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# Fresh spate of UFO sightings over county

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Planet Earth, especially Oxfordshire, seems to be a popular choice with alien tourists this year.

Last month alone, Contact International (UK) — a worldwide association for objective UFO researchers — has been inundated with sightings of mysterious craft and strange lights.

The reports have been passed on by Derek Mansell, treasurer of the association, based at his home in Crown Road, Wheatley.

He explained: "We're not saying they are all craft from outer space. They could be, but they are things out of the ordinary that can't be explained."

Among the strange reports are:

September 9: seven sightings from Oxford, Bicester, Boars Hill, Kidlington and Wheatley of a fairly low, fast, silent swept-wing aircraft at 9.05 pm with unusual lights.

September 11: from 8.50 pm to 9.04 pm over Wheatley, a satellite-type light circling silently and then fading out, viewed through binoculars.

September 11: between 9.30 and 9.45 pm at Bicester, two orange-yellow discs flying fast towards Oxford silently, witnessed by a husband and wife. One disc travelled in a straight line, the other weaved from side to side.

September 12: at 10.15 three nurses and others saw three large silver discs, perfectly round, reflecting a lot of

light, moving west to east very fast. September 12: two Abingdon housewives saw a huge object, reflecting light and metallic in texture at 11.05 am. Two airliners passed underneath. They watched it for 35 minutes and then it faded away.

September 12: in Marston Link Road, Oxford, at 10.20 am three men saw several round shining objects moving east very slowly.

September 12: two reps travelling along the M40 near High Wycombe saw five objects follow each other across the motorway at a low height. They were about the size of a football and appeared to be lights.

Mr Mansell an Oxford University laboratory technician who has been

involved with the association since it was formed in 1964, said the rush of sightings over Oxfordshire came after a long slack period.

"It had been fairly quiet this year, and now for some reason there's been a sudden build-up," he said. "I don't know why that should be, but Oxfordshire is normally quite a busy area."

He said he took his role as research officer very seriously. "If I get one report in about a strange sighting, then I might have some doubts about it," he went on. "But when you've got several people all seeing the same thing, then you've got to believe them, especially when the people don't know each other. You've got to accept it as genuine."