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UNCLASSIFIED  
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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

F6208A

Date opened (Date of first enclosure)

1-2-2006

Registered file number

D/DAS/10/2/8/13

Part No.

2

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

PAS-SEC  
WITH TALL

[FULL ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER]

SUBJECT

Information Management  
Defence Information Management  
— The Freedom of Information Act 2000  
— Requests for Information

[BLOCK CAPITALS]

NTS

ained in:

RECORD OF KEYWORDS:

10/3/06

20/4

id and  
opriate  
d to

event

IED on

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

2nd Review date

PA ACTION

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

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED  
UNCLASSIFIED



RCU001734808

TNT



# 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 - Requester for Information

Reference:  
(Prefix and Number):

D1030/10213/13

Part:

L

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors):

Restricted

Date of last enclosure:

10/3/06

Date closed:

10/3/06

## 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):

LEGAL ☒

CONTRACTUAL ☐

FINANCE/AUDIT ☐

DIRECTORATE POLICY ☐

DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS ☒

ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS ☐

MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT ☐

OTHER (Specify) ☐

For  
Permanent  
Preservation



(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

Name:

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank:

C1

Date:

22/7/10

Branch Title and Full Address:

RAF Business Secretariat  
HQ A-1 Canal  
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)



| ENCLOSURE | SUBJECT            | NAME       | AIT REF                                          |
|-----------|--------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1         | Aircraft Accidents | Section 40 | 30-01-2006-150233-003                            |
| 2         | Aircraft Accidents |            | 02-08-2005-105629-003                            |
| 3         | UFO                |            | 30-01-2006-093909-006                            |
| 4         | Airworthiness      |            | 11-01-2006-154634-008                            |
| 5         | UFO                |            | 30-01-2006-084745-001                            |
| 6         | UFO                |            | 26-01-2006-101249-001                            |
| 7         | Aircraft Accident  |            | 07-02-2006-105455-014                            |
| 8         | US Visiting Forces |            | 09-01-2006-153246-011                            |
| 9         | US Visiting Forces |            | 03-01-2006-145741-011                            |
| 10        | UFO                |            | 12-12-2006-105014-002                            |
| 11        | UFO                |            | 27-01-2006-162416-002                            |
| 12        | UFO                |            | 15-02-2006-073727-002                            |
| 13        | UFO                |            | 22-02-2006-070447-002                            |
| 14        | Low Flying         |            | 13-02-2006-151005-001                            |
| 15        | Low Flying         |            | 15-02-2006-142203-001                            |
| 16        | Low Flying         |            | 08-02-2006-094454-002                            |
| 17        | UFO                |            | 20-02-2006-094625-008                            |
| 18        | UFO                |            | 07-02-2006-152854-001                            |
| 19        | UFO                |            | 23-01-2006-173712-018                            |
| 20        | UFO                |            | 09-02-2006-090127-006 &<br>20-02-2006-093712-005 |





From: **Section 40**

**Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information**  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



Telephone

(Direct dial)  
(Switchboard)  
(Fax)

020 7218 2140  
020 7218 9000

e-mail

das-ufo-office@mod.uk

**Section 40**

**Section 40**

Folkestone  
Kent

**Section 40**

Our Reference  
09-02-2006-090127-006 &

20-02-2006-093712-005

Date  
10 March 2006

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your two Freedom of Information requests concerning a UFO sighting in the Burmarsh area of Kent in 1997 and the future release of information about UFOs. As both requests are similar, I will address them both in this letter.

First it may be useful if I explain how our UFO records are currently constructed. The UFO sightings reported to the MOD and public correspondence about UFOs (some of which also contain reports of sightings) are filed on paper files in the order in which they were received. They are not segregated by date of sighting or geographical area and separate files are not opened for each incident. As it is common for individuals to continue to write to the MOD about well known events for months, sometimes years, after they have occurred, it is possible that there are reports or correspondence about any particular event in any of the files from the time it occurred until today. If there was press or parliamentary interest it is also possible that information may have been included on UFO policy or parliamentary files at anytime during this period. When answering Freedom of Information requests we endeavour to locate all of the information relevant to the request and to release as much information as possible. However, I hope you will appreciate that if we were to search all of our paper records each time, the costs would quickly exceed the £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. We therefore usually only look for information immediately around the time of the event.

With regard to the reports sent to the MOD from UFO Monitors East Kent concerning the alleged events in Burmarsh in March 1997, I can confirm that our files do contain correspondence from your organisation. This includes a witness report and petition from residents of Kent. We also have your letter to The Rt Hon Jack Straw MP and your letter to the Kent County Constabulary. This correspondence spans a period between April 1997 and March 1999. None of these were held on our file covering UFO sighting reports received between January and July 1997 so may not have been located when the researcher requested UFO reports in Kent in March 1997.

You also asked if the incident was looked at by any other Government Department, such as DI55, DSTI or DI61. I should inform you that the departments you have listed are a part of the MOD and we have no evidence that any of these were consulted about these events. The Department's Air Defence experts were consulted and confirmed that there was no unauthorised military activity in the UK Air Defence Region on 8 March 1997. The London Air Traffic Control Centre also confirmed that there was no unusual or unauthorised air activity, civil or military in the area.



The Home Office confirmed that there was no such security incident involving the Home Secretary.

Finally, you asked about the future publication of UFO Sighting Reports. It is our intention to make UFO information available to the public whenever possible. Since the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 a great deal of information has been released in response to requests for information and some of this can now be viewed on the Freedom of Information page of the MOD website at [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk). We also seek ways to proactively release information and we are currently compiling a database of brief details of each sighting, listed by the date they occurred, rather than when they were reported. As we hold records covering a 25 year period, this is an ongoing project, but the database has been completed for sightings between 2002-2005 and these are also available on the MOD website. In addition, we are looking to place scanned images of UFO reports into the MOD Publication Scheme starting with reports received in 1985 and progressing towards the present. Before any of the reports can be released the witnesses personal data must be removed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and for such a large number of reports this is likely to take a considerable time to complete. However, time permitting, we hope to start releasing this information shortly.

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 these requests, 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

GxAITESTPTCDAS

10 February 06

[Home](#) [My Cases](#) [Log New Request](#) [Policy Guidance](#) [Help](#)

Request: Section 40 09-02-2006-090127-006

Days Left: 19

Received: 08 Feb 06

Expiry Date: 08 Mar 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: 08 February 2006

## Applicant Details

Title: Section 40

Other:

First Name: Section 40

\*Surname:

Organisation:

Applicant Type: Not Specified

Other:

## Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1: Section 40

Address Line2:

Address Line3:

Town/City: FOLKESTONE, Kent

Postcode: Section 40

Country: United Kingdom

Email:

Telephone:

Fax:

Clear

&lt; Back

Next &gt;

Cancel

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

10 February 06

[Home](#) [My Cases](#) [Log New Request](#) [Policy Guidance](#) [Help](#)**Request:** Section 40 09-02-2006-090127-006**Days Left:** 19

Received: 08 Feb 06

Expiry Date: 08 Mar 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.

**Request Details**

Response Format Requested:

email

Language Requested ☐ Welsh

\*Enter the request for information:

Dear Sirs,

Last year the Ministry of Defence stated that in July of 2005, they were to publish all UFO reports under the FOI publication scheme. Can you tell me if this will still be the case.

Also in April of 1997 the UFO group UFO Monitors East Kent sent the MODs' AS2A Department a copy of a report from

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

Clear

&lt;Back

Next&gt;

Cancel



Dear Sirs,

Last year the Ministry of Defence stated that in July of 2005, they were to publish all UFO reports under the FOI publication scheme. Can you tell me if this will still be the case.

Also in April of 1997 the UFO group UFO Monitors East Kent sent the MODs' AS2A Department a copy of a report from their investigation into a sighting of a Flying Triangle UFO seen in the Burmarsh area near Hythe, Kent.

Copies were also sent to a Chief Inspector at Kent County Constabulary HQ, and the Home Office amongst others. I know that these reports were forwarded onto the MOD.

But enquiries with the MOD state that they do not have these reports, yet UFOMEK received a letter from the MOD thanking them for the report.

All one received from the MOD if they enquired about the Burmarsh sighting is a copy of an article from the Daily Mail from January 1998.

I know that a very well known researcher requested information regarding any incidents from the county of Kent for 8 March, 1997 only to be told there were not any.

So can you please tell me what has happened to the report from UFO Monitors East Kent of the Burmarsh sighting, which occurred on 8 March, 1997 of which we know of the MOD having received at least 4 copies of the report?

Thanking you for your attention in this matter.

I can be contacted at the following e-mail: Section 40  
or Section 40

Section 40

- Poss  
Code

Section 40

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

21 February 06

[Home](#) [My Cases](#) [Log New Request](#) [Policy Guidance](#) [Help](#)

Request: Section 40 00-02-2006-093712-005

Days Left: 20

Received: 20 Feb 06  
Expiry Date: 20 Mar 06  
Status: Internal Transfer 

## Workflow Options

Internal Transfer

## 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: 20 February 2006

## Applicant Details

Title: Section 40

Other: First Name: 

\*Surname: Section 40

Organisation: UFO MONITORS EAST K

Applicant Type: Academics

Other: 

## Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1: Section 40

Address Line2: Address Line3: 

Town/City: FOLKESTONE

Postcode: Section 40

Country: United Kingdom

Email: Telephone: Fax:



Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

21 February 06

Home

My Cases

Log New Request

Policy Guidance

Help

**Request:** Section 40-02-2006-093712-005  
**Days Left:** 20

Received: 20 Feb 06  
Expiry Date: 20 Mar 06  
Status: Internal Transfer

 All sources 



Workflow Options

Internal Transfer

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:

Language Requested ☐ Welsh

\*Enter the request for information:

Request all/any information regarding sighting of Triangle shaped object seen in the Burmarsh area, of Kent (Hythe), on 8 March, 1997 at 03.00 hrs GMT.

We know MOD received at least 3 copies of a file from UFOMEK based in Folkestone. What happened to those files? All requests in the past result in just a copy of an article in the Daily Mail from Janaury, 1998. So what did happen to the other file(s) and was the incident ever looked at by any other Governmnt department, such as DI55, DSTI or DI61

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

Clear

 Back

Next 

Cancel

Request all/any information regarding sighting of Triangle shaped object seen in the Burmarsh area, of Kent (Hythe), on 8 March, 1997 at 03.00 hrs GMT.

We know MOD received at least 3 copies of a file from UFOMEK based in Folkestone. What happened to those files? All requests in the past result in just a copy of an article in the Daily Mail from Janaury, 1998. So what did happen to the other file(s) and was the incident ever looked at by any other Governmrnt department, such as DI55, DSTI or DI61 etc.?

We would be interested in receiving any information regarding this matter from you.

Sincerely,

Section 40



**AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION**



**Applicant:** Section 40

**Case Number:** 23-01-2006-173712-018

**Expiry:** 20/02/2006

**The Applicant has made the following request for information:**

I am a Journalist with the Harborough Mail newspaper in Leicestershire following up a story the Leicester Mercury ran on January 18 2006 re: UFO sightings in Leicestershire. The story was prompted by Section 40 of East Yorkshire who had obtained info under the FOI Act. It stated that UFO sightings were reported to the MOD in Jan 2004 (Market Harborough) and September 2004 in (Lutterworth). Could you please forward this report to me please.

**Case for release of information**

I have found the two reports for the two areas requested and have enclosed them with the e.mail. Have redacted the reports in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

**Authorisation**

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

Grade/Rank: D Name: Section 40

Signature: Section 40

Date: 3/3/2006

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding copies of two UFO reports in Leicestershire. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFOs.

Copies of the reports you requested of the Market Harborough and Lutterworth UFO sightings that were reported to the MOD, have been enclosed. The personal details of the individuals who made the reports that are attached, have been removed in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

E.mail – [das-ufo-office@mod.uk](mailto:das-ufo-office@mod.uk)

3 March 2006

✓

## REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

|    |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                              |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | <b>Date and time of sighting.</b><br>(Duration of sighting.)                                                           | 9 January 2004<br>1400-1800L                                                                                 |
| 2. | <b>Description of object.</b><br>(No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)                              | One large black triangular aircraft with three bright lights in a triangle formation.<br><br>Rumbling sound. |
| 3. | <b>Exact position of observer.</b><br><b>Geographical location.</b><br>(Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)          | Outdoors in his garden.                                                                                      |
| 4. | <b>How object was observed.</b><br>(Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)                 | Naked eye.                                                                                                   |
| 5. | <b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b><br>(A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.) | SE -N                                                                                                        |
| 6. | <b>Approximate distance.</b>                                                                                           | Not given                                                                                                    |
| 7. | <b>Movements and speed.</b><br>(side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)                                 | Flying directly overhead.                                                                                    |
| 8. | <b>Weather conditions during observation.</b><br>(cloudy, haze, mist, clear)                                           | Not given                                                                                                    |



|     |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9.  | <b>To whom reported.</b><br>(Police, military, press etc) | DAS answerphone.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 10. | <b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>       | [REDACTED]<br>Market Harborough<br>Leicestershire<br>[REDACTED]                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 11. | <b>Other witnesses.</b>                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 12. | <b>Remarks.</b>                                           | [REDACTED] was in his back garden when a commercial airliner went over and then directly overhead he saw a large black triangular aircraft with lights on each corner, "jumping about the sky". He wondered if it may have been a military F117 or B2. |
| 13. | <b>Date and time of receipt.</b>                          | 10 January 2004 18.44L                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

[REDACTED] confirmed there were no F117's or B2 over the UK on the 9<sup>th</sup> Jan. [REDACTED]

14/1/04

[REDACTED] made further call to answerphone at 11.32 am on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2004. Repeated the message he left on the 14<sup>th</sup> January [REDACTED]

26/1/04

## REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

|    |                                                                                                                        |                             |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | <b>Date and time of sighting.</b><br>(Duration of sighting.)                                                           | 20 September 2004<br>22.00L |
| 2. | <b>Description of object.</b><br>(No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)                              | Saw flashing lights.        |
| 3. | <b>Exact position of observer.</b><br><b>Geographical location.</b><br>(Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)          | Not given.                  |
| 4. | <b>How object was observed.</b><br>(Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)                 | With the naked eye.         |
| 5. | <b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b><br>(A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.) | Not given.                  |
| 6. | <b>Approximate distance.</b>                                                                                           | Not given.                  |
| 7. | <b>Movements and speed.</b><br>(side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)                                 | Not given.                  |
| 8. | <b>Weather conditions during observation.</b><br>(cloudy, haze, mist, clear)                                           | Not given.                  |

|     |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9.  | <b>To whom reported.</b><br>(Police, military, press etc) | Das answerphone.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10. | <b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>       | <div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 0.5em;"></div> Lutterworth<br>Leicestershire<br><div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; margin-top: 0.5em;"></div> |
| 11. | <b>Other witnesses.</b>                                   | Her daughter.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 12. | <b>Remarks.</b>                                           | Said she saw my article? in the Western Gazette, in Somerset. That some other lady in that area saw flashing lights too.                                                                                                      |
| 13. | <b>Date and time of receipt.</b>                          | 21 September 2004<br>10.30L                                                                                                                                                                                                   |



Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 23 January 2006 17:38  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST 23-01-2006-173712-018 Section 40

Section 40

The little green men are back!

