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Close, but not an encounter

UFO's that puzzled a Middlesbrough family may have been satellites, according to amateur astronomer Timothy Barker.

The Turnbull family of Laburnum Road, Overfields, were fascinated by a starry spectacle for two nights and were convinced the objects flashing across the sky were not just shooting stars.

They said the objects moved across the sky with most travelling from north to south.

But Timothy, 18, of Acklam Road, a member of the Cleveland Astronomical Society, said the family probably saw some of the telecommunication satellites orbiting high above the Earth.

"You can see them any night of the week and some of them are as bright as stars," he added.