

HANDS OFF OUR FLYING SAUCERS!

A M E R I C A N S C I E N T I S T Philip J. Klass suggests that sightings of UFO (unidentified flying objects) could be caused by ball lightning, produced on high-tension power cables under certain transmission and atmospheric conditions (Ronald Bedford, *September 6*).

But how large an UFO can ball lightning resemble?

I laughed when the first reports of Warminster sightings came in. Yet when I saw a giant cigar-shaped aeroform, 80 yards long, 12 yards deep and topped by a burnished amber dome, I had to credit that ours is not the only planet peopled by intelligent life.

Can ball lightning hover for hours on end before changing direction and shifting through the sky at 10 times the pace of a 17,500 mph. satellite, and then silently brake to dead stop overhead?

Ball lightning is said to emit a sizzling or hissing sound. Our variety are either completely silent in flight or give out an ear-shattering whining and droning, as if insisting on recognition.

Warminster is four and a half miles from the 275,000-volt power line mentioned in the Sun article. Yet our sightings have been in Warminster itself or near to it.

Why should Warminster be the most UFO-haunted place for such a prolonged period? The world is full of power lines.

ARTHUR SHUTTLEWOOD,
Portway, Warminster, Wiltshire.