

**Section 40**

**From:** **Section 40**  
**Sent:** 31 July 2008 15:43  
**To:** **Section 40**  
**Subject:** Release-Authorised: UFO Sighting.

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing with reference to your e.mail (including your photograph), dated 28 July 2008, for which you sent to the das-ufo office e.mail address, regarding your sighting on 27 July 2008. This office is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to 'UFO's.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' 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 to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, 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.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received two other reports of 'UFO' sightings for the 27 July 2008, and they were from Cornwall and Mid Glamorgan in Wales. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Finally, your sighting details will be logged and your photograph and e.mail will be placed on our files.

Sorry I could not be any help.

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)

31/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1

**Section 40**

**From:** **Section 40** on behalf of DAS-UFO-Office  
**Sent:** 28 July 2008 10:37  
**To:** **Section 40**  
**Subject:** FW:  
**Attachments:** P1010233.JPG

For you!!!!!!!!!!

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**From:** **Section 40** [mailto:**Section 40**]  
**Sent:** 28 July 2008 09:58  
**To:** DAS-UFO-Office  
**Subject:**

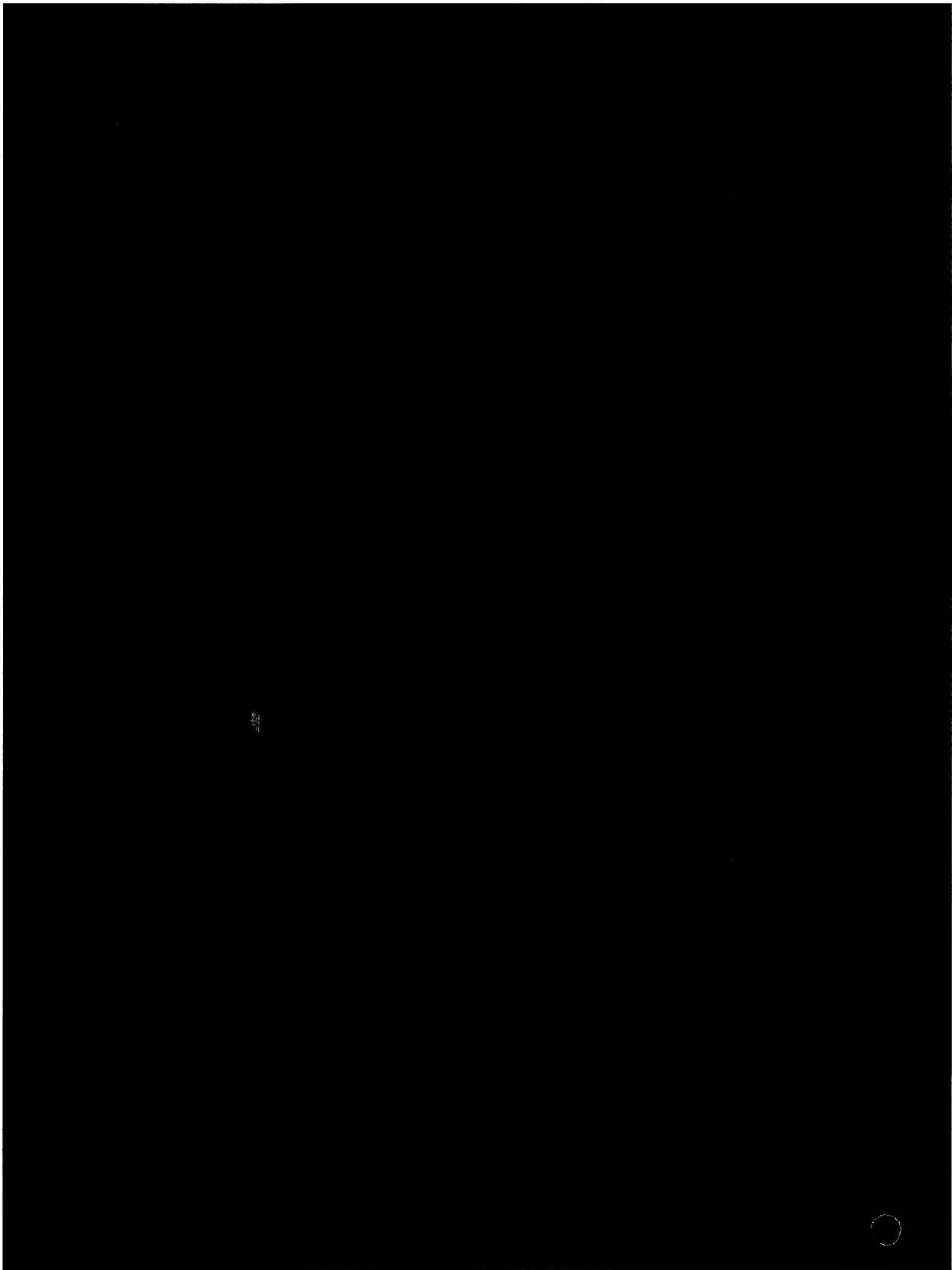
27/7/08 .  
Hi nick pope has given me this address to post you this picture taken on sunday morning around 2 am i have sent the raw image you will have to zoom in it moved slowly about 2000 feet stopped raised vertically then moved slowly away from sight this picture featured in the sun today my dad took the picture he sat on the doorstep last night in the rain waiting for another sight , i know i will never know what this is but im interested to hear waht you may think . thank you **Section 40**

---

Find out how to make Messenger your very own TV! [Try it Now!](#)

28/07/2008

atalogue Reference:defe/24/2624/1



atalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1



From: **Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1

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

Telephone	(Direct dial)	020 7218 2140
	(Switchboard)	020 7218 9000
	(Fax)	<b>Section 40</b>

**Section 40**

Pontypridd  
Mid Glamorgan

**Section 40**

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

D/DAS/64/2

Date:

31 July 2008

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing with reference to your report of an 'unidentified flying object', seen on 27 July 2008, the details of which you passed to the MOD by e.mail. This office is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to 'UFO's.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, 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.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received two other reports of 'UFO' sightings for the 27 July 2008, and they were from Cornwall and Humberside. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Sorry I could not be any help.

Yours sincerely

**Section 40**



Section 40

From: Section 40  
 Sent: 29 July 2008 08:20  
 To: Section 40  
 Cc:  
 Subject: RE: FOI written request

We will take this as normal business.

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

From: Section 40  
 Sent: 29 July 2008 07:31  
 To: Section 40  
 Subject: FW: FOI written request

Section 40

Can I interest you with this request?

Do you want it logged as FOI or do you wish to deal with as normal business?

Regards

Section 40

FOI Helpdesk

Section 40

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

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk]  
 Sent: 28 July 2008 18:10  
 To: Info-Access-Office  
 Subject: FOI written request

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

txttitle: Section 40  
 txtfirstname: Section 40  
 txtlastname: Section 40  
 txtoccupation: Operations Manager  
 txtorganisation: Document Management Solutions Ltd  
 txtaddress1: Section 40  
 txtaddress2: Section 40  
 txttowncity: Pontypridd mid - Glamorgan  
 txtstatecountry: RCT  
 txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40  
 txtcountry: United Kingdom  
 txtemailAddress: Section 40  
 txttelephone: Section 40

txtinforequest: Could information please be supplied to give an explanation for an unusual sight.

Sunday afternoon 27th July approx. 4.30pm. Clear sky.

Whilst working in our front garden my wife noticed an object travelling at high speed in the sky. She pointed it out to me. Appeared almost as a football or balloon, ie "round". Travelling in approx. S.East to N.East direction. There was no sound, no lights. We are quite happy it was not an aeroplane.

We often enjoy sitting in our garden late into a summers evening and are well used to observing satellites and/or space debris in the night sky. This was much lower than that. If air traffic is passing over South Wales at approx. 30,000ft my guess would be that this object was at 10 to 15,000 feet. (possibly lower). The speed was considerably faster than an aircraft or satellite, yet not so fast that it disappeared in an instant. My wife had time once seeing it to call my attention to it before it disappeared. We would describe it as silver \ white in colour.

We are of the opinion that there is a totally reasonable explanation for what we saw. However we are at a complete loss as what it was and can offer no intelligent suggestion.

Your thoughts and opinions will be appreciated.

