

~~RESTRICTED~~/UNCLASSIFIED
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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

Date opened (Date of first enclosure)

22 OCT 08

Registered file reference

D/DAS/64/6

Part No.

D

1. Attention is drawn to the notes on the inside flap.
2. Enter notes of related files on page 2 of this jacket

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH

[FULL ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER]

SUBJECT

UFO's -

FOI REQUESTS

[BLOCK CAPITALS]

RECORD OF KEYWORDS:

Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl											
CLOSED																						
FOR DRO USE ONLY																						
1st Review date																						
2nd Review date			PA ACTION (MOD Form 262F must be completed at the time of file closure)																			

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F

(Revised 9/01)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)

UFOs - FOI Requests

Reference:

(Prefix and Number):

DIDAO 16416

Part:

D

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors):

Unclassified

Date of last enclosure:

15/12/08

Date closed:

31/12/08

PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION

(To be completed when the file is closed)

Destroy after _____ years ☒Forward to INFO(EXP)-R after _____ years ☐No recommendation ☐**FOR DEFENCE INFO(EXP)-R USE ONLY**

Date of 1st review

Date of 2nd review

Forward Destruction Date

Reviewer's

Reviewer's

Signature: _____

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW

(To be fully completed at time of file closure)

(Delete as appropriate)

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

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

LEGAL ☒CONTRACTUAL ☐FINANCE/AUDIT ☐DIRECTORATE POLICY ☐DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS ☒ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS ☐MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT ☐OTHER (Specify) ☒

For permanent preservation

PPQ = 100

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

(Continued overleaf)

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

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

Destroyed ☐

Considered by DR for
permanent preservation ☒

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

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

Signature: _____

Name: _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: CZ Date: 6/6/11

Branch Title and Full Address:

RAF Bus Sec
HQ Air Comd
RAF High Wycombe

Tel No: _____

PART 4 DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

Signature: _____

Name: _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

*(FOR DR USE ONLY)



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

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

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

Section 40

Runcorn
 Cheshire

Section 40

Your Reference:

Our Reference:
 08-12-2008-072640-511

Date:
 15 December 2008

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request asking for any information regarding seven objects that were travelling over Runcorn in Cheshire on the 7 December 2008.

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 sighting reports for the 7 December 2008, of seven objects flying over Runcorn in Cheshire.

Finally, I suggest that you contact the Civil Aviation Authority for information. They may be able to help you with your enquiry.

I hope this is helpful. If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent

internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

Yours sincerely

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

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

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

Section 40

9 JAN 09

58-12-2008-572640-511

From: Section 40
 Sent: 08 December 2008 08:37
 To: Section 40
 Subject: FW: FOI written request

QAA -
 Manchester
 Airport.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY

Dear Focal Point(s)

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

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

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

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

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

Lastly, please see further headline guidance on FOI correspondence at <http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Library/CivilianAndJointService/BrowseDocumentCategories/Legal/UkLegislation/FreedomOfInformation/HeadlineFoiGuidance.htm> or detailed guidance (including model answers) at <http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Admin/RespondToRequestsForInformation/>. If you have any concerns, or require any assistance with FOI, please contact Info-Access Operations, we are here to help.

Best regards

MOD Info Access
 Freedom of Information Helpdesk
 Telephone: Section 40
 Email: info-access-office@mod.uk
 AIT: <http://aitportal/default.aspx>

The 'clock starts ticking' at the beginning of the next working day from when you received the request.

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

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk]
 Sent: 07 December 2008 20:35
 To: Info-Access-Office
 Subject: FOI written request

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

txttitle: Section 40
 txtfirstname: Section 40
 txtlastname:
 txtaddress1:
 txtaddress2: Norton
 txttowncity: Runcorn
 txtstatecountry: Cheshire

txtzipcodepostcode: **Section 40**

country: UK

txemailAddress: **Section 40**

txtinforequest: Could you please send me any information regarding approx. 7 objects travelling over Runcorn (Cheshire) on 07/12/08 at approx. 19:45 travelling in a south-east direction?


Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 11 December 2008 09:30

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 28-11-2008-102615-001

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 27 November 2008 asking for details of a UFO sighting made by police officers on the night of either 1 or 2 May 2008. Your e-mail suggests this was a separate sighting to the one dealt with by Airprox Incident 055/08. If this is incorrect, please let me know.

The Ministry of Defence has no record of receiving a report of a UFO from police officers for either 1 or 2 May 2008 although we were later contacted by the UK Airprox Board to see if there were any military aircraft in the area as part of their investigation into Airprox 055/08. You might like to consider approaching the relevant police authority directly to see if they have anything.

Airprox Report 055/08 was produced by the UK Airprox Board and I suggest you contact them for any permissions required to use their report.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H Section 40

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public

11/12/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.

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

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

Section 40

28-11-2008 - 152615 - 001

Exp 31 Dec 08

From: **Section 40**
Sent: 28 November 2008 09:02
To: **Section 40**
Subject: Release-authorised: 2nd May 2008 UFO & Police Helicopter - FOI Request
Importance: High

Section 40

Just to make your day a UFO FOI for you, (bit of a mouthful)!!

Regards,

Section 40

Bus Sec 8
 HQ Air Command
 Rm 2'E06
 Spitfire Block
 RAF High Wycombe
 Bucks
 HP14 4UE

Tel:- Civ **Section 40**

Tel:- Mil **Section 40**

Fax: **Section 40**

Section 40@mod.uk



Help to save paper - do you need to print this email?

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or there are problems please notify the sender and then delete the e-mail (and file(s) if attached) from your system. Recipients should note that e-mail traffic on MOD systems is subject to monitoring, recording and auditing to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The MOD has taken steps to keep this e-mail and any attachments free from viruses. However it accepts no liability for any loss or damage howsoever caused as a result of any virus being passed on. It is the responsibility of the recipient to perform all necessary checks. The statements expressed in this e-mail are personal and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the department.

