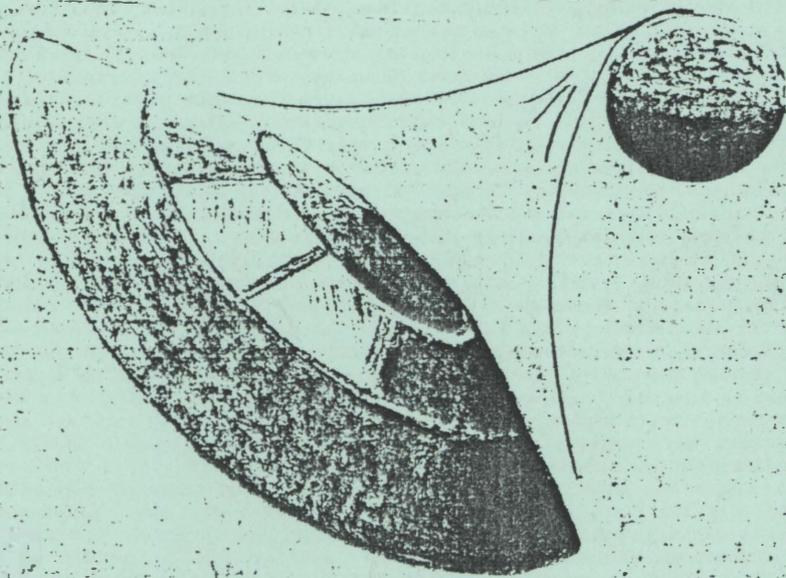


# NORTHERN NEWS

# UFO 131

MAY - JUNE  
1988



**NORTHERN UFO NEWS Subs: £3.3 Issues**  
**Editor: Jenny Randles Cover: Bill Callaghan**

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NORTHERN UFO NEWS 37 HEATHBANK RD CHEADLE HEATH STOCKPORT CHESHIRE SK3 0UP

J.R.Comments... *The media is a perennial topic of conversation in this column. But it is time I introduced you to the new menace of the British press; an awful rag known as "The Sunday Sport".*

The 'Sport' professes to be a newspaper, but in fact what it prints is often more like fiction. The borderline has become so hazy that its incessant reporting of UFO stories since January has brought a real dilemma.

Most public UFO figures have been caught out once. Some - shame on them - are supplying free quotes on a regular basis and seem quite unaware of what this is doing to their credibility and that of the UFO movement.

A good way to illustrate the situation is to take a time ride through the 'major' UFO stories featured by the 'Sport'. They are nothing if not entertaining.

I had the distinction of being one of the first to get caught out. Back then I did not know what this new paper was all about. It took a week to learn. I was interviewed by their reporter Ruki Sayid about my forthcoming paperback of 'The UFO Conspiracy'. Some strange questions kept intruding, about Budd Hopkins and abductions. Pointing out that the book had nothing to do with this was hopeless. The article, on 31 Jan, was a scream. Mixing a couple of out of context quotes with their own script written so as to imply that it was paraphrasing my views. The delicious title was "Bonking Beings:- Alien sex fiends hit Britain in lust hunt". My book sales rocketed, but I suspect many were disillusioned not to find a trace of the sexy invasion, as the article clearly implied they would.

Ah well, a flash in the pan, eh? ...Not quite. They followed it up with codswollop involving Phillip Mantle, Margaret Fry, even staid and irreproachable NUFOS. Then Canadian Professor Allen Tough - whose superb paper on possible extraterrestrial psychology was a highlight of last year's BUFORA Congress - became the focus for an utterly amazing 'summary' of his sober research (14 Feb). This advised that he had filled his scientific text (er, sorry "dossier of despair") with "Bonking beasties from outer space" and tales of how we will "end up being eaten in intergalactic burger bars". Mum, I heard every word of his excellent paper but this part was obviously in the censored bit that was given to the BUFORA congress taking place simultaneously in the fourth dimension.

Ruki Sayid was at it again that week. A huge map of southern England was presented with the claim that (unnamed) "alien experts" had predicted how that very Sunday night a "giant jelly mould" was going to swoop across the parts of Britain marked on the map. Two phone numbers were given - one to call if you saw the UFO and one to call if you didn't. NUFOS - the once proud champions of serious UFology - were heavily implicated in this fiasco, I am sad to report.

What happened? Ah, well, we only had seven days to wait. "Invasion of the body snatchers" told the tale of the 'giant jelly mould' with one of the most hilarious witness sketches you could ever wish to see lovingly reproduced. I put Margaret Fry onto this Welsh rare bit of nonsense. To date she has found nothing to verify that the witness WAS captured by aliens who were more interested in his teasmade. Still it had to be true. The Sport said so.

"I had a toyboy from outer space" was their contribution the following week (28 Feb). That was the Clayton-Le-Moors 'abduction' featured in the last NUF - minus a few inconvenient details, like the facts, and any mention of 'Dynasty'.

After Philip Mantle's come-uppance that week, John Rimmer was victim on 13 March. His ultra-skeptical anti-alien lecture to BUFORA was written up in ludicrous fashion as "Breedin' cock up". Now, our old friends "the bonking beings" had made a real fool of themselves by beaming up a lesbian in mistake!

After that where could the Sport go but up? You think so? You much underestimate the imaginative powers of the new British press.

April 10 and dear old Ruki is at it again. This time with the incredible "Mum gives birth to an 8lb trout". YUFOS had their group decimated in a different potty story that week, but what about this trout? Well, forget the

headline. Apparently, a "young mum who reckons she was bonked by a fish faced alien" and is now terrified that WHEN her baby is born in Sweden in July it may need "an aquarium instead of a cot". Leading UFO expert "Jan van der Hoer" (yes - I said "who?" as well) is credited with this fishy story. But the, ah, extremely accurate headline, could not possibly have been fiddled to sell copies. Could it?

Top that. Well they did. Arnold West, BUFORA chairman, was their new champion, giving credence to several recent tales including the front page banner on 24 April "World War 2 bomber found on moon" - complete with close up shot of what one anonymous source not a quarter of a million miles from this editor described as "looking rather like an airfix model on a bit of plaster board". The paper seriously made calls for a NASA rescue mission in case the pilots of the B 52 (the 20 miles long version if scale estimates based on the lunar landscape are correct) still had its crew shackled up and fast running out of air.

