

Blinding flash riddle

**Hundreds
see
mystery
lights**

Experts believe that a blinding flash in the sky seen over parts of Shropshire in the night might have been a meteorite exploding.

Staffordshire police said they had received hundreds of calls from people who reported seeing mysterious bright lights in the sky and hearing explosions.

A police spokesman said the most likely cause was a meteorite exploding.

There have been sightings of the lights in Staffordshire, Shropshire, Derbyshire, Manchester and South Wales.

Callers reported seeing a couple of big flashes in the sky followed by debris

falling. There was also a rumbling noise and, some said, an explosion.

But police said there had not been any reports of any damage being caused.

Lilleshall weatherman Mr John Warner agreed the most likely cause would be a meteorite exploding. It would have had to happen within 12 miles to be audible.

Mrs Doris Smith, of Greenaway Place, Trench, Telford, said she had seen a blinding flash in the sky at about 1 a.m. today followed by blue spots in the sky. Her husband had been awakened by the lights.

"My first thought was that it was a comet exploding," she said.

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