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'UFO was no Chinese lantern'

A COUPLE claim to have spotted UFOs over Guernsey.

Published Aug 24, 2009



A COUPLE claim to have spotted UFOs over Guernsey.

Kerry and Lorraine Le Patourel, who live in St Sampson's, said they were returning from a barbecue on Saturday 8 August when strange, glowing orbs appeared in the sky.

Mrs Le Patourel, 32, raced to get a camera ready, but by the time she had, the objects had moved further away.

'At first we thought they were flares, but they were the wrong colour and they came up slowly from the east, then seemed to change direction and disappeared quite quickly to the south,' she said.

Her husband, Kerry, a 31-year-old carpenter, dismissed the idea they could have been Chinese lanterns, as recent sightings in the UK have proved to be.

'The first one appeared to stop, then changed direction and moved off - I can only describe it as an orb,' he said.

'I have seen lanterns and satellites and stuff in the sky before, but this was totally different. It was definitely not a lantern, no way. And then the second one appeared on the same route as the first and also changed direction.'

A Guernsey Met Office spokesman said nothing untoward had been observed that evening.

'Our best guess would be a fast moving aircraft coming up from France,' he said. 'This would appear slow moving as it flies towards the observer and with its lights on appearing orange, as it's low in the atmosphere - similar to the way the moon appears orange and magnified when it is close to the horizon. As the aircraft then turns away from the observer, it would appear to speed up.'

* Anyone else who saw anything suspicious in the sky on Saturday 8 August can contact Thom Ogier via togier@guernsey-press.com

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