



● Post artist Tony Rose's impression of the UFO which sparked off so much interest

AUTHORITIES ARE BAFFLED — OR SWORN TO SILENCE

again," said Mrs Evans.

"The objects left brown vapour trails which were still visible some time later. I knew it was big, bigger than anything I had seen before."

Another witness, Richard Breedon, 11, of Derby Road, Beeston, said: "It was a huge object twice the size of a football pitch and it was making a very loud humming noise."

"It had half a dozen red lights and on the right hand side was a very large bright white light. It also had two red lights trailing it in the air."

By IAN STEWART

Nothing showed on the radar screens at East Midlands Airport and the RAF said nothing came up on their screens at West Drayton.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said 90% of UFO sightings turned out to be satellite debris, balloons, unusual cloud formations or aircraft.

The Civil Aviation Authority said there was no unusual aircraft activity at the time, but added

it could have been an aircraft straying into the area.

Few alternatives

But from descriptions given, it is unlikely it was a type of aircraft normally seen — which leaves few alternatives.

One is they were aircraft of a type not known and operated by persons unknown.

The usual speculation is that they were top secret military aircraft and

everybody from the police to the MoD are sworn to secrecy.

Americans are believed to have strange-shaped secret aircraft that are said to be "radar invisible".

But if you want to keep something secret you don't decorate it with strings of fairy lights and fly it low over cities unless you accept that people are going to see it anyway — and if it looks like the popular idea of a flying saucer all witnesses are discredited.

Then again, it could have been aliens...