

Holiday jet just misses 'balloon' UFO

A HOLIDAY airliner nearly collided with a UFO 14,000ft over southern England in a close encounter that has baffled experts, it was disclosed yesterday.

The Britannia Airways Boeing 737 came within feet of the mysterious lozenge-shaped object as it descended towards Gatwick, according to an official

Civil Aviation Authority report.

Experts from the British UFO Research Association also investigated the incident and ruled out any possibility of the object being another aircraft, weather balloon, or missile.

BUFORA's chief investigator Jenny Randles said yesterday, "This was a classic close encounter with a UFO."

She added, "Alien life forms

are an extreme hypothesis, but if find we are dealing with advanced intelligences that would be a discovery of earth-shattering importance."

The aircraft was travelling at 355 knots when the co-pilot spotted "a black lozenge-like object" just 500 metres ahead at the same level.

According to a CAA airmiss report, the object passed only

30ft above the wing of the aircraft which was flying in from Crete last summer.

A CAA spokesman yesterday tried to dampen speculation that the airliner may have been in contact with extra terrestrials.

He said, "It's exciting to think it might have been something from outer space but it was probably a balloon."

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