

Extract from

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UFO alert as mystery light passes over Berks

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THE Thames Valley was on UFO red alert last night.

Air force bases throughout the region scanned the skies after a glowing white object was spotted west of Reading.

Battle radar at a US Air Force base tracked the mystery object in the night sky.

"We are picking up a primary target", said a USAF air traffic controller.

But the UFO disappeared from the sky above Reading at about 9.15pm.

"I thought I was going mad," said a Hungerford woman who reported the slowly-moving bright white light to the

Evening Post earlier in the evening.

But NATO air traffic control staff at the US air strike base at Upper Heyford confirmed they had had reports of a sighting earlier in the day.

Berkshire villagers reported the object, which was moving slowly west.

Astronomers at the Royal Greenwich Observatory at Herstmonceux in Sussex confirmed there should be nothing in the western sky except for Venus.

USAF Upper Heyford air traffic controller Sergeant Byrd Cormier said: "A primary target means that the light is bouncing back off something out there.

"This is a primary target but we have not been able to identify it, and do not

have radio contact with it."

Other key airbases in the Thames Valley scanned the sky for the object.

RAF Brize Norton air traffic controller Corporal Candellin said they were unable to pick up the object.

Sightings

He said the Oxfordshire base knew of a barrage balloon that had slipped its moorings at Stratford and was heading south, but the timing of the balloon's progress did not tie in with the Reading sightings.

Squadron Leader Hayes at RAF Benson in South Oxfordshire said: "There is nothing on the radar. Our almanacs indicate that Venus would be in the

western sky tonight, but that may well not be what was spotted."

Mrs Patricia Horrigan, of Tarrants Hill, Hungerford, said: "I thought I was going mad.

"We were going to watch a science fiction programme on the television and I was going to hang the washing out. I saw a brilliant light in the sky. It was very, very bright and at about 9pm I saw it moving, growing yellow and dimmer."

USAF Upper Heyford said they received several telephone calls from people claiming to have seen the UFO, but despite the sighting on their battle radar were unable to say what the object was.