From: SHY-ADMIN-OC PMS [mailto:ocpms@direct.shawburyigs.raf.mod.uk]
Sent: 28 November 2008 08:58
To: **Section 40**
Subject: release-authorised: 2nd May 2008 UFO & Police Helicopter - FOI Request
Importance: High

Section 40

Please see the email below, which indicates a FOI Request, in relation to an incident in Birmingham in May 08.

At first sight, this does not appear to be connected to RAF Shawbury, so it is passed to you for further action.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards

Section 40

Sqn Ldr
 OC PMS
 RAF Shawbury

Section 40

28/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

Section 40

From: SHY-ADMIN-CRO
Sent: 28 November 2008 08:36
To: SHY-ADMIN-OC PMS
Cc: SHY-SPTWG-OC; SHY-STNCDR; SHY-OPS OC
Subject: FW: 2nd May 2008 UFO & Police Helicopter
Importance: High

Section 40 one for you through the FOI. Shawbury will have no details as it happened over Birmingham and made the local press. It will have to go direct to MOD. Would you like me to send them a holding e-mail or will you do it.

Ta

Section 40



Squadron Leader
Community Relations Officer

Section 40

From: Birmingham UFO Group [mailto:Section 40]
Sent: 27 November 2008 22:34
To: cro@direct.shawburyigs.raf.mod.uk
Subject: 2nd May 2008 UFO & Police Helicopter
Importance: High

With regards to the the Airprox incident report 055/08 which involved a West Midlands Police helicopter and an unidentified flying object on 2nd May 2008 which shows a very extensive investigation which took place.

We are investigating this incident further as we have 2 additional Police Officers who experienced an object of a similar nature which had blue lights on the previous night 1st May.
We also have acquired photographs from an officer which we are trying to confirm is of that particular night. Firstly this incident happened on the 2nd May and involved an object with blue/green lights and was witnessed by a Police helicopter.

We are looking for further assistance and a Freedom of Information request on any details relating to this particular event. We are also seeking permission to use details from the Airprox report to further assist us and build part of our final report.

Please feel free to contact me with any issues or information

Thank you for your time

Regards

Section 40

Birmingham UFO Group
www.bufog.com

28/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1



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

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

Section 40

Bromley
 Kent

Section 40

Our Reference
 09-12-2008-113343-009

Date

10 December 2008

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 3 December 2008. You state that you believe that page 2 of enclosure 28 of file DEFE24-1940 is not a scanned copy of the original document. Additionally, you asked how many documents throughout the release (by which I assume you mean the release of UFO files to The National Archives) had been "reset".

All the UFO files released by the MoD are scanned originals. On a number of occasions, the scanning has not been of a readable quality, or has been scanned sufficiently "off centre" to make reading difficult. These pages have been photocopied and re-scanned, sometimes on a different scanning machine, which can give the page a slightly different look to others in the same file. I have no record of how many times this has taken place.

On no occasion has an original document been removed and replaced with another manufactured for that purpose.

The original paper file is now held by The National Archives. You should make any application to view it to them.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

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

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

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

Section 40

09-12-2008 - 11244] - 009

8 JAN 08

Bromley, Kent.

Section 40

Info Access/FOIA request
6th Floor, Zone E
Main Building
Whitehall
London, SW1A 2HB

Your web request is not working today.

3/12/2008

12/2 J

Dear Sirs,

DEFE24-1940 Enclosure 29 and Enclosure 28 (2 sheets).

The information I require is that in the recently released PDF versions of this file there is an anomaly concerning the Sheet 2 of enclosure 28 of the above.

This sheet is not a scanned copy of the original as is the case of all the other Enclosures. This sheet was inserted after scanning but before converting file to PDF, it is obviously a word-processed patch that with a copy of a staple mark to make it look original put in place of the original page.

I think you will agree that this is bad practice considering the subject matter. I would like to see the original if possible. My main concern is asking if you can provide me with info about how many pages have been reset throughout the release because something like this could destroy all the work that has been done by Section 40 and others to bring about the disclosure of these files.

Yours faithfully,

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

From: System Administrator
To: Section 40
Sent: 10 December 2008 14:52
Subject: Undeliverable:Returned mail: see transcript for details

Your message did not reach some or all of the intended recipients.

Subject: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 09-12-2008-113343-009
Sent: 10/12/2008 14:46

The following recipient(s) could not be reached:

Section 40 on 10/12/2008 14:51

The e-mail account does not exist at the organization this message was sent to. Check the e-mail address, or contact the recipient directly to find out the correct address.

< outbound.public.mod.uk #5.1.1 SMTP; 550 Invalid recipient: Section 40



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 13-11-2008-151504-004

Expiry: 10 Dec 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Copy of MoD file on Rendlesham and Cosford documents previously on MoD website

Case for release of information

Other than personal information withheld under Section 40 there is no reason to withhold this information.

Authorisation

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

Grade/Rank: *B2 786* Name: **Section 40**

Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05.....

Date: *10 December 2008*



From: **Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone

(Direct dial)

020 7218 2140

(Switchboard)

020 7218 9000

(Fax)

e-mail

das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

Section 40

Crosby

Liverpool

Section 40

Our Reference

13-11-2008-151504-004

Date

10 December 2008

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 11 November 2008 asking for a copy of documents on the Cosford and Rendlesham Incidents that had previously been available on the MoD website, which I enclose on disk.

Some personal information such as names, addresses, telephone numbers etc has been withheld under exemption s.40 (Personal Information). You will notice that whilst most of the information withheld has been blacked out manually with a marker pen, some has clearly been blacked out electronically. These are amendments to bring the documents into line with current MoD practice and therefore the documents do not exactly match those that appeared on the website. That having been said, I do not believe that these amendments substantially alter the documents.

You may also wish to know that the original file that the Cosford documents were drawn from is one of 160 due for transfer to The National Archives as part of the three year programme that has recently been featured in the UK media. The Rendlesham file is also due for transfer.