The Sport took a little vacation from UFOs after that (preferring the world's first 'exclusive photos of heaven' - a bit like Scunthorpe on a foggy day - and a close up of a REAL vampire). But they did stoop to their lowest on May 8 with the utterly sick triple page, full colour "world exclusive" depicting in gorey detail a poor Turkish baby called Mehmet, born with an extra head sticking out of its chest. The baby, clearly a twin birth that had been genetically deformed, according to all the medical evidence, was saved by having the extra head amputated. Of course, there was no reason whatsoever (or any reference or evidence presented anywhere in the story) to link the tragedy with UFOs. But the front page headline was "UFO shocker:- Alien baby kept in a jam jar!"

This really shows the depths to which this trashy paper has sunk. There have already been parliamentary moves to have it banned, since its 'page three' style stories are supposedly equally deplorable. So far, with cries of 'freedom of the press' the Sport has survived. UFOs are being used by them as prime fodder and if there really are still researchers out there stupid enough to talk to this awful publication - then I suggest somebody talks sense to them fast. By now they have no excuse.

I will keep you informed of developments. A recent story quoted Arnold West of BUFORA - again - and referred to a fleet of UFOs being netted by a fisherman in the River Mersey near Liverpool. You will not be staggered to learn that the Sport somewhat exaggerated things, but investigations have shown that there IS a real case here. More of this next issue.

Whilst that might suggest that not everything in the Sport is dreamt up at what must be fun-filled weekly 'news' gathering sessions, the latest tale as I go to press leaves you asking just how can you EVER be sure? This one (12 June) is headed "Space aliens turned our son into an olive". It seriously expects you to believe that a six year old Chilean was struck by a beam from a UFO, turned into a tiny green lump and "ended up as an alien's aperitif". The lad was then DRUNK in a "horror cocktail" and the father later blamed by police for having "drowned his own son in a martini"... But they do not think the murder charge will stick because the chief of police gave them a perfect alibi by "eating the body".

How do they beat that? Stay tuned... I'm sure they'll think of something.

#### A STATEMENT BY JENNY RANGLES...

*"During broadcasts on the North West UFO Line in February 1988 I made certain allegations concerning the author Mr Whitley Strieber and his book 'Communion'. I recognise that the statements I made could have been taken to imply motivations and actions on the part of Mr Strieber which would be quite unfounded and that I thereby caused considerable embarrassment and distress to Mr Strieber. I unreservedly withdraw any possible imputations or allegations made of Mr Strieber and express my sincere regret at having made such statements"*

*Jenny Rangles*

**NEWS ROUND-UP:**

:: Mr Keeling of Notts sent me some interesting material about "Light Years"- the book of the Eduard 'Billy' Meier saga, now published by Penguin in paperback with the, er, accurate shout-line that it is the 'most credible UFO case ever' ( the competition ,presumably,were stories from the never-never land catalogue).Anyhow,Mr Keeling enquires as to why Meier -the one armed Swiss farmer whose story is somewhat controversial- appears to have *different* missing arms,according to photos in the book.Its hard to tell from the photocopies he has sent,but one shot of Meier walking with Wendelle Stevens appears to show Meier with a right hand,whilst another of him stood by 'landing tracks' seems to show that arm missing and his left one mysteriously intact.This might be an illusion or the effect of someone goofing and printing one picture the wrong way around.But any comments would be appreciated.

:: Usually I got general enquiry letters.A recent one from Middlesex lists ten questions.I am having problems with some of them.Can anyone assist? For instance:-*What planet do UFOs come from? What are most of them made from? Do they have wheels?* Well - do they?

:: Another recent letter was from Brooklyn,New York.The lady,whom I shall not identify,believes she is psychic (although her psychiatrists say she is a schizophrenic).She has long been in touch with the dead (from Rock Hudson to John Lennon).But she has a problem;"I can now speak to the dead who haven't died yet.They speak to me when I see them on TV or in movies" She has offered to pass on any questions we might have for Tom Cruise,Billy Idol or Paul McCartney.

:: Smashing book offers from Holywood (the Irish version!- And with appropriate postcode too).EXCALIBUR Books have special lists of imported US titles,for instance £9.50 for 'Far Star' by Fillman Bledsoe (apparently about the UFO cover up).More assured offerings include BOTH Budd Hopkins titles ('Missing Time' and 'Intruders'- in paperback at £3.40 and £4 respectively).(All prices plus post and in UK or foreign cheques).Seems a good bargain.Address:-  
Rivenoak 15 Rockport RD Craigavad Holywood Co Down N Ireland BT18 ODD

**WE READ THE GUARDIAN**

On 17 February the Guardian became the first member of Britain's respectable press to accept a serious article on UFOs .I was quite pleased with my minor breakthrough and Ralph Moyes, writing a few days later, called it "the best coup for commonsense" since Paul Devereux's last piece in New Scientist.He added;"I hope the Guardian get an interesting postbag and let you see it."

They did.And interesting it was.One man from Scotland wrote,astonished,that scientists did not realise that UFOs were ball lightning.No,his name wasn't Steuart Campbell.It was even more unpronounceable than a certain MUFORA member who usually remains nameless because only the Daily Star can spell it.He described a sighting by his father in 1981 over the River Tweed.The floating ball was green.

From Blackpool another man wrote with his theory of UFOs.They were caused by rainbows.Apparently,so he says,"high altitude ice crystals have in fact created another spectrum within the blue of the atmosphere- a spectrum within a spectrum." Mind you, later in his incoherent letter he claimed to be working for the UK government on the after effects of the Chernobyl disaster, which have produced time anomalies and prevented church clocks from synchronising.

Can't quite swallow that? Okay,a farmer from Preston wanted to pass on his theory "which I have tried to get published,but nobody wants to know".

What is his idea? That satellites in orbit have been fused by the sun into a glassy mass which acts like a giant mirror.To overcome pre 1957 Sputnik cases he suggests meteoritic debris does the same.All UFOs are seen around sunrise and sunset and on clear days,he tells us.If that were true he might have something.As it isn't,I think this is just another ingenious none solution.

This was representative of the Guardian postbag.No sober letters from scientists offering services or close encounters.At least, none reached me.Maybe they went to the MoD.Or are we are being too cynical of Sunday Sport readers?

**UFOLOGISTS DO IT FOR CHARITY**

Few British readers can be unaware that over Bank Holiday weekend in late May the whole ITV network cancelled every programme for 27 hours.In place was a non stop fund raiser for charity - *telethon* - making a world record £22 MILLION.

