

# The UK UFO Report 2022



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At the time of writing this report, there have been a couple of further developments recently announced in the USA, not least the publication of the 2022 Annual Report on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. This was finally released by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) just two and a half months after the originally planned date of 31 October 2022.

The ODNI, along with the newly established All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO), assesses *“reports of UAP occurring in restricted or sensitive airspace, highlighting possible concerns for safety of flight or adversary collection activity.”*

This brief report didn't tell us much, although it did confirm that, as of 30 August 2022, a total of 510 reports had been assessed by the office. You can read more about this report elsewhere (and I urge you to) but let's concentrate on what is happening over here in the UK.

## **The UK picture**

In a recent response to a request for an update on their publication of previously unreleased files relating to UFOs, the UK Government told us:

*“A significant amount of work has been carried out in order to prepare the outstanding correspondence received by the MOD by members of the public for publication. Unfortunately, higher priority work has caused delays in the publishing process. I can confirm that the department is working hard to provide the correspondence as soon as practicable.”*

Believe it or not—that's up to you—but we are three years past the date that they first informed us of their upcoming release (making the two-and-a-half-month delay from the US seem a lot less). Saying that, a few files *were* released quietly in 2022, so maybe we will finally see some movement on this front in 2023.

## **UFO Identified Mini-Con**

In October, we hosted our second UFO Conference, the UFO Identified Mini-Con. Held in Manchester, the event was, yet again, a sell-out. Guests from all over the UK travelled to the North West to listen to the speakers, take in the popular Podcast Panel, browse the stalls, and

meet up with friends old and new to talk about all things UFO. We are already planning Mini-Con 2023, so keep an eye out for more information, coming soon!

We host many other events and meetups throughout the year. Head to the Events section on our website to keep up to date with what is happening near you.

### **New membership tier**

In January 2023, we launched our new Associate Membership scheme, giving you another way to join us. This gives you a say and a vote in the running of UFO Identified. It also gives you the opportunity to get involved in our research and investigations as we begin to expand out of the North West to become a nationwide group. This will allow for deeper investigation of reports and events up and down the country. Check the website for information on how to join us and make 2023 the year you step into UFO research!

### **The report**

On to the report, which is based on the **497 UFO sightings** reported up to 16 January 2023. Reports received after this date will be in our database but are not included in this report.

As in previous years, we submitted more than 50 Freedom of Information requests to help gather more information to support the data and push the conversation forward. Details of these can be found below.

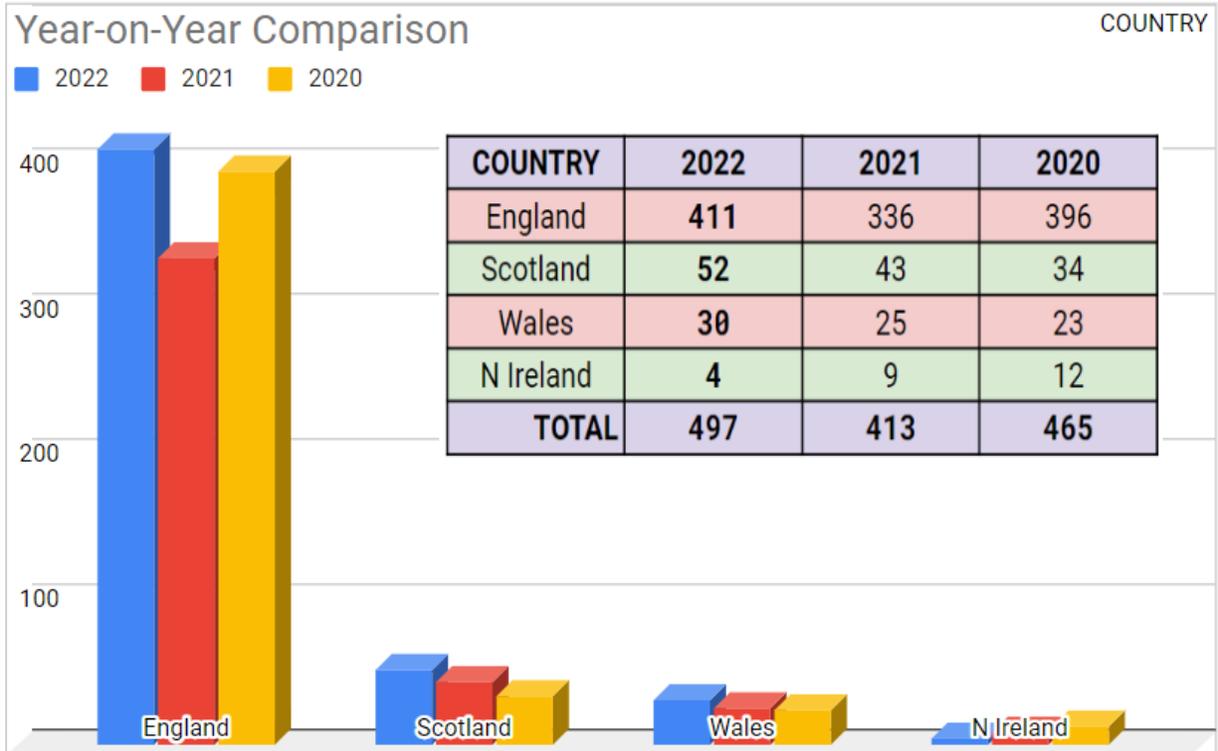
Sources include, but are not limited to, the following organisations/groups:

