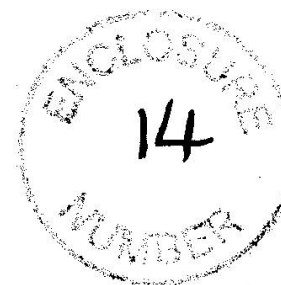




From: **Section 40**  
 Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



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

**Section 40**

Cwmbran  
 Gwent

**Section 40**

Our Reference  
 11-11-2008-135603-009

Date

11 November 2008

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request asking whether, as reported in a number of articles, nine of the UFO files due for transfer to The National Archives had never been passed to the "UFO Desk".

I have not seen the articles you refer to and therefore cannot comment on them. However, the release of UFO files covers those held by two separate branches; DAS and DIS. Each branch holds its own set of files and, quite naturally, neither branch deals with the others files. Neither DAS, nor DIS, have any idea where the stated figure of nine files comes from.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MoD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e-mail [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may wish to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the 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>.

I am sorry I could not be more helpful.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**

*The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.*

*If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at [b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk) or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.*

*If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.*

Section 40

11-11-2008-135603-009  
EX 9 JEL OP

CWMBRAN  
GWENT

Section 40

POST-

Dear Sir,

I have read in numerous articles that 9 of the files due to be released by MoD (UFO report files etc) whose never passed to the 'UFO desk' until this release. Can you confirm if this is the case and what reference numbers these files have.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

[Redacted signature block]



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

13

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

**Section 40**

Our Reference  
 10-06-2008-150228-002

Crawley  
 West Sussex

Date

8 July 2008

**Section 40**

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 10 June 2008 asking for details of any MoD classified or unclassified investigations into UFOs in the UK to date. Additionally, you asked for details on the incident that occurred in March 1993.

The MoD holds records relating to UFOs on some 160 files covering a period of over quarter of a century. Searching through 160 files would far exceed the permitted £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the Ministry of Defence is not obliged to comply with your request. If you could narrow the scope of your request to a particular incident or issue, I may be able to help.

However, you may be interested to know that UFO files for 1967 to 1987, and any files prior to 1967 which have survived, are now available for examination at The National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU, Telephone: 0208 876 3444. Details of how to access these records and The National Archives on line catalogue can be found on their website at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk). The MoD will be transferring the 160 UFO files from the Directorate of Air Staff and Defence Intelligence Staff to The National Archives as part of a three year programme. Those files covering the period 1979-92 will be released during 2008, 1993-2000 in 2009 and those from 2001 onwards will be transferred in 2010.

The MoD holds documents which I can release to you immediately on what has become known as the Cosford incident which occurred in March 1993. If this is the 1993 incident you were referring to I can forward you a copy on disk or a printed version. Please confirm this is the incident you were referring to and the format you want to receive the information in.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e-mail [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may wish to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please

NOTE: CLOSED ON TICKET. DID NOT RESPOND TO REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION **Section 40** DAS-FE 10/10/08

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the 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,

*The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.*

*If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at [b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk) or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.*

*If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.*

**AITCases****20080610: **Section 40** 10-06-2008-150228-002**

| 
  | 
  | 
  |

**Title:** **Section 40** 10-06-2008-150228-002  
**Person\_Title:** **Section 40**  
**First\_Name:** **Section 40**  
**Surname:** **Section 40**  
**Organisation:** **Section 40**  
**Applicant\_Type:** Not Specified  
**Address\_Line\_1:** **Section 40**  
**Address\_Line\_2:** poundhill  
**Address\_Line\_3:** west sussex  
**TownCity:** crawley  
**Postcode:** **Section 40**  
**Country:** United Kingdom  
**Email:**  
**Telephone:**  
**Fax:**  
**Request\_Details:** Under the Act please provide details of any M.O.D classified or declassified investigations into Unidentified Flying Objects in the United Kingdom to date.  
  
Please provide details also on the incident which occurred in March 1993. Which was investigated by the M.O.D  
  
Kind Regards  
**Section 40**  
**Subject:** classified investigations into UFOs  
**Raised\_On\_Behalf\_Of:**  
**Case\_Number:** 10-06-2008-150228-002  
**Originator:** DII **Section 40**  
**User\_Group:** GxAITESTPTCDAS  
**Date\_Received:** 10/06/2008  
**Date\_Due:** 08/07/2008  
**Status:** Withdrawn - By Requestor  
**Responder:** DII **Section 40**  
**Vexatious\_Type:**  
**Vexatious\_Reason:**  
**Quick\_Response\_Type:**  
**Quick\_Resp\_Cov\_Letter\_Issued:** No  
**Media\_Preference\_Met:**  
**Media\_Date\_Sent:**  
**Media\_Response\_Sent:**  
**Media\_Preference\_Comments:**

Closed: Yes  
 Date\_Closed: 10/11/2008  
 Media\_Type: not stated  
 Requested\_Language: English  
 Standard\_Response\_Comment:  
 Offline\_Assigned\_To:  
 Offline\_Date\_Due:  
 Offline\_Date\_Responded:  
 Ext\_Ref\_Department\_Name:  
 Ext\_Ref\_Sent\_To\_PRO:  
 Ext\_Ref\_Date\_Sent\_To\_PRO:  
 Ext\_Ref\_PRO\_Accepted:  
 Ext\_Ref\_Date\_PRO\_Accepted:  
 Vexatious\_Supporting\_Cases:  
 Vexatious\_Authorised\_By:  
 Vexatious\_Date\_Authorised:  
 Vexatious\_Reference:  
 Request\_Location:  
 Hold\_Resp\_Reason:  
 Hold\_Resp\_Request\_Type:  
 Hold\_Resp\_Date\_Response\_Expected:  
 Hold\_Resp\_Letter\_Sent:  
 Hold\_Resp\_Date\_Letter\_Sent:  
 On\_Hold:  
 Exemption\_Applied: No  
 Exemptions\_Authorised\_By:  
 Exemptions\_Date\_Authorised:  
 Exemptions\_Ref\_Number:  
 Std\_Resp\_Authorised:  
 Std\_Resp\_Authorised\_By:  
 Std\_Resp\_Date\_Authorised:  
 Std\_Resp\_Reference:  
 Fees\_Total\_Cost:  
 Fees\_Resp\_Justification:  
 Fees\_Resp\_To\_Applicant:  
 Fees\_Notice\_Details:  
 Fees\_Refusal\_Letter\_Details:  
 Fees\_Notice\_Sent:  
 Fees\_Notice\_Date\_Sent:  
 Fees\_On\_Hold:  
 Fees\_Date\_Paid:  
 Fees\_Offline\_Authorised\_By:  
 Fees\_Offline\_Authorised:  
 Fees\_Date\_Authorised:  
 Fees\_Auth\_Ref\_Number:  
 Fees\_Online\_Authorised\_By:  
 Fees\_Online\_Authorised:  
 Fees\_Ref\_Letter\_Date\_Sent:  
 Fees\_Refusal\_Notice\_Sent:

Fees\_Close\_Case:

Fees\_Refusal\_Letter\_Just:

Attachments:

Comments.xml

SearchResults.html

Tracing.xml

Created at 10/06/2008 15:02 by AccelK2\_svc

Last modified at 10/11/2008 13:23 by AccelK2\_svc

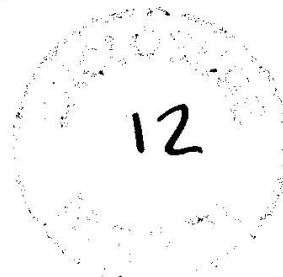


Section 40

01-08-2008-152251-003

EXP 2 SEP 08

From: Section 40  
Sent: 31 July 2008 22:31  
To: DAS-UFO-Office  
Subject: Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980



I would like a copy of the files

thank you

Section 40

NOTE: CLOSING OF TICKET IF  
10 NOV 08 AT 11:51 AM  
RESPOND TO CLARIFICATION  
REQUEST

Section 40

DAS/SE  
10/NOV/08

Section 40

**From:** Section 40

**Sent:** 01 August 2008 10:38

**To:** Section 40

**Subject:** Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 01-08-2008-102251-003

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 31 July 2008 asking for a copy of the Rendlesham files.