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

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

Whilst I have no reason to believe the disk contains anything harmful to your computer, I strongly recommend that you virus check it before use.

Yours sincerely

Section 40



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

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

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 13 November 2008 15:33
To: DAS-UFO-Office
Subject: RE: Requesting information.

Thanks for your quick reply, I am indeed interested in the Rendlesham and Cosford incidents. My postal address is Section 40 Crosby Liverpool Section 40 Paper or electronic copy will be great, whatever is easiest.

Thanks again.

Subject: RE: Requesting information.
Date: Thu, 13 Nov 2008 09:22:50 +0000
From: DAS-UFO-Office@mod.uk
To: Section 40

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail, which will be treated as a Freedom of Information request. However, I am not sure what information you are actually looking for. I suspect that you are referring to documents on the Rendlesham or Cosford incidents. If you could confirm this, it would assist me in answering your request.

Additionally, as the documents are too large for me to e-mail, I will need you to provide me with a postal address where I can send either an electronic copy on disk or, if you prefer, a paper version.

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

From: Section 40
Sent: 11 November 2008 12:35
To: DAS-UFO-Office
Subject: Requesting information.

Hello, I am emailing you to request the information regarding UFO's that you have recently released. I tried to get it from your ebsite but it says that it has been removed again for copyright reasons, but to contact this address.

I look forward to recieving the files.

Section 40

Win £1000 John Lewis shopping sprees with BigSnapSearch.com [Search now](#)

08/12/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

gSnapSearch.com - 24 prizes a day, every day. [Search now](#)

Section 4017-11-2008-15154-024
EX/ 10 DEC 08**From:** **Section 40** on behalf of DAS-UFO-Office**Sent:** 13 November 2008 09:23**To:** **Section 40****Subject:** Release-authorised: RE: Requesting information.Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your e-mail, which will be treated as a Freedom of Information request. However, I am not sure what information you are actually looking for. I suspect that you are referring to documents on the Rendlesham or Cosford incidents. If you could confirm this, it would assist me in answering your request.

Additionally, as the documents are too large for me to e-mail, I will need you to provide me with a postal address where I can send either an electronic copy on disk or, if you prefer, a paper version.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H **Section 40**

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

From: **Section 40****Sent:** 11 November 2008 12:35**To:** DAS-UFO-Office**Subject:** Requesting information.

Hello, I am emailing you to request the information regarding UFO's that you have recently released. I tried to get it from your ebsite but it says that it has been removed again for copyriight reasons, but to contact this address.

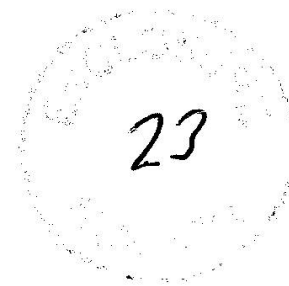
I look forward to recieving the files.

Section 40

Win £1000 John Lewis shopping sprees with BigSnapSearch.com [Search now](#)

13/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

**AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION**Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 27-11-2008-091822-001

Expiry: 3 Dec 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Copy of MoD file on Rendlesham.

Case for release of information

Other than personal information withheld under Section 40 there is no reason to withhold this information.

Authorisation

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

Grade/Rank: *B2* Name: **Section 40**Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05..... **Section 40**Date: *3/12/08**Copy of file
not stored here
to save space***Section 40**

From: **Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

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

Telephone

(Direct dial)

020 7218 2140

(Switchboard)

020 7218 9000

(Fax)

e-mail

das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40**Section 40****Section 40** Tagelswangen
Switzerland

Our Reference

27-11-2008-091822-001

Date

3 December 2008

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 27 November 2008 asking for a copy of the Ministry of Defence file on the Rendlesham Incident. I enclose a copy of our file on the subject in CD format, in line with your follow up e-mail of the same date.

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

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

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

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

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 27 November 2008 21:08
To: Section 40
Subject: AW: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 27-11-2008-091822-001

Dear Section 40

I am neither living in UK nor I am a citizen of England, under these circumstances you are maybe not willing to send me a copy of this file.
If you nevertheless provide this service to foreign people, I kindly ask for an electronic copy.
My postal address would be:

Section 40

Section 40 Hagelswangen
Switzerland

With kind regards

Section 40

-----Ursprüngliche Nachricht-----

Von: Section 40@mod.uk

Datum: 27.11.2008 10:38

An: Section 40

Betreff: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 27-11-2008-091822-001

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 27 November 2008 asking for a copy of the Ministry of Defence file on the Rendlesham Incident.

As the file is too large for me to e-mail to you, I should be grateful if you would provide me with a postal address where I can send you an electronic copy on disk or, if you prefer, a paper version. Please let me know which version you would like.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H Section 40

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

Section 40

27-11-2008-091822-001

EX 30 DEC 08

From:

Section 40

Sent:

27 November 2008 06:42

To:

DAS-UFO-Office

Subject:

"Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980"

To whom it may concern

On the website of MOD you offer to provide the MOD documents about the "Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980".

Can you please mail me those documents withdrawn for copyright reasons from your website.

With kind regards

Section 40

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 27 November 2008 14:15

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RTEQUEST 07-11-2008-125422-002

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 7 November 2008 asking whether five specific UFO sightings over Devon had been further investigated by the Ministry of Defence and for any documentation or reports relating to those investigations.

The five sightings were not the subject of further investigation.

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

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Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H Section 40

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

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

27/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

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

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

27/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

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

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

Sent: 07 November 2008 12:34

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: FOI written request PF 07-11-2008-125422-002 **Section 40**

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

txttitle: **Section 40**

txtfirstname: **Section 40**

txtlastname: **Section 40**

txtoccupation: Journalist

txtorganisation: Express and Echo

txtaddress1: **Section 40**

txtaddress2: **Section 40**

txttowncity: Yeovil

txtstatecountry: Somerset

txtzipcodepostcode: **Section 40**

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: **Section 40**

txtinforequest: It is noted that the MoD has logged a number of UFO sighting in Devon over the past few years.

