

No, Star Wars hasn't begun!

STRANGE green things in the North-east sky sent festive revellers rushing to phone the police and coastguards.

Fears that Star Wars had started over Cleveland were brought to earth today with an explanation from Cleveland Police.

"The official explanation is that they were

meteorites and were no-thing to worry about," said a spokesman.

Police and coastguard stations from the Humber to Aberdeen received a stream of calls on Sunday night after the bright green lights were seen flashing across the evening sky.

Some callers thought they were distress flares;

some that they were space ships, and others were worried that too much Christmas spirit was catching up with them.

A coastguard spokesman said: "We got as many calls from the police as we did from the public."

Cleveland Police spokeswoman, Nuala O'Brien, said: "It certainly caused quite a stir, but

there was no cause for alarm."

Mr. Russell Eberst, an astronomer at the Royal Observatory at Edinburgh, said he could not cast any further light on the matter.

"Without full details of the sightings, I could not venture an explanation," he said.