The MoD has one file on this topic and I am happy to provide you with a copy. Unfortunately, I cannot e-mail it to you as it is too large. If you provide me with your postal address I can send you a copy on disk (our preferred option). Alternatively, you are entitled to a paper copy if you wish.

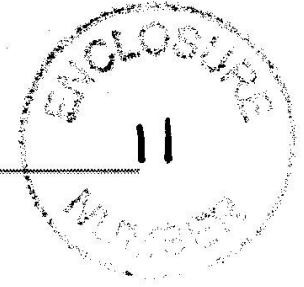
Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI  
MoD Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

01/08/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 29 September 2008 14:11

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Dear Section 40

You wrote to the Ministry of Defence on 25 June 2008 asking for a copy of documents relevant to the Cosford incident.

As I explained in my e-mail of 23 July 2008, I am unable to e-mail them to you but am happy to provide an electronic copy on disk or, if you prefer, hard copy.

To that end I should be grateful if you would provide me with a postal address so I can forward them to you.

Section 40

DAS-FOI  
05-H Section 40  
MoD Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

NOTE: CLOSED ON  
TOOLKIT IS NOT OF  
NEVER RESPONDED TO  
CLARIFICATION REQUEST

Section 40

JAJ-FSE

10/NOV/08

29/09/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 23 July 2008 13:28

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM FO INFORMATION REQUEST 25-06-2008-154821-001

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 25 June 2008 asking for copies of documentation relating to the Cosford incident.

I am unable to e-mail them to you, but if you provide me with a postal address I can provide them on a disk.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H Section 40

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

23/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

Section 40

25-06-2008-154821-001  
EX/ 27 JUL 08

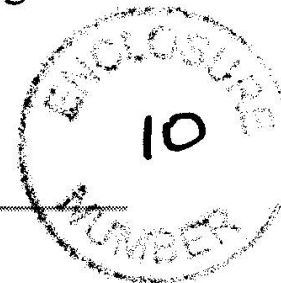
From: Section 40  
Sent: 25 June 2008 15:24  
To: DAS-UFO-Office  
Subject: Cosford UFO file

Dear Sirs,

I wish to see a copy of the documents relating to the above incident. Please send them to my mailbox at your earliest convenience.

Thanking you,

Section 40



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 06 November 2008 14:16

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 14-10-2008-090808-002

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request asking what regulations covered the requirement for pilots to report unusual events. It has been passed to this office to answer as we have responsibility for UFO matters within the Ministry of Defence.

*"Joint Services Publication 551 – Military Flight Safety Regulations Volume 1: Flight Safety, Section 200, Occurrence Reporting"* covers incidents that may occur during flying and provides guidance on reporting. However, the emphasis is on flight safety and it does not specifically mention UFOs.

If you wish, I can of course provide you with a copy (on disk or, should you prefer, paper), but I fear it will not be of much interest to your show or its viewers.

Regulations for civilian pilots would be covered by the CAA who can be contacted via their website at [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk).

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain 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 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>.

I am sorry I could not be more helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H-Section 40

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

06/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

*The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.*

*If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at [b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk) or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.*

*If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.*

06/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

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

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:[no-reply@feedback.mod.uk](mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk)]

Sent: 13 October 2008 21:26

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: FOI written request PS 14-10-2008-090808-002 **Section 40**

This request has been received via [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk).

txttitle: **Section 40**  
txtfirstname: **Section 40**  
txtlastname: **Section 40**  
txtoccupation: Producer  
txtorganisation: History Channel  
txtaddress1: **Section 40**  
txtaddress2: **Section 40**  
txttowncity: Santa Monica  
txtstatecountry: CA  
txtzipcodepostcode: 90403  
txtcountry: USA  
txtemailAddress: **Section 40**  
txttelephone: **Section 40**  
txtinforequest: Hello,

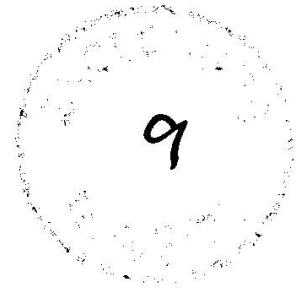
I work on the show UFO Hunters and we interviewed a pilot who spoke briefly about pilots being required to report any strange activity/thing they may see while flying. Im looking for any type of document from the CAA or Defense Department stating such a requirement. Could you please forward me in the correct direction. I have had no luck researching this law to give you more specific information.

Thank you

**Section 40**







**AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 05-11-2008-113605-002

Expiry: 4 Dec 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

All documents relating to the Rendlesham Incident.

Case for release of information

Documents relating to Rendlesham could be found on some 109 files including 61 correspondence files, 30 FOI files, 10 PQ files and 8 Policy files. This excludes Reports files which are unlikely to include Rendlesham information.

Each file would have to be manually checked and any documents redacted.

Costing

1 file = 1 hour (minimum)  
109 files = 109 hours  
1 hour = £25  
109 hours = £2725

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation to withhold the aforementioned information subject to the above exemption

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

Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05..... **Section 40**

Date: ..... **5/11/08** .....



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 05 November 2008 14:23

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 05-11-2008-113605-002

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 4 November 2008 asking for copies of all information regarding the alleged UFO incident at Rendlesham Forrest in 1980.

Answering your request would involve manually checking, as a minimum, some 100 DAS files, and then preparing relevant documents for release, the cost of which would exceed far the £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and, as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the Ministry of Defence is not obliged to comply with your request.

Whilst it is not possible to quantify without undertaking a major administrative exercise, my experience would suggest that the overwhelming majority of documents mentioning the Rendlesham incident are requests for information or correspondence from members of the public such as yourself, which may not provide you with the information you are looking for. However, the MoD has a file on this incident, that was created sometime after the incident and which is currently being prepared for release to The National Archives as part of a programme to transfer 160 MOD files on UFO matters. The MoD had previously placed the file on its own website, but has had to remove this for copyright reasons. If you would like a copy of our file on Rendlesham, please let me know whether you can accept a PDF copy on disk or a paper copy, together with your address and I will forward it to you. I am afraid that due to the size of the file, I am unable to e-mail it to you.

You may wish to be aware that the MOD has already released a great deal of information about UFOs which is available for public viewing. MOD files were routinely destroyed after five years until 1967 when they were generally preserved for The National Archives. A few have survived before 1967 and these together with records up to 1992 are now available for public viewing. The National Archives can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Richmond, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DU or telephone, 020 8876 3444. The National Archives also have a website giving information about the records they hold and how to access them. This can be found on the internet at:  
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain 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 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,

05/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

**Section 40**

DAS-FOI

05-H **Section 40**

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

*The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.*

*If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at [b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk) or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.*

*If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.*

05/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

Section 40

05-11-2008-113605-002

EXP 4 Dec 08

From: Section 40

Sent: 04 November 2008 21:13

To: DAS-UFO-Office

Subject: Rendlesham Forrest ufo incident

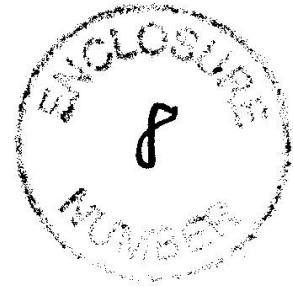
I would be pleased if you could kindly send me by email copies of all documents in your possession relating to the "Rendlesham Forrest Incident" of December 1980.