Did the MoD further investigate any of the following incident and would it be possible to have any reports or documentation relating to the investigations of the sightings?

23-Jun-07 22:45 Pilton, Devon Five lights were seen, that were followed by another fifteen lights, all moving in the same direction and extinguishing in the same area.

06-Sep-06 Exeter, Devon. A sighting.

21-Feb-05 09:56 Winkleigh, Devon. Object seen in the sky.

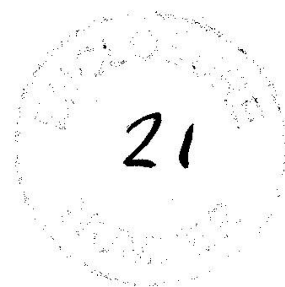
Undated 2005 09:34 Chevithorne, Devon. The object looked like a telegraph pole.

NO DATE, 2003, Ashburton, Devon. (Seen for six weeks - Feb/March 2003). Two strange lights in the sky.

Please respond via the email given above. Thank-you for your help.



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



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

Section 40

Cwmbran
 Gwent

Section 40

Our Reference
 21-11-2008-110333-006

Date

25 November 2008

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your letter of 18 November 2008 asking why some UFO files would go to DIS and some to DAS. Additionally, you asked what the defence procedure would be if a UFO sighting were deemed to be of defence significance.

Firstly, I think it might be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence does not open files for each UFO sighting report it receives. Each UFO sighting report file can contain dozens and, in the past, hundreds of reports. That having been said, a handful of individual case files were opened during the early 1990's. These will be transferred to The National Archives in 2009.

Copies of sighting reports from either military or civilian sources were sent to DIS from the Air Staff in case they contained any information which was of value in DIS's task of analysing the performance and threat of foreign weapons systems, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes and emerging technologies. However, none of the reports received over a period of 30 years have yielded any valuable information whatsoever. DIS therefore decided in December 2000, not to receive these reports any longer. DAS staff were, and are, unable to provide a technical evaluation since they are not scientists or technical specialists. It was not a case of different reports being sent to the two branches, but reports being looked at for slightly different reasons.

Turning to your second question, if DAS staff felt a sighting was of defence significance, we would contact the appropriate branch within the MoD to deal with the matter. Who that would be would, of course, depend upon the particular circumstances of each individual report.

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

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

note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

I am sorry I could not be more helpful.

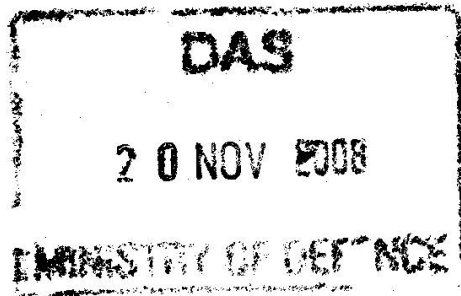
Yours sincerely,

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

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

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

21-11-2008-110733-226
ex/ 19 Dec 08



Section 40

Cwmbran

Gwent

Section 40

18/11/08

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your reply of 11th November 2008, could you clarify a point raised by your response:

Could you explain why some files would go to DIS and some to DAS? What criteria would dictate this?

Also, as many of these incidents are classified as not being of defence significance, if you deemed a UFO sighting to be of defence significance (hypothetically speaking) what would the procedure be?

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40





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

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

Section 40

Peacehaven
 East Sussex

Section 40

Our Reference

24-11-2008-071059-003

Date

24 November 2008

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of information request of 24 November 2008 asking for information regarding an alleged UFO sighting over Peacehaven in East Sussex for 2008 and also any for the period 2006-07. Additionally, you asked how to go about reporting a UFO sighting. Your request has been passed to this branch as we have responsibility for UFO matters within the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

We have no record of a UFO sighting being made for Peacehaven this year. Details of all UFO sightings reported to the MoD for the period 1997-2007 can be found on our website www.mod.uk by searching under "*UFO Reports*". In January 2009, details of sightings for the year 2008 will also be placed on our website.

UFO reports can be made in writing to my address above or by telephone to 0207 2182140.

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

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Yours sincerely,

Section 40

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

Section 40

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Section 40

24 November 2008 08:16

Section 40

FW: FOI written request PS 24-11-2008-071059-003 Section 40

EXP: 23 JAN 08

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY

Dear Focal Point(s)

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

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

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

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

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

Lastly, please see further headline guidance on FOI correspondence at <http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Library/CivilianAndJointService/BrowseDocumentCategories/Legal/UkLegislation/FreedomOfInformation/HeadlineFoiGuidance.htm> or detailed guidance (including model answers) at <http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Admin/RespondToRequestsForInformation/>. If you have any concerns, or require any assistance with FOI, please contact Info-Access Operations, we are here to help.

Best regards

MOD Info Access
Freedom of Information Helpdesk
Telephone: Section 40
Email: info-access-office@mod.uk
AIT: <http://aitportal/default.aspx>

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

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

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk]
Sent: 23 November 2008 20:48
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI written request PS 24-11-2008-071059-003 Section 40

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

txttitle: Section 40
txtfirstname: Section 40
txtlastname:
txtoccupation: operator
txtorganisation: Section 40
txtaddress1: Section 40
txtaddress2:

txttowncity: peacehaven

txtstatecountry: peacehaven easu sussex

txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40

txtcountry: UK

txtinforequest: information on ufo sighting in Peacehaven east sussex this this year n
the past 2. Also information on how to repot this sighting

Section 40**From:** **Section 40****Sent:** 24 November 2008 13:03**To:** **Section 40****Subject:** Release-authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTDear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 22 November 2008 asking whether there had been an investigation into an alleged UFO sighting made by a police helicopter over Birmingham, on the night of 2 May 2008.

