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NEWS

# Earthlings on the lookout for space invaders after UFO scare above Wales



**WE COME IN PEACE:**  
An alien and robot emerging from a spaceship

AN APPARENT alien sighting over South Wales may be down to a trick of the light, according to a leading astrobiologist – but there’s almost certainly life out there somewhere.

If reports are to be believed a South Wales Police helicopter gave chase to a “flying saucer-shaped” craft which had almost collided with them at 500ft as they waited to land at the Ministry of Defence’s St Athan base in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Sources claim the officers pursued the alleged UFO but it proved too fast for them and disappeared somewhere around the North Devon coast.

Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe, of Cardiff University’s Centre for Astrobiology, was certainly in no doubt about whether the encounter was of the third kind or not.

“Most of the time these sorts of sightings are the results of fragments of Earth-bound comets or asteroids that haven’t burned up on re-entry,” he said, adding that official MoD sources often attributed them to glowing gas ‘plasmas’ created by electrical charges.

“But for something to fly at the police helicopter, almost hitting it, before continuing at speed on the same course is very strange, but I dare say there’s a far more mundane explanation for it.

“Maybe it was a some kind of top secret military surveillance aircraft from this or some other country, who

**Nathan Bevan**

nathan.bevan@mediawales.co.uk

## Baffled by ‘very strange’ encounter of the third kind

knows?” he added. However the professor didn’t rule out the chances of life existing elsewhere in the universe.

“Oh absolutely, it’s teeming with life,” he said. “I just don’t think any have made it down here as yet, and until I see concrete proof I’m afraid I’ll remain a die-hard sceptic.”

Wales has recently been deemed one of the biggest hotspots in the UK for people spotting strange lights in the sky, with as many as 30 separate sightings here in the past few years alone, including a black mass hovering over Rhyl, a flying disc over Newport and a spinning object with legs spotted in the skies above the Rhondda Valley.

While the sceptics may simply attribute those sightings to a rain cloud (this was Rhyl after all), an errant wheel hub jettisoned from a boy racer’s speeding car on the M4 fly-over and a bar stool hurled through a pub window in a fit of boozy pique respectively, yesterday’s intergalactic revelations certainly renewed the nation’s long-standing interest in little green

men. Ever since a telescope powerful enough to allow us to see into space was invented, the human race has been obsessed with matters of extra-terrestrial life – and whether whatever is out there is intent on visiting Earth.

And these concerns have manifested themselves in our popular culture – from films like 1951’s *The Day The Earth Stood Still* to big modern Hollywood blockbusters like *Independence Day*, books by Arthur C Clarke and alleged alien abductee Whitley Strieber and TV series like *The X Files* to BBC Wales’ very own *Doctor Who* and *Torchwood*.

But Margaret Fry, from Abergele, co-founder of the Welsh Federation of Independent Ufologists, is convinced aliens do not just belong in fiction.

“Alien beings have been coming here for years, I know because I’ve seen them,” said the grandmother-of-nine.

“The first time was in 1955 when one, a bit hat-shaped it was, landed at the crossroads in the town. It must have been about 30ft in diameter and stayed there for a few minutes. About 170 people saw it in total, it stalled all the car engines when it came down, I’ll never forget it because it was a baking hot day without a cloud in the sky. I don’t understand how people can be so conceited to think we’re the only ones out there, let alone the most advanced.”

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### UFO sightings in Wales

- A 100ft high green and blue triangle was seen over Pont Robert, Powys, in May, plus “pink pulsating lights”.
- Two clusters of amber, orange and white lights in triangular formations, were spotted near Port Talbot.
- Last year one holidaymaker in Cardiff claimed to have seen “spaceships” and that little green men had “abducted his dog, car and tent.”
- A silent bright orange globe-shaped light was seen by a Bridgend woman in February 2007.
- A pensioner reported seeing cigar-shaped lights in the sky, in March 2006, moving down Garth Mountain.