- UFOIdentified.co.uk
- Mutual UFO Network (MUFON)
- National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC)
- TruthProof.uk
- Birmingham UFO Group (BUFOG)
- Swansea UFO Network (SUFON)
- Cornwall UFO Research Group (CUFORG)
- Northern Ireland UFO Society (NIUFOS)
- Local/national media
- Social media, including Facebook
- UK police forces
- Ministry of Defence
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

There are a number of other terms used for sightings (most commonly 'UAP') but, for ease, we will refer to all of these as UFOs in this report.

# The Data

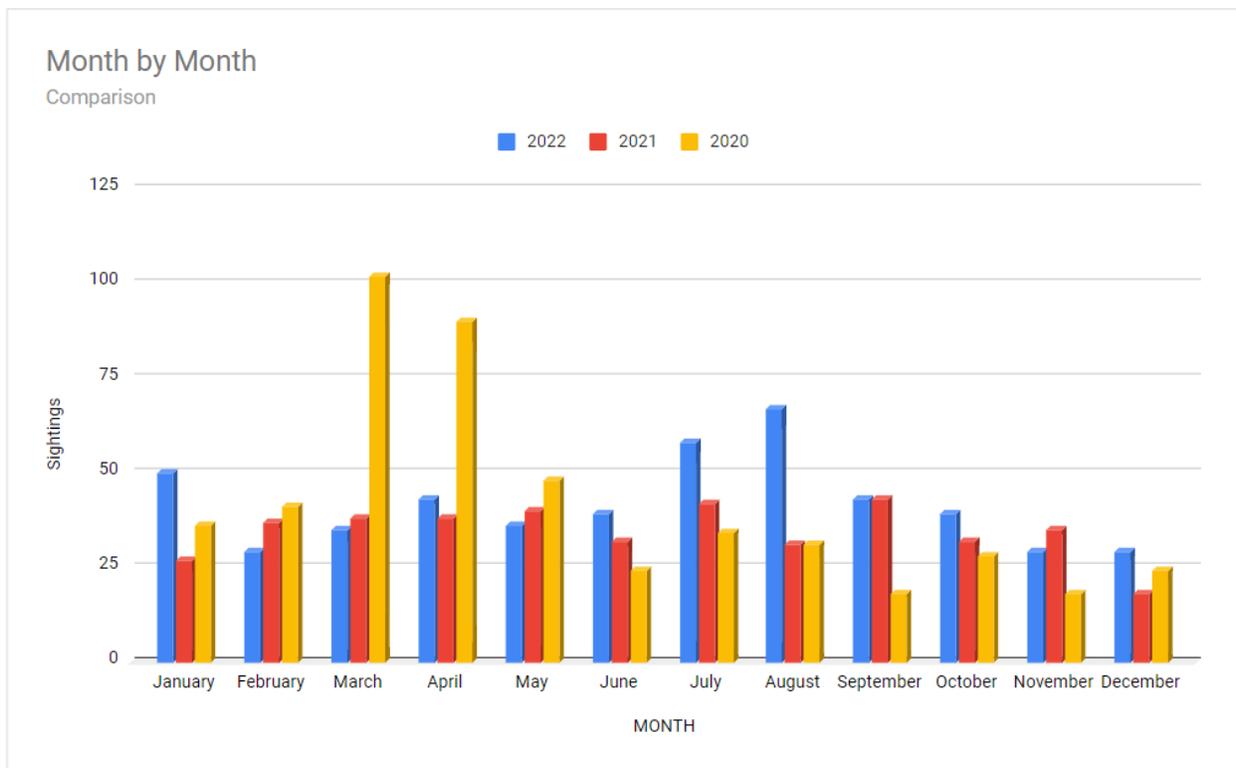
Let's look at how 2022 compares to the previous years since our database began:



