

Mysterious light in the sky baffles residents

'UFO' sighting during power cut

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REPORTS of a bright white light in the sky above Penarth just moments after a power cut have sparked a UFO mystery.

The appearance of the glowing disc of light came after homeowners were plunged into darkness as a result of an underground cable fault, which also set house alarms – and then car alarms – blaring.

Experts have said the flying glow may have been anything from meteorites or fireballs to satellites or laser beams.

Angela Jenkins, of Caynham Avenue, said she was leaving the Spar store on Brockhill Way when the streets became dark.

The 61-year-old grandmother said: "It was between 8pm and 8.30pm when the lights just went out everywhere.

"I went into the house to get the torch and came back out to have a look to see if anyone else's lights were off as well.

"That's when I saw this great big light retreating from around the clouds. It moved across, heading towards the cliff walk towards the sea.

"I saw it three times. My next door neighbour – she's a carer – saw it too when she



■ Angela Jenkins, of Penarth

PICTURE: Peter Bolter

came out, twice in fact.

"I'm glad someone else saw it – I thought I was going mad."

The retired teacher said she had no idea what the light could have been.

"It was very strange," she said. "It definitely wasn't a plane, everything was silent, there was no noise at all."

Many of the residents in the street stayed in their houses at the time of Friday evening's 20-minute power cut, or were out of the area and did not witness the strange light.

A suggestion it could have been caused by a neighbour's torch as they stumbled to their garage in the darkness was dismissed by Ms Jenkins, who

said the light was high in the sky and behind clouds.

That view was shared by former MoD official turned UFO specialist Nick Pope.

"Most torches don't have a particularly impressive range, so to see something in the sky you would need something more like a searchlight," he said.

"As to what it was I don't know.

"One possibility is meteorites or fireballs. It could also have been aircraft lights, as whether or not you hear their noise depends on how far away you are and the weather.

"It may have been a satellite, or possibly lasers reflecting off the clouds.

"Sometimes nightclubs shine very powerful lasers into the sky as a publicity stunt and if there was a power cut, any light from something like that would've been much more visible and spectacular."

He added: "Most UFO sightings can be explained as misidentification but around 5% are genuine mysteries and remain unexplained."

A spokesman for Western Power Distribution said an underground cable fault had affected more than 1,000 people in the area, but said there was no connection between the power cut and the light.