Many stars of stage and screen took part and Ufology did its bit too.It would appear that all told over £1000 was raised at our three sites.

There were two skywatches.MUFORC in Northants raised an unknown sum at Hunsbury Hill near Corby for Anglia TV.Little is known about their venture,but there were a couple of stories in the local press and they charged £1 a head to people who came along to watch the skies with the experts.

The weather was not so rosy over in Yorkshire,where IUV were trying a similar scheme with ITV.They made it on screen and there were some media stories also;including a large photo of MUFORA readers Gary Anthony and Andy Valmsley staring down their telescopes.Over £200 was raised,including some from snapshots that were offered to customers alongside B.E.T. (Beautiful Extra-Terrestrial- a strange being from the even stranger planet, *Quest*)

Whilst some case reports trickled in here,there was a steady stream into the MUFORA event.This also raised £600,but had the best advantage-direct liaison with Jodrell Bank,the famed astronomical radio telescope in Cheshire.

This was,in fact,a major achievement in terms of cooperation between serious Ufology and science.MUFORA were pleasantly surprised that Professor Smith,the head of Jodrell, approved the plan and came along to the display himself. However,it should be reported that he had to face unexpected opposition (unexpected to him that is!) Several scientists phoned Jodrell when they read of the scheme and accused him of selling out the credibility of the establishment. Of course,none of them came along to see what we were doing.It was much to the credit of Jodrell that they did not bow to this debunking pressure (which seems not to mind that Jodrell's shop sells one UFO book- the awful 'World's greatest UFO mysteries').

In fact,MUFORA staged a major exhibition with assistance from BUFORA,and great help from John Spencer on the day.This illustrated the serious nature of UFO investigation and was packed with visitors.There was one scheduled daily planetarium lecture (by Peter Hough and Jenny Randles),but they were so well subscribed (200 people) that four extra illustrated lectures had to be set up.

Also there were question and answer sessions and competitions (eg guessing the identity of IFOs on a series of 'UFO' photos or estimating how many sightings have been reported in Britain since 1962).A unique 'UFO surgery' was held and a number of cases were reported,which will be appearing in MUFORA from this issue onward.However,despite the usual looney story in the Star "Alien shock for UFO experts"- Chris Ptaszynski certainly did NOT tell them we had 35 cases of alien spaceships reported during this surgery! Sources were,ah,inaccurate.

Other media stories were far more respectable.I did several radio promotions, a Telethon promotional piece for Granada TV and a marvellous full page account- "Heavenly encounters"- appeared in the Manchester Evening News on 25 May.This was one of the best articles on serious ufology I have ever seen.

To those who took part -thank you.Ufology's image benefited,as did charity.

FOR YOUR PERUSAL:-

## Major articles elsewhere

Issue 1 of UFO UNIVERSE (July) has arrived. It has 70pp of articles and photos (some in colour). As expected, rather trivialised and over the top- although there are signs that some moves are afoot to improve content. This issue has mostly US content (John Keel on 'the early days'... Linda Moulton Howe on cattle mutilations... Brad Steiger on abductions; plus some more restrained case histories from people like Philip Imbrogno and Antonio Huneus) £1.75, bi-monthly. You can order it from major UK newsagents chains (c/o Condor Books, New York).

Meanwhile, also in the USA, the hot case is the Gulf Breeze, Florida affair- video films of countless UFOs and aliens by a witness called Mr Ed! MUFOM has been the most outspoken in support of these rather dubious looking light images; CUFOS the most outspoken against (issuing a special Bulletin in April- "The Other side of the Coin" trying to show the cases doubtful status). Another careful critic (carrying much on the case in the March, April and May issues) is ORBITER (43 Harrison St Reading MA 01867 USA)- well worth a look. A good balanced intro to this highly charged controversy is in the May Journal of the Fortean Research Centre (\$15, PO Box 94627, Lincoln, NE 68509 USA)

MJ-12 and disinformation also gets a good airing (from Chris Allan, who exposed the Allingham hoax, ex-MoD man Ralph Moyes and your editor)- lengthy debate in the May-June issue of UFO Brigantia.

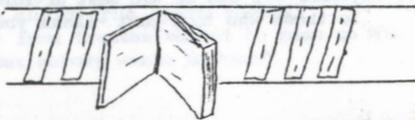
Finally, it is great to welcome back UFO Research Australia after too long an absence. The April special is a 22pp report (with photos) on the celebrated (perhaps over-hyped) Mundrabilla case. THE definitive account. (c/o PO Box 229 Prospect South Australia 5082)

IUR (\$35, US, 6 issues, 2457 W Peterson Chicago ILL 60659 USA)  
Jan/Feb... Dr Thomas (Eddie) Bullard on mechanised UFOs and airships in folklore and abduction reports from Richard Hall and JK (surveying the UK scene)  
Feb/Mar... A good pro and con debate on Gulf Breeze from Dennis Stacy and Mark Rodeghier and a major piece on abductees and fantasy prone personality states of consciousness from Keith Basterfield Robert Bartholomew.

MUFOM Journal (\$30, US, 12 issues, 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin TX 78155-4099 USA)  
What can you say about the packed content? Here's just a few items in the April to June issues... Andy Roberts on foo fighters, Dr Paul Davies a major review of ball lightning, with a follow up from Ralph Moyes, Whitley Strieber replies to his critics, JR on 'Do we have two ufologies?' and Jerome Clark responding to this suggestion that the ETH has become too dominant at a subconscious level, etc etc

FATE April 1988 (\$22, US, 12 issues, 500 Hyacinth Pl, Highland Pk, ILL 60035 USA)  
Jerome Clark with Pt 4 of his UFO crashes series reveals for the first time the full background to the release of the MJ-12 papers. Essential for anyone trying to understand this complex business. FATE also fulfills the needs of those who have asked why there is nothing to fill the gap after the demise of 'The Unknown' Monthly, packed with 120 pp of material on the paranormal each issue - and not dear for a UK subscription.

STRANGE No 2 (\$19.95, US, 4 issues, PO Box 2246, Rockville, MD 20852 USA)  
The US version of Fortean Times. Includes a debate on UFO cases.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT:

Not much to report this issue, except the publication in paperback of Light Years. Above Top Secret is due in paperback from Grafton next February (price £5.95), followed in the Spring by the Abduction softback from Headline.

SPI have two new booklets on offer from the address (see p.16)... "Mysteries of the Scottish Landscape" by Ron Halliday (65p) and "Looking at strange phenomena" by Frank McKay (75p)- but I don't know much about them.