Thank you

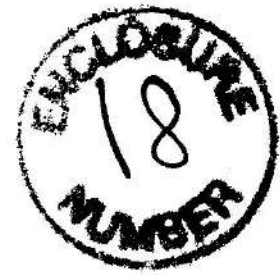
Yards

**Section 40**



From: **Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1

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

Telephone	(Direct dial)	020 7218 2140
	(Switchboard)	020 7218 9000
	(Fax)	<b>Section 40</b>

**Section 40**Gosport  
Hampshire**Section 40**

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

D/DAS/64/2

Date:

31 July 2008

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing with reference to your report of an 'unidentified flying object', seen on 26 July 2008, the details of which you passed to the MOD by e.mail. This office is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to 'UFO's.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, 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.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received three other reports of 'UFO' sightings for the 26 July 2008, and they were from Surrey, Avon and Northamptonshire. As to your question of there being a flyover around the area, between the times of 10-10.30pm on 26 July 2008, I have been informed that there was not, due to the fact that it was a Saturday, and at the times you stated, was too late for a flyover. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Sorry I could not be any help.

Yours sincerely

Section 40



Section 40

From: Section 40  
 Sent: 28 July 2008 10:32  
 To: Section 40  
 Cc:  
 Subject: FW: FOI written request

Section 40

Please treat this as ordinary business.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----  
 From: Section 40  
 Sent: 28 July 2008 07:14  
 To: Section 40  
 Subject: FW: FOI written request

Section 40

Can I interest you with this request?

Do you want it logged as FOI or deal with as normal business?

Regards

Section 40

FOI Helpdesk

Section 40

-----Original Message-----  
 From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk]  
 Sent: 26 July 2008 22:50  
 To: Info-Access-Office  
 Subject: FOI written request

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

txttitle: Section 40  
 txtfirstname: Section 40  
 txtlastname:  
 txtoccupation: Student teacher  
 txtaddress1: Section 40  
 txtaddress2:  
 txttowncity: Gosport  
 txtstatecountry: Hampshire  
 txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40  
 txtcountry: UK  
 txtemailAddress: Section 40  
 txtinforequest: I know this may sound weird to ask, but were there any flyover exercises happening over hampshire or the surrounding area around 10-10:30pm tonight, as me and my father witnessed a silent aircraft pass over.

I was a bit concerned to report this as it may sound like some weirdo reporting a UFO, but the sight worried me slightly, as it was clearly visible like a shooting star, but with a very smoothly curving course.

I just wanted to check whether it was infact a navy flyover, as i know that these are going on in the area.

Many thanks

Section 40



From: **Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1

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

Telephone	(Direct dial)	020 7218 2140
	(Switchboard)	020 7218 9000
	(Fax)	<b>Section 40</b>

**Section 40**

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

D/DAS/64/2

Date:

30 July 2008

Stroud

Gloucestershire **Section 40**Dear **Section 40**

I am writing with reference to your report of an 'unidentified flying object', seen on 15 April 2008, for which you mentioned on our answerphone. I apologise that you did not receive a response, it's just that this Department never received your letter. This office is 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 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.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, 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.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for 15 April 2008 from anywhere in the UK. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Sorry I could not be any help.



Yours sincerely


Section 40



**REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING**

1.	<b>Date and time of sighting.</b> (Duration of sighting.)	15 April 2008 No time given
2.	<b>Description of object.</b> (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	A UFO.
3.	<b>Exact position of observer.</b> <b>Geographical location.</b> (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	Not given.
4.	<b>How object was observed.</b> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	With the naked eye.
5.	<b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b> (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	The object was seen over Bisley in Gloucestershire.
6.	<b>Approximate distance.</b>	Not given.
7.	<b>Movements and speed.</b> (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	Not given.
8.	<b>Weather conditions during observation.</b> (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	Not given.



9.	<b>To whom reported.</b> (Police, military, press etc)	Letter for which we never received, so <b>Section 40</b> <b>Section 40</b> DAS answerphone and mentioned her sighting.
10.	<b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>	<b>Section 40</b>  Stroud Gloucestershire <b>Section 40</b>
11.	<b>Other witnesses.</b>	Not given.
12.	<b>Remarks.</b>	<b>Section 40</b> was annoyed we had not replied to her letter, but we never received it!
13.	<b>Date and time of receipt.</b>	30 July 2008 14.15L

From: **Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1

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

Telephone

(Direct dial)  
(Switchboard)  
(Fax)

020 7218 2140

020 7218 9000

**Section 40****Section 40**

Bristol

Avon

**Section 40**

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

D/DAS/64/2

Date:

30 July 2008

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing with reference to your report of an 'unidentified flying object', seen on 26 July 2008, the details of which you left on our answerphone. This office is 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 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.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, 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.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received three other reports of 'UFO' sightings for the 26 July 2008, and they were from Surrey, Hampshire and Northamptonshire. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Sorry I could not be any help.

Yours sincerely

**Section 40**



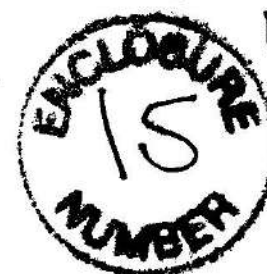
**REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING**

1.	<b>Date and time of sighting.</b> (Duration of sighting.)	26 July 2008 No time given
2.	<b>Description of object.</b> (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	A group of lights in a cluster. More lights gradually joined them. There was absolutely no noise.
3.	<b>Exact position of observer.</b> <b>Geographical location.</b> (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	Outside, didn't say where.
4.	<b>How object was observed.</b> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	With the naked eye. Section 40 son also videoed the sighting.
5.	<b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b> (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	The lights were seen over Bristol in Avon.
6.	<b>Approximate distance.</b>	The lights were about 2,000 ft above some trees in the distance.
7.	<b>Movements and speed.</b> (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	Several lights were moving across the sky. They suddenly disappeared, then more odd lights joined them, and they suddenly disappeared too.
8.	<b>Weather conditions during observation.</b> (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	Not given.

9.	<b>To whom reported.</b> (Police, military, press etc)	DAS answerphone.
10.	<b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>	<p>Section 40</p> <p>Bristol Avon Section 40</p>
11.	<b>Other witnesses.</b>	<p>Section 40 wife and son saw the lights Also, someone in a car stopped and asked if Section 40 and his family could see the lights too.</p>
12.	<b>Remarks.</b>	<p>Section 40 said that they were definitely not balloons or aircraft. He said he imagined that it would be like this, if he ever saw something unexplained. That he certainly didn't imagine all this, as with him, there were four witnesses to this sighting with the man in the car too.</p>
13.	<b>Date and time of receipt.</b>	<p>29 July 2008 14.15L</p>



No reply,  
as full  
address  
not given.



### REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

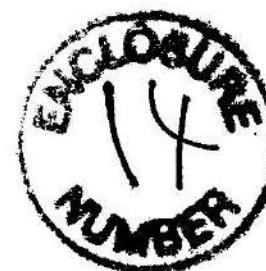
1.	<b>Date and time of sighting.</b> (Duration of sighting.)	26 July 2008 No time given.
2.	<b>Description of object.</b> (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	There were eight strange lights in the sky.
3.	<b>Exact position of observer.</b> <b>Geographical location.</b> (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	Not given.
4.	<b>How object was observed.</b> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	With the naked eye.
5.	<b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b> (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	The lights were seen over Northampton in Northamptonshire.
6.	<b>Approximate distance.</b>	Not given.
7.	<b>Movements and speed.</b> (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	Not given.
8.	<b>Weather conditions during observation.</b> (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	Not given.

9.	<b>To whom reported.</b> (Police, military, press etc)	The sighting was reported to another area (the PRIDE project) in the MOD.
10.	<b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>	Female, but did not give her name.  Northampton Northamptonshire  <b>Section 40</b>
11.	<b>Other witnesses.</b>	Not given.
12.	<b>Remarks.</b>	The lady asked to be rung back.
13.	<b>Date and time of receipt.</b>	26 July 2008 22.32L



From: **Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1

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

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

**Section 40**Gravesend  
Kent**Section 40**

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

D/DAS/64/2

Date:

30 July 2008

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing with reference to your report of an 'unidentified flying object', seen in 2008, the details of which you passed to the Rt Hon Des Browne MP. This office is 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 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.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, 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.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for Gravesend in Kent so far for 2008. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Sorry I could not be any help.