It's clear that, with the exception of Northern Ireland, sightings increased across the board in the previous 12 months, with a year-on-year increase of 20%. Is the reduction of the stigma surrounding the topic making its way across from the USA?

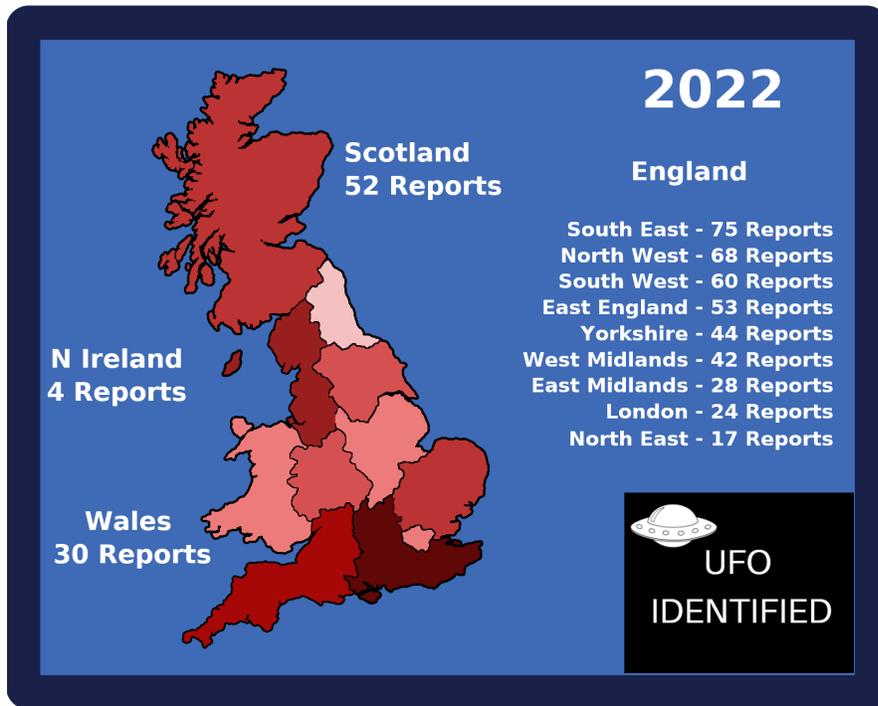
Looking at the monthly breakdown (below), reports are fairly evenly spread throughout the year. The exceptions are March and April 2020, probably due to a massive amount of reports explained by the launch of SpaceX Star Link satellites. There was also a particularly busy summer in 2022, with July and August both having a notably higher number of reports.

This might be explained by the fact this was the first summer that the country wasn't in lockdown because of coronavirus since 2019, meaning more people were outside and able to see unusual things compared to previous months. This could also explain the rise for the year overall.



