

21 OCT 1988

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Mystery of 'ball of fire' UFO

A bus driver and seven of his passengers have reported a close encounter with a mysterious "ball of fire" on the remote Nullabor plains, in Australia. Driver Peter Chapman reported being "frightened out of his wits" by the 15ft unidentified flying object.

It buzzed his bus and followed it for four miles yesterday near the border of Western Australia and South Australia.

Blackshaw said the sighting was in the same area where a Perth family claimed their car was lifted off the road by a white light in January.

He said seven passengers supported Chapman's story.

The latest sighting prompted Australian UFO researcher Colin Norris to claim extraterrestrials are using the remote, sparsely-populated Nullabor plains to study humans.

He said the report supported claims by the Perth family that their car was lifted from the ground by a space vehicle last January.

Blackshaw said that police had been to the scenes of both sightings but had found nothing "untoward".

In a television interview last night, Chapman said he saw the strange light approaching and woke the passengers at the front of the bus.

"It was about 60ft above the ground and was about 15ft round. It was very bright," he said.