Yours sincerely

**Section 40**

L

T003292 2008 - 20080718123012 - Section 40

From: feedback@www.mod.uk

Sent: 16 July 2008 23:29

To: Ministers

Subject: unidentified flying object

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Wednesday, July 16, 2008 at 23:29:00

---

firstname: Section 40

lastname:

address1: Section 40 gravesend , kent , DA12 4JY

address2: Address line 2

towncity: kent

statecountry: United Kingdom

postzipcode: Section 40

country: UK

e-mail: Section 40

informationrequest: i saw a light hovering then it was there for 10 mins showing off a very bright white light , another object joined it , then that showed the light went dim then the other one showed the light then they both went dim and disappeared.

submit: Send Form



TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY

Page 1 of 2

**Section 40**

**From:** **Section 40** on behalf of Low Flying  
**Sent:** 18 July 2008 14:38  
**To:** **Section 40**  
**Subject:** FW: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO03292/2008  
**Attachments:** TO03292 2008 - 20080718123012 - S - **Section 40**

**Section 40**

Hd of DAS-LACEU  
 5-H-22  
 MAIN BUILDING  
 WHITEHALL  
 LONDON SW1A 2HB

**Section 40**


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**From:** Parli Branch-Treat-Official  
**Sent:** 18 July 2008 14:36  
**To:** DAS-Sec; Low Flying  
**Subject:** Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO03292/2008

**TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY**

**To:** DAS Sec  
**Copy To:**  
**Our Reference:** TO03292/2008  
**Due Date:** 07 August 2008  
**Correspondent:** Jenkins  
**Additional Advice:**

The Rt Hon Des Browne MP has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department.

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

If correspondence includes a specific request for recorded information then it should be treated under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, even if the Act is not specifically mentioned. In general, if you meet the Department's 15 working day deadline and respond fully to the request for information, then there is no need to follow the full procedures for FOI requests. However, you will still need to acknowledge that you have applied the Act and provide details of their right of appeal (see link below). If the correspondence requests information which is not already in the public domain, and particularly if you considering withholding information, then you should formally treat it as a FOI request. The correspondence should be logged on the Access to Information toolkit and you should consult and comply with the separate FOI guidance from DG Info. Note, the shorter deadline for responding to Ministerial and Treat Official correspondence will still

21/07/2008

atalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1



TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY

Page 2 of 2

apply. If you are in any doubt as to whether a piece of correspondence should be treated as an FOI request, you should ask your FOI Focal Point or refer to the guidance produced by DG Info. (See the guidance at <http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Admin/RespondToRequestsForInformatic>

**It is important that branches ensure they have simple systems to track correspondence received from members of the public, though the Parliamentary Toolkit records the basic details. If you have access to a DII/C terminal, please follow this link (once a response has been sent) to add your Final Reply Date and close the case to remove it from your TO Task List:**  
**[http://pt/\\_Layouts/PT/TaskList/TaskList.aspx](http://pt/_Layouts/PT/TaskList/TaskList.aspx). Lead Branches without access to the Toolkit should notify the Ministerial Correspondence Unit (via [ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk](mailto:ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk)) of the date of their reply so that Parli Branch can close the record on the Toolkit.**

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

Email: [ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk](mailto:ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk)

Regards,

**MOD Parliamentary Branch  
Ministerial Correspondence Unit**

t: **Section 40**

t:

f:

e: [ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk](mailto:ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk)

21/07/2008

atalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1





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



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

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

**Section 40**

Helston  
 Cornwall

**Section 40**

Your Reference:

Our Reference:  
 D/DAS/64/2

Date:  
 29 July 2008

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing with reference to your report of an 'unidentified flying object', seen on 27 July 2008, the details of which you left on our answerphone. This office is 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 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.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, 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.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received one other report of a 'UFO' sighting for the 27 July 2008, and that was from Scunthorpe in Humberside. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Sorry I could not be any help.

Yours sincerely

**Section 40**

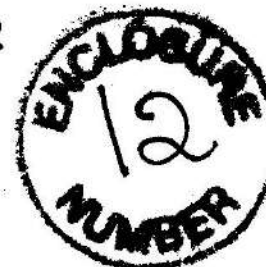
**REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING**

1.	<b>Date and time of sighting.</b> (Duration of sighting.)	27 July 2008 Time not given.
2.	<b>Description of object.</b> (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	There was a mysterious sight in the night sky.
3.	<b>Exact position of observer.</b> <b>Geographical location.</b> (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	Not given.
4.	<b>How object was observed.</b> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	With the naked eye.
5.	<b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b> (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	The sighting was witnessed over Helston in Cornwall.
6.	<b>Approximate distance.</b>	Not given.
7.	<b>Movements and speed.</b> (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	Not given.
8.	<b>Weather conditions during observation.</b> (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	Not given.



9.	<b>To whom reported.</b> (Police, military, press etc)	DAS answerphone.
10.	<b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>	Section 40 Helston Cornwall Section 40
11.	<b>Other witnesses.</b>	Not given.
12.	<b>Remarks.</b>	Not given.
13.	<b>Date and time of receipt.</b>	28 July 2008 12.45L

No reply,  
as full address  
not given.



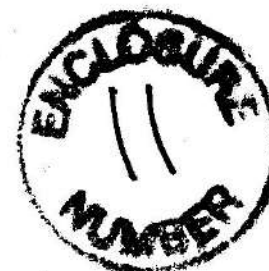
### REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

1.	<b>Date and time of sighting.</b> (Duration of sighting.)	27 July 2008 No time given.
2.	<b>Description of object.</b> (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	There was an oval shaped weird light in the sky.
3.	<b>Exact position of observer.</b> <b>Geographical location.</b> (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	Not given.
4.	<b>How object was observed.</b> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	With the naked eye.
5.	<b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b> (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	The object was seen over Scunthorpe in Humberside.
6.	<b>Approximate distance.</b>	Not given.
7.	<b>Movements and speed.</b> (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	The object moved from right to left and was moving in a Westerly direction.
8.	<b>Weather conditions during observation.</b> (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	Not given.



9.	<b>To whom reported.</b> (Police, military, press etc)	The sighting was reported to Humberside Police, who then in turn, left a message on DAS answerphone.
10.	<b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>	No name given.  Scunthorpe Humberside
11.	<b>Other witnesses.</b>	Not given.
12.	<b>Remarks.</b>	Not given.
13.	<b>Date and time of receipt.</b>	28 July 2008 12.15L

No reply,  
as full address  
not given.



# REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

1.	<b>Date and time of sighting.</b> (Duration of sighting.)	25 July 2008 Time not given.
2.	<b>Description of object.</b> (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	A UFO.
3.	<b>Exact position of observer.</b> <b>Geographical location.</b> (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	Not given.
4.	<b>How object was observed.</b> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	With the naked eye.
5.	<b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b> (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	The UFO was seen going over Telford in Shropshire.
6.	<b>Approximate distance.</b>	Not given.
7.	<b>Movements and speed.</b> (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	Not given.
8.	<b>Weather conditions during observation.</b> (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	Not given.



9.	<b>To whom reported.</b> (Police, military, press etc)	The sighting was reported to West Mercia Police who then in turn, left a message on DAS answerphone.
10.	<b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>	No name given.  Telford Shropshire
11.	<b>Other witnesses.</b>	Not given.
12.	<b>Remarks.</b>	Not given.
13.	<b>Date and time of receipt.</b>	28 July 2008 12.05L

no reply,  
as full address  
not given.



# REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

1.	<b>Date and time of sighting.</b> (Duration of sighting.)	(Date not given). 22.25L
2.	<b>Description of object.</b> (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	There was a light similar to a street lamp. It was yellow and the size of a football.
3.	<b>Exact position of observer.</b> <b>Geographical location.</b> (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	Not given.
4.	<b>How object was observed.</b> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	With the naked eye.
5.	<b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b> (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	The object was seen going over Godalming in Surrey.
6.	<b>Approximate distance.</b>	Not given.
7.	<b>Movements and speed.</b> (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	It was flying through the sky at varying speed.
8.	<b>Weather conditions during observation.</b> (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	Not given.



9.	<b>To whom reported.</b> (Police, military, press etc)	The sighting was reported to Surrey Police, who then in turn, left a message on DAS answerphone.
10.	<b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>	Name not given.  Godalming Surrey
11.	<b>Other witnesses.</b>	Not given.
12.	<b>Remarks.</b>	Not given.
13.	<b>Date and time of receipt.</b>	28 July 2008 12.00L

No reply, as  
full address  
not given.



# REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

1.	<b>Date and time of sighting.</b> (Duration of sighting.)	24 July 2008 22.15L
2.	<b>Description of object.</b> (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	A really bright, burning orange light.
3.	<b>Exact position of observer.</b> <b>Geographical location.</b> (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	Not given.
4.	<b>How object was observed.</b> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	With the naked eye.
5.	<b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b> (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	The light was seen over Wellington in Shropshire.
6.	<b>Approximate distance.</b>	Not given.
7.	<b>Movements and speed.</b> (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	The object was going at the speed of a helicopter.
8.	<b>Weather conditions during observation.</b> (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	Not given.