Thank you,

Section 40

05/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1



**AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 03-11-2008-103053-002

Expiry: 2 Dec 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Information to the Rendlesham Incident.

Case for release of information

**Section 40** original request is not very clear but he has confirmed he would like a copy of the Rendlesham file.

There is no need to withhold this file subject to personal information such as names addresses telephone numbers etc

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation to release the aforementioned information subject to the above exemption

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

Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05..... **Section 40** .....

Date:..... **5/11/08** .....

*Copy of file not included on file!!  
to save paper!!  
19 manuscripts  
**Section 40**  
5/11/08*



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

**Section 40**

Our Reference  
 03-11-2008-103053-002

Canterbury  
 Kent

Date

5 November 2008

**Section 40**

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 2 November 2008 asking for details on the Rendlesham Incident. I enclose a copy of our file on the subject in paper format, in line with your e-mail of 4 November 2008.

Some personal information such as names, addresses and telephone numbers has been withheld under exemption s.40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The file is a compilation file comprised of documents that were removed from their original file and placed on this file. This would account for the non sequential enclosure numbering. Although the file cover states the file was opened on 25 October 1982, it is clear that this was not the case. Sec(AS) was not in being at this time, only being formed in early 1985 and therefore no file with a reference number commencing with D/Sec(AS) could have been in existence in 1982. No record of when the file was created can be found.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [Info-XD@mod.uk](mailto:Info-XD@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain 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 the case until the 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>."

Finally, you asked if we could forward a copy to Mr Oshimi. Since he is at the postal address you provided, I do not think it appropriate to provide a second copy. However, there is nothing to stop him applying to us on his own behalf.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**

*The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.*

*If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at [b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk) or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.*

*If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.*

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 04 November 2008 15:51  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** REQUEST

Dear Section 40

Thank you for answering for me. I would like to receive a paper copy, so could you send that to this address.

I feel appreciation for you honestly. Your assist could be helpful for our group and me so much. In addition, I have

to tell you about could you send the copy to Section 40 address. He is now working in Stafford

House every day .He is a one of my group's readers. He has a responsible for all our task. Moreover, he is really

looking forward to see the contents recently.

Section 40

Section 40

Canterbury Section 40  
kent

Kind regards,

---

Connect to the next generation of MSN Messenger [Get it now!](#)

04/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1



Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 03 November 2008 10:27  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 2 November 2008. I assume that you are requesting a copy of the MoD file on the so called "Rendlesham Incident". If this is not the case, please let me know.

I am unable to send the file by e-mail, but if you provide me with your full address, I can provide you with an electronic copy on disk. Alternatively, we can provide you with a paper copy.

Please let me know which you prefer.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI  
05-H Section 40  
MoD Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

05/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

Section 40

08-11-2008-103053-002

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 02 November 2008 00:18  
**To:** DAS-UFO-Office  
**Subject:** Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980

2 ) e r o f

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UnidentifiedFlyingObjectsufoRendleshamForestIncident1980.htm>

Dear British Defence Section,

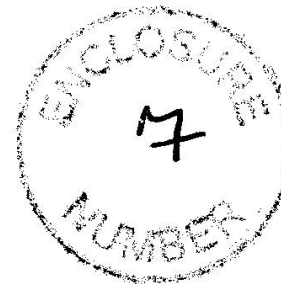
I understood the this site's mean, and now I am researching about SETI project. Therefore, hereby, I would like to receive an information seriously.

Section 40

Sincerely,

Invite your mail contacts to join your friends list with Windows Live Spaces. It's easy!

[http://spaces.live.com/spacesapi.aspx?wx\\_action=create&wx\\_url=/friends.aspx&mkt=en-us](http://spaces.live.com/spacesapi.aspx?wx_action=create&wx_url=/friends.aspx&mkt=en-us)



**AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

Applicant: **Section 40**

*26-09-2008-133559-003*

Case Number: ~~26-10-2008-133559-003~~

Expiry: 24 Oct 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Information on Rendlesham and schematics for the bases of Woodbridge and Bentwaters

Case for release of information

There is no reason to withhold information other than personal details, addresses and telephone numbers etc under exemption s.40 (Personal Information)

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation to withhold the aforementioned information subject to the above exemption

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

Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05... **Section 40**

Date: *4/4/08*

*NOTE: A3 copies of maps sent in original response. Copy of file not stored here to save space.  
19 MAY 2008  
**Section 40**  
*5/11/08**



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)	020 7218 2140
	(Switchboard)	020 7218 9000
	(Fax)	<b>Section 40</b>
e-mail	das-ufo-office@mod.uk	

**Section 40**

Our Reference  
 26-09-2008-133559-003

Redditch  
 Worcestershire

Date

4 November 2008

**Section 40**

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 26 September 2008 asking for details on the Rendlesham Incident. I enclose a copy of our file on the subject in CD format, in line with your e-mail of 15 October 2008. Additionally, you asked for base schematics for RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters.

Some personal information such as names, addresses and telephone numbers has been withheld under exemption s.40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The file is a compilation file comprised of documents that were removed from their original file and placed on this file. This would account for the non sequential enclosure numbering. Although the file cover states the file was opened on 25 October 1982, it is clear that this was not the case. Sec(AS) was not in being at this time, only being formed in early 1985 and therefore no file with a reference number commencing with D/Sec(AS) could have been in existence in 1982. No record of when the file was created can be found.

Turning to your request for schematics for both sites, I am afraid there are only slim pickings but I enclose a map of each site. You will notice that a small amount of information in the key of the Bentwaters map has been withheld. Again these are names of individuals. I am informed that the MoD gave a set of photographs of the various buildings at both bases to the Duxford Imperial War Museum who can be contacted on <http://duxford.iwm.org.uk/>. It may also be worth contacting the relevant local council planning departments to see if they can assist.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [Info-XD@mod.uk](mailto:Info-XD@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain 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 the case until the 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>."

Whilst I have no grounds to believe the disk contains anything harmful to your computer, I suggest you virus check it before opening the file.

Finally, please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you. The maps proved to be harder to find than I had expected.

