

05/02/2009

Dear Sir / Madam,

Whilst driving along Wolstanton Road, Chesterton, Newcastle Under Lyme at 18:32 on 04/02/2009 I noticed an orange light fairly low in the sky.

At first I thought it was a street light but then realised that it was too high in the sky. It was a dullish orange colour and what made me think it strange was that it was approximately 15-20 times larger than a normal star but at the same time not as bright. I also knew it was not Venus as that is visible in another part of the sky. The object was circular in shape but did not have a defined edge and its surface appeared to have movement or texture much like a small section of the sun's surface but infinitely dimmer.

I pulled over in my car and pointed the object out to my two children **Section 40** and **Section 40** **Section 40** asked me what it was to which I could only tell her that it might be a fireball as I had heard of these in the press and **Section 40** so asked 'what's the orange round thing in the sky'.

I grabbed my mobile phone and tried to take a photo of the object but it did not appear on the photo. I then switched my phone to video camera mode and filmed the object for approx forty seconds. As I was filming, the object looked as though it was beginning to back away from us whilst getting slightly higher in the sky and at this same time it was also reducing in size.

When the object reached about half the size it was when we originally spotted it an aircraft appeared from my right hand side and appeared to be heading in the direction of the object whilst giving it a wide berth. A few seconds later the object reduced to a pin point of light and then completely disappeared from view.

On arrival back home I took out my mobile phone and the film I had taken of the object was gone but the photo I had taken remained intact.

On viewing the photo the ball of light can be clearly seen.

There are a number of stars in the photo so establishing whether this object should have been there or not should be easily calculable as there are several points of reference within the photo and the exact time and date is known.

Unfortunately I am having problems attaching the photo to this mail at this time.

Many thanks