9.	<b>To whom reported.</b> (Police, military, press etc)	The sighting was reported to Shropshire Police by e.mail, who then in turn, left a message on the DAS answerphone.
10.	<b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>	No name given.  Wellington Shropshire
11.	<b>Other witnesses.</b>	Not given.
12.	<b>Remarks.</b>	Not given.
13.	<b>Date and time of receipt.</b>	28 July 2008 11.35L



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



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

Telephone	(Direct dial)	020 7218 2140
	(Switchboard)	020 7218 9000
	(Fax)	<b>Section 40</b>

**Section 40**

Newport  
 Gwent  
 South Wales **Section 40**

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

D/DAS/64/2

Date:

28 July 2008

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing with reference to your report of an 'unidentified flying object', seen in July 2008, the details of which you left on our answerphone. This office is 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 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.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, 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.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for Caerleon, Newport in Gwent so far for July 2008. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Sorry I could not be any help.

Yours sincerely

**Section 40**



**REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING**

1.	<b>Date and time of sighting.</b> (Duration of sighting.)	(Date not given). 01.45L
2.	<b>Description of object.</b> (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	A single object was seen.
3.	<b>Exact position of observer.</b> <b>Geographical location.</b> (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	Not given.
4.	<b>How object was observed.</b> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	With the naked eye.
5.	<b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b> (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	The object was seen over Newport, Gwent in South Wales.
6.	<b>Approximate distance.</b>	Not given.
7.	<b>Movements and speed.</b> (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	Not given.
8.	<b>Weather conditions during observation.</b> (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	Not given.

9.	<b>To whom reported.</b> (Police, military, press etc)	DAS answerphone.
10.	<b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>	<p>Section 40</p> <p>Gwent South Wales</p> <p>Section 40</p> <p>Section 40</p>
11.	<b>Other witnesses.</b>	Not given.
12.	<b>Remarks.</b>	Section 40 said that it is hard to explain these type things.
13.	<b>Date and time of receipt.</b>	28 July 2008 11.30L





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



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

Telephone	(Direct dial)	020 7218 2140
	(Switchboard)	020 7218 9000
	(Fax)	<b>Section 40</b>

**Section 40**

Thorndon

Eye

Suffolk **Section 40**

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

D/DAS/64/2

Date:

28 July 2008

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing with reference to your report of an 'unidentified flying object', seen in July 2008, the details of which you left on our answerphone. This office is 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 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.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, 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.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for Thorndon, Eye in Suffolk so far for 2008. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Sorry I could not be any help.

Yours sincerely

**Section 40**

**REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING**

1.	<b>Date and time of sighting.</b> (Duration of sighting.)	(Date not given). 21.21L
2.	<b>Description of object.</b> (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	Two UFOs were in the sky.
3.	<b>Exact position of observer.</b> <b>Geographical location.</b> (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	Not given.
4.	<b>How object was observed.</b> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	With the naked eye.
5.	<b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b> (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	The UFOs were seen over Thorndon in Suffolk.
6.	<b>Approximate distance.</b>	Quite far away and high up.
7.	<b>Movements and speed.</b> (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	The UFOs were going quite fast and looked like they were tracking a passenger jet.
8.	<b>Weather conditions during observation.</b> (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	Not given.



9.	<b>To whom reported.</b> (Police, military, press etc)	DAS answerphone.
10.	<b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>	<div>Section 40</div> <div>Thorndon Eye Suffolk</div> <div>Section 40</div>
11.	<b>Other witnesses.</b>	Not given.
12.	<b>Remarks.</b>	<div>Section 40</div> said that he was unable to get pictures of the objects on his camera.
13.	<b>Date and time of receipt.</b>	28 July 2008 11.20L





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



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

Telephone	(Direct dial)	020 7218 2140
	(Switchboard)	020 7218 9000
	(Fax)	<b>Section 40</b>

**Section 40**

Dorking  
 Surrey

**Section 40**

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

D/DAS/64/2

Date:

28 July 2008

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing with reference to your report of an 'unidentified flying object', seen on 26 July 2008, the details of which you left on our answerphone. This office is 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 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.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, 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.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for 26 July 2008 from anywhere in the UK. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Sorry I could not be any help.

Yours sincerely

**Section 40**

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**REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING**

1.	<b>Date and time of sighting.</b> (Duration of sighting.)	26 July 2008 No time given
2.	<b>Description of object.</b> (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	There were two, red round lights.
3.	<b>Exact position of observer.</b> <b>Geographical location.</b> (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	Not given.
4.	<b>How object was observed.</b> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	With the naked eye.
5.	<b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b> (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	The objects were seen flying over Farnham in Surrey.
6.	<b>Approximate distance.</b>	Not given.
7.	<b>Movements and speed.</b> (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	The objects were moving across the sky in different directions and then just disappeared.
8.	<b>Weather conditions during observation.</b> (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	Not given.

9.	<b>To whom reported.</b> (Police, military, press etc)	DAS answerphone.
10.	<b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>	<div style="background-color: black; color: red; padding: 2px;">Section 40</div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;"></div> Dorking Surrey <div style="background-color: black; color: red; padding: 2px;">Section 40</div>
11.	<b>Other witnesses.</b>	Not given.
12.	<b>Remarks.</b>	Not given.
13.	<b>Date and time of receipt.</b>	28 July 2008 11.00L





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



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

Telephone	(Direct dial)	020 7218 2140
	(Switchboard)	020 7218 9000
	(Fax)	<b>Section 40</b>

**Section 40**

Oxford  
 Oxfordshire **Section 40**

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

D/DAS/64/2

Date:

28 July 2008

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing with reference to your report of an 'unidentified flying object', seen in July 2008, the details of which you passed to the Oxfordshire Police. This office is 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 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.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, 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.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for Oxford in Oxfordshire so far for 2008. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Sorry I could not be any help.

Yours sincerely

**Section 40**

**REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING**

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

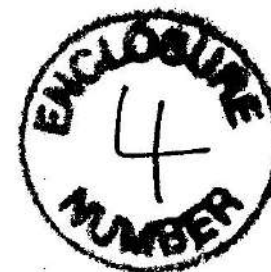


9.	<b>To whom reported.</b> (Police, military, press etc)	The sighting was reported to ATC Swanwick and the Oxfordshire Police. Swanwick left the message on DAS answerphone.
10.	<b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>	<div style="background-color: black; color: red; padding: 2px;">Section 40</div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 40px; margin: 5px;"></div> Oxford Oxfordshire <div style="background-color: black; color: red; padding: 2px;">Section 40</div>
11.	<b>Other witnesses.</b>	Not given.
12.	<b>Remarks.</b>	Not given.
13.	<b>Date and time of receipt.</b>	28 July 2008 10.45L





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



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

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

**Section 40**

Keighley  
 West Yorkshire

**Section 40**

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

D/DAS/64/2

Date:

25 July 2008

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing with reference to your report of an 'unidentified flying object', seen on 23 July 2008, the details of which you left on our answerphone. This office is 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 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.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, 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.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for 23 July 2008 from anywhere in the UK. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Sorry I could not be any help.

Yours sincerely

**Section 40**

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**REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING**

1.	<b>Date and time of sighting.</b> (Duration of sighting.)	23 July 2008 21.00L
2.	<b>Description of object.</b> (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	Two bright balls of light.
3.	<b>Exact position of observer.</b> <b>Geographical location.</b> (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	Not given.
4.	<b>How object was observed.</b> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	With the naked eye.
5.	<b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b> (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	The lights were going over Sutton-In-Craven, Keighley in West Yorkshire.
6.	<b>Approximate distance.</b>	Not given.
7.	<b>Movements and speed.</b> (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	One of the balls of light looked like it was chasing and trying to overtake an aircraft. The other ball of light just burst as it was moving and disappeared.
8.	<b>Weather conditions during observation.</b> (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	Not given.

9.	<b>To whom reported.</b> (Police, military, press etc)	DAS answerphone.
10.	<b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>	<div>Section 40</div> <div>Keighley West Yorkshire</div> <div>Section 40</div> <div>Section 40</div>
11.	<b>Other witnesses.</b>	Not given.
12.	<b>Remarks.</b>	Not given.
13.	<b>Date and time of receipt.</b>	24 July 2008 12.10L



No reply,  
as no house  
number.



### REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

1.	<b>Date and time of sighting.</b> (Duration of sighting.)	(Date not given). 00.20L
2.	<b>Description of object.</b> (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	There was a silent orange light.
3.	<b>Exact position of observer.</b> <b>Geographical location.</b> (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	Not given.
4.	<b>How object was observed.</b> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	With the naked eye.
5.	<b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b> (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	The object was moving over Ipswich in Suffolk.
6.	<b>Approximate distance.</b>	Not given.
7.	<b>Movements and speed.</b> (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	The light was moving faster than a helicopter from North East to South West.
8.	<b>Weather conditions during observation.</b> (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	Not given.

9.	<b>To whom reported.</b> (Police, military, press etc)	DAS answerphone.
10.	<b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>	<div>Section 40</div> <div>Ipswich Suffolk</div> <div>Section 40</div>
11.	<b>Other witnesses.</b>	Not given.
12.	<b>Remarks.</b>	Mr Perry said that the light flickered, stopped and seemed to go out, then came back again. The sighting was seen for about 25-30 seconds.
13.	<b>Date and time of receipt.</b>	24 July 2008 12.00L


E 2.

MOD Form 174D  
(Revised 5/99)

# RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

### TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

REGISTERED FILE No. <b>D</b> <b>DAS/64/2</b>		DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH:	
Enclosure Jacket No .....			
DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure) <b>20 JUN 08</b>			
SUBJECT: <b>POLICE HELICOPTER</b> <b>8 JUNE 08</b>			
Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

### USER NOTES

1. A MOD Form 262A (File Record Sheet) must be raised for each new Temporary Enclosure Jacket (TEJ) created. The TEJ should also include a minute sheet.
2. When a TEJ is incorporated into the parent file it should be placed in the file in date order (according to the date of the last action on the TEJ) and allocated an enclosure number.
3. The file minute sheet should be annotated to record the enclosure number of the TEJ along with details of the number of enclosures contained within it. The TEJ record sheet (MOD Form 262A) should be annotated to record the date on which the TEJ was incorporated into the parent file (JSP 441, paragraph 4.13 refers).



Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40 Wg Cdr  
**Sent:** 26 June 2008 14:37  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FW: UFO SIGHTING 7-8 JUNE

Section 40

I have checked with AIR and we have received no reports of the sighting by the AIR DO, and I would expect any such reports made at local stns to be passed on there. Also none of my radar sites have received reports or indeed reported any unusual activity.

Section 40

Wg Cdr  
SO1 Air & Ops Dev  
CT & UK Ops  
MOD Main Building  
Floor 4 Zone I

Section 40

CTandUKOps-SO1 Air & Ops Dev (DII)

Section 40

---

**From:** FYL-Stn Cdr  
**Sent:** 23 June 2008 17:12  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: UFO SIGHTING 7-8 JUNE

Section 40

Nil return from us too.

Section 40

Wg Cdr  
Stn Cdr, RAF Fylingdales  
Tel (MOD) Section 40  
Tel (Civ):  
RAFMail: FYL-Stn Cdr  
Email: Section 40  
<http://www.raf.mod.uk/raffylingdales/>  
The Officer Commanding  
Royal Air Force Fylingdales  
Pickering  
North Yorkshire  
YO18 7NT

01/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1

---

**From:** Section 40 Wg Cdr  
**Sent:** 23 June 2008 10:54  
**To:** BOU-AFC-COS OPS; SCA-STN CDR; FYL-Stn Cdr; Section 40 Sqn Ldr  
**Subject:** FW: UFO SIGHTING 7-8 JUNE

Gents

Have you had any reports about the UFO sighting below over Cardiff? I assume if you had it would have worked its way to me

Section 40 check with AIRDO

\*Many thanks

Section 40

Wg Cdr  
SO1 Air & Ops Dev  
CT & UK Ops  
MOD Main Building  
Floor 4 Zone I

Section 40

CTandUKOps-SO1 Air & Ops Dev (DII)

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 20 June 2008 14:43  
**To:** Section 40 Wg Cdr  
**Subject:** UFO SIGHTING 7-8 JUNE

Section 40

I am assuming the answer is no, but have you received a report of a police helicopter sighting a UFO at around 00.40 on the morning of 8 June 2008 ?

It has been on the news and has even made page 3 of the super soar away Sun, but I have been asked specifically if CT&UK Ops have received a report on it by one of our regular correspondents and will have to answer it as an FOI request.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40

01/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1



Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40 Wg Cdr  
**Sent:** 26 June 2008 14:37  
**To:** Section 40 Mr  
**Subject:** FW: UFO SIGHTING 7-8 JUNE

Section 40

I have checked with AIR and we have received no reports of the sighting by the AIR DO, and I would expect any such reports made at local stns to be passed on there. Also none of my radar sites have received reports or indeed reported any unusual activity.

Section 40

Wg Cdr  
SO1 Air & Ops Dev  
CT & UK Ops  
MOD Main Building  
Floor 4 Zone I

Section 40

CTandUKOps-SO1 Air & Ops Dev (DII)

Section 40

---

**From:** FYL-Stn Cdr  
**Sent:** 23 June 2008 17:12  
**To:** Section 40 Wg Cdr  
**Subject:** RE: UFO SIGHTING 7-8 JUNE

Section 40

Nil return from us too.

Section 40

Wg Cdr  
Stn Cdr, RAF Fylingdales  
Tel (MOD) Section 40  
Tel (Civ):

RAFMail: FYL-Stn Cdr

Email: Section 40

<http://www.raf.mod.uk/raffylingdales/>

The Officer Commanding  
Royal Air Force Fylingdales  
Pickering  
North Yorkshire  
YO18 7NT

26/06/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1



---

**From:** Section 40 Wg Cdr  
**Sent:** 23 June 2008 10:54  
**To:** BOU-AFC-COS OPS; SCA-STN CDR; FYL-Stn Cdr; Section 40 Sqn Ldr  
**Subject:** FW: UFO SIGHTING 7-8 JUNE

Gents

Have you had any reports about the UFO sighting below over Cardiff? I assume if you had it would have worked its way to me  
JC can you check with AIRDO

Many thanks

Section 40

Wg Cdr  
SO1 Air & Ops Dev  
CT & UK Ops  
MOD Main Building  
Floor 4 Zone I

Section 40

CTandUKOps-SO1 Air & Ops Dev (DII)

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 20 June 2008 14:43  
**To:** Section 40 Wg Cdr  
**Subject:** UFO SIGHTING 7-8 JUNE

Section 40

I am assuming the answer is no, but have you received a report of a police helicopter sighting a UFO at around 00.40 on the morning of 8 June 2008 ?

It has been on the news and has even made page 3 of the super soar away Sun, but I have been asked specifically if CT&UK Ops have received a report on it by one of our regular correspondents and will have to answer it as an FOI request.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40

26/06/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1

Section 40

**From:** Section 40 Wg Cdr

**Sent:** 01 July 2008 08:51

**To:** Section 40 Wg Cdr; Section 40

**Subject:** Release-authorised: UFO SIGHTING 7-8 JUNE

Thanks Section 40

Section 40, FYI.

Section 40

Wg Cdr  
ATC COS

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40 [mailto:Section 40]

**Sent:** 01 July 2008 08:43

**To:** Section 40

**Subject:** RE: UFO SIGHTING 7-8 JUNE

Section 40

No reports from Swanwick, but there was something reported at Cardiff. Police were dealing with it so no formal action taken

Section 40

**NATS**

Section 40

**Head Policy & Standards**  
NERL Strategy & Investment

**D:** Section 40  
**M:**

**E:** Section 40

4000 Parkway, Whiteley,  
Fareham, Hants PO15 7FL  
[www.nats.co.uk](http://www.nats.co.uk)

---

**From:** Section 40 Wg Cdr [mailto:Section 40]

**Sent:** 25 June 2008 08:57

**To:** Section 40; OC ScATCC(Mil); Section 40

**Cc:** Section 40

**Subject:** UFO SIGHTING 7-8 JUNE

Section 40

A request from our colleagues in the MOD. Do you have a point of contact for dealing with unusual incidents such as UFO sightings?

Chaps,  
As below. Any UFO sightings recently?

01/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1



Section 40

Wg Cdr  
ATC COS

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40 Wg Cdr  
**Sent:** 25 June 2008 08:45  
**To:** Section 40 Wg Cdr  
**Subject:** FW: UFO SIGHTING 7-8 JUNE

Section 40

Any report from Prestwick or Swanwick? Who deals with such report on your side or is it a NATS thing?

Section 40

Wg Cdr  
SO1 Air & Ops Dev  
CT & UK Ops  
MOD Main Building  
Floor 4 Zone I

Section 40

CTandUKOps-SO1 Air & Ops Dev (DII)

Section 40

---

**From:** FYL-Stn Cdr  
**Sent:** 23 June 2008 17:12  
**To:** Section 40 Wg Cdr  
**Subject:** RE: UFO SIGHTING 7-8 JUNE

Section 40

Nil return from us too.