Also submitted for review is *Magic Dragon* by NUN reader Bruce Baker (£1 from Veller Publications 1 Ravenshoe Godmanchester Cambs PE18 8DE). A 42pp novel which defies description (but I'll try!). Its, ah, sort of about how the author and his characters get all mixed up (literally) whilst investigating/fighting various elemental beings, using magic that can only be performed whilst he is dressed up as a gypsy princess from Transylvania... 'Wuff said? It's either incredibly original or piffle, according to your taste. I'll just call it a shinely reflective ensemble of geriatric shoemakers and let you work it out for yourself.

UPDATES: THE MRS B ABDUCTION

Ray Broderick wishes to respond to the report in the last issue about the Clayton-Le-Moors, Lancashire, abduction. Investigators Philip Mantle and Andy Roberts suggest this was a vivid dream, based in part on the details of Fallon's abduction in 'Dynasty', which the witness admits to having watched just hours before. I have to say that I, personally, accept the basis for their opinion, but it can, of course, as always with such cases, be a value judgement- no more.

Ray thinks otherwise. He says: "I believe that Mrs B and her family did have an experience of a very close kind. It is true that the Dynasty programme did trigger off an event on 13 February 1988, but in fact this close encounter took place in the early hours of Thursday, 20 June 1987 (my calendar shows the 20th June was a Saturday - JR)... This laid dormant for eight months and the viewing of Dynasty was a mind jogger to Mrs B of an experience which changed her life style."

Mr Broderick would also like to add that Mrs B and family are NOT friends, but neighbours. He insists that her "private part was interfered with" and "she nearly went off her nut". Allegedly one of her children saw the entities too and has drawn them for Ray. He is watching the matter and states that "the investigation is still going on and a lot of detail is yet to come out". He closes, "I will not abandon this investigation so lightly, because there is too much in it. But at the end of the day, we must ask ourselves a question:- Where do we find the kidnappers?"

We still need to know why her story contains so many details found in the Dynasty plot, but I am sure that Ray will keep us posted on developments.

MEDIA MATTERS:-

A look at UFOs in the public eye



It is worth looking at publicity for "Abduction", which was not widespread but produced three TV interviews and around 20 radio slots. Newspaper wise there were no serious nationals that covered it (after the frightful treatment by the Star in their 'three day serialisation' that was no surprise).

One of the best features in the provincial press was in the Newcastle Chronicle (23 April) which summarised the pro and con argument about ETH and mind theories. It concluded: "These cases have been on the increase since the introduction of television and high speed mass communications... they are centred in countries with common information and, interestingly, an apparent shared pool of fears... the book is fascinating not because it gives us an insight into other worlds, but because of what it tells us of our own precariously balanced planet."

The *Wolverhampton Express* (16 April) carried a long interview with some good points highlighted "Most of these people are very sincere. Very few of them are fabricating stories or under any kind of mental delusion. That is not to say they have actually had a real physical abduction, but they have had some very disturbing experiences."

Far and away the most space was devoted by the South Wales Echo which based a three part full-page series on the book on 4, 5 & 6 May. In part one they subtly interwove Welsh folklore tales with modern abductions and it was hard to see the join. A clever ploy. Part two was a look at contactees; "No ufologist ever let the facts get in the way of a visitor from Venus... the Adamski revelations triggered a positive flood of contactees. They also paved the way for books like *Abduction*." (Sic!) Inevitably, the final part followed this with "We have contact with ET" - the headline rather amusingly positioned above a shot of Patrick Moore next to his telescope. This was mostly a none too kind attack on the Aetherius Society very much in the way Abduction does it (although that fact was conveniently omitted). It was a means of attacking ufology as a whole with choice quotes like; "Most ufologists find their Masters living on Venus or Saturn... or inside the earth... readers of Marvel Comics know where we go from here."

Guess what? The Aetherius Society did not like this. They had a rejoinder published by the Echo on 31 May, when 'Dr' Richard Lawrence wrote to attack the series; "the quality of investigative journalism in preparing this article is appallingly low" (presumably because they never phoned up the 'doctor'). He added that the Aetherians are now on all five continents and are; "a growing number of intelligent, open minded supporters who have carefully investigated our claims". The paper then gave full details for people to write or phone in their sightings to this cult, whom they had just torn to shreds three weeks before! I wrote immediately to the journalist, pointing out a few things (like the dubious nature of Mr Lawrence's doctorate and George King's knighthood and strongly urging the paper to retract its endorsement of a cult because it might not help its readers if they sent cases to a religious body on the false assumption they were a UFO group). I never even got an answer. Last year Police Review, no less, endorsed the Aetherians and printed a reply from me, removing EVERY SENTENCE opposed to the Aetherius Society, in 1986 my BBC radio series was almost taken off the air at the last minute until I bowed to pressure from the head of programmes to remove all reference to the Aetherians, whilst a few weeks later BBC-2 gave them a free platform for 40 minutes to expound their claptrap!... Just a few weeks ago one source tried to stop Peter Hough and I printing critical comment about the society in our forthcoming book 'Death by Supernatural Causes?')

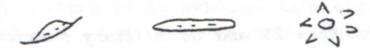
Pure coincidence. What else? But why is everyone so afraid of these religious fanatics? Its almost as if they are rooted in society like the Freemasons... with friends in high places everywhere.

On a happier note, New Scientist has been carrying quite a few UFO items of late. Long reviews by Dennis Stacy of the two American books on entity cases from Philip Klass and Jacques Vallee (the latter being a disappointing rehash of already published material). Of course, British books like 'Phenomenon' or 'Abduction' have not featured, but what do you expect - miracles?

It also gave us (26 May) a piece by David Langford; "Myths in the Making", about why his fabricated UFO book, "Account of a meeting with denizens of another world", was a flop. The publisher suggested this mildly funny book that no real ufologist took seriously - as he knows - to "lambast modern ufology for its lack of scientific rigour". He goes on, in cheeky style to prove he knows sweet FA about serious ufology but likes to pretend to his pompous scientific colleagues that he does... "The book passed into history - at least, that peculiar alternative history beloved of the ufologist... ufology is always prepared to assimilate any odd incident whatever... (But) In off-trail phenomena... the book market... rewards sincerity, even misguided, self-deluding and totally daft sincerity."

