

Britain releases UFO files

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IS there anybody out there? The British Ministry of Defence, it seems, is taking no chances.

Files containing hundreds of previously classified reports were to be released overnight to persuade ufologists that there has been no wholesale cover-up regarding the existence of visitors from outer space.

The ministry investigated every alleged sighting of a UFO until well into the 1980s.

In a briefing note in 1979 the ministry wrote: "Her Majesty's Government has never been approached by people from outer space."

But the Defence Intelligence Staff was given the task of following up sightings, interviewing witnesses, collating information and filing reports.

The files reveal thousands of members of the public, most of them officially sane, have had *X-Files* moments since the 1950s, experiencing the presence of extraterrestrial beings or witnessing UFOs in the sky.

Some sightings were given short shrift, such as that of the elderly gentleman fishing who informed the authorities that a spacecraft had landed close by, and that little men in green overalls had approached him and invited him on a tour of their ship.

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