Regards

Section 40

-----Original Message-----

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]  
Sent: 23 January 2006 13:12  
To: Info-Access-Office  
Subject: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST 23-01-2006-173712-018 Section 40

*Expiry: 20 Feb 2006*

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Monday, January 23, 2006 at 13:12:22

-----  
FirstName: Section 40

LastName: Section 40

occupation: Journalist

Company: Harborough Mail

Address1: Section 40

City: Market Harborough

State: Leicestershire

Zip: Section 40

Country: United Kingdom

e-mail: Section 40

telephone: Section 40

preferred format: electronic

infosubject: I am a journalist with the Harborough Mail newspaper in Leicestershire following up a story the Leicester Mercury ran on January 18, 2006 re: UFO sightings in Leicestershire.

The story was prompted by Section 40 of East Yorkshire who had obtained info under the FoI act.

It stated that UFO sightings were reported to the MoD in Jan 2004 (Market Harborough) and September 2004 (Lutterworth) Could you please forward this report to me please.

I understand that under the Act, there is a 20-day timelimit on requests, but seeing as this FoI answer has already been sent out to Section 40 I am presuming this could be sent to me straight away.

Kind regards

submit: Send Form

-----  
*I spoke to Section 40 at 09:26 on 25-1-2006 to clarify the info requested. He has been given the info sent to Section 40 (by Section 40) & he would like copies of these reports. He would like them electronically.*



**AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

**Applicant:** Section 40

**Case Number:** 07-02-2006-152854-001

**Expiry:** 07/03/2006

**The Applicant has made the following request for information:**

How many unidentified flying objects have been recorded in the Rhondda area, and also the borough of Rhondda Cyon Taff.

For each, please could you specify when, where, who saw it/reported it, how many saw it, what it looked like, frequency of sighting, action taken (if any).

**Case for release of information**

I informed Section 40 that our files are not stored electronically, but are filed on file in the order in which they are received. Have informed her of our database, as she mentioned no specific dates for the sightings and told her that we had completed 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and to date in 2006.

I examined the records and found two reports within those years, for which I redacted in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

**Authorisation**

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

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

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

Date:.....2/3/2006.....



From: **Section 40**  
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

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

**Section 40**

Pontypridd  
Mid Glamorgan

**Section 40**

Your Reference:

Our Reference:  
07-02-2006-152854-001

Date:  
2 March 2006

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding the number of UFO sightings recorded in the Rhondda area and the county borough of Rhondda Cynon Taff. 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 and we currently hold records spanning a 25 year period. To go through 25 years of files would mean carrying out a manual search of thousands of records and 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 the Rhondda area, copies of these are enclosed. Personal details of those who made the reports have been removed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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

## REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

|    |                                                                                                                        |                                            |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. | <b>Date and time of sighting.</b><br>(Duration of sighting.)                                                           | Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2003 @ 15:54  |
| 2. | <b>Description of object.</b><br>(No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)                              | Strange object, silver, shaped like a dart |
| 3. | <b>Exact position of observer.</b><br><b>Geographical location.</b><br>(Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)          |                                            |
| 4. | <b>How object was observed.</b><br>(Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)                 |                                            |
| 5. | <b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b><br>(A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.) |                                            |
| 6. | <b>Approximate distance.</b>                                                                                           | 2 miles from informant's home.             |
| 7. | <b>Movements and speed.</b><br>(side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)                                 |                                            |
| 8. | <b>Weather conditions during observation.</b><br>(cloudy, haze, mist, clear)                                           |                                            |



|     |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9.  | <b>To whom reported.</b><br>(Police, military, press etc) | DAS(LA)Ops&Pol1a answerphone                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 10. | <b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>       | <div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> Ynysybwll<br>Pontypridd<br><div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; margin-top: 2px;"></div> |
| 11. | <b>Other witnesses.</b>                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 12. | <b>Remarks.</b>                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 13. | <b>Date and time of receipt.</b>                          | Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2003 @ 21:27                                                                                                                                                                           |

Return the completed form by fax or post to:

Directorate of Airstaff (Lower Airspace) Operations & Policy 1  
 Room 6/73  
 Metropole Building  
 Northumberland Avenue  
 WC2N 5BP

# REPORT OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

- A Date, Time and Duration of Sighting - Local times to be quoted.  
12/7/03 22.05L for 10 mins
- B Description of Object - Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc.  
2X Round with legs - black - spinning. Size ?
- C Exact Position of Observer - Geographical location, indoors or outdoors, stationary or moving.  
3miles North of Llantrisant, South Wales (See address below). Outdoors. Stationary.
- D How Observed - Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie camera.  
Naked eye + binoculars
- E Direction in which Object was First Seen - A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing.  
West
- F Angular Elevation of Object - Estimated heights are unreliable.  
approx 60°
- G Distance of Object from Observer - By reference to a known landmark wherever possible.  
Not known
- H Movements of Object - Change in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed.  
Stationary
- J Meteorological Conditions During Observations - Moving cloud, haze, mist, etc.  
Few Cloud at 30,000' approx. Light winds. Excellent Vis
- K Nearby Objects - Telephone or 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 other lighting.  
NONE
- L To Whom Reported - Police, military organisation, the press, etc.  
RAF St Athan + Cardiff ATC
- M Name and Address of Informant  
[REDACTED] Tonyrefail, Rhonda [REDACTED]
- N Any Background Information on the Informant that may be Volunteered  
NONE
- O Other Witnesses  
Son of Informant
- P Date and Time of Receipt of Report  
22.20L 12/7/03

NOT POSSIBLE  
CLOSED  
- NO TELETYPE

**\*\* TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY \*\***



UFO's/Lawfully  
/E-MAIL

**TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE**

To DAS (LA) P  
cc.

TO Ref No 1105 /2006

Date 7/2/06

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**

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](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.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

**\*\* TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY \*\***

**\*\* TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY \*\***

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 06 February 2006 08:59  
To: public@ministers.mod.uk  
Subject: Re: Grp:RE: FOI

Dear Sir/ Madam,

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.  
I would like to request the following information:

How many unidentified flying objects have been recorded in the Rhondda area, and also the county borough of Rhondda Cynon Taff.

For each, please could you specify when, where, who saw it/reported it, how many saw it, what it looked like, frequency of sighting, action taken (if any).

I hope this makes sense, and is specific enough for you. If not, please contact me immediately and I will endeavour to be of any assistance necessary.

Please can you send the information as Word attachments or PDF files to the following email address:  
laura.wright@wme.co.uk.

If this is not possible, then please could you post photocopies of the information to the following postal address:  
Rhondda Leader, 10 Market Street, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, CF37 2ST

Please can you notify me straight away if you do not possess this information, or if you believe someone else holds it.  
My telephone number is Section 40. Please call me if you need any further details to comply with this request.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

Reporter  
Rhondda Leader

Section 40  
Fax: Section 40

Section 40

"Ministers"  
<Ministers@mod.uk>  
Sent by:

Section 40

To: Section 40  
cc:  
Subject: Grp:RE: FOI

02/06/2006 08:58  
AM

Thank you for your email to public@ministers.mod.uk. For a reply from MOD, please re-send your message to public@ministers.mod.uk, together with your full postal address.

-----Original Message-----



From: [Section 40]  
Sent: 03 February 2006 13:07  
To: public@ministers.mod.uk  
Subject: FOI

Good Afternoon,  
I would like to submit a Freedom of Information request, but the link on the MOD website does not work.  
If I were to send an email request who should I send it to?  
Many Thanks,

[Section 40]

Reporter  
Rhondda Leader

[Section 40]

Fax: [Section 40]

[Section 40]

\*\*\*\*\*

IMPORTANT NOTICE This email (including any attachments) is meant only for the intended recipient. It may also contain confidential and privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, any reliance on, use, disclosure, distribution or copying of this email or attachments is strictly prohibited. Please notify the sender immediately by email if you have received this message by mistake and delete the email and all attachments.

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Trinity Mirror PLC is the parent company of the Trinity Mirror group of companies and is registered in England No 82548, with its address at One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Advance Treat Official Correspondence**

The MCU has received the message below, which obviously requires urgent attention. We will now allocate it a number, log it on to our database, and send it to you in hard copy. But in the meantime, we thought you might wish to start work on preparing an answer now.

Regards,

Ministerial Correspondence Unit  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone A  
Main Building  
e: [Ministers@mod.uk](mailto:Ministers@mod.uk)

Find to

Section 40

DAS-LETO's (FOI)

## AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION



Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 20-02-2006-094625-008

Expiry: 20/03/2006

### The Applicant has made the following request for information:

I would like to know if anyone has reported seeing a UFO in Southwest London/Surrey area on Wed 15<sup>th</sup> February 2006.  
Also all sightings for possible UFO in and around that date in those areas or other activity that would explain my sighting below.

### Case for release of information

I have informed **Section 40** of our UFO Policy. I have explained that we don't investigate sightings of UFOs.  
I examined our records on the latest sightings file and confirm that there are no other sightings for the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2006, or around that date in the Southwest London/Surrey area.

### Authorisation

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

Grade/Rank: D Name: **Section 40**

Signature: **Section 40**

Date: 2/3/2006

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding your UFO sighting on 15 February 2006, and asking whether there were any other sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence from Southwest London/Surrey area on, or around that date. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFOs.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives 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, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

With regards to your sighting, on the 15 February 2006, I have examined our records and can confirm that we received no other UFO reports on, or around this date, from South West London/Surrey area.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

**Section 40**

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

E.mail – [das-ufo-office@mod.uk](mailto:das-ufo-office@mod.uk)

2 March 2006

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

21 February 06

Home My Cases Log New Request Policy Guidance Help

Request: Section 40 20-02-2006-094625-008

Days Left: 20

Received: 20 Feb 06  
Expiry Date: 20 Mar 06  
Status: Internal Transfer

🔍 All sources  ➔

## Workflow Options

Internal Transfer

## 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: 20 February 2006

## Applicant Details

Title: Section 40 Other: First Name: \*Surname: Section 40 Organisation: Applicant Type: Not Specified Other: 

## Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

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

Clear

⏪ Back

Next ⏩

Cancel



Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

21 February 06

[Home](#) [My Cases](#) [Log New Request](#) [Policy Guidance](#) [Help](#)**Request:** Section 40 20-02-2006-094625-008**Days Left:** 20Received: 20 Feb 06  
Expiry Date: 20 Mar 06  
Status: Internal Transfer All sources **Workflow Options**

Internal Transfer

**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: Language Requested ☐ Welsh**\*Enter the request for information:**

I would like to know if anyone has reported seeing a UFO in Southwest London / Surrey area on Wed 15th Feb 06.  
Also all sightings for possible UFO in and around that date in those areas or other activity that would explain my sighting below.

I would also like to report what I saw.....  
I was driving home through Tooting SW London on my way to Micham Surrey at 8.40pm on Wed (15th Feb) when I

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

Clear

&lt;Back

Next&gt;

Cancel

I would like to know if anyone has reported seeing a UFO in Southwest London / Surrey area on Wed 15th Feb 06. Also all sightings for possible UFO in and around that date in those areas or other activity that would explain my sighting below.

I would also like to report what I saw.....

I was driving home through Tooting SW London on my way to Mitcham Surrey at 8.40pm on Wed (15th Feb) when I saw 2 bright lights which I thought were 2 Aeroplanes flying dangerously close together along the same flight path. The second one started to catch up on the first and I thought there could be a mid air collision. Then a third light appeared and flew along side them. They all flew together for a few minutes and every so often one would disappear for a couple of seconds and then re appear again. Then they flew closer to each other and appeared to hover for a while and then all of a sudden they all shot off in different directions. I pulled over to try to take a photo with my camera phone but it was dark and I couldn't as the street lightings glare filled the screen.



**ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO  
FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART D**

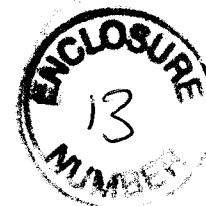


**ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO  
FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART D**



**ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO  
FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART D**





Dear **Section 40**



I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request for details of the number of UFO sightings in Suffolk. Your request has been passed to this Department because we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFO matters.

