

Night sky serves up a rare treat

DERBYSHIRE residents feared they were in for some close encounters of the third kind last night when they spotted strange-coloured objects lighting up the sky.

Weathermen were bombarded with phone calls from residents baffled by what appeared to be UFOs. But on investigation the extra-terrestrial invaders turned out to be a rare glimpse of the Northern Lights.

They say atmospheric conditions last night meant residents were being treated to a clear view of the best natural light show in town.

A spokesman for the Meteorological Office in Watnall, near Nottingham, said what residents had seen was nothing to be frightened of.

He said the Northern Lights, or Aurora Borealis, were caused by electrons from the sun hitting the Earth's atmosphere.

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