Section 40

Wg Cdr  
Stn Cdr, RAF Fylingdales  
Tel (MO) Section 40  
Tel (Civ):  
RAFMail: FYL-Stn Cdr  
Email: Section 40  
<http://www.raf.mod.uk/raffylingdales/>  
The Officer Commanding  
Royal Air Force Fylingdales  
Pickering

01/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1



North Yorkshire  
YO18 7NT

---

**From:** Section 40 Wg Cdr  
**Sent:** 23 June 2008 10:54  
**To:** BOU-AFC-COS OPS; SCA-STN CDR; FYL-Stn Cdr; Section 40 Sqn Ldr  
**Subject:** FW: UFO SIGHTING 7-8 JUNE

Gents

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Section 40 check with AIRDO

Many thanks

Section 40

Wg Cdr  
 SO1 Air & Ops Dev  
 CT & UK Ops  
 MOD Main Building  
 Floor 4 Zone I

Section 40

CTandUKOps-SO1 Air & Ops Dev (DII)

Section 40

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**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 20 June 2008 14:43  
**To:** Section 40 Wg Cdr  
**Subject:** UFO SIGHTING 7-8 JUNE

Section 40

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Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are not the intended recipient, please notify our Help Desk at Email [postmaster@nats.co.uk](mailto:postmaster@nats.co.uk) immediately. You should not copy or use this email or attachment(s) for any purpose nor disclose their contents to any other person.

NATS computer systems may be monitored and communications carried on them recorded, to

01/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1

Secure the effective operation of the system

Please note that neither NATS nor the sender accepts any responsibility for viruses or any losses caused as a result of viruses and it is your responsibility to scan or otherwise check this email and any attachments.

NATS means NATS (En Route) plc (company number: 4129273), NATS (Services) Ltd (company number 4129270), NATSNAV Ltd (company number: 4164590) or NATS Ltd (company number 3155567) or NATS Holdings Ltd (company number 4138218). All companies are registered in England and their registered office is at 5th Floor, Brettenham House South, Lancaster Place, London, WC2E 7EN.

\*\*\*\*\*

01/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1

**RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED**

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1 **RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED**



e1.

MOD Form 174D  
(Revised 5/99)

# RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

### TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

<b>REGISTERED FILE No.</b> <b>D</b> <b>DAS/64/2</b>		<b>DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH:</b>  <b>DAS-FOI</b>	
Enclosure Jacket No .....  <b>DATE OPENED</b> (Date of First Enclosure) <b>24 JUNE 08</b>			
<b>SUBJECT:</b>  <b>TERN HILL SIGHTING</b> <b>7 JUNE 08</b>			
Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

### USER NOTES

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3. The file minute sheet should be annotated to record the enclosure number of the TEJ along with details of the number of enclosures contained within it. The TEJ record sheet (MOD Form 262A) should be annotated to record the date on which the TEJ was incorporated into the parent file (JSP 441, paragraph 4.13 refers).

# RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

 **Section 40****From:** **Section 40****Sent:** 26 June 2008 14:29**To:** **Section 40****Subject:** TERN HILL SIGHTING 7 JUNE 2008

The Sun has reported a UFO sighting over Ternhill Barracks in Shropshire at about 11pm on 7 June 2008. It appears that a number of soldiers saw lights in the sky and made a video which they have passed to the newspaper. They have not made a formal written report on the matter, although they did inform their superiors.

The MoD in London became involved when the press office was contacted by the newspaper on 24<sup>th</sup> June. On 25<sup>th</sup> June I requested a copy of the video from Media Ops at HQ 5 Div where it had been passed by the unit concerned. It shows a number of lights in the sky. As reported in the paper, the lights change colour and appear square, but this looks like the pixels showing up as the photographer zoomed in. They do not appear to be moving very quickly.

The BBC has reported that at the same time as the alleged incident, a local hotel was letting off Chinese lanterns and, apparently, the hotel manager thinks the whole UFO story is "highly hilarious".

I do not intend to investigate any further as I think we have our answer and, as I suspect there might be copyright issues surrounding the video, do not intend to retain a copy on our files.

I will inform the soldiers of my decision through their 2ic.

**Section 40**

DAS-FOI

**Section 40**

03/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1



**Section 40**

**From:** **Section 40**  
**Sent:** 01 July 2008 15:33  
**To:** 1RIRISH-Trg-Offr **Section 40**  
**Subject:** UFO SIGHTING 7 JUNE 2008 TERN HILL BARRACKS

Dear Capt. **Section 40**

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.

Given the reports of the nearby hotel setting off Chinese Lanterns around the time of the sighting at Tern Hill and the above policy, I do not intend to investigate the matter any further.

I should however, be grateful if you would pass this decision on to the soldier that reported the sighting. I assume he has retained a copy of the video. If not, I shall return my copy to him, otherwise, it will be destroyed.

**Section 40**

DAS-FOI  
05-H-13  
MoD main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

03/07/2008

atalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1



Fax from :  
03/07 2008 THU 14:04 FAX

04/07/08

09:37

Pg: 1

**1<sup>ST</sup> Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment**Clive Barracks  
Tern Hill, Nr Market Drayton  
Shropshire TF9 3QE

Telephone Civ:

Mil: Section 40

Fax Civ:

Section 40

Mil: Section 40

Email:

Section 40

**FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET**

TO:

Bde Sec

FROM:

Maj Section 40

COMPANY:

143X

DATE:

3 JUL 08

FAX NUMBER:

Section 40

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:

3

PHONE NUMBER:

Section 40

SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:

RE:

YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:

☐ URGENT
 ☐ FOR REVIEW
 ☐ PLEASE COMMENT
 ☒ PLEASE REPLY
 ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

**FOI REQUEST IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA REPORTS OF UFO SIGHTINGS**

1. As per our telecom of 3 Jul 08, please find enclosed two letter from Section 40. The first is the FOI request in response to the story reported in The Sun newspaper on 25 Jun 08, "Army spot UFOs over Shropshire". The second letter is a request to interview the soldier who sent the information to the newspaper, Cpl Section 40

2. Please provide guidance on how we respond to this request which arrived in our post bunk on 27 Jun and I saw on 31 Jun 08.

3. Cpl Section 40 does not wish to have anything further to do with this issue and evidence has since come out that the UFOs may in fact have been Chinese Lanterns set loose by a restaurant.

Section 40

OC Rear Ops

1 R IRISH

Section 40

NOTE: SPOKE WITH  
Section 40 143 BRIGADE  
SEC. WE WILL ANSWER  
THE FOI REQUEST THAT  
WILL DEAL WITH THE  
INTERVIEW REQUEST.

P L W N  
4/7/08

20080703-UFO FOI Req for advice fax to 143X.doc



Fax from :  
03/01 2000 10U 14.04 TAA Section 40 I R ARLOU

04/07/08 09:37 Pg: 2

**UFO DATA**  
www.ufodata.co.uk

PO Box 280  
Leeds LS26 1AN  
Tel: Section 40

Reply to: Section 40 Pontefract, West Yorkshire, Section 40  
Section 40  
Tel: Section 40 . Email: Section 40

Date: 26th June 2008.

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is a Freedom of Information Act request. I would like to request copies of all documentation either written or electronic relating to the alleged UFO sighting by Corporal Section 40 and colleagues over Tern Hill barracks near Market Drayton in Shropshire on June 7th 2008.

I understand that Corporal Section 40 reported the incidents in question to his commanding officers. I would therefore like to request a copy of this report either written or electronic and any other reports submitted by any other military personnel at Tern Hill barracks on the night in question (June 7th 2008).

I would also respectfully like to request a copy of the video film footage taken by Corporal Section 40 and any other such footage that may have been taken by other military personnel at the times.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40  
Features Editor.  
UFO DATA MAGAZINE.

Fax from :

04/07/08 09:37 Pg: 3

**UFO DATA**  
www.ufodata.co.ukPO Box 280  
Leeds LS26 1AN  
Tel: **Section 40**Reply to: **Section 40** Pontefract, West Yorkshire, **Section 40****Section 40**  
Tel: **Section 40** Email: **Section 40**

Date: 26th June 2008.

Dear Sir,

I am acting as a consultant for a TV show called UFO HUNTERS which is broadcast on the HISTORY CHANNEL in the USA (<http://www.history.com/minisites/ufohunters>). The production company in question will be in the UK filming this coming August.