Yours sincerely,

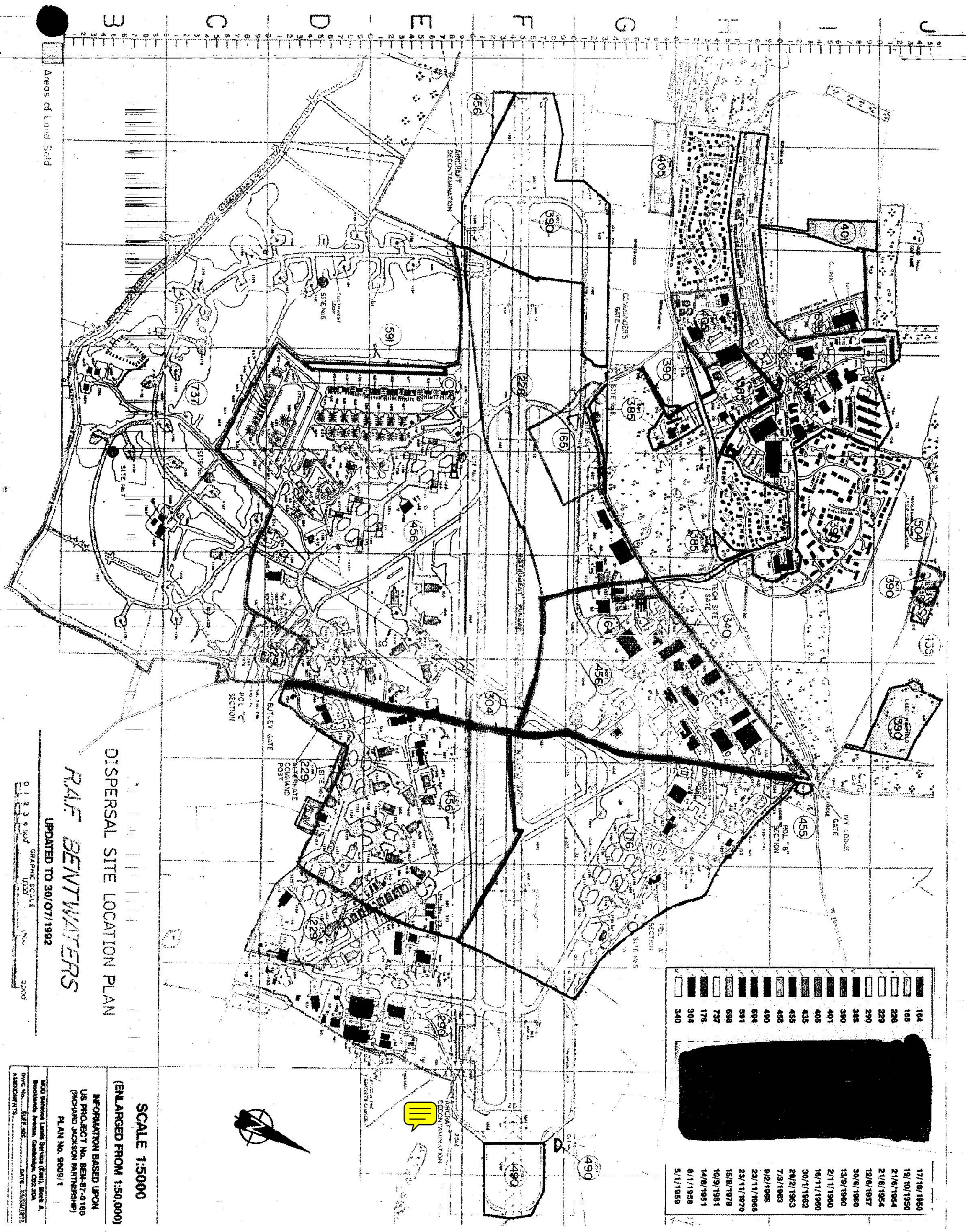
Section 40



*The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.*

*If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at [b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk) or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.*

*If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.*



DISPERSAL SITE LOCATION PLAN

RAF BENTWATERS

UPDATED TO 30/07/1992

GRAPHIC SCALE 1:5000

SCALE 1:5000

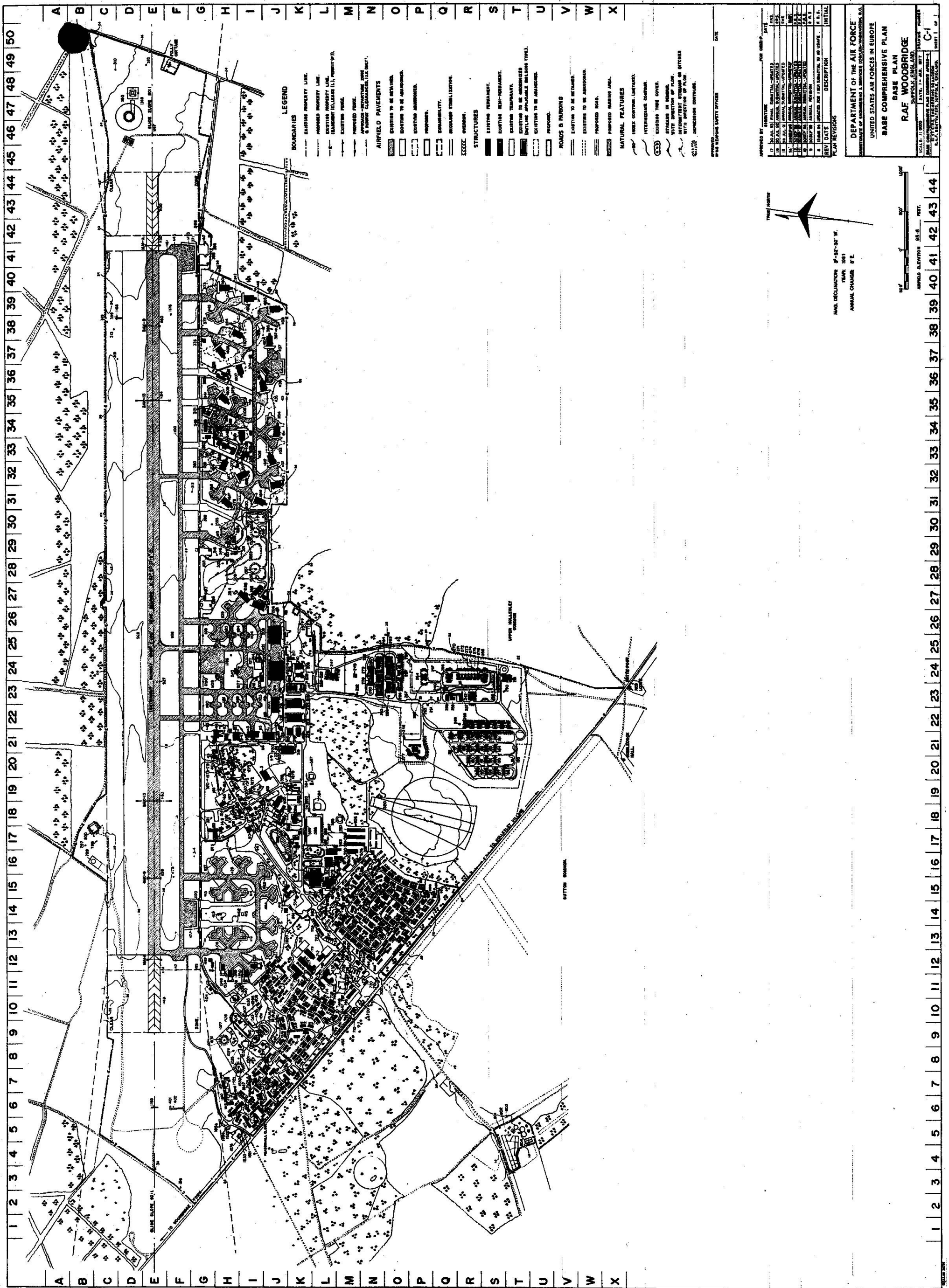
(ENLARGED FROM 1:50,000)

INFORMATION BASED UPON:  
US PROJECT NO. BEM-87-0160  
(RICHARD JACKSON PARTNERSHIP)  
PLAN No. 8009/1

RAF Defence Lines Service (Genl), Block A,  
Brooklands Avenue, Camberley, GU24 0XA  
DWC No. DEF 206 DATE: 30/07/1992  
AMENDMENTS:



Areas of Land Sold



Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

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

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:[no-reply@feedback.mod.uk](mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk)]

Sent: 26 September 2008 10:53

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: FOI written request PS 26-09-2008-133559-003 **Section 40**

This request has been received via [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk).

txttitle: **Section 40**

txtfirstname: **Section 40**

txtlastname: **Section 40**

txtaddress1: **Section 40**

txtaddress2: Ipsley

txttowncity: Redditch

txtstatecountry: Worcestershire

txtzipcodepostcode: **Section 40**

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: **Section 40**

txttelephone: **Section 40**

txtinforequest: Requesting all info about the Rendlesham Forest incident and if possible base schematics of the old base RAF Bentwaters/Woodbridge Please !