First it may be helpful if I explain that this department holds details of UFO sightings reported to the MOD and public correspondence about UFOs (some of which also contain sighting reports) spanning a 25 year period. These records are not held electronically, but are filed on paper files in the order in which they were received. They are not segregated by geographical area. In order to identify all the reports from Suffolk a manual search would be required of thousands of records and such an exercise would quickly exceed the permitted £600 cost limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, in order to assist the public we are in the process of compiling a database containing brief details of the UFO reports we have received and this has now been completed from 2002 to date. A search of these records has revealed four reports from Suffolk during these years, the details of which are shown below. If you wish to compare these with reports from other areas of the UK, tables for each year 2002-2005 for the whole of the UK can be viewed in the Freedom of Information section of the MOD website at [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk).

| DATE     | TIME  | LOCATION          | DESCRIPTION                                                                                      |
|----------|-------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 23/10/02 | 07:02 | Woodbridge        | Large silver triangle which then changed shape. Was clouded in a pink and green haze             |
| 01/12/03 |       | Woodbridge        | Looked like an unusual aircraft, but with strange lights.                                        |
| 01/03/04 | 20:00 | Lowestoft         | Yellow lights in a circular formation. A flash shot across the sky and then the lights went out. |
| 27/12/05 |       | Rendlesham Forest | A plume of light was seen that was a yellowish / orange colour. It vanished after a few seconds. |

With regard to your question about how many reports were found to be “genuine UFOs”, 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 remain totally open-minded, but to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena. We examine the reports of UFO sightings we receive solely to establish whether they provide any evidence that the United Kingdom’s airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

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 me in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> 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

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

2 March 2006

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDA

02 March 06

[Home](#) [My Cases](#) [Log New Request](#) [Policy Guidance](#) [Help](#)**Request:** Section 40 22-02-2006-070447-002**Days Left:** 14

Received: 21 Feb 06

Expiry Date: 21 Mar 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: 21 February 2006

**Applicant Details**

Title: Section 40

Other:

First Name:

\*Surname:

Organisation:

East Anglian Daily Times

Applicant Type:

Media and Journalists

Other:

**Contact Details** (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1:

Section 40

Address Line2:

Address Line3:

Town/City:

Ipswich

Postcode:

Section 40

Country:

United Kingdom

Email:

Telephone:

Fax:



Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

02 March 06

[Home](#) [My Cases](#) [Log New Request](#) [Policy Guidance](#) [Help](#)**Request:** Section 40 22-02-2006-070447-002**Days Left:** 14

Received: 21 Feb 06

Expiry Date: 21 Mar 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.

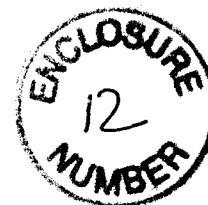
**Request Details**Response Format Requested: Language Requested ☐ Welsh**\*Enter the request for information:**

Please could you provide me with information about the number of sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFO) that have been reported in Suffolk?

I would like to know how many, if any, of these sightings were found to be genuine UFOs.

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

To be held by the helpdesk until allocated



Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request for details of UFO sightings in the UK reported to the Ministry of Defence during the last two years. Your request has been passed to this department because we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFO matters.

The information you are seeking has been released into the public domain and can be viewed on the MOD website at [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk). Please Click on the Freedom of Information link at the bottom of the Home page and then see Freedom of Information Top Choices.

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](mailto:das-ufo-office@mod.uk)

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2006

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDA

23 February 06

Home

My Cases

Log New Request

Policy Guidance

Help

Request: Section 40 15-02-2006-073727-002  
Days Left: 14

Received: 14 Feb 06  
Expiry Date: 14 Mar 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 February 2006

Applicant Details

Title: Section 40

Other:

First Name:

\*Surname: Section 40

Organisation: Daily Mirror

Other:

Applicant Type: Media and Journalists

Other:

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1: Features Department

Address Line2: 1 Canada Square

Address Line3: Canary Wharf

Town/City: London

Postcode: E14 5AP

Email: Section 40

Telephone:

Country: United Kingdom

Fax:

Clear

 Back

Next 

Cancel



Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDA

23 February 06

[Home](#) [My Cases](#) [Log New Request](#) [Policy Guidance](#) [Help](#)**Request:** Section 40 15-02-2006-073727-002**Days Left:** 14

Received: 14 Feb 06

Expiry Date: 14 Mar 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.

**Request Details**

Response Format Requested:

Language Requested ☐ Welsh

\*Enter the request for information:

Could you please supply me with details of sightings of UFOs in the UK reported to the Ministry of Defence during the last two years.

I would be grateful if you could give me the time, date and location of reported sightings, and any eye-witness accounts you have on record about each incident.

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

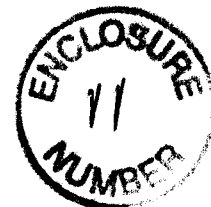


From: **Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



Telephone

(Direct dial)  
(Switchboard)  
(Fax)

020 7218 2140  
020 7218 9000

e-mail

das-ufo-office@mod.uk

**Section 40**

**Section 40**

Cardiff  
South Wales

**Section 40**

Our Reference

27-01-2006-162416-002

Date

27th February 2006

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information requests for information regarding night vision footage of a UFO sighting on 3-4 August 1990 and information about demonstrations by Operation Right to Know UK on 23 May 1994 and 9 October 1995. I have also received your further letter of 16 February containing the DVD of the Crop Circle Communiqué documentary.

I have viewed the DVD of footage allegedly filmed by the Army however, it is not possible from the brief details given in the programme to determine the unit or base they may have come from. Without checking with every Army unit that could have been conducting training or exercises in the area it is not possible to determine whether any information still exists. I appreciate that **Section 40** believes that the regiment were from Aldershot, but even if this were the case, there are a number of individual units based there and without more specific information I am unable to assist you. As for **Section 40** comments that the Army were assisting with a crop circle surveillance project called 'Operation Blackbird', I believe it unlikely that the Army would be "assisting" with any such project given that there is no evidence to suggest that crop circles are caused by anything of military concern and it is hard to see what training value this would have.

I have checked all of our UFO related files around this period and the only relevant information I have located is a letter from a member of the public dated 2 October 1990, where they stated "during the Project Blackbird, studying the corn-circles, the army did participate, by manning some equipments borrowed by the project organisers". This letter was accompanied by a copy of some photographs of helicopters flying over a field containing crop circles at Westbury, Wiltshire on 4 August 1987 taken by **Section 40**. At the time, the General Service Secretariat at the MOD were asked about this and responded with the following comment:

"Helicopters from the Army Air Corps flying school in Middle Wallop are a common sight over many of the farms in the Wiltshire / Hampshire / Berkshire area. Much of the training which pilots from the school undertake involves practising standard rotary wing manoeuvres such as moving to and from a prolonged hover. Where possible manoeuvres of that kind would normally be carried out well away from houses and livestock, and so a patient observer would stand a good chance of sighting a helicopter hovering above a field where corn circles have appeared. I respectfully suggest that this may be all that the photographs attached to your letter show."

They also commented that "neither the British Army nor the Ministry of Defence have the slightest interest in solving this conundrum".

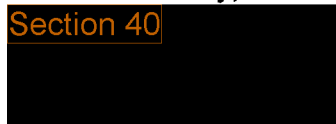
With regard to your second request concerning the Operation Right to Know protest, I can confirm that our records show that two members of this group visited the MOD Main Building on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1994 and handed a member of Secretariat (Air Staff)2a (our predecessors) a letter and a campaign leaflet. The group were also going to protest outside the House of Commons on the same day. For your information I enclose a copy of the campaign leaflet, covering letter and the MOD's reply. Personal data has been removed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. As is normal in such situations Ministers were informed about the protest. A file note confirms that there were only about a dozen demonstrators outside the MOD building and the demonstration passed without incident. We hold no information about a demonstration on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1995.

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

UFO Policy File

D/Sec(AS) 64/1 Part A

Sent to applicant



# MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

From: Mr N G Pope, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 8245,  
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 071 2182140  
(Switchboard) 071 218 9000  
(Fax)

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date

23 May 1994

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for the letter and document that you delivered earlier today.

You will be familiar with our policy and views on the UFO phenomenon from our previous correspondence; with regard to documentation, our files - which consist mainly of UFO reports from, and correspondence with, the public - are covered by the Public Record Act, and generally remain closed for 30 years. These rules apply, of course, to most government papers, irrespective of subject or classification. As I mentioned when we met, a number of our old UFO files may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

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

Although we do not release material "en bloc", we are able to answer specific queries about particular sightings that people are investigating, and can release a report on such a sighting if we have one. We will also do our best to answer any more general questions that people may have.

I hope this has helped explain our position.

Yours sincerely

Section 40  
[REDACTED]



# ALIEN ACKNOWLEDGMENT CAMPAIGN

## ORTK BRITAIN

THE AAC, [REDACTED]

Mr N G Pope  
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a  
Room 8245  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

May 23rd 1994

Dear Mr Pope,

Supporters of AAC-ORTK Britain are today (May 23rd 1994) lobbying the MOD and Parliament on the issue of military secrecy on the existence of UFOs. We define UFOs in this context as intelligently operated devices of a nature and/or technology clearly non-human. There exists an abundance of documented evidence to fully justify a conclusion that intelligences outside that of physical mankind are attempting purposeful interaction with mankind.

I have no way of knowing what level of awareness you personally have to this exciting situation. I use the word exciting deliberately. It is clear that there are many who do not view this situation as exciting. AAC-ORTK share a view that this issue must be openly debated, and all the evidence must be included in these public debates. This issue is for the people and they have a natural right to know and a natural right to make their own minds up about its implications. Please note we are not telling people what to believe.

We have no wish to bring more fear into a world already dominated by fear. Overcoming this basic instinct appears to be one of the first steps along the path of integration. And public education on this subject will, we believe, prove net beneficial to world society.

Every MP has been given a copy of the document 'Are You Aware' and I ask that the MOD submit to Parliament all their documentation on the UFO issue. Both parliamentary and public debate must begin on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED] (AAC-ORTK Britain convener)

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END UFO SECRECY NOW !





# ALIEN ACKNOWLEDGMENT CAMPAIGN

## ORTK BRITAIN

THE AAC, [REDACTED]

Operation Right to Know - joint UK/USA  
May 23rd 1994 End UFO Secrecy Protest

Noon UK - The Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, London  
Noon USA - The Pentagon, Washington DC  
2:00pm UK - The House of Commons, London

'We call on the military in the United States and Britain to tell the truth about UFOs. And we call on the US Congress and the British Parliament to go after the truth.'

Circulation - hand delivery to MOD Buildings and House of Commons ( every UK member of Parliament ) on May 23rd. To all UK National Press, Radio and TV representatives.

### ARE YOU AWARE

**That** in excess of 3500 documented reports from military and civilian pilots world wide, have confirmed the operation in the Earths atmosphere of intelligently guided UFOs, of a nature and technology clearly non-human.

**That** UFOs have now left over 4000 documented landing traces world wide, and in addition have generated hundreds of reports of electromagnetic interference of car engines, radios and other electrical devices.

**That** on the night 30th/31st March 1990, the Belgian Air Force scrambled two F16 interceptors in response to radar images of a UFO and visual observations of the UFO reported by civilians and confirmed by the Police, This documented interception of a purposely operated structured UFO was one of several such encounters which occurred over Belgium between December 1989 and April 1990, On July 11th 1990, Colonel W DeBrouwer, Chief of the Belgian Air Staff made this statement:

"On the night 30th and 31st March, we had an observation on the radar and in addition a visual observation on the ground by the Police - What the pilots detected was well outside the normal flying envelope of an aeroplane. Sometimes they had what we call lock-ons, which gave a parameters varying from speeds between 150 knots to 990 knots, an acceleration which occurred in a few seconds. The speeds would be impossible to tolerate for a human being, that's the first point. The second point is, the visual observations always describe a system, a machine, which hangs and hovers above the surface at quite a low altitude without making any noise. Now with the current technology that would be impossible"

And in the European Parliament document 'Report of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology - On the proposal to set up a European centre for sightings of unidentified flying objects' (DOC EN/RR/241/241196) Rapporteur Mr Tullio Regge had this to say in his paragraph titled 'Military Secrets' (Page 5)

"However, the Belgium Air Force says that the Stealth Bomber was not involved in the spate of sightings which have taken place in Belgium"

On page 7 he also had this to say;

“It is not the job of Parliament to pass judgement on UFOs, on the other hand, Parliament must take prompt steps to ensure that the information imparted to the public is correct”

**That** in Mexico City on July 11th 1991, during the total eclipse of the sun, tens of thousands of witnesses observed a UFO, and 17 independently operated camcorders, at varying locations, recorded the event for a total of 25 minutes, Upon enhancement each camcorder had recorded the same silver disc-shaped object. At a time when all eyes would be focused on the sky, this was undoubtedly an attempt to raise human awareness to the reality of the UFO.

**That** there are over 200 primary and secondary witnesses to the retrieval of a craft evidently of non-human origin, from the New Mexico desert, near Roswell, in 1947. Many of these witnesses gave testimony to having seen alien bodies recovered from the crash site. Because many new witnesses are coming forward, the General Accounting Office has recently launched a full investigation, GAO spokeswoman, Laura Kopleson said Congress Investigator Rep. Steven Schiff has asked the GAO

“to see if there is any evidence that information regarding UFOs had been suppressed,” following the Roswell incident.

**That** documentation exists on a world wide phenomenon commonly known as ‘animal mutilations’ involving the surgical removal of genetically relevant tissues. Veterinary surgeons have confirmed that the procedures, carried out in the fields, are un-reproducible by any known technology. Farmers and ranchers have testified to the existence of UFOs over fields where such incidents have occurred. In the USA it is known that investigations into these on-going UFO/animal interactions have been conducted by the FBI and the Governor of Colorado has spoken publicly and officially on the matter.

These six points constitute only a small fraction of the currently available evidence, which wholly suggests the presence of alien beings.

The public have a right to know the truth about the UFO/Alien reality.  
The public now have a right to be made aware of this truth through their representatives.

It is now time to act.

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#### AAC AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Contact International (UK). Andover Unexplained Phenomena Investigation Network. South Wales UFO Group. Mansfield UFO Group. The Organisation for Scientific Research into Peripheral Information. Centre for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence - Nottingham & Yorkshire.

AAC/ORTK - UK Contact [REDACTED]

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 27 January 2006 16:29  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST 27-01-2006-162416-002 Section 40

Section 40

Please see FOI request below. Thanks.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]  
Sent: 27 January 2006 14:57  
To: Info-Access-Office  
Subject: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST 27-01-2006-162416-002 Section 40 Expiry 24 Feb 2006.