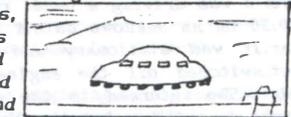
## BRIEF CASES:-

Some current investigations



Two overseas sightings to record first of all:- USA and BARBADOS

This truly impressive case from north west USA is an either/or. Its the sort of thing which defies logical solution. Like the witness, now 40 and a jewellery store manageress, said; "It was identical with the UFO in the movie 'Encounters of the third kind'. When I saw that movie it brought shivers to my body." Exact date (since ascertained for us by witness Suzie B) was 4 January 1974. Time 06.35 hrs and location Vancouver, Washington (not far from Portland, Oregon) USA. Suzie went downstairs to let the dog out and there, in the darkness, directly across the street over the powerlines, was this classic domed disc. It was totally silent, very low and enormous in relative size. An area of windows covered the middle and on the underside were blinking red and orange lights that revolved. She was so entranced that she simply "forgot about my dog and left him outside" - so she does not know if there were any effects. Suzie ran screaming upstairs and jumped onto the bed for a better view. The object was still there, hovering. Her husband refused to budge, saying she was 'nuts', something he has ever after regretted. She recalls "I had to continually rub the window because I was steaming it up with my breath". After about 3/4 minutes observation the UFO rose straight up slowly, then accelerated away at an angle. Whilst watching it "I felt as if they were watching me. I was a little frightened but it was the most satisfying experience of my whole lifetime. I will never forget it." Later that day TV carried reports of a UFO being seen by many in the 20 miles around this location, from Hazell Dell, Washington to Roseberg, Oregon. Suzie adds; "I had a perfect view of it. It was not a star or the moon." PERHAPS CUFGOS AND NUFGON WOULD CHECK THEIR FILES FOR OTHER SIGHTINGS THIS DATE



Also a widely reported UFO, is the sighting sent by Tony L of Christ Church, Barbados, West Indies. It was 1 September 1987 at 20.40 hrs. Tony was at a bar on White Sands Hotel beach when strange lights appeared in the sky. Tourists, barman and many others ran forward to watch them. Tony had a Nikon F2 camera (he is a photographer and was working that night) and instinctively swivelled this onto the lights. He set it to f2 and took two exposures as "these objects hurtled gleaming and radiating lights, like crystal, parallel across my film plane." The lights were red, yellow, blue and green and, show up clearly (he says) on the Kodak VRG 100 ASA colour negative film. In flowery prose Tony describes how after satisfying his professionalism he set about, watching the lights. They looked like rockets, meteors or space debris, he contends, "yet their flight formation and parallel trajectory banished any notion of their being a natural phenomenon." They criss crossed and meandered for 3 minutes and sound similar to the well publicised multi coloured ping pong balls' in Brazil in May 1986. Allegedly air crew saw them and local TV reported how a British Airways pilot on a path to land at Grantley Adams airport counted 20. A LLAT pilot whom Tony interviewed said he saw 7 in a 'V' formation. They travelled north-south and were NOT tracked on radar, according to the airport. The US Embassy got involved and contacted NASA who denied any involvement. Tony gave his pictures to the US State Department! The Barbados government accused the USAF of invading their air space. Tony included copies of press stories. These indicate that they were either reflective birds (flying south?) or space/meteor debris. Tony sent a good photocopy of his pictures (which show 7 tiny specks of light, slightly blurred by the exposure time). He offered to sell us copies via his agent in New York for big sums and sadly refused our suggestion of scientific investigation and analysis.

CASE 5511 MUFORA APRIL 1955 Ilton,Derby Mark Simpson (B 4-4)

Witness, then 29 and on military service at army barracks. Time 19.30 hrs on clear starry night. Object came from SW as domed circular and fuzzy blob. It stopped about 100 ft above and was now just a round glow. He ran to bring two colleagues as the glow hovered, and they saw it too. He has lost contact with them. The object then made some slight movements then accelerated away back to the SW. He claims it was seen again the following night and the local Derby newspapers carried stories (can any reader check this out?) He alleges they reported that a test pilot saw it and two meteor jets were scrambled after the light.

CASE 7139 MUFORC 1970/1971 West Hadden, Northants Still/Shaw (A 3-3)

Mrs A was driving a usual route from Ravensthorpe to West Hadden in the dark at 20.30 on an unknown date. A light appeared ahead, in the NW, at first taken to be a car. It was stationary and yellowish with a greenish tinge. Mrs A stopped, got out, switched off the engine and watched. It seemed to 'surge' slightly at the edges. She returned to the car turned right and proceeded into the village. The light 'paced' her but then, as she turned left, went out of view above houses. It was estimated as in view for 10-15 minutes. The witness is now in her 70's. The investigators suggest various possibilities, eg UAP, earthlight or searchlight. Frankly I can see nothing here not consistent with a bright star or planet such as Venus or Jupiter with the pacing and disappearance caused by the car's motion.

#### A FIREWORKS PHOTOGRAPH

Case 8742 MUFORA 5 November 1987 Scarborough, N. Yorks

A spectacular colour print was submitted by witness Mr C, depicting a bonfire with a crescent and teardrop shape above it. Witness stated that he was taking pictures by Scarborough lifeboat slipway looking towards the Grand Hotel but saw nothing except the fire. Camera was a Minolta x 700 with 35-200 Tokina telephoto on a tripod. The startling image was taken to the Scarborough Evening News, who were allegedly so impressed that they sent it to the MoD. They said they had no other reports. Boots, who processed it, advised it was a "coma" (???). However, there is absolutely no doubt (and all photo experts to whom we showed these prints agreed with MUFORAs verdict) that the 'UFO' is nothing more than a lens flare caused by the strong light from the fire bouncing off the camera lens. The witness has been advised.



#### STRANGERS IN OUR CURTAINS

Case 8743 MUFORC October 1987 Wellingborough, Northants Shaw/Still (A 5-1)

Mr and Mrs K were in bed at 23.45 hrs when they saw a bright white light silhouetted on the bedroom curtains. This glow allegedly woke them. Two strange men then appeared as if floating outside the window (behind the glow?) and coming and going, to and fro. This is typical behaviour for hypnagogic imagery. After 5 minutes they vanished and the couple got out of bed, went to the window but could see nothing or nobody out in the street. Mr K turned out to be aged 35 and an unemployed rail worker. Other strange events have supposedly occurred, notably one on 14 January 1988 at 11.45 hrs, when his wife and many other staff saw a huge object over the Saxby factory where they work in the town. Mrs K declined to be interviewed, but her husband told the tale for her, stating it had nearly hit the aereals on rooftops when the thing; "red, white, green and blue lights on an object with square windows" took off. The investigators wrote to Saxby, who put their request for witnesses on the staff

canteen notice board but nobody came forward. There is no evidence this sighting ever happened as, despite it allegedly being a mass witness event in broad daylight, it was not reported in the press. The investigators also remind that airships from the nearby SkyShip factory are a common sight in the area. The day after the interview a hand-delivered letter from Mr K was posted through the investigators door. Ernie Still was in, but nobody knocked. It had nothing of any significance inside and if delivered by Mr K meant a considerable trip from Wellingborough to Corby for no obvious reason. A second interview was cancelled after the investigators made the trek to Wellingborough and were refused permission to enter, since Mrs K objected and 'did not want to talk'. Additional confidential material in the report seriously detracts from the probable value of this case and the investigators have closed the file.