This incident was investigated by the UK Airprox Board who have responsibility for investigating incidents where there has been a "near miss" involving aircraft. The results of that investigation can be found on their website www.airproxboard.org.uk. The incident has been given the Airprox Board reference number 055/08.

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

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Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H **Section 40**

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

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24/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.

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

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

24/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

Section 40

24-11-2008-152155-001

EXD 23 DEC 08

From: Section 40

Sent: 22 November 2008 12:16

To: Section 40

Subject: Helicopter/UFO incident

11/22/08

Dear Section 40

Has an investigation been conducted in regards to this incident? If so, what were the findings?

<http://www.birminghammail.net/news/birmingham-news/2008/11/21/ufo-involved-in-a-dramatic-incident-97319-22310179/>

"A POLICE helicopter flying over Birmingham narrowly avoided tragedy when it nearly collided with a UFO, a report has claimed.

The pilot managed to swerve out of the mystery aircraft's way while he was on a routine police surveillance task over the city centre earlier this year.

The helicopter was also carrying two police observers during the journey at around 9.50pm on May 2."

The report stated: "The front observer saw unidentified lights flying around their aircraft. The pilot established visual contact, as he maneuvered the aircraft to avoid a collision and to identify the light source."

The object was less than 100m away and flew around them. The pilot told the Airprox Board he thought the intent may either have been sinister or just someone messing around.

That doesn't sound like a balloon, lantern, or a flock of birds to me.

Section 40

Section 40

@mod.uk> wrote:

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail of 1 January 2008 to Secretary of State for Defence, Des Browne, it has been passed to this office to answer as we are the branch with responsibility for UFO matters within the MoD.

When the Ministry of Defence was informed of the events which are alleged to have occurred at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, all available substantiated evidence was looked at in the usual manner by those within the MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question. As there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern no further investigation into the matter was necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last

24/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

quarter of a century which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect. Other than an obligation to respond to questions from the public, the MoD has no further interest in the subject and considers the matter closed.

The MoD file on the Rendlesham Incident is already in the public domain via our website and will be included in the general release of 160 UFO files that you mention in your e-mail, which will also include policy files, correspondence files, sighting report files, Freedom of Information request files and a small number of files regarding specific incidents or subjects such as alien abduction.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H **Section 40**

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

If, in fact, we are able to answer the question 'ARE WE ALONE?' in the Universe then that certainly is grand enough and noble enough to be the enduring legacy of our civilization.

24/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

NOT JENI W. 71
ANSWER

AIRPROX REPORT No 055/08

Date/Time: 2 May 2150

Position: 5232N 00156W (8nm
NW of BHX)

Airspace: Lon FIR/B'ham CTR (Class: G/D)

Reporting Ac Reported Ac

Type: EC135 Unknown

Operator: Civ Pol NK

Alt/FL: 1500ft NK
(QNH 1022mb)

Weather VMC CAVOK
[no cloud, no moon wind 4kt]

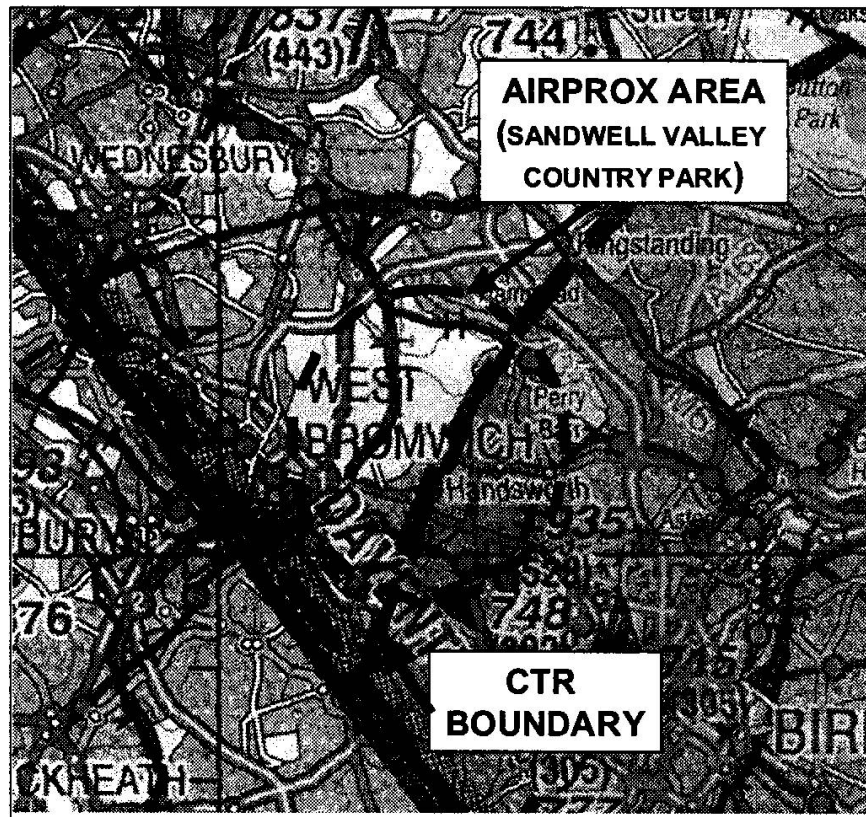
Visibility: >30km

Reported Separation:

NR

Recorded Separation:

NR



PART A: SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REPORTED TO UKAB

THE EC135 PILOT reports flying a routine night police surveillance task on the edge of Birmingham CTR squawking 0060 with Mode C and in receipt of a RC service from them. He was operating around 1500ft on the QNH and initially in an orbit at 80kt when the front observer saw unidentified lights flying around their ac. The pilot established visual contact, he estimated 100m away but it was very difficult to tell, as he manoeuvred the ac to avoid a collision and to identify the light source.

The lights appeared to continue to circle their ac the same height, flew away to the N slightly then returned. Contact was broken by flying E to Birmingham City and descending to a lower height to enable the lights to be seen against the dark sky but the other ac returned to their area.