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Friday, January 27, 2006 at 14:57:29

-----  
FirstName: Section 40

LastName: Section 40

occupation: enter your occupation

Company: your company/organisation

Address1: Section 40

Address2: Section 40

City: Cardiff

State: S.Wales

Zip: Section 40

Country: United Kingdom

e-mail: Section 40

telephone: Section 40

preferred format: hardcopy

infosubject: 1/ I am looking for any information related to night vision footage of a UFO (seen as a large glowing ball of light) allegedly taken by the army during a surveillance operation near Silbury Hill in Wiltshire during the night of 3-4 August 1990. This footage was included on the documentary video Crop Circle Communiqué, produced by Section 40 (Circlevision 1991) where the following was said:-

"Orange balls of light have often been reported in connection with the circles, during a secret army surveillance operation this video sequence was recorded of one such object."

I have been told by crop circle researcher Section 40 that the regiment responsible for recording this video footage were based at Aldershot. I understand that they were assisting with a crop circle surveillance project called 'Operation Blackbird' at Westbury in Wiltshire.

As a reference to this request, I shall send an excerpt from this documentary on a DVD to Section 40 Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information.

2/ I am looking for any documents/information held by the MoD relating to the public demonstrations against UFO secrecy held by Operation Right To Know UK that took place

outside of MoD main building on May 23rd 1994 and outside the House of Commons on October 9th 1995.

submit: Send Form

---

These papers  
not sent

Copied from:

D/Sec (AS) 12/3 Part H  
Unidentified Flying Objects  
- Correspondence.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/GS Sec 41/2

16 October 1990

Sec(AS)2a - Section 40

Copy to:  
AAC Centre (SO2 Co-ord)

ARMY INVOLVEMENT IN CORN CIRCLE INVESTIGATIONS

1. Thank you for your memo of the 5 October, and for protecting us from the dubious pleasure of corresponding directly with "Section 40". I am unaware of the assistance which the Army allegedly gave during "Project Blackbird", and frankly I am reluctant to start hares running in an attempt to find out. The following paragraphs therefore concentrate on Section 40 feeble assertions that Army helicopters have been caught photographing corn circles. I hope you can make use of them.

Helicopters from the Army Air Corps flying school in Middle Wallop are a common sight over many of the farms in the Wiltshire/Hampshire/Berkshire area. Much of the training which pilots from the school undertake involves practising standard rotary wing manoeuvres such as moving to and from a prolonged hover. Where possible manoeuvres of that kind would normally be carried out well away from houses and livestock, and so a patient observer would stand a good chance of sighting a helicopter hovering above a field where corn circles have appeared. I respectfully suggest that this may be all that the photographs attached to your letter show.

You are, of course, quite entitled to your own theories, but I am afraid I can offer you nothing that gives substance to them. I can only repeat that neither the British Army nor the Ministry of Defence have the slightest interest in solving this conundrum, intriguing though it may be.

2. I would be grateful for a copy of your response.

Section 40

GS Sec 1d

MB5103 Section 40



CS Sec

From Sec(CAS)2a  
Room 8245  
Main Building

Date 5th October 1990

Tel Section 40

Your Ref

Our Ref D/Sec(CAS)12/3

Subject CORRESPONDENCE ON UFOS AND CORN CIRCLES

I attach a copy of a letter received yesterday in this office. We are fairly certain that it comes from one of our regular correspondents, who is using a different name on this occasion. As you will see from paragraphs 2 and 3, he is once again repeating the rumour of service involvement in the investigation of corn circles. In different circumstances, I would ask you to reply direct to him regarding army matters, but I hesitate to give this man any more names and addresses to write to in MoD (He also pesters intelligence branches on this and related matters. We don't know how he has these addresses.) I am happy (sic) to reply to him, but I would appreciate it greatly if you could provide me with a paragraph or two summing up army involvement in this subject (which I assume is actually non-involvement!) I also attach a copy of my letter of 30th August, to which he refers. Thankyou in advance for your assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Section 40 if you need more information.

Rank/  
Appointment EOName in  
Block Letters Section 40

Signature

Section 40

Ministry Of Defence,  
Section 40 Room 8245  
Secretariat (Air Staff)2a,  
Main Building Whitehall,  
London, SW1A 2HB

Section 40

Nottingham, Section 40

Date: 02 OCT 1990

Ref: BJ-190

Dear Section 40

Reference is to your letter dated 30 AUG 1990, referenced D/Sec(AS) 12/3, to Section 40 in reply to his inquiry to you.

The third paragraph of your letter is considered nothing but yet another contempt, the way that you treat the public. You have stated that MOD has no involvement or interest in investigating the Corn Circles. It is simply not true, unless of course you think people of this land MUST live at all time in cloud cuckooland. I personally have taken photographs from the Army Helicopters which were and do fly over the circles taking photographic documentations. I could provide you with at least one, published in a well know UFO magazine, proving my point. Unless of course, you claim that local army components do whatever they wish and the central office does not get to know of their activities. Or, unless of course, maybe it is only your office which has no knowledge. But, the way you have phrased your reply to Mr. Carmicheal's inquiry, does not seem to be the case.

Secondly, during the Project Blackbird, studying the corn-circles, the army did participate, by manning some equipments borrowed by the project organisers. This is a long way short of MOD's lack of interest in investigating the Corn-circles.

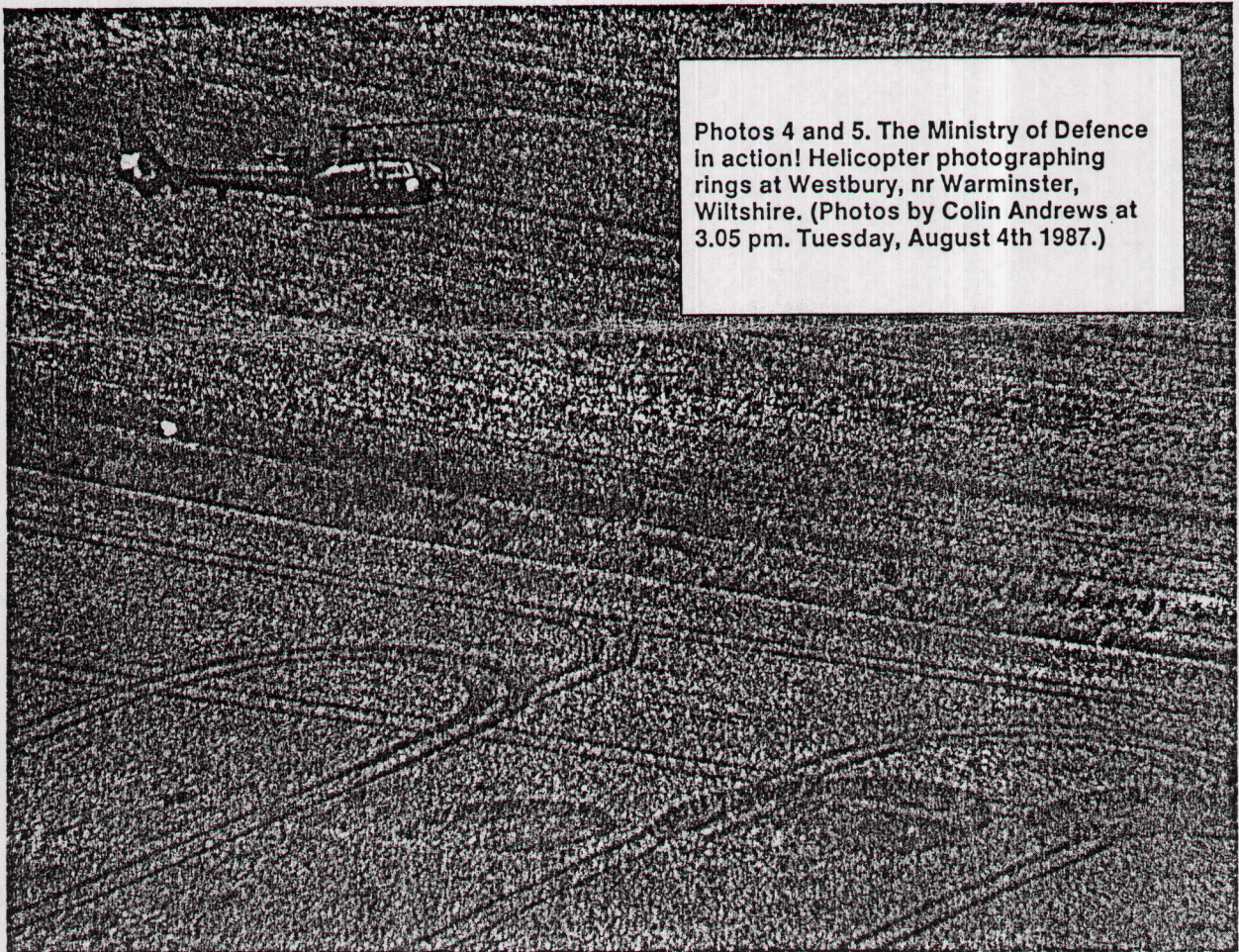
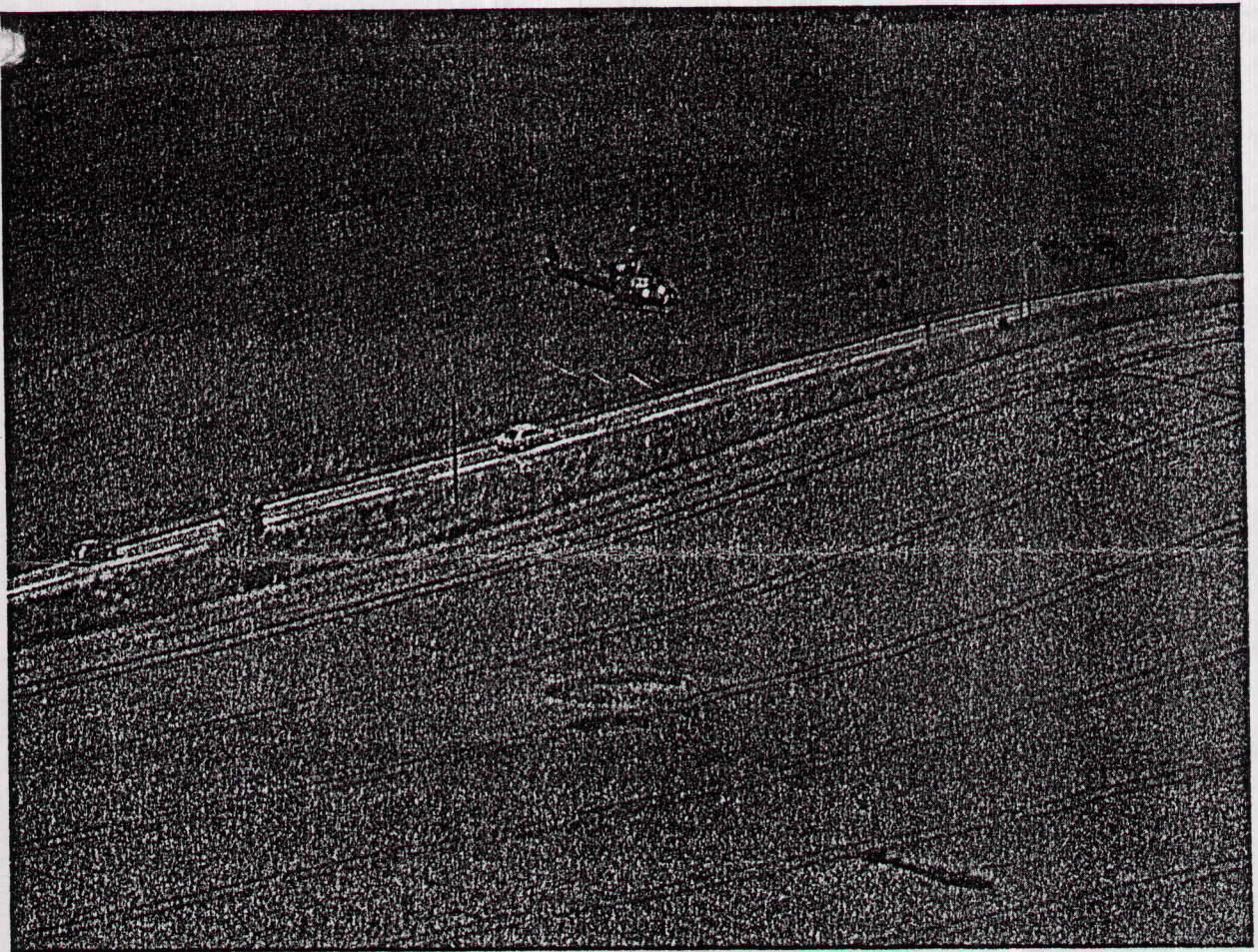
The other area which I found quite astonishing, and seems as usual you take the public as fools, is the subject of UFOs. If there is nothing in this subject, why is the information pertaining to the scientific analysis been banned for 100 years from release, under the excuse of Public Recors Act? Secondly, if there is nothing to this subject why has MOD sent certain reports to the DIA for their further evaluation and analysis? Or, I take that as usual, your office would resort to either ignoring to answer to my request, an act of disregards to the public, or would ignore some parts, and answer parts which would be more convenient, as you had done with Section 40, inquiring about DI55.

National Security is an obsolete term if the governments concerned, and all components attached to them, do not prove first their respect about their nationals before trying to protect their security, do not you agree?

Encl: Copy of photograph depicting an MOD Helicopter over the C/circles.

Sincerely  
Section 40





Photos 4 and 5. The Ministry of Defence in action! Helicopter photographing rings at Westbury, nr Warminster, Wiltshire. (Photos by Colin Andrews at 3.05 pm. Tuesday, August 4th 1987.)



Copied from

UFO Pottery file

D/Sec (AS) 64/11 Part A.