CASE 8803 MUFORA 10 February 1988 Grange-Over-Sands, Cumbria (C 2-5)

Mr B was in contact after reporting some fascinating sightings of ghost WW II aircraft at haunted airfields in East Anglia. This sighting occurred from his home soon after, where he is officer in charge at an old folks establishment. There is not much to it. He was in bed with his wife at 23.00 when the white 'saucer' light shot across the open window travelling on a course to the NW, ie out to sea. It was in view only 2/3 seconds and sounds like a meteor. Mr B says he has seen similar things before and considered meteors but the trajectory is too flat.

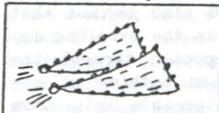
CASE 8805 MUFORA 14 February 1988 Chadderton, Gtr Manchester Mills (B 4-4)

This is just the final in a series of at least three observations during the first two weeks of February in Chadderton near Oldham. The others could not be followed up in any detail, but involved similar objects. Andrea, aged 15 and A level pupil, and friend ("we are just good friends NOT a courting couple"), Julian, a concrete tester claim no interest in UFOs; although Andrea had read Peter Hough's SHE article on the Bolton CE 4 case and JR's Guardian article on UFOs the week of the sighting. Her mother had also seen a UFO and reported it via Jodrell Bank previously. It was 22.45 and they were walking the dog through a local estate but ignored it for some minutes until setting off to go home and noting that it was still hovering over Broadway. It was yellowish and rectangular and remained for around 15 minutes. Two aircraft flew over, offering comparisons. As the last one vanished towards Manchester Airport the yellow UFO began to move. It changed into red and white flashing lights, climbed away in a circle and seemed to be vanishing. At this stage, they had concluded it was just an aircraft. But it began to descend and head back towards them, and they hastened their pace to get home. Now it suddenly flared into a blue/white hexagon shape and drifted off behind the local pub. MUFORA is satisfied that there are grounds for believing this was a helicopter with searchlight and Ferranti, just off Broadway, regularly fly one.

CASE 8807... UFO, F-19 or VC-10?

There were a number of reports on 16 May 1988 in the Fernwood area of Stafford. Mrs B said that about 22.00 hrs she saw two triangles surrounded by dozens of coloured lights. Mrs B, a civilian with the local police, was in the garden with two friends and two neighbours when they all saw the objects, heralded by "two spotlights coming through the sky towards us - so bright we couldn't see anything else." These banked over and the side on formation appeared. They were quite silent. The local press reported these to JR who referred them to Clive Potter for details of other triangle UFOs in the Midlands recently. JR suggested the option of F-19s on test from RAF Alconbury and to their credit the

Staffordshire Newsletter did some good investigation. Mike Daly of Jane's Aviation Weekly confirmed that they had received rumours of F-19 ('Stealth' jet) flights from Alconbury and it was an ideal base for such a possibility. He said: "The US is



rumoured to have 40 Stealth F-19s and there are reports that the Americans have flown them to East Anglia from California in the back of a Galaxy, reassembled them and test flown them." The plane, reputed to have very quiet engines, near radar invisibility and camouflage skin is NOT on British bases, both Alconbury and the USAF insist. Indeed they even denied that there WAS such a plane! Mrs B added that "I was in the RAF myself for 4 years and if these were planes, they must have developed something pretty fantastic that defies all the laws of flying." Meanwhile, a new twist came the next week. John T, another Stafford resident, saw them and insisted they were RAF VC-10s from Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. This RAF base DID confirm that two VC-10s did leave at 20.35 hrs and their course "might have taken them near Staffordshire". But new witnesses came forward, saying adamantly "No way were these VC-10s." One added, "I often go to air displays and I would know a VC-10 if I saw one." This witness said the triangles were very low and very slow moving... "they were too low, slow and quiet to be VC-10s". But the F-19 possibility attracted some support from some of these witnesses. Then, one month later almost to the day, it happened again. This is still under investigation, but it is clear that some form of aircraft explanation is involved in these multi witness recurrent sightings.

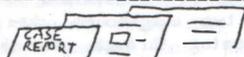
CASE 8808 MUFORA 28 May 1988 Edgeley, Stockport, Cheshire Sandbach (A 1-0)

A call routed from Jodrell Bank was quickly resolved. Witness JT was playing bowls in Alexandra Park at 16.50 on a sunny Saturday. With him was his girlfriend when an aircraft passed over. As Edgeley is on the flightpath into Manchester Airport they thought nothing of it until a dark red object appeared underneath. "It was like something falling out of the plane" the girl suggested. This then drifted off in the opposite direction to the plane in the vicinity of Didsbury. It turned out to be an accurate description. This was indeed something 'falling out of the plane', a sponsored parachute jump into a Didsbury field as part of the ITV Telethon. Manchester Airport were supervising things.

CASE 8809 MUFORA 9 June 1988 Mantwich, Cheshire Randles (B 1-1)

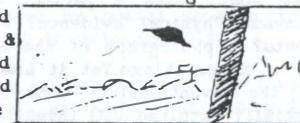
It is not often we can solve a case as quickly as this. At 15.35 hrs Mrs JB was driving through the centre of the town when she saw a light "like a car headlight" in the north. It was visible just seconds and then went out. The weather was dull with much low misty cloud. She returned straight home, phoned Jodrell Bank, was put onto JR and reported the sighting less than 20 minutes after it had happened. JR immediately suspected the cause, spoke right away to the duty air traffic controller at Manchester Airport, who confirmed that there was traffic in the area and that because of the weather landing lights were being used. A quick check of routes showed that as the searchlight beam flashed past the witness from her position, with the aircraft circling to land, it would have reflected off cloud and appeared exactly as described. The solution was conveyed to the witness and accepted, still less than 45 minutes after the UFO was seen. Why can't they ALL be that easy!