They searched the open land in the area below them with their thermal camera looking for any signs of radio-controlled model activity but nothing obvious was found.

He believes the lights may have come from a radio controlled fixed wing ac, the lights being to assist with night flying, and that it was purposely flown around them. He also thought that the intent may either have been sinister, or just someone "messing around". He informed Birmingham Radar at the time who as would be expected saw nothing on the radar, probably due to the small size of the other ac.

ATSI had nothing to add.

UKAB Note (1): The pilot of the EC135 was very co-operative and provided additional information when contacted by the Secretariat. He is a very experienced helicopter pilot particularly in night operations. He was engaged on a routine police surveillance task, accompanied by 2 fully trained police observers, one visual in the left hand seat and one in the rear operating the ac equipment and, at the time, using NVGs. All 3 crewmembers saw 2 continuous (not flashing) blue/green lights and the front seat observer saw an object behind the lights. The rear seat observer saw the lights on his NVGs but nothing else due to 'blooming'. None of the crewmembers could offer any explanation as to the source of the lights other than that given by the pilot. The RT recording verifies that the EC135

pilot reported the incident to Radar and they responded by saying that there were no other contacts in the area.

The pilot discounted any 'flashing' from the rotor blades (as reported as taking place in some helicopter operations in the Middle East). He also stated that they thought that the source of the lights might be a reflection from the NVG lenses onto the inside of the ac canopy; this was later discounted after another ac conducted a test on a later flight.

UKAB Note (2): All available radar recordings were examined and the EC135 shows throughout, squawking with Mode C, operating on the edge of the Birmingham CTR, both inside and outside Class D airspace. The RT recording shows that the pilot was in contact with Birmingham Radar and cleared to operate in the area. At the time the only other ac seen in the area and the only other in contact with radar, is a routine Birmingham CAT inbound which passes over the EC135, well above. (Although he did not report seeing it, the EC135 pilot was certain that the lights did not emanate from that ac). There were several 'one sweep only' primary contacts over 10nm to the W and slightly before the incident time that were attributed to anaprop [anomalous propagation].

UKAB Note (3): Due to the pilot's report the first organisation contacted by the UKAB in attempting to trace the source of the lights was the British Model Flying Association. Their view was that the object could not have been a model ac as it would have been too high and they had no reports of any activity at night. In addition it would not, in their view been possible to control a normal (in size and control system) model ac at that height since any light would not have been sufficient to enable control. In pursuing more sophisticated unmanned aerial vehicles, known civil, police and military operators of UAVs were contacted and no activity was reported (in any case it was a most unlikely location and time for the operation of UAVs, indeed virtually impossible for military UAV activity). Military flights were ruled out since there was no squawk observed and the area is outwith the UKLFS. Gliders, kites, tethered and untethered balloons were ruled out due to the light and weather conditions. There are no Met balloon launch sites in the area. All local GA airfields (except Halfpenny Green) reported no night activity on the date of the incident. The activity from Halfpenny Green was police operations that had landed before the incident time. Since the incident occurred in good radar coverage (both Birmingham and Clee Hill) and no contacts either squawking or primary-only were evident within 20nm of the incident position, it is thought most unlikely that the lights emanated from normal GA, other police or air ambulance activity. A laser light show was also discounted since there was no cloudbase for the lights to be reflected on. Fireworks or flares were also discounted since the light source did not descend towards the ground as, even with parachute flares, would be the case and, in any case, the lights reported were not bright enough to be pyrotechnics. The authorities for the parks close to the incident area were contacted but they had no activity recorded for the evening of 2 May.

Although the possibility of a civilian clandestine flight by a microlight or similar ac could not be ruled out, it is thought unlikely that any pilot engaged on illegal airborne activity would orbit what could probably be identified as a police helicopter.

Regrettably therefore, despite extensive tracing the source of the lights could not be identified.

PART B: SUMMARY OF THE BOARD'S DISCUSSIONS

Information available included reports from the helicopter pilot, a recording of the relevant RT frequency, radar video recordings and a report from the appropriate ATC authorities.

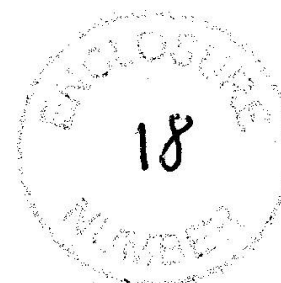
The Board noted the extensive tracing action taken by the Secretariat and accepted that any further effort was unlikely to determine the source of the lights reported by the EC135 pilot which, despite there being no information to support the crew's (unanimous) sighting, Members accepted totally as being accurate. The Board, which included a very experienced helicopter pilot Member with extensive experience of civil, military and police helicopter operations, was invited to offer an explanation as to the source of the lights: none was forthcoming. The possibility of a clandestine

flight was only one of several possibilities and Members were not convinced that, other than by exclusion of other logical possibilities, there was sufficient information to mention this in the cause. Certainly however, the ac from which the lights emanated had been small and probably non-metallic since it was not displayed on either of the radars examined and had not been displaying the lighting required by the ANO. Members agreed unanimously that they did not have enough information to determine a degree of risk involved in the incident.

PART C: ASSESSMENT OF CAUSE AND RISK

Cause: An apparent conflict with an unidentified ac displaying non-standard lights.

Degree of Risk: D.



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 21-11-2008-115431-008

Expiry: 18 Dec 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

All information on UFOs and related subjects.

Case for release of information

It will take at least 2 years to complete this task

It is not possible to accurately cost, but on average it takes 3 days work to prepare a UFO file for release

1 file = 3 days labour

3 days labour = £600

150 files = £90,000

Information should be withheld on the grounds of cost

Authorisation

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

Grade/Rank: B1 Name: **Section 40**

Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05.....