Not sent to the applicant

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/3

10 May 1994

APS/Sofs  
PS/Min(AF)  
PS/Min(DP)  
APS/USofs

Copy to:

AUS(C)  
PSO/ACAS  
Head of Sec(AS)  
DPR(RAF)  
DPO(RAF)

#### OPERATION RIGHT TO KNOW

1. Ministers will wish to be aware that a pressure group called Operation Right To Know intends to organise a demonstration outside the House of Commons on Monday 23 May, protesting at what they see as a cover-up on the subject of UFOs. They intend to hand over letters for each MP, containing a document entitled "Are You Aware ...?", alleging the existence of a cover-up of information that would prove the existence of an extraterrestrial presence on Earth. I have not seen the document, but understand that most of the allegations involve the US government. The UK government may be mentioned, and MPs may be encouraged to press the MOD on this issue.
2. Before going to the House of Commons, two representatives from Operation Right to Know will be arriving at the South Door of Main Building to hand a copy of the document to me.
3. This group is an offshoot of a US group which has previously organised demonstrations outside the White House. The US demonstrations have never involved more than 50 people, and it is considered unlikely that this new UK group would be able to muster even that number. The organisers have liaised closely with the police in planning their demonstration.
4. Ministers may well be approached by MPs as a result of having received the letters, and may wish to point out that the MOD's only reason for looking at UFO reports at all is to ascertain whether there is evidence of any threat to the defence of the UK. No such evidence has been discovered to date, and we are aware of no evidence to support the existence of extraterrestrial life.

Section 40

Cherry X police station

Section 40

direct dialling

MOD security control alerted

Section 40

N G POPE  
Sec(AS)2a  
MB8245 82140MB

Hd of Sec (AS)

Yesterday's Operation Right to Know demonstration passed off without incident, and I have attached their "Are you Aware?" document, together with the covering letter to me, and my reply. There were only about a dozen demonstrators, although more may have arrived later outside Parliament. There's been some radio coverage, but I think they lost out by picking the same day as the disabled protest outside The House of Commons. Two of the group handed over the document to me at Reception (no journalists present) and I had a brief chat. By seeing them we have denied them any opportunity to claim that we snubbed them or weren't prepared to give them their say. As a matter of interest, a lot of the key figures in the UFO lobby actually tipped us off about the demo in advance, and distanced themselves from those involved. Neither of the 2 largest national groups have got involved.

- 2 -  
 Mack - I am glad  
 that no untoward problem  
 occurred. I am replying 24/5 this seems  
 is appropriate that has been mentioned  
 interest but has not been mentioned  
 have by other operations

Section 40

Section 40



This article ran in "Mufon UFO Journal", December 1990. Back copies of the issue may be requested by writing to: Mufon, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, TX 78155. Minor corrections have been made in this online version. The bibliography has been updated to March 1991. Online version created and released by Michael Chorost.

#### THE SUMMER 1990 CROP CIRCLES

by Michael Chorost and Colin Andrews  
Aerial photographs by Colin Andrews  
Diagrams by Richard G. Andrews

(All paragraphs marked [CA] are by Colin Andrews; the rest are by Michael Chorost.)

Summer 1990 brought an explosion in the complexity, size, and number of the crop circles in England. About six hundred were discovered, double the number of 1989. One intriguing early shape was discovered at Longwood Estate on June 6, and dubbed a "quarter-arc" formation (picture and diagram 1). Another early shape was the first "dumbbell" formation, discovered on May 23rd near the foot of Telegraph Hill (diagram 2). In its external shape and internal crop lay, it was the most complex formation ever seen up to that time.

Many more dumbbells like this followed (see pictures 2-5, and diagrams 3-5.) Later in the summer, the "double dumbbells", complex formations several hundred feet long, began to appear. They sported odd-looking forklike extensions, and entourages of smaller circles nearby. Three of them were discovered in all.

The new formations were a shock to everybody. Much more than the circles, rings, and quintuplets of earlier years, they seemed to mean something, though no one knew what. They seemed both part of the earth and detached from it, as if they would slide away along the tramlines once their anchor-lines were cut. They looked at once cryptic, fragile, and luminous.

#### Discussion of one "dumbbell" formation

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On July 3, six days after it was made, I examined the formation in picture 4 (and Diagram 4) in detail. It was 48 meters long, so large that people walking around in it looked like marbles rolling around a plate. It was made of two circles of wheat flattened along the ground, one with a ring. They were connected by a bar, inside which the flattened wheat plants pointed toward the unringed circle. There was a sort of "tail", more technically called a spur, where the plants pointed in the opposite direction from the bar. Four rectangles flanked the bar. In the inner two rectangles, the flattened wheat plants pointed toward the unringed circle; in the outer two, they pointed the other way.

The most complex part of this formation was where the bar intersected the ringed circle. The bar crossed the ring and the band of standing plants, but stopped at the perimeter of the inner circle. In this area, the plants in the ring lay on top of the bar, meaning that they had been flattened after the bar was formed (see picture 10). Hence the formation was made in at least two stages. Also, whatever formed the ring did not affect the plants already laid down in the bar. While the ring was being formed after the bar, the bar's plants stayed put; they were not realigned to become part of the ring.

The same kind of thing was evident at the other end of the bar, where it met the unringed circle. The plants in the circle overlapped the plants in the bar by a few inches, showing that the unringed circle was

also made after the bar. This is a small clue about how these things are made. They aren't stamped out all at once, cookie-cutter style; instead, something forms the parts in a definite sequence.

Most of the plants seemed to be alive and green (young wheat is green.) However, a friend with me saw that about a third of the plants whose stems were next to the tramlines had turned yellowish. We could only speculate that those plants, having gotten less fertilizer, were less hardy than the rest.

Strangely, some of the plants inside the formation were not affected by whatever force flattened their fellows. On either side of the tramline running through the formation, many plants remained upright (picture 10). This also occurred in the ring, where isolated individual plants remained standing here and there, completely unaffected, like lonely survivors of a massacre. (See also "Circular Evidence", p. 133.) Colin speculates that the formative force may work like a paint roller, flattening plants in strips and swathes, and thus may miss a plant here and there between passes.

I was fascinated by the giant rectangles (see picture 11.) Rectangles of a sort have been seen in earlier years, as spurs extending out of circles (see "Circular Evidence", pages 54 and 42.) These, however, were true rectangles. From the ground, they looked like giant bathtubs.

In each rectangle, three sides looked as if they had been cut with a razor. However, the "forward" end of each rectangle --the end to which the plants pointed--was not straight but jagged, or "notched" (picture 12). Whatever made the rectangles faced a challenge here: how to flatten the plants right at the end without also knocking down the standing plants making up that end. It solved the problem by pushing the flattened plants down in bunches between the plants at the end. The standing plants appeared unharmed; they stood perfectly upright, and their leaves were not stripped off.

This "notching" effect was also evident at the end of the "tail." It is a characteristic feature of virtually all rectangular elements.

1990's surveillance operation: Blackbird

[CA] Operation Blackbird was the largest surveillance operation ever conducted to discover and film the cause of the circles. Between 23rd July and 10th August, 1990, twelve special cameras were focused on a corridor of land about one mile long and 700 meters wide at Westbury. The cameras ranged from thermal imaging to low-light, with sensitive listening devices for good measure.

[CA] Blackbird netted two significant results. One was the Army's filming of a "ball of light" above Silbury Hill, near Avebury. The film shows an orange ball of light in the sky south of Silbury Hill. Its scale and height are difficult to gauge. It was initially stationary, then moved slowly to the east, then descended behind a hill, where it shone through the trees before it was lost to sight.

Orange balls have been seen before. Richard Beaumont writes of an orange ball reported on June 29, 1989:

In the early hours of the morning, a most reliable source spotted an orange ball of light, about thirty feet in diameter, descending into a field well known for circle formations. The eye witness said that it appeared to bounce slightly as it touched the ground. He also said that it appeared to have a flat bottom, but assumed that it must have looked flat because of its descent into the cereal crop. The ball appeared brighter at the periphery, although at no point was it a brilliant light. There was no noise

whatsoever. It then took on a hovering position for about seven to eight seconds, and simply disappeared, as if one had just turned off a light bulb...[Colin Andrews and the witness] could reference where the ball of light must have been exactly. The next day the local farmer and others rang Colin. A new formation had formed exactly where the ball of light was seen! (Beaumont, "Kindred Spirit", vol. 1, no. 8, p 27.)

[CA] The other result of Blackbird was the BBC's filming of a set of circles forming at Westbury during the night of 3rd-4th August. The film is of poor quality, even after enhancement, but it shows a darkened shape relating to the largest circle's size and location. In the morning, the formation was seen to be a large circle with a looping tail pushing out of it and terminating in a smaller circle about 10 meters away. Two other, smaller circles were also formed some distance away.

[CA] The BBC had promised to show both the Army's and its own films on a special programme, but they now inform me that somebody has decided that they are not compatible with the "Daytime UK" programme. The BBC have stated, in fact, that they do not plan to show the films at all. It is not clear why. [Chorost: Colin has since told me that the BBC plans to air the tapes on "People Today", BBC 1, March 21, 1991.]

[CA] Blackbird also suffered from a cruel hoax. During the early hours of 25th July, several of the 50-strong observers witnessed unusual lights on one of the monitors. Key researchers, as well as members of UK and Japanese TV crews, were summoned. As the sun came up, the watchers and press could see that a large and intricate formation had been made. Breakfasttime TV was on the air, and pressured me to make a statement. I agreed to do so, and stated on live national television what the observers had seen and that circles had appeared on the same spot. Within two hours over 30 TV networks were on the site and the news was bounced around the world that a UFO had been seen forming the mystery circles. Later, we walked into the field to view the circles firsthand. We found that they were all hoaxed, and that the lights on the monitors were from the hoaxers. Also, crosses and Ouija boards had been left in the circles by the hoaxers. Lively debate is still heard in the streets and pubs of the UK about this whole episode; however, genuine formations continued to form throughout the rest of the summer.

#### Other observations and discoveries

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The number of circles reported has risen steadily in the last few years. Much of it is due to the rise in monitoring, but the number of circles per given area also appears to be increasing. According to Terence Meaden's "The Circles Effect and its Mysteries" (p. 14) and his article in the Oxford conference proceedings (p. 22), 75 formations were discovered in 1987, 110 in 1988, and 305 in 1989. In 1990, according to Colin Andrews, there were about 600 formations. [Footnote: These numbers should be treated with caution, since I am not familiar with how researchers count circles. Is a quintuplet formation counted as one "circle" or five? Are "grapeshot" circles (very small circles less than a meter in diameter) counted separately? Do the various researchers count circles in the same way? These questions need to be investigated.] The rate of increase presents obvious problems for the researchers, whose resources were already strained by the number of formations which appeared in 1990.

[CA] HSC Laboratories in England have analysed plants taken from a Celtic-cross formation type found at Blackland, Wiltshire, on 1st June this year, using a distillation process which crystallizes the plants. Electron microscope observation showed that the pattern of the crystals was dramatically different from those of the control samples. A great deal more work must be done before these early results can be confirmed as significant. Suffice it to say that three trials have shown similar results (see "Crop Circles--The Latest Evidence".)

Electrical equipment continues to malfunction occasionally inside the circles. Busty Taylor reports that video cameras sometimes fail to record inside them; the tape advances, but the magnetic head records either erratically or not at all. Terence Meaden reports that a camera consistently refused to function while pointed down to photograph the center of a circle, but worked in every other orientation tried (Oxford conference notes, p. 41).

[CA] Electromagnetic effects have been experienced on a number of occasions, not least on Thursday, 10th August 1989, at 3:30 p.m. when a BBC television crew was filming myself and Pat Delgado in a 100-foot diameter circle near Avebury, Wiltshire. The troubles began when the camera refused to function correctly each time it entered the circle and several smaller circles nearby. Even when elevated on a crane over the edge of the circles, it wouldn't work. It was agreed to start the next shot by holding the camera outside the circle, while we went inside with the sound engineer. As the camera rolled and sound began taping, suddenly a loud, shrill, warbling noise blasted into the sound engineer's headset. This was a noise we had heard before at circle sites. Pat stood near the center of the circle and felt the effects of an energy field around him. The cone-shaped energy field was so clearly felt by him that the edges could be easily defined. Each time Pat walked out of the cone the buzzing noise cleared up from the engineer's headset. The noise was recorded and sent to the BBC's sound experts in London; they, as well as experts at the Birmingham studio, were baffled by it. The camera was found to be completely defunct and had to be rebuilt.

[CA] The event was shown on the BBC's "Daytime Live" programme. Presumably by coincidence, as the transmission went on air, the electric supply into the whole studio complex was momentarily lost and seconds later all telephones were put out of operation.

There are anecdotal reports of positive and negative health effects on people who enter these formations. Busty Taylor reports that he sometimes feels the fillings in his teeth hurt in a circle, and he says other people suffer headaches and back pains. He and one other person once encountered a blob of strange white jelly in one circle, and came down with severe colds three to six hours later. A third person who was also there, however, remained healthy. There are also reports of dogs becoming ill when in or near circles (see "Circular Evidence", p. 65).

When I entered the formation in picture 4, I had a friend with me who had had a severe headache for two days. Upon entering the formation, she felt it go away. It returned soon after she left the formation. (I, myself, felt nothing in any of the formations I visited. Nor did I hear anything in the hearing aids I wear.) There are fields of an electrical or ionic nature inside the formations, and they could affect sensitive humans in the ways mentioned. Tooth fillings, for example, are metal wet by saliva, and might become electrically charged by induction.

Terence Meaden writes of four eyewitness reports of circles forming in daylight before the eyes of surprised onlookers. In one event, a witness saw corn in a small area violently buffeted, then rapidly laid flat in a circle 50-60 feet in diameter (Oxford conference notes, p. 123). Meaden interprets these as the effects of stationary whirlwinds, but it is equally possible to postulate a force which either operates from a great height or acts invisibly.

As a graduate student in literature, I watch for mention of circles in the 15th and 16th-century texts I read. Robert Burton, in his book "Anatomy of Melancholy" (1621), writes: "These are they [fairies] that dance on heaths and greens, as Lavater thinks with Trithemius, & as Olaus Magnus adds, leave that green circle, which we commonly find in plain fields, which others hold to proceed from a meteor falling, or some accidental rankness of the ground; so Nature sports herself" (p. 168). It could well be, however, that Burton's only talking about fairy rings, fungal infections which blight plants in circular patterns. It's hard to draw firm conclusions from this report.