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 15 October 2008 15:32

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATIONREQUEST 26-09-2008-133559-003

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 26 September 2008 asking for all information regarding the Rendlesham Incident and for base schematics.

The MoD has a file on the subject of Rendlesham that I am happy to provide for you. As the file is quite large, I am unable to e-mail it to you, but can provide an electronic copy on disk (our preferred option) or a paper copy if you so wish. Please let me know your preference.

Turning to the matter of base schematics for RAF Bentwaters/Woodbridge, I should point out that both bases were in existence for a number of decades and, as is the case with all military establishments, they will have changed and developed through time. If you can specify a particular year that you are interested in, I will investigate further to see if any plans have been retained.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H Section 40

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

15/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1



Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 15 October 2008 17:09  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Re: FREEDOM OF INFORMATIONREQUEST 26-09-2008-133559-003

Section 40

Thank you for getting back to me, it is much appreciated.

The information on a disk would be great if possible, and regards to the bases RAF Bentwaters/Woodbridge, the years i am interested in are between 1980-82, i am particularly interested in the underground facilities that were there and that time but i do understand if there is still a need to keep those hidden, however someone has entered them before and took photo's and then wrote a book about the bases and the underground facilities, so any information/Schematics of the bases/underground facilities would be a great help thanks.

Again thanks for all your help so far !

best regards,

Section 40

--- On Wed, 15/10/08, Section 40 @mod.uk> wrote:

**From:** Section 40 @mod.uk>  
**Subject:** FREEDOM OF INFORMATIONREQUEST 26-09-2008-133559-003  
**To:** Section 40  
**Date:** Wednesday, 15 October, 2008, 3:31 PM

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 26 September 2008 asking for all information regarding the Rendlesham Incident and for base schematics.

The MoD has a file on the subject of Rendlesham that I am happy to provide for you. As the file is quite large, I am unable to e-mail it to you, but can provide an electronic copy on disk (our preferred option) or a paper copy if you so wish. Please let me know your preference.

Turning to the matter of base schematics for RAF Bentwaters/Woodbridge, I should point out that both bases were in existence for a number of decades and, as is the case with all military establishments, they will have changed and developed through time. If you can specify a particular year that you are interested in, I will investigate further to see if any plans have been retained.

16/10/2008

Catalogue Reference:defe/24/2450/1

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H-Section 40

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

16/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

---

**Section 40**

**From:** DE Ops North-FOI [xResMbx0194@de.mod.uk]  
**Sent:** 21 October 2008 16:45  
**To:** DAS-FOI  
**Subject:** FW: FREEDOM OF INFORMATIONREQUEST 26-09-2008-133559-003  
**Importance:** High  
**Attachments:** woodbridge base plan 94.TIF

**Section 40**

Please find attached a plan of RAF Woodbridge and also in the e-mail chain below information in response to the above FOI request. Please let me know if a copy of the RAF Bentwaters plan is required and I will arrange for a copy to be sent to you. Hopefully the information provided will be of some help to you.

Do not hesitate to come back to me if you require anything else

Regards

**Section 40**

Secretariat Manager  
 DE Ops North-BM3b  
 DE Operations North-Business Management  
 Tel **Section 40**

**Please send all official Parliamentary correspondence to the DE Ops North-Parliamentary mailbox**

&

**All official FOI correspondence to the DE Ops North-FOI mailbox.**

---

**From:** DE Ops North-EME4b1d **Section 40**  
**Sent:** 21 October 2008 16:26  
**To:** DE Ops North-FOI  
**Cc:** DE Ops North-EME4b1 **Section 40**; DE Ops North-EME4b **Section 40**  
**Subject:** FW: FREEDOM OF INFORMATIONREQUEST 26-09-2008-133559-003  
**Importance:** High

**Section 40**

Please see response from **Section 40** to forward on to **Section 40** DAS.  
 Hopefully this concludes our interest in this one.

Regards

**Section 40**


---

**From:** DE Ops North-LMS5i **Section 40**  
**Sent:** 21 October 2008 16:17  
**To:** DE Ops North-EME4b1d **Section 40**

22/10/2008

Catalogue Reference:defe/24/2450/1

**From:** DE Ops North-LMS5 [Section 40]  
**Subject:** RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATIONREQUEST 26-09-2008-133559-003  
**Importance:** High

[Section 40]

We sold RAF Bentwaters in 1997 so information that we have is very limited. However, we have trawled around the bazaars that may have information including DE Int., RPC East (re Woodbridge) and DE LMS Waterbeach office. These have yielded information to a greater or lesser extent and the following is a synopsis of what exists that is or may be relevant to the FOE request.

Herewith a US plan of RAF Woodbridge which would appear to fit the bill, however, we should only send a hard copy to the enquirer. It is set up for A3 size paper.

We also have a similar one for RAF Bentwaters but not in electronic form. We could however physically copy it if need be and send it to the enquirer direct - please let me know if you wish me to do so. We also have miscellaneous plans and information that have been returned to us in a number of crates by a business partner. These have not been catalogued yet but may contain specific information that may be of relevance, however, the cost of trawling through them will likely exceed the FOI limit.

In addition, we gave a complete set of photographs of the various buildings at both RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge to Duxford Imperial War Museum and they may also have additional material of interest to the enquirer. Their link is: -

<http://duxford.iwm.org.uk/>

We are aware of the Rendlesham incident but DAS are the SME for this.

I trust this is helpful.

[Section 40]

[Section 40]

Senior Estates Surveyor  
 DE Ops North LMS 5i

☎ Direct Dial Military: [Section 40]  
 ☎ Direct Dial Civ: [Section 40]  
 📠 Fax: [Section 40]  
 ✉ Email: [Section 40]@de.mod.uk  
 DE web site: [www.defence-estates.mod.uk](http://www.defence-estates.mod.uk)  
 📍 Address: Stirling House, Denny End  
 Road, Waterbeach,  
 Cambridge CB25 9QE.

---

**From:** DE Ops North-EME4b1d [Section 40]  
**Sent:** 17 October 2008 10:18  
**To:** DE Ops North-LMS5 [Section 40]; DE Ops North-LMS5 [Section 40]  
**Cc:** DE Ops North-EME4b1 [Section 40]; DE Ops North-EME4b [Section 40]  
**Subject:** FW: FREEDOM OF INFORMATIONREQUEST 26-09-2008-133559-003  
**Importance:** High

22/10/2008

Catalogue Reference:de/24/2450/1

**Section 40**

Original FOI request

Regards

**Section 40**


---

**From:** DE Ops North-BM3b **Section 40**  
**Sent:** 17 October 2008 09:51  
**To:** DE Ops North-EME4b1d **Section 40**; DE Ops North-EME4b1 **Section 40** DE Ops North-EME4b **Section 40**  
**Subject:** FW:

Please find attached original FOI request as requested by **Section 40**

Regards

**Section 40**  
 Secretariat Manager  
 DE Ops North-BM3b  
 DE Operations North-Business Management  
 Tel **Section 40**

**Please send all official Parliamentary correspondence to the DE-Ops North-Parliamentary mailbox**

&amp;

**All official FOI correspondence to the DE Ops North-FOI mailbox.**

---

**From:** DAS-FOI  
**Sent:** 17 October 2008 09:31  
**To:** DE Ops North-BM3b **Section 40**  
**Subject:** FW:

**Section 40**

As requested please find attached a copy of the original FOI. Can you forward it on as the DE-Ops North-FOI mailbox doesn't seem to register with outlook at this end.