Date: 21 November 2008



Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 21 November 2008 14:23
To: Section 40
Subject: Release-authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 21-11-2008-115431-008

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 19 November 2008 asking for all information on UFOs and related subjects.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) holds some 150 files on UFOs. The costs of preparing these files for release to you would far exceed the permitted £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the MoD is not obliged to comply with your request.

However, you may be interested to know that UFO files for 1967 to 1992, and any files prior to 1967 which have survived, are now available for examination at The National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU, Telephone: 0208 876 3444. Details of how to access these records and The National Archives on line catalogue can be found on their website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk. The MoD has a programme to transfer the 150 files to The National Archives by the end of 2010. You may also be interested to know that the MoD has released details of UFO sightings for the period 1997-07 on its website www.mod.uk, which can be found by searching under "*UFO Reports*".

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

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

21/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

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

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

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

21/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

18 Dec 08

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

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

Sent: 19 November 2008 17:58

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: FOI written request PF 21-11-2008-115431-008 **Section 40**This request has been received via www.mod.uk.txttitle: **Section 40**txtfirstname: **Section 40**txtlastname: **Section 40**

txtoccupation: unemployed

txtaddress1: **Section 40**

txtaddress2: Klondyke

txttowncity: Cramlington

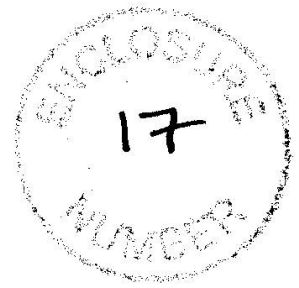
txtstatecountry: Northumberland

txtzipcodepostcode: **Section 40**

txtcountry: United Kingdom

txtemailAddress: **Section 40**txttelephone: **Section 40**

txtinforequest: All the information under the freedom of information
act 2000 on UFO's and all related issues to this subject, example
aliens etc. Thank you

**AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION**Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 22-10-2008-071429-001

Expiry: 19 Nov 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Information in unclassified documents about UFOs denied by Section 40

Case for release of information

Section 40 request is not very clear but it is possible he is referring to personal information withheld from UFO files transferred to the national Archives. It is also possible that he believes Section 40 is an MoD branch, rather than an FOI exemption.

I have asked for clarification but explained he cannot have the information I believe he wants.

Exemption s.40 should apply

Authorisation

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

Grade/Rank: **B2** Name: **Section 40**Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05.... **Section 40**Date: **17/11/08**

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 17 November 2008 10:10

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of information request asking for access to all information withheld in "unclassified" UFO documents under Section 40.

It is not clear from your request what information you are asking about, but I assume that you are referring to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) UFO files that have been placed in The National Archives and that have recently been the subject of some media attention. If this is incorrect, please let me know.

The MoD has pro-actively placed a number of files in The National Archives as part of a three year programme to transfer some 160 files. When placing these files in the public domain in this manner, we have followed the principles of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and have applied exemption s.40 (Personal Information) for information such as names, addresses, telephone numbers etc that could be used to identify individuals. I am afraid therefore that we cannot provide you with the information you have requested.

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

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

I am sorry I could not be more helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H-Section 40

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

17/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

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

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

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

17/11/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2450/1

19 NOV 08

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

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

Sent: 22 October 2008 04:34

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: FOI written request PS 22-10-2008-071429-001 **Section 40**

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

txttitle: **Section 40**

txtfirstname: **Section 40**

txtlastname: **Section 40**

txtaddress1: **Section 40**

txtaddress2: **Section 40**

txttowncity: Oakland

txtstatecountry: California

txtzipcodepostcode: 94605

txtcountry: USA

txtemailAddress: **Section 40**

txttelephone: **Section 40**

txtinforequest: I would like to access information in "unclassified" documents about UFO sightings, denied by "Section 40".

16

AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATIONApplicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 28-10-2008-105908-003

Expiry: 24 Nov 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

General report of UFOs (Think this is the UAP Report)

Does Bonnybridge and Bonsall still send UFO sightings.

Are military bases the cause of these sightings

Did BBC send a UFO film from 1960's for analysis.

Case for release of information

Information requested is available on the internet or in The National Archives.

Exemption s.21 (Information reasonably accessible to applicant by other means applies)**Authorisation**

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

Grade/Rank: **B2** Name: **Section 40**Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05.... **Section 40**Date: **13/11/08**



From: **Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone

(Direct dial)
 (Switchboard)
 (Fax)

020 7218 2140
 020 7218 9000

e-mail

das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

Section 40

Biddulph
 Staffs

Section 40

Our Reference
 28-10-2008-105908-003

Date

13 November 2008

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your letter of 5 November 2008 clarifying your original Freedom of Information request of 23 October 2008.

You have stated that you were not seeking information regarding the Cosford Incident, but a more general report into UFOs. Additionally, you asked whether the areas of Bonnybridge in Scotland and Bonsall in Derbyshire continued to report UFO sightings and whether any local military bases could be responsible for them. Finally, you asked whether the BBC had passed a film from the 1960's to the Ministry of Defence for analysis.

I believe that the report you are looking for is entitled "*Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region*". The report is available on the Ministry of Defence internet site at www.mod.uk. It is therefore readily available for the public to read and under exemption s.21 (Information Reasonably Accessible to the Applicant by Other Means) of the Freedom of Information Act, the MoD is not required to provide you with a copy.

The Ministry of Defence continues to receive UFO sightings from all over the UK. Details of sightings for the period 1997-2007 are also available on our website by searching under "UFO Reports" and again, under exemption s.21 we are not required to provide you with this information.

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.

Turning to the matter of a BBC film sent to the MoD in the 1960's, you may wish to be aware that MOD files were routinely destroyed after five years until 1967 when they were generally preserved for The National Archives. A few have survived before 1967 and these together with records up to 1992 are now available for public viewing.

If a film was sent to the MoD from the BBC, there may be some record of it in these files. The National Archives, can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Richmond, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DU or telephone, 020 8876 3444. The National Archives also have a website giving information about the records they hold and how to access them. This can be found on the internet at:
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>.