#### Update on the hoax theory

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The evidence against hoaxing is compelling. The absence of physical trampling, the precision of the crop lays, the rapidity of manufacture, the great numbers and immense sizes of the formations, the plants' biological changes, the electromagnetic phenomena of flashing lights and crackling/humming sounds, the "cones of force" sometimes felt by observers within the formations, the malfunctions in equipment, the health effects, the eyewitness reports of circles forming "by themselves," the apparent human inability to reproduce a "genuine" circle--all these observations argue against the hoax theory.

#### The Oxford conference

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The first conference on the circles was held at Oxford Polytechnic on June 23, 1990. Organized by TORRO (Tornado and Storm Research Organization) and CERES (Circles Effect Research Group), its speakers focused on the theory that vortices of spinning plasma in the lower atmosphere are responsible for the formations. There were over 150 people attending, among which were professional scientists, circle investigators, journalists, and members of the public.

The primary figure at the conference was Terence Meaden, an Oxford-educated physicist specializing in the study of atmospheric plasma vortices. He argued that highly electrified, rapidly spinning vortices of air have enough energy to flatten large areas of crops. Grains of dust and pollen trapped inside the vortex rub together and generate a substantial electric charge, which increases the total energy borne by the vortex. Crucial to his theory is the presence of hills large enough to create wind lees--turbulence--in their wake. Under the right meteorological conditions, air moving past hills whips into spinning vortices, which travel for some distance before touching the ground. Their energy dissipates upon contact, leaving behind a perfect circular formation, broken up into satellites or rings according to the internal structure of the vortex.

Both Colin and I, and many others, find the theory of natural origin improbable in view of the complexity of the formations. However, the circles might be made by intelligently controlled vortices of the kind Meaden describes. For this reason, I think Meaden's physics shouldn't be dismissed out of hand.

Meaden also showed slides of a new and rare occurrence - a raised "cone" of braided plants discovered at the centers of some circles. The cones appear to be several feet high, and rule out, Meaden argued, theories involving physical (as opposed to meteorological or electrical) compression from above. Cones were discovered in 10 of the approximately 300 circles found in 1989.

Another speaker was Dr. John Snow of Purdue University, who gave an informative lecture on the physics of atmospheric vortices. He showed that under certain circumstances, spinning vortices can spontaneously break up into two or three vortices. This, Snow suggested, was the mechanism behind the "triplet" formations of a large circle and two satellites in a straight line, and, by extension, a potential answer to



the problem of the gigantic quintuplet formations (a large circle and four satellites.)

A physicist from Japan, Dr. Yoshi-hiko Ohtsuki, discussed plasma vortices in nature, which are already well documented as "ball lightning." His research focuses on the attempt to create spinning plasma vortices in the laboratory. He showed films of short-lived (2.5 seconds) but energetic spinning plasma balls he had succeeded in generating.

Other speakers were Tokio Kokuchi and Hiroshi Kikuchi (Japan), David Reynolds (England), and Paul Fuller and Jenny Randles (England.) Fuller and Randles argued that plasma vortices can account for virtually all still-unexplained UFO sightings, and proposed that UFO studies should be considered a branch of meteorology.

But many thought the most important speaker was Busty Taylor. He showed slides and videotapes of recent formations he had filmed from the air. They were so new that most of the people in the audience had not seen them. Their impact was sensational. For many, they made the carefully phrased arguments for a natural cause disintegrate.

#### Events outside England

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North America has "caught" the circles. MUFON's April 1990 issue reports a 7-foot, 8-inch diameter circle discovered in Gulf Breeze, Florida in November 1989. A 46 1/2 foot diameter circle was found in Milan, Illinois, on October 16, 1990 (Chicago Tribune, Oct. 28, 1990, p. 1). I have a letter from a farmer which sketches a May 31, 1989 discovery of a 20-by-18 foot diameter circle of uprooted tall grass found near Anderson, Indiana.

The October 1990 issue of the Dakota Farmer reports a formation discovered in Leola, South Dakota, in early August 1990, consisting of a "reversed question mark" surrounded by three rectangles arranged on the points of an equilateral triangle. The "question mark" is about thirty feet wide and eighty feet long, and consists of plants bent over exactly two inches above the ground. The width of the affected areas is a consistent five feet.

There was highly concentrated activity in 1990 around Winnipeg, Canada. Chris Rutkowski of Winnipeg has submitted a preliminary report to MUFON noting at least seven formations. One circle was 59 feet in diameter, and appeared on August 18, 1990, near a town called St. Francois Xavier. Another, 62 feet in diameter, was discovered in Niverville on August 29, 1990. Most of the reports are of simple circles, though a triple-ringed circle is said to have been found.

The TV series "Unsolved Mysteries" keeps a listing of callers' reports. One caller, from Naples, Florida, reported a 10-foot circle in a field of tall weeds. Other reports come from Oregon, Minnesota, Ohio, Tennessee, California, Pennsylvania, and New York State. Most are recent, but some go back as far as 25 years.

There is considerable variation in the types of formations reported in North America. Many are of flattened plants like the English circles, while others are of burned plants. In others, the plants are uprooted entirely, leaving a bare circle of dirt. No one knows whether these formation types are related.

Finally, in the UFO literature, going back at least twenty years, there have been reports of circles in Australia, America, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, and the Soviet Union. MUFON's October 1990 issue reports a 35-by-45 meter circle found on June 21, 1990, near the town of Yeisk (near Krasnodar) in the Soviet Union.

One of the most interesting questions at the present time is whether

the circles phenomenon in other countries will follow the English pattern. So far, the majority of nonenglish formations are simple circles, with a handful of more exotic shapes. Will the same English shapes as seen in 1990 appear in Winnipeg in a few years, or will the phenomenon take a different direction? The South Dakota "reversed question mark in a triangle" suggests that the latter may be the case.

#### A Coded Message?

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Do we have a coded message on our hands? Nobody knows, but much can be done to try to find out. In this section I will propose some guidelines for such an effort.

The first thing to consider is whether the circles are a message. As I see it, there are three possibilities.

1. The circles might not be a message. They could be the side-effect of some intelligently directed process, the way tire-tracks and footprints are. In that case there would be no meaning to decode, only a process to discover.
2. The circles could be an anti-code, a null code. They could be intended to convey a message merely by their presence, like "2001"'s monolith. Their variety and complexity might be meant only to convince humans of their non-natural origin. If so, there would be no content to decode, only a awe inspiring calling-card to contemplate.
3. The circles could be a positive code that we can crack. This is the most interesting idea, and the only one that can be developed at any length. For the rest of this discussion, let us abandon the foregoing possibilities, and assume that the circles are a code. How can we crack it?

We can apply various kinds of coding strategies to the formations to see if any work. For convenience, I'll divide the possible codes into three broad types: "linguistic" codes ("words"), "figural" codes ("pictures") and "logical" codes ("sequences"). If we look for linguistic codes, we try to find ideograms or alphanumeric characters. If we look for figural codes, we try to find schematic diagrams, pictures of objects, maps, or works of art. And if we look for logical codes, we look for mathematical or logical sequences. Let's look at the particular challenges of each kind of code.

#### Linguistic codes

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A linguistic code is, of course, either a natural alphabetic language like English, a direct isomorphism of it (like a cryptogram), or an ideographic language (like Chinese.) To crack such a code, we would need a "Rosetta stone" establishing equivalences between human and alien languages. So far, of course, we have none. We would have to be given one, or we would have to find that the formations are adopted from an obscure or forgotten human language (like Mayan, which they do superficially resemble.)

Lacking a Rosetta stone, we might be able build a grammar of the code on the order of "x always follows y, z is always part of q", though this would not be a "decoding." But even a purely relational grammar would be a significant advance. We may have its raw elements at hand. The circles are composed of a limited number of elements which are combined and recombined to make a wide variety of formations. So far, the simple elements--the building blocks--seem to be circle, the ring, the rectangle, the straight spur, the curved spur, the partial arc, and the "fork" of two or three prongs. (The "fork" may be decomposable into overlapping rectangles.) The elements might be semantically modified by variations in size and floor lay. The position of the formations

relative to the tramlines, and to the countryside as a whole, could be additional modifiers. It is certainly possible to look for a grammar.

Personally, I am skeptical about the linguistic approach. The circles are growing increasingly complex, but compared to human language, they still seem simple. There are many variations, but they are relatively restricted (take the three double-dumbbells). Furthermore, if they are linguistic, the language is an inefficient one. The shapes are highly symmetrical, hence highly redundant. If most of the formations were cut in half lengthwise, they would still convey the same amount of implicit information; some could be cut in quarters. If one looks at human language, one will see that nearly all words and ideograms are asymmetrical. This also holds for letters; most fonts are serified, making even "i" and "l" asymmetric. Symmetry wastes space. Asymmetry maximizes information content and transmission in a limited space.

Still, this does not eliminate the linguistic code theory, for inefficiency can be overcome by length. DNA has only four base units, but it is very long. The circlemakers, like Tolkien's Ents, might not care about brevity or efficiency.

All this being said, we are still left with a basic question: Why would the circlemakers use such a code at all? It would have been easy to start with something simple like a sequence of primes, and build up. The circles may be inscrutable for subtle cultural and political reasons, rather than out of any deficit of sense. Or perhaps we have a deficit of sense: the circlemakers could be sitting around (so to speak), scratching their heads (so to speak), and wondering, "What is it with these humans? All the other planets got it right away." But I prefer to believe that our only deficit is in the attention we have given to decoding strategies.

#### Figural codes

Turning to the second broad approach, the formations could be "pictures." They might be schematic diagrams, say of molecules, electronic circuits, or constellations. To explore this possibility, people ought to distribute the pictures as widely as possible, hoping that somebody somewhere will recognize the code.

Or the formations might be literal images. They could be pictures of spacecraft, or alien physiologies, or body markings, or natural phenomena. As "pictures", however, they seem rather limited. There is no apparent effort at perspective or shading. Perhaps they are meant as two-dimensional images, like projections or shadows. Or perhaps there is a form of perspective at work, but one quite foreign to our conventions. (Consider how the Egyptians and the Cubists drew the human form.)

Of course, the formations might be diagrams of wholly unfamiliar objects, in which case we would have no chance of recognizing them. A more unsettling possibility is that they are diagrams of quite familiar objects, but drawn by unfamiliar conventions.

Another possibility is that they are symbols of cultural significance, akin to our crosses and flags. There do appear to be motifs, such as the quintuplets and dumbbells, which appear repeatedly with variations.

Finally, they might be works of art. Certainly some of them are beautiful enough to be. We could try interpreting them as such. The double dumbbells look like meditations on mechanical fluidity; the eye spills from circle to circle, simultaneously drawn along and slowed down by the forklike extensions. The overall impression is of arrested motion. One can visualize the forks spinning round, the dumbbells gyrating like molecules around centers of gravity.

If the circles are art, the point is not to produce the "correct"

response; it is to respond, period. Thus a dialogue opens. It could be that the response to our amazement and wonder is the creation of even bigger and more beautiful formations.

#### Logical codes

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The third approach is to look for patterns in the formations. There do seem to be some. For instance, each double-dumbbell has a three-pronged "fork" sticking off the largest circle, with a short spur on the other end of the circle. Each formation has a two-pronged fork on one of the other circles. And many of the single dumbbells have either two or four rectangles flanking the bar. And so on. The question is: Can we find a logical pattern? If we can, the crucial test would be to predict subsequent formations. It would be even better to make a new formation following the rules, and see if there is a response.

#### Program of Action

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"Cereology"--the study of the circles--is proceeding (or, sometimes, not proceeding) along four fronts: publicity, data collection, data distribution, and data analysis.

Publicity is crucial, for only when people become deeply aware of the situation will they be moved to do something about it. Much has already been accomplished, on TV and in a number of articles in the mass media (see bibliography). But more needs to be done in America, since the people who have the resources to do something--scientists, policymakers, academics--have not been given enough information to convince them to act. Nor is information being targeted to the right places. Thus books need to be distributed to American bookstores and placed in the science (not New Age, not occult) sections, and indepth articles need to be published in journals like Scientific American and National Geographic. So far, many upper-rank magazines are unwilling to get involved, but hopefully this will change as the dimensions of the phenomenon become more widely known.

Data collection is being done by a relatively small band of people in England, most of them amateurs. They mount nighttime surveillance operations like Blackbird, drive around looking for new formations, do aerial photography, make surface measurements, mount weather stations, analyze plants, and dowse. (The largest data base of information is held by Colin Andrews.) But as said before, the number of circles far outstrips their collective ability to keep up. As for North America, things still depend on the farmer or reporter who is willing to take pictures and make measurements, though Winnipeg seems to be gearing up fast.

The state of data distribution is difficult to assess from America. Certainly America gets little of the English data, though lines of communication are beginning to open. The CCCS in England is working to establish a clearinghouse of information. Within North America, people are beginning to find each other and correspond. But there is still an urgent need to create a North American and international network of data distribution.

Data analysis (mathematical, linguistic, chemical) is just beginning. Serious work can only take place when the three other fronts are functioning smoothly.

There may come a fifth front: response/action. If the formations constitute a message and we decode it, we may want to answer, as I suggested above, by tromping plants down to make patterns ourselves. (Interestingly enough, several days after the Blackbird hoax, genuine circles appeared in an adjacent field parallel to the hoaxed formation.) Or if they constitute blueprints or instructions, then we may want to start making or doing something. And this, too, would need

organization.

If the readers of the MUFON journal want to get involved, the best way is to pick a clearly defined goal for one's locality. For example, ask local farmers if they have seen circles on their land, or get the area bookstores to order some of the books, or persuade the paper or TV station to run a story, or start giving information to people with resources, or do data collection, or try to decode the circles oneself--there's no lack of things to be done.