**Section 40**  
 DAS-FOI  
**Section 40**

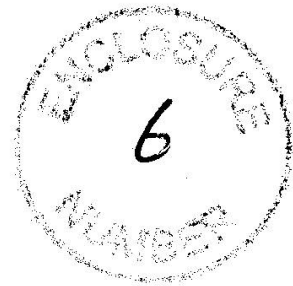
---

**From:** **Section 40**  
**Sent:** 17 October 2008 09:25  
**To:** **Section 40**  
**Subject:**

22/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1





**AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 04-11-2008-071212-003

Expiry: 3 Dec 08

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

Information held on UFOs 1950-2007.

**Case for release of information**

Information up to 1992 is now in The National Archives and is therefore readily available. Files for the remaining period are due for publication.

Information should be withheld under s.22.

A PIT is included in the letter of response.

**Authorisation**

I hereby give authorisation to withhold the aforementioned information subject to the above exemption

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

Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05..... **Section 40**

Date: ..... **4/11/08** .....





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

**Section 40**

Mablethorpe  
 Lincs

**Section 40**

Our Reference  
 04-11-2008-071212-003

Date

4 November 2008

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your freedom of Information request of 3 November 2008. I will deal with your request for information on UFOs for the period 1950-2007. The non UFO related material will be dealt with by colleagues in another branch who will write to you separately.

You may be interested to know that the MoD has commenced a programme to release some 160 UFO and UFO related files to the National Archive. The files from the Directorate of Air Staff and the Defence Intelligence Staff will cover the period from the late 1970s to 2007. The files themselves will be released in accordance with the same principles that the MoD applies when it releases information for Freedom of Information requests such as yours. The files will be released in chronological order and the programme is likely to take some three years to complete. To date some 24 files have been released. Therefore, as provided by exemption s.22 (information intended for future publication) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the MOD is not obliged to comply with this part of your request.

This is not the end of the matter, of course; section 22 is a qualified exemption, meaning that the MOD must assess the balance of public interest in release of the information.

Whilst there is undoubtedly public interest in this information being released to the public as it will enable them to have a more informed view of the MoD's role in the UFO phenomena, there is no overriding reason why the public should have the information immediately. It is part of effective administration of government that the publication of information is planned and managed within the department responsible. Copies of UFO photographs will be of great interest to researchers and writers and, by placing the information requested in The National Archives, all interested parties will have access to the same information at the same time, which ensures no one has any particular advantage over their competitors.

That having been said, you may wish to be aware that the MOD has already released a great deal of information about UFOs which is available for public viewing. MOD files were routinely destroyed after five years until 1967 when they were generally preserved for The National Archives. A few have survived before 1967 and these together with records up to 1992 are now available for public viewing. The National Archives can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Richmond, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DU or telephone, 020 8876 3444. The National Archives also have a website giving information about the records they hold and how to access them. This can be found on the internet at: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>. The Ministry of Defence

Freedom of Information website also contains details of UFO sightings reported to the MoD for the period 1997-2007 which can be accessed the internet at: [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk), by searching under "UFO reports".

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain 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 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



*The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.*

*If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at [b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk) or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.*

*If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.*

Section 40

NOTE: JAS will  
 ANSWER on VFO's  
 UNDER 04-11-2008-071212-003  
 EXP 3 DEC 08

From: Section 40

Sent: 04 November 2008 07:28

To: Section 40

Cc:

Subject: FW: FOI written request PS 04-11-2008-071124-002 &amp; 04-11-2008-071212-003

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY**

Dear Focal Point(s)

The Freedom of Information (FOI) request for information (RFI) below has been placed with you, but not confirmed on the Access to Information Toolkit (AIT). *[insert details here, of which area should answer which part of the RFI, if it has been broken into different sections]*

[1]

**Please acknowledge within two working days** that you are the appropriate area to respond, or lead, and we will transfer this to you on AIT. You should **respond to the requester within twenty working days** of the date the request was made. If you consider that another area is more appropriate to respond or lead, then please approach them, also within two working days. Please engage with the FOI Helpdesk at all times when you are looking to place a request elsewhere. The FOI Helpdesk will be pleased to assist during this process.

**This request will be automatically allocated to your area, on AIT, after three working days, if the FOI Helpdesk receives no acknowledgement of receipt or evidence of action to place the request elsewhere.**

If you are copied into this email, you may be a relevant contributor to the response and you should liaise with the lead respondent.

This process is set out to maximise the amount of time to find information and respond, when this request has been placed with the appropriate subject matter expert.

Lastly, please see further headline guidance on FOI correspondence at <http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Library/CivilianAndJointService/> or detailed guidance (including model answers) at

<http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Admin/RespondToRequestsForIr>

If you have any concerns, or require any assistance with FOI, please contact Info-Access Operations, we are here to help.

Best regards

**MOD Info Access****Freedom of Information Helpdesk**

Telephone: Section 40

Email: [info-access-office@mod.uk](mailto:info-access-office@mod.uk)AIT: <http://aitportal/default.aspx>

<sup>1</sup>The 'clock starts ticking' at the beginning of the next working day from when you received the request.

04/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

---Original Message-----

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk]  
Sent: 03 November 2008 22:23  
To: Info-Access-Office  
Subject: FOI written request PS 04-11-2008-071124-002 & 04-11-2008-071212-003

This request has been received via www.mod.uk.

txttitle: Section 40  
txtfirstname: Section 40  
txtlastname: [REDACTED]  
txtaddress1: [REDACTED]  
txtaddress2: [REDACTED]  
txttowncity: Mablethorpe  
txtstatecountry: Lincolnshire  
txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40  
txtcountry: UK  
txtemailAddress: Section 40  
txtinforequest: I would like to request the following documents concerning  
Britains involvement in:  
-TPAJAX (operation AJAX)  
-Operation PAPERCLIP (intelligence involvement in smuggling nazi SS doctors out  
of germany at the end of world war 2)  
-Operation GLADIO (NATO's stay behind secret armies)  
-Information concerning unidentified flying objects from 1950-2007 i.e sightings,  
descriptions of craft, detections on radar etc.

---

[1]

The two working day 'clock starts ticking' at the beginning of the next working day from when the request was placed with you..

04/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 03 November 2008 11:46

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 24-10-2008-135147-002

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mails of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2008. You raised a number of questions and I will try to answer them.

Firstly, you asked why the MoD would not send you the information you requested. As I explained in my response of 31 October 2008, providing you with the information you asked for would exceed £600. The Freedom of Information Act allows government departments to make an estimate of how much work it will take to answer a Freedom of Information request and, if it exceeds three working days, which equates to £600, it is not required to provide the information requested. I apologise for not making this clear.

To put your request in some context, you asked for all the information the MoD had on UFOs. This equates to some 160 files, each of which needs to be checked for personal information such as names and addresses before they can be released. Additionally, we must check for other sensitive information that would be covered by the exemptions contained within the Freedom of Information Act. This is an extremely time consuming process and on average it would cost more than £600 to prepare a single file for release. Releasing all 160 would be a task that would take years, rather than days.

That having been said, as I explained in my e-mail, the MoD has established a programme to release these files. Allowing for those responsible for releasing the files to continue with their normal duties, it is estimated that the entire task will take some three years to complete. To date, some 24 files have been placed on The National Archives website where they are available for public viewing. It is hoped that the remaining files will be available by the end of 2010.

You also asked why some files were destroyed. I am not certain which files you are referring to, but prior to 1967 there was very little public interest in the subject of "unidentified flying objects", and as there was pressure on storage space in Government Archives "UFO" files were routinely destroyed after 5 years. However, since 1967 there has been an increase in public interest in this subject, and it has been decided that such files should be preserved.

Finally, you refer to the MoD lying about UFOs. It may help if I explain the MoD role in UFO matters. 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 unauthorized foreign military activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military 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.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the

03/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

Question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

I hope this explains the MoD position.

