

- c. Meteorological searchlights shine on clouds: you cannot see the beam, only a light apparently dancing in the sky.
- d. A surprising number of reports relate to aircraft seen in unusual conditions at unusual angles, some very high, some at low level. One recent 'UFO' was confidently reported on local radio: we cannot prove that it was not a 'UFO', but we do know that an RAF Vulcan bomber on a low flying mission passed the same spot at the same time and on the same course as the reported UFO.
- e. And satellites: there are some 5000 listed objects in orbit, satellites and space debris. More are added each year, and about 600 re-enter the atmosphere every year. Early this year MOD received many reports of a large piece of debris re-entering across the South of England: most reports were factual, but one spoke of an 'oval shaped thing with a white cockpit which hovered for a while then shot off at great speed'. We cannot prove it wasn't a UFO, but it occurred at the same time and place as some known re-entry of space debris.
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7. And of course there are optical illusions. Any phenomena seen through glass are particularly suspect.
8. There are also genuine hallucinations, sometimes on people under stress; the excited tales of the gullible; the embellishments of the born story teller. Also, I fear, downright lies. There are also hoaxes: there are some very effective aerial hoaxes which have been perpetrated by children - which I will not describe for fear of precipitating a new rash of UFO reports.