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Earthquake theory in UFO claims

Alleged UFOs seen on the moors above Keighley could be "earth lights" generated by mini-earthquakes underground, believe experts.

Investigators are examining evidence that night-time sightings of lights in the sky are a natural phenomenon rather than flying saucers.

The Independent UFO Network has launched Project Pennine to investigate regular sightings of balls of yellow or orange light across the region.

Philip Mantle, who runs the Network's UFO Hotline, says scientists are collecting evidence showing a link between earthquakes and lights.

"The Pennine hills are richly crossed with fault lines. Where the ground is under pressure it can give off sparks," he says.

"There were quite a few interesting sightings in Keighley at the end of last year.

People in Skipton saw them so often they called them flying oranges."

Network investigators are contacting UFO experts in other parts of the country and have enlisted the help of Leeds and Sheffield University geologists. Mr Mantle has even been to Norway to speak to experts.

He suggests UFO sightings stretching back hundreds of years could be attributed to the earth lights.

"People put their own interpretation on the lights. Some think it's a flying saucer, others may call it the Virgin Mary. An old man in Glossop thought he saw the ghost of Roman soldiers," he says. Anyone who thinks they might have seen a UFO can report their sighting to the confidential 24-hour UFO Hotline by phoning 0924 444049.