

29. JUN. 1987

NOISE RIDDLE: WAS IT A UFO?

By CAROLE HOWE

FAMILIES shook with fright as a mystery object flew within feet of Stamford's rooftops early today.

Locals leapt from their beds as they experienced a close encounter with an unidentified aircraft.

They looked out of the window after being woken at 3.30 am by a throbbing engine noise.

But when they pulled back the curtains they could see nothing.

Father-of-three Ron Odell (39) of Cliff Road said: "The whole house vibrated and the curtains moved.

"My first thought was: Something low is going to crash. Now I'm beginning to wonder if it was a UFO."

His 15 month-old toddler woke up screaming as the thundering noise grew louder.

Mr Odell said: "All the neighbours were looking out but we could not see anything — not even a light."

Airedale Road resident Steve Carroll was also woken by the noise. "I thought it was a plane about to crash — it was so noisy and so low, but when I looked out of the window there was nothing there."

Top local airbase officials could give no explanation for the incident.

RAF Wittering ceased weekend flying on Friday and were not due to start again until later today.

A spokesman at RAF Cottesmore said: "It was nothing to do with us."

And Ministry of Defence officials have also been left dumbfounded.

They said: "We have had no reports of low flying."

"We will investigate if we receive official complaints."

● Did you hear the noise? Have you any idea what caused it? Call the ET newsdesk on Peterborough 555111.