CASE HISTORIES



THE GREAT AUGUST WAVE (Part 4)

To round off this look at the wave of sightings we can see an example of a case where witnesses tried to use publicity for the wave to good effect. Girls from Countesthorpe College near Leicester sent a copy of a photo they claimed to have taken at 21.00 on 20 August 1987. It depicted a dark blob through a window by a lamp post. Even a superficial glance suggested it was a fake, created by something on the window & then shooting the scene. The density of the UFO showed that it was small and near the camera, not large and far away. The girls also sent a detailed questionnaire with the picture asking for our views. In reply, careful skepticism was shown, pointing out that we could not accept a submitted photo as genuine without proper evaluation and that there were some problems with this one. Could they clear them up? We would also need to loan the negative for study. At the end the hint was dropped: "Of course, we always have to beware tests on our competency as investigators as occasionally people fake pictures hoping we will be fooled - hence our caution." Nothing further was heard from the college.



A week later, on 27 August 1987, Peter Hough of MUFORA and Arthur Tomlinson/Bill Skelon of DIGAP followed up a possible CE 3. In fact the witness was the same man, Brian, who was involved in the spectacular Abram sightings in August 1982 (see "Science and the UFOs").

Brian no longer lives in Abram, but instead in nearby Bickershaw. He is still a CB enthusiast and goes to Diggle Flash, a man made lake from coal land reclamation. He dangles wire into the lake to create a super aerial to boost his transmissions. At 21.30 he had seen lights and an arrowhead south of the Flash (remarkably similar to his 1982 sightings). Returning at 00.30 he saw more lights and a large cigar shaped object low down directly above the water. His headlights brought it to his notice. Terrified he fled, sat in his car outside his house and was too scared to go to bed when he went inside. Instead he settled onto the sofa with a blanket and at 02.30 the room went cold and a figure like a mannequin appeared standing in the shadows by the fireplace. No room light was on.

The entity was about 4 feet tall with 'chicken skin' and deep black holes for eyes. It was wearing a monk like habit or cloak and a pointed hat. This again is remarkably akin to the sighting of a mannequin figure from nearby Leigh in May 1976 (see "UFOs: A British Viewpoint"). Brian hid under the blankets and it disappeared, although he did not see it do so.

Nine days later there was a virtual rerun! Lights over Crankwood, a cigar again and when he fled home the cat was missing. He searched the house but could not find it then, once more came a 'feeling' that the events of the night were not over, so he slept on the settee. Again the house became cold.

This time he heard mumbling sounds and standing in the same place he saw the figure again. It was still immobile, but the muttering was making his ears ring. Most of it was gibberish, but he remembers one word "Shallakan or Shakakan". Next the room grew dark and he felt as if a force were trying to pull him through a hole in the sofa. He closed his eyes, opened them again and the figure was gone. Getting up he found the cat, curled up and sound asleep on the bed.

This is summarised from a long report and taped interviews by Peter Hough, who notes how easy it would be to dismiss all this as over active imagination. But he points out that the first sightings in 1982 DID have quite a lot of independent verification, although after that Brian was mistaking aircraft circling the area for more UFOs.

Peter feels certain the witness is sincere and believes himself that he had a genuine series of terrifying encounters. But what that means in the long run is quite another matter.

This is the final part of the series

THE PERFECT ABDUCTION? MUFORA Report by Peter Hough

Case 8744 1 December 1987 Ilkley Moor, W. Yorkshire Level A (SP 9-5)

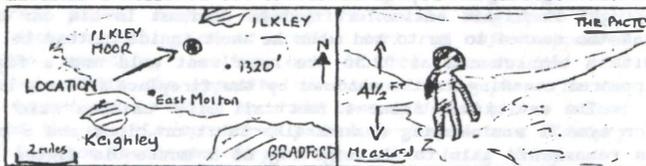
What would make a perfect abduction case? A highly qualified and credible witness? Physical evidence? Full study under hypnosis? Rapid reporting of the events? A photograph of the alien? In this extraordinary story we seem to have all of those things. Yet it has been seriously weakened thanks to callous abuse of the event, whilst enhancing personal glorification. The guilty party; one partially involved UFO investigator— Steve Balon of the group DIGAP.

Strong stuff? Perhaps so. But judge for yourselves from this inevitably brief summary based on Peter Hough's preliminary 25 page report.

On 1 December a former police officer (currently rejoining the force), whom we call Philip, then living in West Yorkshire, took a walk over the moors to visit a relative in East Morton. It was a hike, but a familiar one. He took with him a compass and his old basic camera, a 35mm Prinz Mastermatic, loaded with Kodacolor VR 400 ASA film. He had already taken a number of shots of local buildings on previous days and intended to take some more from the moors as dawn broke.

He left at 07.15 in pitch dark, taking an arduous steep shortcut. At around 07.45, with it still dark, he heard a humming sound and then ahead against the lightning sky saw "what I can only describe as a small green creature moving quickly away". He shot one picture, as it appeared to wave him away, then 'shambled' behind an outcropping. Philip scuttled up the steep gap in the rocks (30 feet) and rounded the little knoll. In a hollowed out crater he now saw a classic UFO.

The object was "like two silver saucers stuck together edge to edge (with) some sort of box sticking out of the top of the object that was descending in to it". The humming grew louder and the craft shot vertically and then vanished. He was not able to take a photograph of the UFO, since this happened too fast.



In a slightly shocked state, Philip decided to abandon his plans to continue the hike and set off back down the moors. He was NOT wearing a watch but realised that there was a major time anomaly when he arrived in Ilkley. A thirty minute walk ought to have made it about 08.15. The town hall clock read 10.00 and all the shops were open (proving this correct). So he hopped onto a bus into the nearby town of Keighley, where he knew there was a one hour photo developing service. He was desperate to see if he was going mad. On the way he took two street shots to try to use film, but then realised this was pointless and took it in with half the shots untaken. Upon returning to collect his film "there it was... The quality was poor but there was no doubt. I had captured on film what I saw with my eyes."

In addition, Philip's compass showed a major anomaly. Its polarity was reversed through 180 degrees, so that it now pointed south instead of north!

