

The following article was published in Time Out - a London "What's on" guide covering the Aug-30 to Sep-6 1995 period.

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The capital isn't a popular place for UFO sightings, presumably (you would think) because there is too much smog and nowhere for them to land. But according to Roy Lake of London UFO Studies, the real reason is that 'people are too busy looking where they are going to look up at the sky'. So next time you are out and about, gaze skywards and you too might have a close encounter. Be careful though - you never know what they could take...

1. Battersea, SW11 15/7/94 at 11.39pm

Spotted by Mr X (he wants his identity withheld). According to Skylink magazine (available in Forbidden Planet), 'it was a clear dry evening during a skywatch when I observed eight or more hazy red lights flying in formation. After about three seconds they moved into a straight line and then they seemed to disappear.'

2. Dorking Town Centre 10/3/95 at 1.15am

Mr X (again). 'I am a night courier and had to deliver some parcels when I noticed an object which shot across the top of my van. It was travelling at a fantastic speed. The sighting was about two seconds long.' The object had a large white bulb-shaped head. It made a low whooshing sound.'

3. Battersea, SW11 7/4/95 at 6.10am

Mrs X. 'It appeared to move closer and I became alarmed and went to wake my son. Seconds later I was startled to see four vapour trails left by high-altitude planes.'

4. Newham 9/5/95 at 3am

Garry Davidson (pseudonym). Early in the morning Davidson had been packing away old drinks cans for recycling when he went back to rub his spine and saw a high-altitude plane, followed by an object moving at an incredible speed in a zig-zag motion which disappeared in the direction of Canary Wharf. The object looked like a flattened disc and was bathed in an orange glow.

5. Sewardstone Road, Chingford 1974

According to Roy Lake, this was 'a close encounter of the third kind'. An object appeared from behind some trees, and humanoid figures could be seen for 25 minutes before the object took off again and silently glided over toward Enfield.

6. Aveley (east of Barking) 1973

A multi-abduction case - a family of five was travelling home when the car was covered in a strange green mist. They all lost about two hours of time. When they got home they were plagued by flashbacks.

7. Walthamstow August 1995

An object was witnessed by four people in the garden. It was a round, bright ball of light which came over an stopped, before moving up into the sly and disappearing. It was too silent to be a plane...

8. Firest Gate August 1995

Possibly the same object as the one sighted in Walthamstow. Witnesses described this as a ball of light, which hovered before shooting off at a tremendouse speed. It couldn't have been meteorites because these would leave a mark...

9. Central London mid-'80s

The witness saw an object move off into the distance, after it had flown over his house. It moved in the same way an air-hockey puck travels on an air-hockey table, but at a constant height and speed. It was about 25 feet in diameter and flying in a corridor used by aircraft on the way to Heathrow. But it definitely wasn't an aircraft.

Bruce Dessau

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There is a simple map show where all the sightings took place, but it does not form a pattern of any kind or a recognisable shape. Two sets of two sightings were close together, the rest quite some distance from one another.

----- Headers -----

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