

Today, London

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CRASH PLANE VANISHES

BAFFLED police are searching for a crashed plane that vanished without trace.

Worried families reported that a low-flying aircraft disappeared over marshland near their homes.

But a huge search, involving a coast guard helicopter, police and firemen, drew a blank

Now people in Southport, Merseyside, fear it ditched in the sea. They told police that the orange and white plane headed towards their homes before veering off towards the sea.

Barry Williams, 14, said: "It missed a row of houses by a matter of feet before heading out to sea. I couldn't hear any engine noise and I was only

a couple of hundred yards away.

"I am positive it crashed in the sea."

Merseyside police said: "It is a bit of a mystery to say the least."

Jenny Randles, of UFO Watch, said yesterday: "It could have been a remote-controlled plane which the military use for reconnaissance in Northern Ireland."