We would therefore like to seek your permission to interview Corporal **Section 40**, 1st Battalion, Irish regiment, and his colleagues concerning the alleged sighting and filming of unidentified flying objects over Tern Hill barracks on June 7th.

The UFO HUNTERS series is in its second season and takes an unbiased and practical approach at this phenomenon. We would treat Corporal **Section 40** and his colleagues with respect and act in a professional manner at all times.

We are planning our schedules now for filming in August and we would like to include these interviews if at all possible.

I would like to thank you for your cooperation with this request and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40****Section 40**

Features Editor.





Fax from :

04/07/08 10:49 Pg: 3

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 24 June 2008 12:47

To: Section 40

Cc: Section 40

Subject: UFOs at Tern Hill

Section 40

Capt Section 40 tells me that after Cpl Section 40 emailed The Sun a copy of the video – they emailed him back a contract – which he has NOT signed.

Capt Section 40 seems to think because Cpl Section 40 did not sign the contract The Sun will not use the images – but I am not sure this is necessarily the case – though it may be correct.

Capt Section 40 is trying to send me a copy of the video but is having some difficulties. If and when I receive, I will forward to you.

Section 40

Senior Information Officer C1  
Media Ops  
HQ 5 Div

Section 40

E-MAIL: [REDACTED]  
Please forward official correspondence to 5Div -G2G3-G3 MediaOps Group (Mailbox)



03/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1

Fax from :

04/07/08

10:49

Pg: 1  
Page 1 of 2

From: Section 40  
 Sent: 24 June 2008 12:35  
 To: Section 40  
 Subject: FW: release-authorised: UFO sighting at Tern Hill  
 Di,

Sorry, forgot to copy you in.

Section 40

Senior Information Officer C1  
 Media Ops  
 HQ 5 Div

Section 40  
 E-MAIL: Section 40  
 Please forward official correspondence to 5Div -G2G3-G3 MediaOps Group (Mailbox)

From: Section 40  
 Sent: 24 June 2008 12:27  
 To: Section 40  
 Cc: Section 40  
 Subject: release-authorised: UFO sighting at Tern Hill

Section 40

We spoke, but the following is the basic story:

I took a call this morning from the 2IC rear party at 1 Royal Irish at Tern Hill Capt Section 40 on Section 40  
 Section 40

A soldier who was part of a fire picket stagg on at the camp on 7 June took video footage with a camera on a mobile phone of what he says were "UFOs" in the sky above the camp – which they have emailed to The Sun – and which The Sun is apparently planning on splashing – probably tomorrow.

I don't have all the details/timings but what I do have is the following:

1. Soldier is Cpl Section 40 who the phone belongs to – he was accompanied by Pte Section 40 who also witnessed the "UFOs".
2. The footage was taken on 7 June at 23.03hrs – with a 5 megapixel camera on the phone.
3. 2IC rear party says the video images are very good.
4. The 2IC says the images could not have been anything to do with nearby RAF Shawbury.
5. They show lots of multi-coloured dots and zoom in on a cube shaped object which then flattens.
6. The Sun has already interviewed Cpl Section 40 he has explained to them what he saw.
7. There is some suggestion of payment being offered – though I think a discussion about that has still to happen.
8. I have reminded all, the 2IC and Cpl Section 40 about their responsibilities ref the DIN on communicating with the media.
9. Cpl Section 40 spoke to Section 40 an editor at The Sun (?)
10. Cpl Section 40 mobile number is Section 40
11. I spoke to the CRO at RAF Shawbury who said he was not aware – Sqn Ldr Section 40

Section 40

file://C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Section 40\Local%20Settings\Temporary%20Internet%2... 03/07/2008



Fax from :

04/07/08

10:49

Pg: 2

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 25 June 2008 08:48

To: Section 40 C1 - SIO; 1RIRISH-Trg-Offr Section 40; 143X-G2G3-MediaOpsSO2

Cc: Section 40

Subject: RE: Release-authorised: UFO sighting at Tern Hill

Cols All

The UFO story is front page this morning in the Sun and has a double page spread inside. I alerted SIO 5 Div and AD Def PR(A) at 2300hrs last night so that those key figures below me and above me were aware.

To demonstrate why we have protocols in place to ensure that engagement with the media is controlled and supervised the effect of the splash was that it was discussed in the broadcast paper reviews last night on TV. CDS also has a front page article on his comments that we cannot go on fighting wars on two fronts. The comment from the broadcasters was along the lines of *'the Services cannot fight two wars but it seems there are soldiers who have time to go UFO spotting'*. End result is that we look foolish.

Also and of more note is that sat alongside that article on the front page is a small sidebar that reports the latest death in Afghanistan. In my opinion it completely undervalues and ridicules the ultimate sacrifice that someone has paid. The soldiers involved in the release may just like to ponder that.

I reiterate the point from my previous E mail that these soldiers must be dealt with under the Defence Instructional Notice for unauthorised engagement with the media but that is Chain of Command business.

Media Enquiries - The Way Forward. The MOD Line currently is: **The MoD examines reports solely to establish whether UK airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, there is no attempt to identify the nature of each sighting reported.** We have no reason to change that line and anything else we say will only give the story legs. Therefore I believe we should not say anything more or do anything more on this. I cannot see any opportunities here especially when contrasted with the recent deaths and the funerals that are taking place. There should therefore be no further release of the video or comments made and then the story will hopefully die quickly.

For 2ic Rear Party, 1 R IRISH - Please ensure everyone is briefed and please include your Regimental HQ element (Regtl Sec etc and other peripheral organisations that may have websites and therefore be susceptible to being contacted by the media to make comment) because the media will try it on with them. All enquiries should be directed to Section 40 143 Bde on Section 40

Here to assist further as required.

Section 40

SO1 D News Army

Section 40

03/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1



**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 27 June 2008 10:29  
**To:** 1RIRISH-HQ-OC Section 40  
**Cc:** 1RIRISH-Trg-Offr Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: UFOs at Ternhill

Section 40

Thanks.

My advice for Cpl Section 40 action against the Sun is that unless he has hard evidence that they did something he had asked them not to then he will be wasting his time (and money). Telephone conversations are not substantial or sufficient I would offer.

Regards

Section 40

SO1 D News Army

Section 40

**From:** 1RIRISH-HQ-OC [Section 40]

**Sent:** 27 June 2008 09:37

**To:** DGMC-DNews ArmySO1

**Cc:** 1RIRISH-Trg-Offr [Section 40]

**Subject:** RE: UFOs at Ternhill

Sir,

I have spoken with theatre and the CO agrees that this matter should be investigated and disciplinary action follow. We have ascertained that Pte [Section 40] was merely present but has not been in contact with the press and was surprised when his name was mentioned. The case against is being put together and sent to 5XX Legal for formal legal advice, once we have this disciplinary action will be conducted. Cpl [Section 40] has been warned that disciplinary action may follow.

5XX COS has now spoken to us on two occasions (both before the news broke and after the explanation for the 'UFOs' came out) and GOC 5XX is well aware of the issue. COS is satisfied that unless legal advice says otherwise, we the unit will deal with disciplinary action.

Cpl [Section 40] his part has shown genuine remorse and did come to us as soon as he realised what he had done. He had attempted to keep what he said from the Sun and is himself seeking legal advice against the Sun for publishing details he specifically asked them not to publish. In addition, the Sun have misrepresented him and his video footage, showing a street light in the still picture but not explaining that this was a street light.

The DIN has again been published on Part 1 Os, in addition, the Rear Party has been briefed on Media Contact so that they are aware of more than the G1, G2, Operational G3, and G4 aspects of our current Op tour. I don't expect legal advice to come back until the week after next.

Regards,

[Section 40]

[Section 40]

**OC REAR OPS**

**1 R IRISH**

**Office Mil:** [Section 40]

**Office Civ:** [Section 40]

**Duty Mobile:** [Section 40]



**From:** 1RIRISH-Trg-Offr [Section 40]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 27, 2008 9:09 AM  
**To:** [Section 40]  
**Subject:** FW: UFOs at Ternhill

As requested

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**From:** [Section 40]  
**Sent:** 27 June 2008 08:33  
**To:** 1RIRISH-Trg-Offr [Section 40]  
**Subject:** RE: UFOs at Ternhill

[Section 40]

Here is what looks like the explanation for the 'UFOs'. Looks pretty sound as an explanation to me.

Can you update me as to what is happening to the two soldiers pse?

Thanks

[Section 40]

SO1 D News Army

[Section 40]

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**From:** [Section 40]  
**Sent:** 26 June 2008 08:24  
**To:** [Section 40]  
**Cc:** [Section 40]  
**Subject:** UFOs at Ternhill

Dear all,

Please see link below to our local BBC website which gives a possible explanation for the UFOs at Ternhill.