I note that you are not on the internet yourself. Your local public library will have an internet connection and I am sure that its staff will be happy to assist you in any internet search.

I am sorry I could not be of more help.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



Section 40

c/o

Section 40

M.O.D.

BIDDULPH

MAIN BUILDING

STAFFS

WHITEHALL

Section 40

LONDON

DAS

5 NOV '08

SW1A 2HB

10 NOV 2008

Dear

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Thank you for your recent letter dated 31 OCT 2008.

I have no idea what the Casford Incident is although I would be interested from an astronomer's perspective but, alas, I do not yet have the net at home yet.

The report I was looking for is a very long term project similar to the D.S. "Bluebook" and

(2)

only came to light about 2-3 yrs ago due to the freedom of information act. It was originally either "restricted" or even "Secret" but is now available to the public. It was carried out in a R.A.F. base which I'm sure was in the West country, but that's not so important as it's the content that's important viz. that the "UFOs" a) presented no military threat to our airspace and b) that most, if not all, were misinterpretations of normal phenomena either astronomical, meteorological or man-made, which is what I suspected.

So, please could you see if you can locate this, which I know exists and was for a while in the media.

Aha, there are a couple of other

(3)

then I would like to ask. There have been so called UFO "hotspots" in the U.K. for decades. I put this down to misinterpretations of aircraft, military manoeuvres, et al such as happened in Warrington in the 1960s and 1970s; in that case a military base and Salisbury Plains were in that region explaining a great deal (in my opinion), thus could you tell me, do you still hear of reports from Bonny Bridge, Scotland or Bonsal, Derbs. and are there any bases near there that could explain them.

Aha, does the BBC ever pass on anything filmed by them (accidentally) to your dept. for analysis? I am especially interested in the incident

(4)

when the BBC filmed (what Sir Patrick Moore called, "ILFS" (Interplanetary Light formations) allegedly) when the "Sky at Night" visited "Cradle Hill" with Arthur Shuttlesworth in the 60's some time. The above journalist saw them being filmed, but did not appear (for obvious reasons), on the TV show!

Could they be in your files?
Many thanks for your help,
yours sincerely,

Section 40



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

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

Section 40

Biddulph
Staffs

Section 40

Our Reference
28-10-2008-105908-003

Date

31 October 2008

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 23 October 2008 asking for a copy of the file on an incident near Corsham.

I believe you may be referring to a set of documents placed on our website that relates to an incident in March 1993, often referred to the Cosford Incident. However, this is not close to Corsham.

Can you confirm whether this is what you are looking for?

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

28-10-2008-105958-557
EXP 24/10/08

Section 40

Section 40

DAS-H-Section 40

BIDDULPH

M.O.D

STAFFS

MAIN BUILDINGS

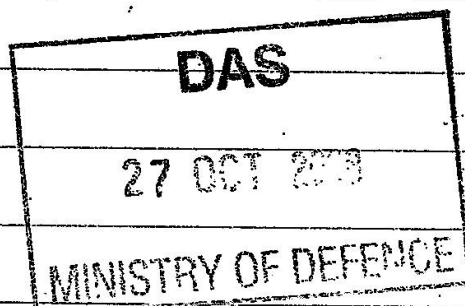
Section 40

WHITEHALL

23 OCT 08

LONDON

SW1A 2HB



Dear Section 40

I firstly hope I was given the correct person ad address; if not I'm sorry to bother you.

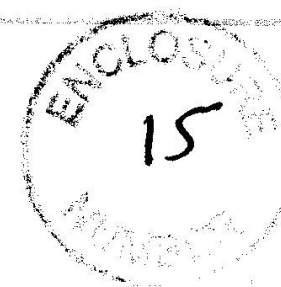
I'm an amateur astronomer (not a so-called "Ufologist"!) and I'm interested in this subject as it shows how people can be fooled by ordinary meteorological phenomena etc.

but I'm especially interested in a report by the British government on UFO's carried out

from a Wiltshire base the name of which I cannot remember but I know it was near Corsham or Hawthorn ad was published about 2 years ago. It came (rightly) that they presented no risk to national security, but did make some interesting astronomical observations. Could you send me a copy ad anything else that might interest me of this nature? (I do not have access to the internet alas!)

Hope you can help,
yours sincerely

Section 40



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

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

Section 40

Cwmbran
 Gwent

Section 40

Our Reference
 11-11-2008-135018-008

Date

11 November 2008

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request asking whether RAF Henlow had taken over the role of logging UFO incidents from RAF Rudloe Manor.

Until 1992 the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF), part of the HQ Provost and Security Services(UK) based at RAF Rudloe Manor, was the central co-ordination point for any "UFO" reports made to RAF stations (from whatever source, i.e. members of the public or service personnel). Its function was simply to record details and pass the reports directly to Sec(AS) (now DAS) in the Ministry of Defence. Sec(AS) would then examine the reports and decide whether what was seen had defence implications. No action was taken on the reports by staff in the FCF.

The FCF (now Defence Flying Investigation Team) no longer have any involvement in the central collection of "UFO" reports made to air force bases. Any reports received by air force stations are now forwarded directly to DAS for consideration. RAF Rudloe Manor has now closed. RAF Henlow has not taken on Rudloe Manor's previous role in collating UFO reports although, in common with all other RAF stations, it will take down the details of any made in its local area and to pass them to us.

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

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Yours sincerely,

Section 40



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

Section 40

11-11-2008-135018-008

EXP 9 Dec 08

CUMBRAN

Gwent

Section 40

FO 1158

Dear Sir,

POST-

After some research I have been reading about RAF Henlow taking over the role of logging UFO incidents from RAF Rudloe Manor. Under the FOIA can you confirm that this was once the role of RAF Rudloe Manor and that this function has indeed switched to RAF Henlow.

Yours sincerely

Section 40