

I SAW A UFO SAYS RADIO STAR DAVID

UFO fever hit Britain yesterday, after a close encounter by radio star David Jacobs.

Callers jammed BBC switchboards after Jacobs mentioned briefly on his Radio Two show that he'd seen a mysterious ball of light as he travelled back to London on the M1.

They were reporting similar sightings — and, pieced together, they gave the path of the "UFO" as a great swathe from the West

By STEVE BAILEY

Country to the Midlands and beyond.

Jacobs was returning from the 35th Any Questions anniversary programme in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, with panelist, politician Shirley Williams.

He said: "It was extraordinary. I've never seen anything move so quickly.

Shooting star

"Suddenly, a brilliant white light with a 'tail' shot from left to right in front of us, at a height of about 250 to 300 feet — then disappeared."

The spot where

Trail of calls

It went this way? The UFO path plotted from spotters' calls.

Jacobs saw the light was between M1 junctions 21 and 22 in Leicestershire, at 10.30 p.m. on Friday

His driver, Bill, saw the phenomenon too, and thought it might have been a shooting star.

But, said Jacobs: "It was travelling too low and too fast for that to be a possibility."

Shirley Williams and fellow panelist Jonathan Porritt



Devon and stretched up into Derbyshire.

And there were so many that the popular broadcaster had to appeal to people to stop telephoning Broadcasting House as the switchboard could not cope.

The incident later developed into one of many questions unanswered.

Air Traffic Control at nearby East Midlands Airport recorded nothing on their radar to account for the sighting.

No reports

And the Ministry of Defence in London — where a UFO log is kept — said it had had no reports. Nor, a spokesman added, had Britain's early warning listening station at Fylingdales recorded the incident.

Did Jacobs believe in UFOs? He said later: "There's no way I would close my mind to anything like that — and this is the first time anything like this has happened to me."

missed the light from their rear seats.

But said Shirley: "David was clearly taken aback. He gave a sharp intake of breath, and his first words were: 'My goodness, that's impossible.'"

Air appeal

Listeners' calls confirming and adding to Jacobs' sighting came from as far away as