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Hotline to outer space

A 24-hour phone hotline is being set up so flying saucer buffs can investigate sightings more quickly.

Sky watchers say the Crewe-based phone link will deal with reports from not only Cheshire and Staffordshire but also Wales, Shropshire and Lancashire.

It is the idea of UFO researcher Eric Morris of Earle Street, Crewe. He said: "Any member of the public will be able to report a sighting to us at any time of the day and night and we will now be

able to deal with it immediately.

"The 24-hour UFO hotline has been used widely by organisations in America with great success and no doubt it will have the same success here. We hope people will use it if they see anything unusual in the skies over the North West."

Eric, who is the chairman of Cheshire UFO Studies Centre and Editor of a UFO magazine, said the hotline is one of only a handful in Britain.

● The number is Crewe (0270) 582378.