### Breaking down the numbers

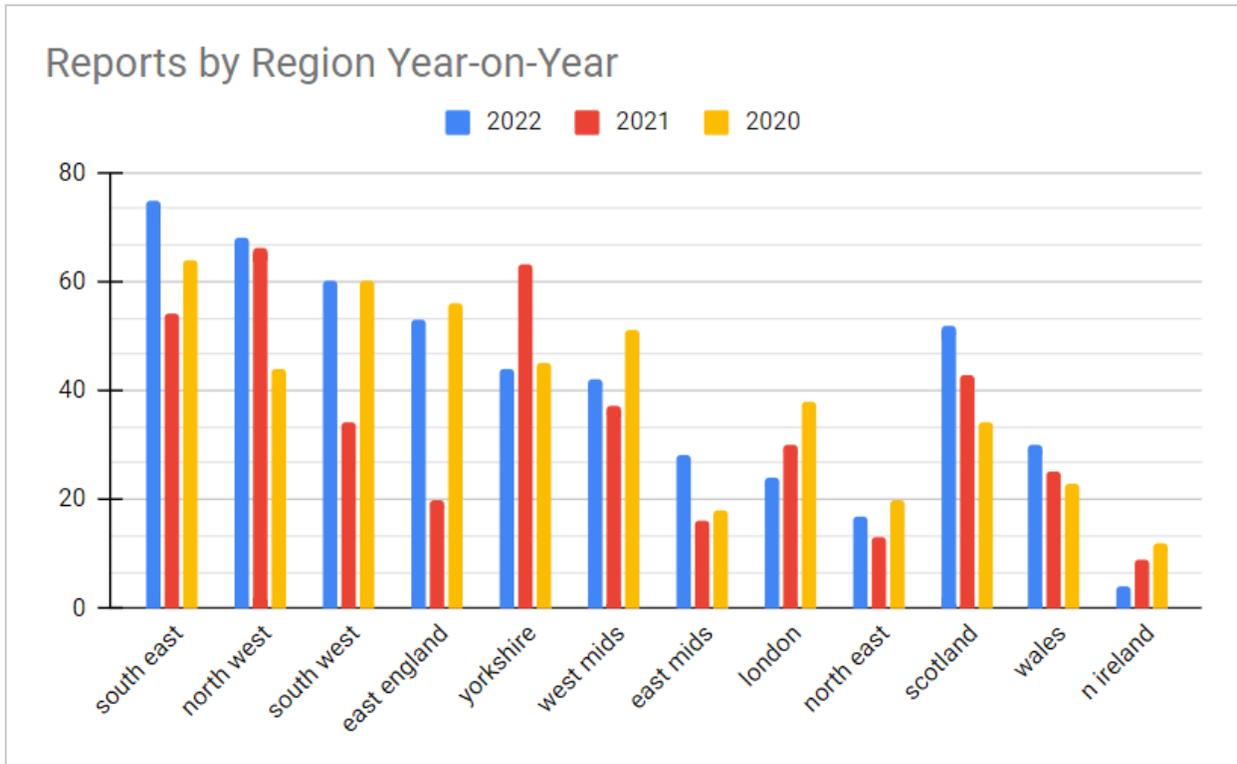
Let's dig a bit deeper into the 497 sightings for 2022 and see exactly where these reports are coming from, and how they compare to previous years.



As in 2021, the North West and South East had the largest share of reports. The East Midlands, London and the North East again saw the fewest.

The lower numbers in London might seem unusual, considering the much larger population. Maybe the bright lights of the big city account for this, or is everybody too preoccupied and in a rush to take in what is happening around and above them?

The rest of the country saw similar numbers as in previous years (see below), with the exception of the South West and the East of England, which saw their numbers nearly triple in the past 12 months.



The appendix to this report includes a further breakdown of each UK region, detailing how many sightings each individual country of the UK recorded in 2022.

### Sightings in relation to population

The raw figures do not show the complete picture, of course. It's not all about the number of sightings reported, as population density plays a part. So, let's take a look at the 'Rate of Sightings' (RoS) figure for each region.

RoS is a mathematical formula based on the population of each country and region of the UK. This gives us an easy-to-understand figure; the higher the figure, the higher number of sightings reported per person. We believe this creates a more accurate representation of where you are more likely to have seen a UFO during the year.