If you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain 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 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**

DAS-FOI

05-H **Section 40**

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

*The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.*

*If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at [b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk) or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.*

*If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.*

03/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1



Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 03 November 2008 11:43  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: UFO FILES

Section 40

Thank you. Content with proposed response.

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 03 November 2008 11:32  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** UFO FILES

Section 40

Section 40 has responded to my reply to his FOI stating amongst other things that he does not understand why his request was refused. Although his e-mails are somewhat difficult to absorb, I have treated his 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov e-mail as a request for formal review.

Can you confirm you are content with my draft response below?

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40

Thank you for your e-mails of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2008. You raised a number of questions and I will try to answer them.

Firstly, you asked why the MoD would not send you the information you requested. As I explained in my response of 31 October 2008, providing you with the information you asked for would exceed £600. The Freedom of Information Act allows government departments to make an estimate of how much work it will take to answer a Freedom of Information request and, if it exceeds three working days, which equates to £600, it is not required to provide the information requested. I apologise for not making this clear.

To put your request in some context, you asked for all the information the MoD had on UFOs. This equates to some 160 files, each of which needs to be checked for personal information such as names and addresses before they can be released. Additionally, we must check for other sensitive information that would be covered by the exemptions contained within the Freedom of Information Act. This is an extremely time consuming process and on average it would cost more than £600 to prepare a single file for release. Releasing all 160 would be a task that would take years, rather than days.

That having been said, as I explained in my e-mail, the MoD has established a programme to release

03/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1



These files. Allowing for those responsible for releasing the files to continue with their normal duties, it is estimated that the entire task will take some three years to complete. To date, some 24 files have been placed on The National Archives website where they are available for public viewing. It is hoped that the remaining files will be available by the end of 2010.

You also asked why some files were destroyed. I am not certain which files you are referring to, but prior to 1967 there was very little public interest in the subject of "unidentified flying objects", and as there was pressure on storage space in Government Archives "UFO" files were routinely destroyed after 5 years. However, since 1967 there has been an increase in public interest in this subject, and it has been decided that such files should be preserved.

Finally, you refer to the MoD lying about UFOs. It may help if I explain the MoD role in UFO matters. 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 unauthorized foreign military activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military 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.

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 lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

I hope this explains the MoD position.

If you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain 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 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**

DAS-FOI

05-H **Section 40**

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

03/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

*The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.*

*If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at [b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk) or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.*

*If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.*

03/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

**COMMENTS ON DAS DISC D/Sec(AS)/12/3 Part N (28 May 93 to 23 Dec 93)**

1. All pages scanned black on white with good readability.
2. No additional redactions required.

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 02 November 2008 00:09  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

*dear Section 40 i would like to appoligise about my other email it was slightly garbled i would like to ask you why the goverment decided why some files should be destroyed also why am i not allowed the files i requested bassically you have admited in not so many words that you and your peers have lied to us for 40 years since 1967 i would like to no the truth and why we have bin lied to for so long. also we are being told and reminded every day of the so called credit crunch would telling the truth not bring so trust in to our country and back into our goverment now after so many years of what we have got to no as UFOS invading our air space and jets being scrambled onto them we have just found out this is unacceptable if and i do mean if there is a threat from whatever this maybe and i belive you no what this is to let us no what is happening before it is to late or is that what you the goverment the mod want for the sake of my children your children the entire human race i urge you no i beg of you it is our right as human beings to no the truth*

*regards s*

Section 40

---

For the best free wallpapers from MSN [Click here!](#)

03/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 01 November 2008 18:02  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

*dear Section 40 could u please tell e why the goverment decided some files from 1967 i elive from the manner of your email that you are hiding something from me and the publis it is our right as the public to be made aware of a upcoming threat if there is one. I would like tosay we should be in the no about this in stead of being lied to bassicaly you have admited you have lied becouse now after 40 years the files are being relesed and only the files you want us to no about witch is wrong as i think you can understand and appreciate the manner of this email and my general fears and concerns on this matter but if you want our econemy to get better you could you could start by tellin the truth*

*regards*

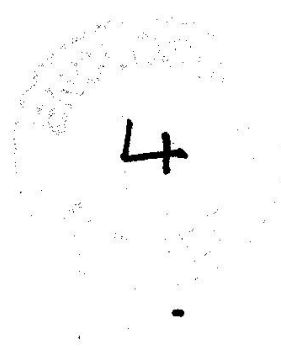
Section 40

---

For the best free wallpapers from MSN [Click here!](#)

03/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1



**AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 24-10-2008-135147-002

Expiry: 21 Nov 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

All information held on UFOs as far back as MoD records go.

Case for release of information

This will far exceed £600. It is impossible to state with certainty how much it will cost but it will take two years to complete.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation to withhold the aforementioned information subject to the above exemption

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

Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05.. **Section 40** .....

Date: ..... **31/10/08** .....

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 31 October 2008 14:44  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 23 October 2008 asking for all information the Ministry of Defence (MoD) holds on UFOs including recent landing and sightings.

The MoD has some 160 files on the subject of UFOs. The costs in providing you with the information you require would far exceed the permitted £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the Ministry of Defence is not obliged to comply with your request.

You may wish to be aware that the MOD has already released a great deal of information about UFOs which is available for public viewing. MOD files were routinely destroyed after five years until 1967 when they were generally preserved for The National Archives. A few have survived before 1967 and these together with records up to 1992 are now available for public viewing. The National Archives can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Richmond, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DU or telephone, 020 8876 3444. The National Archives also have a website giving information about the records they hold and how to access them. This can be found on the internet at:  
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk..>

You may also wish to know that the MoD is engaged in a three year programme to transfer UFO files covering the period 1979-2007 to The National Archives. Files will be transferred in chronological order with those covering 1979-92 being released in 2008, 1992-2000 in 2009 and 2001 onwards in 2010.

Details of UFO sightings reported to the MoD for the period 1997-2007 can be found by searching under "UFO Reports" on the MoD website [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk). Details of sightings for 2008 will be placed on the site in early 2009.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain 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 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,

31/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

**Section 40**

DAS-FOI

05-H-**Section 40**

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

*The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.*

*If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at [b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk) or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.*

*If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.*

31/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1



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

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:[no-reply@feedback.mod.uk](mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk)]

Sent: 23 October 2008 20:44

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: FOI written request ps 24-10-2008-135147-002 **Section 40**

This request has been received via [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk).

txttitle: **Section 40**

txtfirstname: **Section 40**

txtlastname: **Section 40**

txtaddress1: **Section 40**

txtaddress2: **Section 40**

txttowncity: bradford

txtstatecountry: westyorkshire

txtzipcodepostcode: **Section 40**

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: **Section 40**

txttelephone: **Section 40**

txtinforequest: I would like all information on unidentified flying objects also now nown as ufos also any data you have on resent landings and sightings i would like all the info dating as long as your records go back as i am compiling my own book

3



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

**Section 40**

Our Reference  
 20-10-2008-141354-010

Cramlington  
 Northumberland

Date

**Section 40**

31 October 2008

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 20 October 2008 asking for details of UFO sightings, including Heathrow. You also asked whether there are no such things as UFOs and whether the MoD believes in them.

Firstly, I think it would be helpful if I gave you some background about the MoD role in UFO matters. Despite what many people think, the MoD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MoD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

The MoD 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 unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military 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.

