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Are UFOs the answer to night lights riddle?

THE latest in a series of unexplained night-time sightings has left South East Essex stargazers looking to the heavens for clues.

Police were baffled and air traffic control chiefs left starry-eyed after reports of five or six strange objects circling Canvey and Basildon on Friday night.

A report has been sent to the Defence Ministry amid claims UFOs have been sighted.

Mr Edward Chard said his wife Doreen called him to the garden of his Thisselt Road, Canvey, home when she saw the bright blue, green and red lights.

Tailoring manager Edward, 51, said: "I saw these lights hovering around and I got the binoculars out and it certainly was not an aircraft.

"When I used the binoculars all I could see was a triangular shape and it was fairly big. I was quite taken aback."

He claimed other people had also seen the strange lights and could find no expla-

nation for the sighting.

Similar visions were also reported from the Pitsea area where anxious residents described five or six saucer-shaped objects flying from left to right around 9pm.

Police made checks with Southend, West Drayton and Stansted air traffic controls but none could provide an explanation.

A Basildon police spokesman said: "The only explanation I can think of is that it is, probably aircraft stacking. Because of the difficulty of estimating height and speeds from ground observers I feel it can only be aircraft."

He said the police would be forwarding a report to the Defence Ministry with details of the sightings.

The latest vision was the most recent in a spate of unexplained objects.

Last week the Echo reported on a Canvey man who witnessed strange objects in the sky and captured his sighting on video.

And the East Anglian UFO society has received a number of recent reports