Deciding he must report the experience he went to the library, found a book on UFOs and wrote to Jenny Randles on 3 December, just 48 hours after his adventure. He related the story as above. When Jenny received the letter it was immediately recognised by MUFORA as extraordinary. Yet it was well constructed, restrained and obviously the product of an intelligent witness. Curiously, although

'Philip' had included his real name, he gave only a box number in a town many miles from Yorkshire (the witness moved here during the investigation). Jenny traced the address and phone number of the witness in Ilkley, but he had moved to another address in the town—where he was ex-directory—the day he posted the letter. The box number was also odd, for reasons given by postal sources (who would not, of course reveal the owner). A letter was sent immediately to it.

However, Philip did not collect this until Christmas because none of his family knew the story, and he had to wait to visit the town where the box was. In the meantime, he got frustrated at waiting, returned to the library and found the address and phone number of DIGAP, where he immediately contacted Arthur Tomlinson in Bury. Arthur involved Steve Balon and both visited the site with Philip. From the start DIGAP was advising that the witness had definitely seen a spaceship and that the alien was a 'retrieval device'. The intelligent and cautious witness was baffled by this over zealous interpretation of what had happened and was himself making no such claims. He was, in fact, very laid back about his story.

Just before MUFORA planned to write again, Arthur Tomlinson mentioned to Peter Hough in conversation that they had an entity photo (Philip had even given them the negative without question or receipt). Peter immediately recognised it as the case Jenny had received 4 weeks before and arranged to go with Balon and Tomlinson to the site and meet the witness. Jenny also spoke to Philip on the phone. Both MUFORA researchers were impressed with his apparent sincerity, insistence on complete anonymity, total lack of any interest in financial reward and yet 100 per cent willingness to assist in every way in the investigation.

By this point the views of Balon were clear. He had concluded this was an alien kidnap. Peter, Jenny and MUFORA accepted the sincerity of the witness on the surface, but told him they could not automatically consider such an amazing case bona-fide and it would have to be viewed cautiously, with efforts to prove or disprove it. The witness accepted this with understanding and interest and seemed pleased at our attitude. Privately we considered the option that this could be a sociological or photographic test of investigation groups. We were as convinced as we could be it was not a mundane hoax for reasons such as fame or fortune.

Considerable MUFORA investigation has followed, involving several scientists and universities, three independent analyses of the photograph, experiments on the compass and interviews and regression hypnosis of the witness by a clinical psychologist. This turned the case into a possible abduction with usual features (eg medical exam). Peter will publish very detailed reports of his work in the literature. The next two issues of MUF will offer a full review of the evidence.

However, it is very sad to record that on 27 June Balon sold (or gave) the story to the Daily Star out of what looks suspiciously like spite. It was, of course, trivialised bosh that had several facts wrong. It is vital to note that the witness purposely assigned copyright of the photo to Peter some weeks before, for good reasons, and Balon was informed of this shortly before he went to the Star. The newspaper were advised before publication that they had no permission from witness or investigator to use the photo. Most crucial of all Balon knew beyond question that the witness did NOT want the story presented in this way. It was extraordinarily unwise to hype this controversial case. His motivations for going to a sensational tabloid without informing anybody, even the witness, and continuing despite strong opposition (when the witness's career could suffer) are best left for you to judge. But MUFORA advise serious ufologists not to take any note of media stories about this case. In our view a witness who places his trust in people is owed better than what so-called 'ufologist' Balon has given him.

## WORDS

I would like to thank all those who kindly wrote in and urged that I not leave Northern UFO News, and who said they would be sad to see this magazine fold. For 14 years we have been keeping you informed about goings on in the region, and I hope that this will continue for some time yet.

It is true that we are having serious problems at present, and some of you know what they are. They do not alter my support or dedication towards the aims of serious ufology, which this magazine tries to reflect. It would be a tragedy if outside forces were to put a stop to all that.

I will keep going as long as possible. We shall take it issue by issue from now on, but either way NUN will try to continue. Rest assured.

Michele Clare advises me of an interesting experience involving a family member. On 20 May the police in Sheffield asked her to go to his home because he had been discovered in a local store having lost all memory. When Michele arrived he was in a most confused state. He thought it was two hours earlier than it was but had a complete time lapse for those hours. It seems that he was frightened by a car driving past him very close and fast and this 'shock' caused him to block out all memory of the surrounding time. As Michele says, "he was so confused that any suggestion I had made (eg that he had been chased by a UFO) would have been accepted". During the missing period he behaved normally and went shopping for sensible things. He is now totally recovered with his usual excellent memory, but the period is still a blank.

Is this how some CE 4s came about, Michele speculates?

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 CALENDAR

Coming events include the "Ley Hunter Moot" on 16/17 July 1988 (at Llewellyn Hall Swansea YNCA) lectures from Paul Devereux and an update presentation on Project Pennine from David Clarke and Andy Roberts

Further afield (if you are in the super tax bracket) there is a major conference on 4/5/6 September 1988 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The hotel is on the Copacabana Beach and speakers include Eric von Daniken, Jacques Vallee and several other contactee specialists. The one thing it is NOT is cheap, and a tour including 5 days at the hotel, flight and conference attendance will set you back around £1200 plus unnecessary items like food. If you win the pools the address to contact is:- ADAM TOURS Av Alameda Barroso 63 Grupos 1413/1414 20031 Rio

Nearer home (and far cheaper!) there's a smashing conference lined up in Brussels over a weekend in mid November and a full report on that next time. Or in the meantime more details from Hilary Evans at 1 Tranquil Vale London SE3 0BU

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 NUFON Regional Groups

SPI	(Scotland)	4 Woodlea Park, Branshill, Sauchie, Alloa	FK10 3BG
NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
MUFORA	(Lancashire)	6 Silsden Avenue, Louton, Lancashire	VA 3 1EN
IUN	(Yorkshire)	106 Lady Ann Rd, Soothill, Batley, W. Yorks	WF17 0PY
CUFOSC	(Cheshire)	117 Earle Street, Crewe, Cheshire	CW 1 2AG
SSPR	(Derbyshire)	17 Old Quarry Ave, Wales, Sheffield	S 31 3RW
BASE	(W. Midlands)	2 Chapel St, Kingswinford, W. Midlands	OY 6 0JU
LUFOIC	(E. Midlands)	31 Grove Road, Leicester, Leics	LE 5 3HJ
PARASEARCH	(Worcester)	79 Sandringham Rd, Stourbridge, Worcs	OY 8 5HL
NUFORC	(Northants)	46 Occupation Rd, Corby, Northants	NN17 2EF