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(CARDIFF)

## Newly released files unveil the mysteries of UFOs over Wales

A SECRET US spy plane – the existence of which has never been officially admitted – may have been behind a number of UFO sightings, newly released files suggest today.

More than 70 witnesses including police and military personnel reported sightings in North West Wales, South Wales, Devon, Cornwall, and Shropshire in the early hours of Wednesday March 31, 1993, with many describing a large, low-flying object which made a low humming sound.

In a briefing note to the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (ACAS), Sir Anthony Bagnall, the head of the Ministry of Defence's UFO desk wrote that there was evidence of an unidentified craft evading UK defences.

He said: "You may wish to be aware of a recent particularly unusual incidence of UFO sightings over the UK, involving descriptions that match some of the reported characterisations of the so-called 'Aurora'."

The Aurora was the name given to an unmanned US reconnaissance aircraft supposedly developed in secret "black" programmes in the 1980s and alleged to be capable of hypersonic flight.

The files released by the National Archives are available for anyone to inspect on its website.

They also detail a sighting by a terrified motorist in Brecon who saw a silent, tennis court-sized UFO with 20 red lights as she drove on a winter's night.

Sarah Barnard thought she and her two young children would be "zapped up" by alien intruders.

The apparent close encounter happened at 9.20pm on March 7, 1996 as Mrs Barnard's Vauxhall car approached Brecon.

She described a "very large, tennis court or bigger" aircraft "with 20 or more red lights in a perfect circle". She added: "No sound at all." She said the object moved slowly towards the car for 10 minutes.

Mrs Barnard, who had her two children Luke and Bianca in the car with her, pulled up and stopped until it was "a few yards above" the vehicle when, she claimed, she panicked and "drove off in fright". She reported the unexplained incident, which took place in "good, clear weather", to the RAF six days later.

The file includes a local newspaper cutting where Mrs Barnard revealed her fears.

She said: "I was frightened. I honestly thought if it came over us we would be zapped up. I know it sounds silly. I was trying to look to see what it was, wondering 'Was it an aeroplane?'"