Details of UFO sightings reported to the MoD for the period 1997-2007 can be found on our website [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk) by searching under the term *UFO Reports*. Sightings for 2008 will be placed on the website in early 2009.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

● you remain 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 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

*The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.*

*If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at [b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk) or on Section 40 to ask more about the study.*

*If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.*

*e-mail address not working*

Section 40

*31/10/08*

17 NOV 08

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

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:[no-reply@feedback.mod.uk](mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk)]

Sent: 20 October 2008 11:48

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: FOI written request PS 20-10-2008-141354-010 **Section 40**

This request has been received via [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk).

txttitle: **Section 40**  
txtfirstname: **Section 40**  
txtlastname: **Section 40**  
txtoccupation: Owner  
txtorganisation: **Section 40**  
txtaddress1: **Section 40**  
txtaddress2: **Section 40**  
txttowncity: Cramlington  
txtstatecountry: northumberland  
txtzipcodepostcode: **Section 40**  
txtcountry: UK  
txtemailAddress: **Section 40**  
txttelephone: **Section 40**  
txtinforequest: Can i please have some details on UFO sightings please,  
mainly at heathrow.  
can i also be assured that there is no such thing?  
Do you belive?

From X-Files  
do do doooo do do do



**AUTHORISATION TO WITHHOLD REQUESTED INFORMATION**

**Applicant:** Section 40 [redacted]

**Case Number:** 14-10-2008-091146-003

**Expiry:**

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

Could you please send me info regarding dramatic UFOs sightings in the UK and other places you have on file that will be published in the short term.

**Case for withholding information**

We are withholding the information, as we directed Section 40 [redacted] to The National Archives.

**Proposed use of the following FOI Exemptions**

Exemption 21 was used. (information accessible by the applicant by other means).

**Authorisation**

I hereby give authorisation to withhold the aforementioned information to the Applicant.

Grade/Rank: B2 ..... Name: Section 40 [redacted] .....

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

Date: 22/10/08 .....

**Section 40**

**From:** **Section 40**  
**Sent:** 22 October 2008 15:46  
**To:** **Section 40**  
**Subject:** Release-Authorised: FOI Request.

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request asking for information regarding dramatic UFO sightings in the UK and other places that we have on file.

Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to UFOs.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) 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 question of asking for information regarding dramatic UFO sightings in the UK and other places, you may wish to be aware that the MOD has already released a great deal of information about UFOs which is available for public viewing. The National Archives can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Richmond, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DU, telephone 0208 876 3444. The National Archives also have a website giving information about the records they hold and how to access them. This can be found on the internet at: <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk>. Therefore, as provided by s.21 (Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The MOD is not obliged to comply with this request.

Finally, the Ministry of Defence Freedom of Information website has a database which contains information on UFO sighting reports from the year 1997 up to 2007. This can be accessed via the internet at: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomofInformation/PublicationScheme>, by searching under 'UFO' Reports. Reports for 2008 will be placed on the website in early 2009.

I hope this is helpful. If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain 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 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 1  
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)

22/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 15 October 2008 09:15  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: FOI written request PS 14-10-2008-091146-003 Section 40

Can you write back and direct him to the MoD website and the national Archive.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----  
From: Section 40  
Sent: 14 October 2008 09:13  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: FOI written request PS 14-10-2008-091146-003 Section 40

Section 40

Can I interest you with this FOI request?

Regards

Section 40  
FOI Helpdesk

Section 40

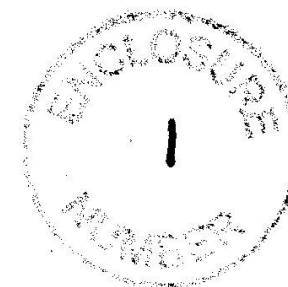
-----Original Message-----  
From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk]  
Sent: 13 October 2008 19:17  
To: Info-Access-Office  
Subject: FOI written request PS 14-10-2008-091146-003 Section 40

This request has been received via www.mod.uk.

txttitle: Section 40  
txtfirstname: Section 40  
txtlastname: Section 40  
txtoccupation: Writing a book  
txtaddress1: Section 40  
txtaddress2: Section 40  
txttowncity: Asuncion  
txtstatecountry: Central  
txtzipcodepostcode: 1849  
txtcountry: Paraguay  
txtemailAddress: Section 40  
txttelephone: Section 40  
txtinforequest: Dear Sirs,

could you PLS send me info regarding dramatic UFOs sightings in the UK and other places you have on file that will be published in a short term.  
I am writing a book, regarding the universe, and one of the chapters regards to the alien life and their visits to our planet

Section 40



**AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 10-10-2008-072213-002

Expiry: 7 Nov 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

UFO files covering UK for Jan79-Jan80, Jan 79-Jan 81 and Jan 80-Jan 82

Requester has written 3 times with 3 differing requirements.

Files are now held at The National Archives and exemption s.21 applies.

It is proposed a single response is sent.

Case for release of information

Information now at National Archives

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation to withhold the aforementioned information subject to the above exemption

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

Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05..... **Section 40**

Date:..... **21/10/08** .....



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 21 October 2008 10:33

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 10-10-20008-072213-002

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information requests of 9 October and 13 October 2008. You asked for UFO files covering the UK for the periods 1 January 1979 to 1 January 1980 and from the year 1979 to January 1981. I also note in your e-mail of 20 October 2008 that you wish to see files for the period January 1980-82. These requests will be answered under the above single reference

MoD files covering all these periods are now available for public viewing at The National Archives on their website [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) and in accordance with exemption s.21 (Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means) the Ministry of Defence is not required to provide you with the information you requested.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain 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 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

DAS-FOI

05-H-Section 40

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

*The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will*

21/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

Only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.

If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at [b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk) or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.

If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 20 October 2008 14:20  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FW: FOI/MOD - Complaints see 10-10-2008-072213-002 Section 40  
**Importance:** High

Section 40

As discussed.

Regards

Section 40

FOI Helpdesk

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 20 October 2008 13:51  
**To:** Info-Access-Office  
**Subject:** FOI/MOD - Complaints see 10-10-2008-072213-002 Section 40  
**Importance:** High

Dear MOD / FOI,

I am contacting you in relation to requesting freedom of information files relating to unidentified flying objects from the MOD.

I requested this twice and not received any reply – I sent across my email and address.

I requested files from January 1980 through to January 1982 covering the entire UK.

Could someone contact me and state what is the likely hood of me receiving these files – and what the update is.

Email: Section 40

Address: Section 40 Reading, Berkshire. Section 40

Best Wishes

Section 40

20/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

---

Click here for FREE customisable desktop wallpapers. [Get them Now!](#)

J

EX 7 NOV 08

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

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:[no-reply@feedback.mod.uk](mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk)]

Sent: 09 October 2008 18:04

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: FOI written request PS 10-10-2008-072213-002 **Section 40**

This request has been received via [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk).

txttitle: **Section 40**

txtfirstname: **Section 40**

txtlastname: **Section 40**

txtaddress1: **Section 40**

txtaddress2: **Section 40**

txttowncity: Reading

txtstatecountry: Berkshire

txtzipcodepostcode: **Section 40**

txtcountry: UK

txtinforequest: Through the freedom of information act, I wish to obtain files entire UK area - Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) from the Year JANUARY 1st 1979 till JANUARY 1st 1980.

Kind Regards

**Section 40**

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

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:[no-reply@feedback.mod.uk](mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk)]

Sent: 13 October 2008 10:09

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: FOI written request

This request has been received via [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk).

txttitle: Section 40

txtfirstnam Section 40

txtlastname

txtaddress1

txtaddress2

txttowncity: Reading

txtstatecountry: Berkshire

txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: Section 40

txttelephone: Section 40

txtinforequest: I am requesting under the freedom of act, to seek all files covering entire UK, Unidentified Flying Objects from the year January 1979 till january 1981.

Best Wishes

Section 40