

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1
5th Floor, Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

E.mail – das-ufo-office@mod.uk.

28 November 2005

31-10-2005- 104833-006
Expiry: 28 Nov 2005

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 31 October 2005 10:03
To: Section 40
Subject: RETURNED PROFORMA..RTF

Hello i wondered if the MOD has any information on this UFO sighting, or could you give me any information as to how i would be able to follow this up.
Yours gratefull Section 40

REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

(1) Date and time of sighting.
(Duration of sighting.) ..oct/nov
1978 .5mins.6am.....

(2) Description of object.
(No of objects,size, shape,colour, brightness, noise.) .....
No noise parallel lines bright lights silent above one
object .....
.....

(3) Exact position of observer.
Geographical location. (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.) .....
.outdoors colliers end near ware hertfordshire car stopped to
observe .....
.....

(4) How object was observed.
(Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.) .....
Naked eye one
object .....

(5) Direction in which the object was first seen.
(A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.) .....
..overhead colliers end herts near ware
herts .....

(6) Approximate distance from what was observed.
.500 hundred feet
above .....

(7) Movements and speed.
(Side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow.) .....
Still then a rapid incredible speed to the
east .....

(8) Weather conditions at the time of observation. .....
..not sure no precipitation at the time it was
dry .....

(9) Was the sighting reported.
(And to whom i.e. police, airport, military etc.) .....
..yes local paper and prob police because other folk reported it as
well.....
.....

(10) Name and address of witness. .....
Section 40 buntingford hertfordshire ..Section 40
Section 40.....
.....

(11) Any other witnesses. .....

.three other work pals but not sure where they are now .....
.....

(12) Your comments about sighting.my friend [redacted] is a decent chap and if he said he saw this he certainly did he is very sceptical about these things but I know when he told me it was true it sent a little tingle down my back .....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

(13) The date and time you received this sunday 25th sept.....