There is much to be done, but there is also the need for strategic patience. It's hard for people to accept that these luminous forms are truly part of our world. The concept takes time to sink in. And new concepts often get harsh treatment at first. Galileo's Ptolemaic contemporaries, presented with a telescope to look at Jupiter's moons, dismissed what they saw as illusions, or refused to look. Since this kind of rigidity still exists today, it will take persuasion, publicity, and patience to convince people to look at them with a more open mind. And if the circles do lead to a conceptual revolution, the task will be to manage it wisely.

Send circle reports to MUFON

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If any readers of this journal know of new formations, please report them! Document them with photos and measurements if you can, and send the data to MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, Texas 78155-4099.

Acknowledgements

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Americans have to pay high prices for publications available only from England, since the dollar is weak. There are two options: make out a check in pounds at a bank, adding two pounds to cover the extra cost of overseas postage if not already included, or send a check in dollars at the current exchange rate, factoring in an extra pound to pay for currency conversion, and two more to cover postage. These are only guidelines, based on what's worked for me.

Citations are alphabetical by first author.

Books

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The Crop Watcher. Editor: Paul Fuller. 1-year subscription (6 issues) UK L13.00 (overseas airmail price.) 3 Selborne Court, Tavistock Close, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 7TY, England.

The Circular. Editor: Bob Kingsley. Circulated free. 58 Kings Road, West End, Woking, Surrey GU24 9LW, England. The editor requests donation of stamps; American subscribers ought to send checks for a few dollars.

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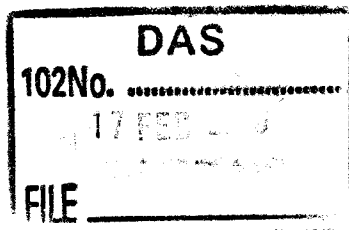
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Institute for Crop Circle Research.) For information, write to NAICCR,  
649 Silverstone Avenue, Winni- peg, Manitoba R3T 2V8, Canada.->



Section 40

Cardiff,

S.Wales, Section 40

Section 40

Thursday 16th February 2006

Dear Section 40

further to my FOIA request of 27th January 2006 (below) I have enclosed a DVD I have done for you so you can see the alleged UFO footage taken by the army, as seen on the documentary video Crop Circle Communiqué. Sorry for my delay in sending it.

As well as that, I've included the footage of the UFO seen over Matlock on August 23rd 1994. This relates to my first FOIA request last year and I thought you may be interested in seeing it. No official records exist of any helicopters being in the area at the time, but as you will see, there are helicopters on the video which head straight for the UFO, which vanishes when they get near.

Thanks again for your continuing help with my FOIA requests!

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

FOIA request made Friday 27th January 2006

Army UFO footage

1/ I am looking for any information related to night vision footage of a UFO (seen as a large glowing ball of light) allegedly taken by the army during a surveillance operation near Silbury Hill in Wiltshire during the night of 3-4 August 1990. This footage was included on the documentary video Crop Circle Communiqué, produced by Section 40 (Circlevision 1991) where the following was said:-

"Orange balls of light have often been reported in connection with the circles, during a secret army surveillance operation this video sequence was recorded of one such object."

I have been told by crop circle researcher Section 40 that the regiment responsible for recording this video footage were based at Aldershot. I understand that they were assisting with a crop circle surveillance project called 'Operation Blackbird' at Westbury in Wiltshire.

As a reference to this request, I shall send an excerpt from this documentary on a DVD to Section 40 Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information.

demonstrations against UFO secrecy held by Operation Right To Know UK that took place outside of MoD main building on May 23rd 1994 and outside the House of Commons on October 9th 1995.

## DVD.

Shows a farmer, Section 40 from Alton Barnes, Wiltshire saying he often sees beams of light coming down from the sky towards the ground and the following morning crop circles have formed. There is mention of a crop circle watch called "Operation Bluehill". There is very brief footage (a few seconds) showing Army personnel laying in the grass with night sights on their weapons and the commentary says "during a secret Army surveillance operation a video sequence was filmed", there is then a black and white film (about 3 seconds) showing a ball of light shooting across the sky from right to left. The footage then cuts to amateur footage of lights in the sky and helicopter activity, with running commentary from those taking the film. However, as Section 40 included video footage of an incident relevant to an earlier FOI request on this DVD which appears to be exactly the same, it is not clear if this is related to this request.

Section 40

27/2/2006.

## DVD.

Shows a farmer, **Section 40** from Alton Barnes, Wiltshire saying he often sees beams of light coming down from the sky towards the ground and the following morning crop circles have formed. There is mention of a crop circle watch called "Operation Bluehill". There is very brief footage (a few seconds) showing Army personnel laying in the grass with night sights on their weapons and the commentary says "during a secret Army surveillance operation a video sequence was filmed", there is then a black and white film (about 3 seconds) showing a ball of light shooting across the sky from right to left. The footage then cuts to amateur footage of lights in the sky and helicopter activity, with running commentary from those taking the film. However, as **Section 40** included video footage of an incident relevant to an earlier FOI request on this DVD which appears to be exactly the same, it is not clear if this is related to this request.

**Section 40**

27/2/2006.





To,

Section 40

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



From/

Section 40

Cardiff.



**Section 40**

I am the FOI Focal Point for the Directorate of Air Staff and also the focal point within the MOD for correspondence with the public on the subject of 'unidentified flying objects'. One of my regular correspondents has requested the following information and I wonder if you would be able to assist me. He has requested the following:

*"I am looking for any information related to night vision footage of a UFO (seen as a large glowing ball of light) allegedly taken by the Army during a surveillance operation near Silbury Hill in Wiltshire during the night of 3-4 August 1990. This footage was included on the documentary video Crop Circle Communiqué, produced by Section 40 (Circlevision 1991) where the following was said: - Orange balls of light have often been reported in connection with the circles, during a secret Army surveillance operation this video sequence was recorded of one such object".*

He also commented that *"I have been told by crop circle researcher Section 40 that the regiment responsible for recording this video footage were based at Aldershot. I understand that they were assisting with a crop circle surveillance project called 'Operation Blackbird' at Westbury in Wiltshire".*

The applicant is sending me an excerpt from the documentary on DVD, but I wonder if it is possible that someone in the Army might know something about this alleged footage. The nature of this subject is that real situations often get distorted and embellished so it is highly probable that there was a normal military exercise (or training) being conducted and had nothing to do with Crop Circles.

Please give me a call if you need any further information or you wish to discuss this.

**Section 40**

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

DII: DAS-FOI

e-mail: Section 40

Tel: Section 40 or Section 40

*30th January 2006.*

Checked

1) UFO Policy files - Nothing. D/Sec(AS) 12/1 Part A.

UFO Reports - D/Sec(AS) 12/2 Pt J

UFO Correspondence - D/Sec(AS) 12/3 Pt H.

> D/Sec(AS) 12/2 Part J

Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)

- Reports

(RCU000334511)

> D/Sec(AS) 12/3 Part H

Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)

- Correspondence

(RCU000353534)

2.

Requested from TNT



From: **Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



Telephone

(Direct dial)  
(Switchboard)  
(Fax)

020 7218 2140  
020 7218 9000

e-mail

das-ufo-office@mod.uk

**Section 40**

**Section 40**

Spanaway Wa. 98387  
USA

Our Reference  
12-12-2005-105014-002

Date  
12<sup>th</sup> December 2005

Dear **Section 40**

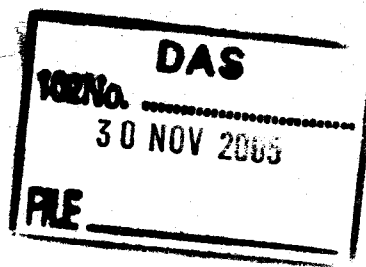
I am writing concerning your letter dated 12 November in which you make a Freedom of Information request for information regarding UFOs.

It is not clear from your letter exactly what information you are seeking and I would be grateful if you could clarify this before we are able to proceed. Before doing this please bare in mind that details of UFO sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence are stored on paper files in the order in which they are received and are not segregated by location (Town, city), type of sighting (flying triangles, lights), or proximity to military installations (RAF Stations, Army ranges). This means that each request for information involves a manual search of all the records covering the relevant period. The cost limit set for compliance with the UK Freedom of Information Act 2000 is £600 and as provided by Section 12 of the Act, if your request exceeds this limit the Ministry of Defence will not be obliged to comply with your request. It is therefore important that you are precise about the information you are seeking and the date or period.

If you have any questions regarding the clarification of your request, please contact me via any of means listed at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**

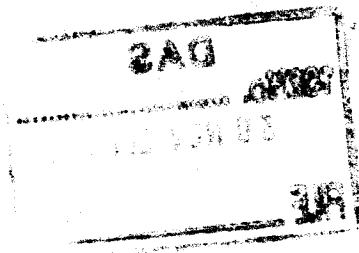


12-12-2005-105014-002  
Expiry: 30 Dec 2005

Nov 12 2005

This is a Freedom of Information Act request I'm seeking Flying Triangle Sightings 1993 Lincolnshire area also witnessed on June 1 1997 near the Barton airport flight to Canarvon and also M-56 motor way in Cheshire U.K. also flying Triangle coming in from towards the North Sea near several RAF underground active bases Ulceby Cross Lincolnshire, Skendleby RAF Lincolnshire 100 foot lift to underground facility, RAF Saxton Wold East Yorkshire underground facility RAF Fylingdale Phased Array Warning Radar tracking System you can track ufo's 1000 miles outside Earth near orbit as small as a basket ball. Then theres RAF Menwithhill (NSA) Tempest & Echelon intercepts, (Big Ears) Communications listening receiver Elslack Nr. Skipton Nth Yorkshire wich have all encountered ufo & Flying Triangle activity I don't understand why the MOD doesn't consider Flying triangles to be a threat to united Kingdoms National Security

1. They come into U.K. airspace either with a cloaking device engaged or they just can't be detected on early Warning radar systems whichever the case may be I have



been collecting and studying & Comparing Flying Triangle Sightings for 7 years world wide and have posting MOD 1995 thru 2004 at my website for other ufo researchers to use currently exchanging Flying Triangles with Crimea Ufo Research Ukraine for USSR sightings 1000 Documents for 4 yrs of Mufon Journals I sent via Fed-ex for 162.00 I invest alot of time & money in my ufo research I'm very well versed in Flying Triangle Case Sightings and Flying Triangle Crash History 1871 thru 1997 I have contacts world wide with other ufo researchers we share & exchange ufo sightings data I also have contacts at CIA, NSA, DIA, NASA, FAA, NTSB, DOD, USAF, AFOSI, USN, Ufoitalia, SOBEPS in Belgium, several U.K. ufo researchers, I'm currently working on a 10 year Comparisant study I would like to thank you for all of the material the MOD has provided data to my study so far over the past 7 years I will be posting The British X-Files documentry on my website in the near future 50 already online



2.

I'd like to thank you again for your time & Cooperation Search & reproduction I would like to request a Waiver of fees for all of the information I have requested any current flying triangles sightings from July 28 2004 to Current date to add to my flying triangle data base and any information about the underground tunnel systems from RAF Bentwaters leading towards the North Sea where flying triangle sightings have been reported in the past like Dec 25, 26 1980s Rendlesham Forest flying triangle landings at two separate locations on same night RAF Neatishead should have tracked & recorded the data & RAF Warton as well I don't particularly buy the fact that these two early warning radar systems were shut down at the time in question how do you explain RAF Lakenheath ufos in ~~1962~~ 8-13-1956 of unknowns being tracked moving high speed unconventionally maneuvering objects in the vicinity of two RAF stations over 5 hours involving ground radar, airborne radar, ground visual & airborne visual sightings 5000 Mph to 6000 Mph covered 5-6 miles per sweep of the

AN/MPN-11A GCA radar 2 sec. (30) rpm  
9000 Mph 2nd sighting 2130-2155z  
12 to 15 Objects about 8 miles SW of  
RAF Bentwaters Varying speeds of  
80 Mph - 125 Mph were preceded by  
3 objects in a triangular formation  
with the whole group covering 6 to 7  
mile area 8 miles SW to 40 miles NE  
3rd sighting 2200z 30 miles E of  
RAF Bentwaters GCA station 25 miles  
W of the station exited in speeds of  
excess of 4000 Mph 16 sec. implies a  
speed of 12,000 Mph hope I've educated  
you

Sincerley

Section 40

Section 40

Spanaway Wa. 98387



RIO GRANDE USA 37  
2005

RIO GRANDE USA 37  
2005

Directorate of Air Staff,  
Ministry of Defence  
5th floor Zone H, Main Building,  
Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Freedom of Information

RECEIVED



Mr. J. H. Smith, Jr.  
1234 Main St.  
New York, N.Y. 10001



**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**



I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request for details of UFO sightings in the Greater London area in 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 about UFOs.

This department holds details of UFO sighting reports made to the MOD and public correspondence about UFOs (some of which also contain sighting reports) spanning a 25 year period. These records are not held electronically, but are filed on paper files in the order in which they were received. They are not segregated by geographical area. The costs of searching this information for reports specifically from Greater London for a full 5 year period would exceed the £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, to assist the public we are in the process of compiling a database of UFO reports and this has now been completed for the years between 2002 and to date in 2006. I have searched these records and located information relevant to your request. This is attached for your information. There is no information for 2006 because no relevant UFO reports have been received to date. Please note I have taken "Greater London" to mean all those inside the M25. Although this does not quite cover the full five year period you requested, I hope you will find it useful.