The same story was also reported on BBC Mids Today last night.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7474160.stm>

[Section 40]

E1

5 DIV MEDIA OPS

Mil: [Section 40]

Civ: [Section 40]

E-mail: [Section 40]



*Please forward official correspondence to 5 DIV-G2G3-G3MediaOps Group  
Mailbox*

From: Section 40  
 Sent: 25 June 2008 08:48  
 To: Section 40 C1 - SIO; 1RIRISH-Trg-Offr Section 40; 143X-G2G3-MediaOpsSO2  
 Cc: Section 40  
 Subject: RE: Release-authorised: UFO sighting at Tern Hill

Cols All

The UFO story is front page this morning in the Sun and has a double page spread inside. I alerted SIO 5 Div and AD Def PR(A) at 2300hrs last night so that those key figures below me and above me were aware.

To demonstrate why we have protocols in place to ensure that engagement with the media is controlled and supervised the effect of the splash was that it was discussed in the broadcast paper reviews last night on TV. CDS also has a front page article on his comments that we cannot go on fighting wars on two fronts. The comment from the broadcasters was along the lines of *'the Services cannot fight two wars but it seems there are soldiers who have time to go UFO spotting'*. End result is that we look foolish.

Also and of more note is that sat alongside that article on the front page is a small sidebar that reports the latest death in Afghanistan. In my opinion it completely undervalues and ridicules the ultimate sacrifice that someone has paid. The soldiers involved in the release may just like to ponder that.

I reiterate the point from my previous E mail that these soldiers must be dealt with under the Defence Instructional Notice for unauthorised engagement with the media but that is Chain of Command business.

Media Enquiries - The Way Forward. The MOD Line currently is: **The MoD examines reports solely to establish whether UK airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, there is no attempt to identify the nature of each sighting reported.** We have no reason to change that line and anything else we say will only give the story legs. Therefore I believe we should not say anything more or do anything more on this. I cannot see any opportunities here especially when contrasted with the recent deaths and the funerals that are taking place. There should therefore be no further release of the video or comments made and then the story will hopefully die quickly.

For 2ic Rear Party, 1 R IRISH – Please ensure everyone is briefed and please include your Regimental HQ element (Regtl Sec etc and other peripheral organisations that may have websites and therefore be susceptible to being contacted by the media to make comment) because the media will try it on with them. All enquiries should be directed to Section 403 Bde on Section 40

Here to assist further as required.

Section 40

SO1 D News Army

Section 40



From: Section 40  
 Sent: 24 June 2008 13:02  
 To: Section 40 - SIO; 1RIRISH-Trg-Offr Section 40  
 Cc: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorised: UFO sighting at Tern Hill

Cols, All

The Sun have not approached us in London about this yet but probably will do in due course.

Handling. I have agreed with SIO 5 Div that we are not putting the soldiers up for further interviews. There is no opportunity to get our messages out and there is nothing reputation enhancing in this story and risk that it will be revealed as a fake and the soldiers/Bn will look stupid. Cpl Section 40 has already given enough to the Sun when he spoke to them and they have his video. He has been sent a contract which I suggest SIO 5 Div needs to see to ascertain whether or not we can stop publication of the video. I suspect we will not be able to. It may be that we meet the Sun half way and get them to run it without saying who passed it to them but that is a very very long shot.

DIN Breach. I have just explained to Capt Section 40 that while it is a Chain of Command issue the soldiers have breached the DIN on engagement with the media and should be disciplined for that. To hear that a Cpl is claiming that he is unaware of the rules I find somewhat incredulous. I have made it clear to Capt Section 40 that the soldiers need it explaining very clearly to them that they are to have nothing more to do with the media even if called by them about this or anything else. For example, the scenario of a death in theatre from the Bn and them then being called to give comment is very credible.

The Future. Any oxygen given to the story will simply incur lots of work subsequently and if it is printed in the Sun tomorrow there will then be lots of subsequent regional interest As explained to Capt Section 40 instead of dealing with the huge interest in the recent 9 fatalities and helping prevent aggressive media intrusion with the families I am now spending time on this (avoidable) incident. If it runs tomorrow then the unit will be approached by regional outlets who will want a piece of the action preventing the unit from getting on with supporting those on ops and those remaining behind. The soldiers may just wish to ponder the subsequent effects of what they have done!!



Regards

Section 40

SO1 D News Army

Section 40



**From:** Section 40 - SIO

**Sent:** 24 June 2008 12:47

**To:** Section 40

**Cc:** Section 40

**Subject:** UFOs at Tern Hill

Section 40

Capt Section 40 now tells me that after Cpl Section 40 emailed The Sun a copy of the video – they emailed him back a contract – which he has NOT signed.

Capt Section 40 seems to think because Cpl Section 40 did not sign the contract The Sun will not use the images – but I am not sure this is necessarily the case – though it may be correct.

Capt Section 40 is trying to send me a copy of the video but is having some difficulties. If and when I receive, I will forward to you.

Section 40

Section 40

Senior Information Officer C1

Media Ops

HQ 5 Div

Section 40

E-MAIL Section 40

Please forward official correspondence to 5Div -G2G3-G3 MediaOps Group (Mailbox)



From: Section 40 - SIO [mailto:Section 40]  
 Sent: 24 June 2008 12:27  
 To: Section 40  
 Cc: Section 40  
 Subject: release-authorised: UFO sighting at Tern Hill

Section 40

We spoke, but the following is the basic story:

I took a call this morning from the 2IC rear party at 1 Royal Irish at Tern Hill  
 Capt Section 40 on Section 40

A soldier who was part of a fire picket stagg on at the camp on 7 June took video footage with a camera on a mobile phone of what he says were "UFOs" in the sky above the camp – which they have emailed to The Sun – and which The Sun is apparently planning on splashing – probably tomorrow.

I don't have all the details/timings but what I do have is the following:

1. Soldier is Cpl Section 40 who the phone belongs to – he was accompanied by Pte Section 40 who also witnessed the "UFOs".
2. The footage was taken on 7 June at 23.03hrs – with a 5 megapixel camera on the phone.
3. 2IC rear party says the video images are very good.
4. The 2IC says the images could not have been anything to do with nearby RAF Shawbury.
5. They show lots of multi-coloured dots and zoom in on a cube shaped object which then flattens.
6. The Sun has already interviewed Cpl Section 40 he has explained to them what he saw.
7. There is some suggestion of payment being offered – though I think a discussion about that has still to happen.
8. I have reminded all, the 2IC and Cpl Section 40 about their responsibilities ref the DIN on communicating with the media.
9. Cpl Section 40 spoke to Section 40 an editor at The Sun (?)
10. Cpl Section 40 mobile number is Section 40
11. I spoke to the CRO at RAF Shawbury who said he was not aware –  
 Sqn Ldr Section 40

Section 40



Section 40

Senior Information Officer C1  
 Media Ops  
 HQ 5 Div

Section 40

E-MAIL Section 40



Please forward official correspondence to 5Div -G2G3-G3 MediaOps Group (Mailbox)

Section 40

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**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 25 June 2008 09:23  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: Forecast  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Orange

Thanks – any news on what we're doing on this **specific** incident? Does this not count as "may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised military activity"?

Section 40

Assistant Private Secretary to the Secretary of State

Mil: Section 40 Civ: Section 40

DII: SoFS-Private Office

Section 40

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**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 25 June 2008 08:58  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FW: Forecast

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**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 24 June 2008 17:47  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Forecast

**Sun:** UFO sightings video sent in by soldiers. **LTT: The MoD examines reports solely to establish whether UK airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, there is no attempt to identify the nature of each sighting reported. "**

Section 40

Press Officer – Policy Desk  
Ministry of Defence

Tel: Section 40  
Mob:   
Mil:

Section 40

03/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1



**Section 40**

**From:** **Section 40**  
**Sent:** 25 June 2008 09:30  
**To:** **Section 40**  
**Cc:** **Section 40**  
**Subject:** UFOs  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Orange

**Section 40**

**Sun: UFO sightings video sent in by soldiers.**

**Generic LTT: "The MoD examines reports solely to establish whether UK airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, there is no attempt to identify the nature of each sighting reported."**

**Have asked for more specifics w.r.t. this particular incident.**

**Section 40**

Assistant Private Secretary to the Secretary of State

Mil: **Section 40**; Civ: **Section 40**

DII: SofS-Private Office

**Section 40**

03/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1

**RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED**

**RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED**

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2624/1