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 me 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](mailto:das-ufo-office@mod.uk)

9<sup>th</sup> February 2006



## ANNEX A

### UFO Sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence in 2002

| DATE      | TIME  | TOWN / VILLAGE | COUNTY | BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING                                                                                                   |
|-----------|-------|----------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07-Mar-02 | 19:45 | Hornchurch     | Essex  | Two semi circular, elliptical shapes dully illuminated yellow and white. There was a faint murmur.                              |
| 27-May-02 | 12:45 | St John's Wood | London | One object with red and green flashing lights.                                                                                  |
| 14-Jul-02 | 18:15 |                | London | One pin point object seen that was very bright and was metallic that was reflecting the sunlight. Left a vapour trail behind.   |
| 23-Sep-02 | 01:00 | St John's Wood | London | The object was a triangle shape with red flashing/alternating lights that went round the inside edges of the object.            |
| 19-Dec-02 | 06:30 | Notting Hill   | London | Very large object, falling like a shooting star. Flames were coming out of the back. (Could have been a satellite re-entering). |

## ANNEX B

### UFO Sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence in 2003

| DATE      | TIME  | TOWN / VILLAGE   | COUNTY | BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING                                                                                                          |
|-----------|-------|------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10-Jan-03 | 01:00 | East Dulwich     | London | Lights, that were formed in a worm shape, wriggling around in the sky.                                                                 |
| 25-Feb-03 | 23:00 | Southfields      | London | Object, not a plane, not on flight path and not a star.                                                                                |
| 31-Mar-03 | 09:20 |                  | London | Two silver objects that were stationary in the sky. One seemed to be closer than the other.                                            |
| 23-Apr-03 | 18:15 | Heathrow Airport | London | A ball of light, with no colour, passed under an aircraft, front to back, very fast.                                                   |
| 24-Apr-03 |       | Shepherds Bush   | London | Crafts coming down from behind the clouds.                                                                                             |
| 09-Jun-03 | 06:40 | Isleworth        | London | Silver object as bright as a star, changed from a cylinder to a crescent moon shape, with red and silver stripes.                      |
| 14-Jun-03 | 15:39 | Walthamstow      | London | Cylinder shaped object, with radius around it of what looked like faint stars. Thought it was metal, as light was shining off of it.   |
| 21-Jun-03 | 16:43 | Richmond         | London | A doughnut shaped object was spotted moving from left to right, side to side. One side was shiny and reflective, and the other black.  |
| 21-Jun-03 | 12:32 | Wimbledon        | London | Just said something was seen for three seconds. (Didn't specify).                                                                      |
| 15-Jul-03 | 03:25 | Bermondsey       | London | Assumed object to be a shooting star at first. No trail behind.                                                                        |
| 17-Sep-03 | 21:00 | Northolt         | London | One object. White brilliant light, flickering yellow and red. Extremely brighter than other stars around it. Moving from side to side. |
| 18-Sep-03 | 03:00 | Wimbledon        | London | Triangular object, copper coloured. Hovered over the house for about a minute then disappeared.                                        |
| 17-Nov-03 | 02:25 | Bromley          | Kent   | 20-30 red flashing lights in the sky accompanied by a whirring noise.                                                                  |



## ANNEX C

### UFO Sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence in 2004

| DATE      | TIME  | TOWN / VILLAGE | COUNTY | BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING                                                                                                     |
|-----------|-------|----------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25-Apr-04 | 08:50 | Primrose Hill  | London | The object was a rectangle shape with a white light.                                                                              |
| 13-Jul-04 | 01:00 | Winchmore Hill | London | Object was extremely large, completely circular and the lights on it were pulsating different colours.                            |
| 07-Aug-04 | 04:30 | Chingford      | London | Strange looking object, bigger than an aircraft, it had mesh around it and red, blue, green and yellow lights around the outside. |
| 29-Aug-04 | 03:05 | Loughton       | Essex  | The object was white, hazy and round, and there was no noise.                                                                     |
| 18-Oct-04 |       | Wimbledon      | London | A few objects.                                                                                                                    |

## ANNEX D

### UFO Sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence in 2005

| DATE      | TIME  | TOWN / VILLAGE    | COUNTY            | BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING                                                                                                    |
|-----------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08-Feb-05 | 22:55 | Orpington         | London            | A massive light. The object was shaped like an iron. Didn't move at all.                                                         |
| 20-Feb-05 | 10:00 | Walthamstow       | London            | A light in the sky.                                                                                                              |
| 14-May-05 | 21:43 |                   | South-East London | A black cigar shaped object, that looked like a disc side on. It accelerated to a great speed that would outstrip a fighter jet. |
|           |       | Brixton Hill      | London            | (Was seen sometime in 2005). Witness thinks it was a UFO.                                                                        |
| 05-Sep-05 | 21:00 | Hornchurch        | Essex             | A 'UFO'.                                                                                                                         |
| 10-Sep-05 | 22:00 | Loughton          | Essex             | Three glowing lights. They were a bright orange colour.                                                                          |
| 10-Sep-05 | 22:00 | Loughton          | Essex             | Three golden orbs seen hovering in the sky for an hour, moving in a triangle formation.                                          |
| 10-Sep-05 | 22:00 | Loughton          | Essex             | The witness said that there were three very suspicious looking lights up in the sky. They were orange and very bright.           |
| 10-Sep-05 | 21:00 | Loughton          | Essex             | Three objects were seen in the sky. The objects appeared to be orange in colour.                                                 |
| 10-Sep-05 | 20:58 | Loughton          | Essex             | Three balls of fire in the sky. They keep circling and then lining up.                                                           |
| 20-Sep-05 | 20:39 | Romford           | Essex             | Four orange lights above the witnesses house.                                                                                    |
| 20-Oct-05 | 20:17 | Chigwell          | Essex             | Seven or eight orange glows above cloud cover with planes below. No flashing and looked like parachute flares.                   |
| 23-Oct-05 |       | Stapleford Abbots | Essex             | A sighting in the evening.                                                                                                       |

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 26 January 2006 10:15  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST 26-01-2006-101249-001

Section 40 Expiry: 23 Feb 2006

Categories: FOI Information Request

Good Morning Section 40

Some one who wants to know about little green men.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]  
Sent: 26 January 2006 06:55  
To: Info-Access-Office  
Subject: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST 26-01-2006-101249-001 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Thursday, January 26, 2006 at 06:54:42

-----  
FirstName: Section 40

LastName: Section 40

occupation: Reporter

Company: Evening Standard

Address1: Section 40

Address2: Section 40

City: Chislehurst

State: London

Zip: Section 40

Country: United Kingdom

e-mail: Section 40

telephone: Section 40

preferred format: electronic

infosubject: FAO: Freedom of Information Officer

From:

Section 40

News Reporter  
Evening Standard

Section 40

I am making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would like to request the answers to the following questions:

- 1) How many sightings of UFO's have there been over the Greater London area in the last five years?
- 2) Please can I have full details of all of the UFO sightings over the Greater London area in the last five years, including dates, times, descriptions provided by the

caller, and specific locations of each sighting?

I request copies of any material relevant to my request and ask that the response is emailed to me to ellen.widdup@standard.co.uk.

I am submitting this request on Thursday, January 26th and would ask that I receive the reply within the 20 working days specified in the Act. This brings the deadline for a response to Wednesday, February 22nd.

I also request that I am sent an email confirming my request has been received.

Thank you for your help. I look forward to hearing from you.

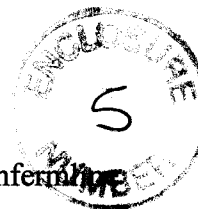
Section 40

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the text in this block.

submit: Send Form

-----

Dear **Section 40**



Thank you for your letter of 23 January concerning a UFO sighting near Dunfermline in Fife on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2005.

You asked whether there was any military activity in the area at the time of the sighting. I should inform you that military aircrew do not use fixed flight paths, but plan their sorties individually in order to practice a variety of scenarios. Each aircraft may fly hundreds of miles on each sortie and there are hundreds of sorties flown every day. The records of these flights are not held centrally but kept by each Squadron and it is therefore impossible to be certain whether there was any aircraft in the area without asking every Squadron to check their aircrew records. If we were to conduct such an exercise 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 comply with your request. You may, however, wish to be aware that Dunfermline is within airspace controlled by Edinburgh Airport and any aircraft entering this area would be under the control of Edinburgh Airport Air Traffic Controllers. You may wish, therefore, to pursue your enquiries with the Airport.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**

**Section 40**

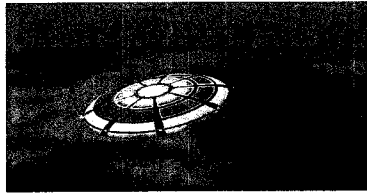
Ministry of Defence  
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information  
5th Floor, Zone H, **Section 40**  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2HB

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

9<sup>th</sup> February 2006

30-01-2006-084745-001  
Expires 24 Feb 2006.

## EAST 2 WEST UFO SOCIETY



"HERE TO INFORM"

Section 40

LIVINGSTON  
WEST LoTHIAN

Section 40

Tel:

e-mail:

23/01/06

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have received a report of a Ufo sighting across the skies above Dunfermline in Fife here in Scotland. This sighting happened on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2005 at 9:15pm. It was seen flying above a passenger jet that was travelling from north to south.

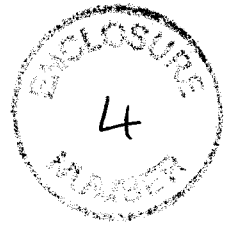
The witness to this sighting stated that the best way he could describe the shape of the Ufo was that of a stealth fighter and was black in colour. Could you tell me if there was any Military activity in the area at this time.

Thanking you in anticipation

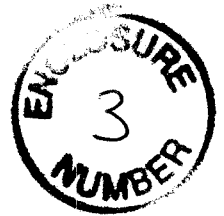
Section 40

Director of E2WUFOS





**ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO  
FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART D**



Dear **Section 40**

Yesterday I sent you an e-mail concerning your three requests for information about UFOs and I promised to write to you again when I had checked to see if there were any surviving reconnaissance photographs of Llandrillo on 24 January 1974. These enquiries are now complete and I can confirm there was no imagery taken by the RAF, over that location, on that date.

Records show that a Canberra aircraft from 39 Squadron took both oblique and vertical imagery of the area on the 22 January 1974 as part of a training sortie and this is now held at Keele University. If you wish to pursue enquiries about this imagery you should contact the University. The sortie number was 39(T)RAF9015 and the film was in tin BP076608.

I hope this is helpful.

**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<sup>st</sup> February 2006

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](http://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**

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:** DI OPS-SITCEN DIRM Coord-Office   
**Sent:** 31 January 2006 16:53  
**To:** **Section 40**  
**Subject:** IMAGERY OF LLANDRILLO - 24 JAN 1974

**Section 40**

Having investigated the existence of imagery of Llandrillo taken on the 24 Jan 1974 I can confirm the following:

According to the imagery database held at JARIC of RAF imagery there was no imagery taken of that location on that day.

There is however, imagery of the location that was taken on the 22 Jan 1974, it was taken by a Canberra from 39 Sqn, the sortie number is 39(T)RAF9015 both oblique and vertical imagery was taken. The film is in tin BP076608 which is now held at Keele University as it is in the public domain being 30 years old.

I trust this answers your quire, please do not hesitate to contact this office again if you require further assistance.

Rgds

**Section 40**  
WO MBE RAF  
DIRM COORD

**Section 40**

*Awaiting info from*  
**Section 40**  
*DI OPS-SITCEN DIRM*  
*Coord B*  
*OWOR 3K/WHR*  
*9621 87215*  
*or 85919 ✓*  
*30/1/2006.*

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 30 January 2006 09:51  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST 30-01-2006-093909-006 Section 40  
  
Categories: FOI Information Request

Section 40

I think this is for you, as it seems to be making reference to some UFO incident.

Regards

Section 40

-----Original Message-----

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]  
Sent: 27 January 2006 23:32  
To: Info-Access-Office  
Subject: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST 30-01-2006-093909-006 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Friday, January 27, 2006 at 23:32:20

-----  
FirstName: Section 40

LastName:

occupation: n/a

Company: n/a

Address1: Section 40

Address2:

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

do you have any information in you files about the light aircraft that took off from RAF Huntingdon taking photographs of the area in connection with the incident at Llandrillo.

Do you hold the photographic evidence tacked from the lightaircraf taken on the 24 January 1974.

*Berwyn Mountains*

submit: Send Form



Case reference number \*\*\*

30-01-2006-093909-006

Case type \*\*\*

Freedom of Information (FoI) request ▼

Outcome

Information not held ▼

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

**Section 40** Any information about the light aircraft that took off from RAF Huntingdon taking photographs of the are

Date received \*\*\*

30/01/2006

Date of response (leave blank if not yet complete)

01/02/2006

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<br>(equivalent) in your<br>department                          | Official's Work Area in<br>your department | (1) Allocation,<br>Logging and<br>Case Admin. | (2) Searching for<br>/ Obtaining<br>Information | (3) Reading time | (4) Considering<br>response under<br>Fol Act / EIRs<br>(within<br>Department) | (5) Discussion<br>elsewhere in<br>central<br>government (inc.<br>DCA Clearing<br>House) | (6) Consultation<br>outside central<br>government | (7) Drafting<br>submissions /<br>consultation with<br>Board-level<br>officials / Ministers | (8) Drafting of<br>response<br>(including<br>redaction), and<br>internal sign-off |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| EO ▼                                                                            | Policy ▼                                   | 10                                            | 40                                              | N/A              | 15                                                                            | 10                                                                                      | N/A                                               | N/A                                                                                        | 20                                                                                |
| [Unknown / Other] ▼                                                             | Operations ▼                               | N/A                                           | 15                                              | N/A              | N/A                                                                           | 5                                                                                       | N/A                                               | N/A                                                                                        | N/A                                                                               |
| [Unknown / Other] ▼                                                             | Operations ▼                               | N/A                                           | 30                                              | N/A              | N/A                                                                           | 5                                                                                       | N/A                                               | N/A                                                                                        | N/A                                                                               |
| ▼                                                                               | ▼                                          |                                               |                                                 |                  |                                                                               |                                                                                         |                                                   |                                                                                            |                                                                                   |
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| ▼                                                                               | ▼                                          |                                               |                                                 |                  |                                                                               |                                                                                         |                                                   |                                                                                            |                                                                                   |
| (A) Total for officials in other Government dep'ts<br>except DCA Clearing House |                                            |                                               |                                                 |                  |                                                                               |                                                                                         |                                                   |                                                                                            |                                                                                   |



**ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO  
FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART D**



**ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO  
FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART D**