RoS for the United Kingdom as a whole:



This is an increase of 0.2 on the 1.6 rating we saw in 2021.

Following that trend, each country of the UK had an increase in sightings, except for Northern Ireland, which was very quiet last year.

Country	2022	2021	2020
Wales	2.4	1.9	1.8
Scotland	2.4	1.9	1.5
England	1.8	1.5	1.8
N Ireland	0.5	1.1	1.6

Below you will find the RoS for each region of England. Note how much the picture changes when compared to the simple number of reports. Most notably, the South West tops the table, with a huge RoS of 2.7, while the South East, despite having the most reports, is only the third most common region in which to have a UFO sighting. A holiday to the lovely south coast of the UK is a must if you want to maximise your chances of spotting a UFO!

Region	RoS
South West	2.7
North West	2.3
East England	2.1
South East	2.0
Yorkshire	2.0
West Midlands	1.8
North East	1.6
East Midlands	1.4
London	0.7

Region	Reports
South East	75
North West	68
South West	60
East England	53
Yorkshire	44
West Midlands	42
East Midlands	28
London	24
North East	17

### When do most sightings occur?

We've looked at *where* you were most likely to see a UFO, but what about *when*?

The data reveals that the most likely time to spot a UFO is between **9pm and 10pm on a Saturday!** This is the same as last year, even with the 20 per cent increase in reports.

A couple of possible explanations for this spring to mind:

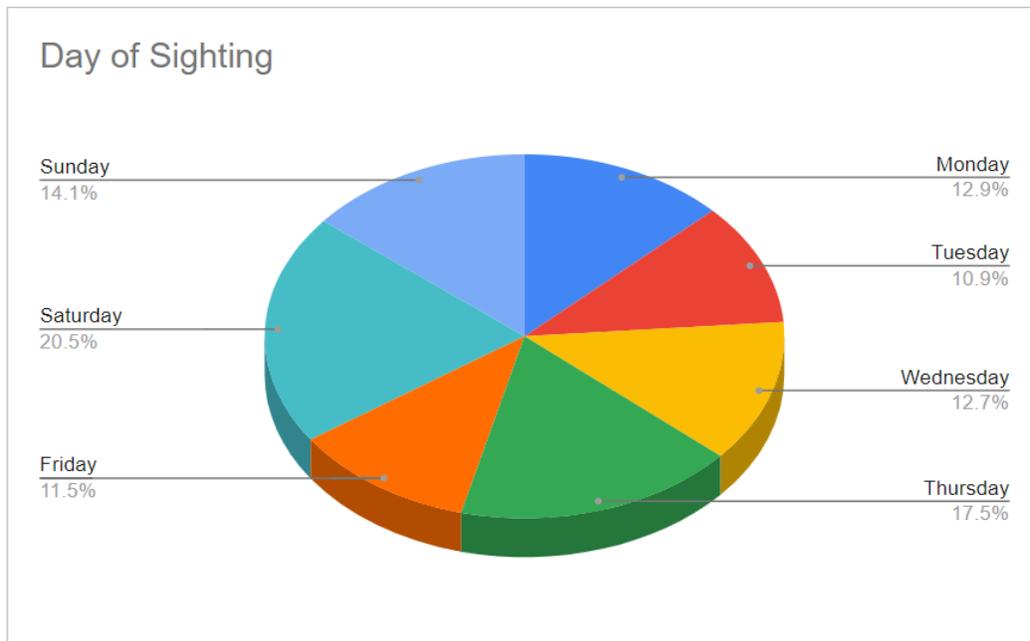
### 1. Alcohol consumption

Are people reporting UFOs around this time just because they have had a bit to drink and may interpret something in the sky differently than if they were totally sober? Does critical thinking lessen on the whole during these times, leading to mundane objects being seen as more out of this world? Contrary to this, Fridays are the second **least likely** day to see a UFO, and many people go out on Friday nights as well as on Saturday nights. Surely, Friday evenings would also see an upturn in sightings if alcohol were a factor.

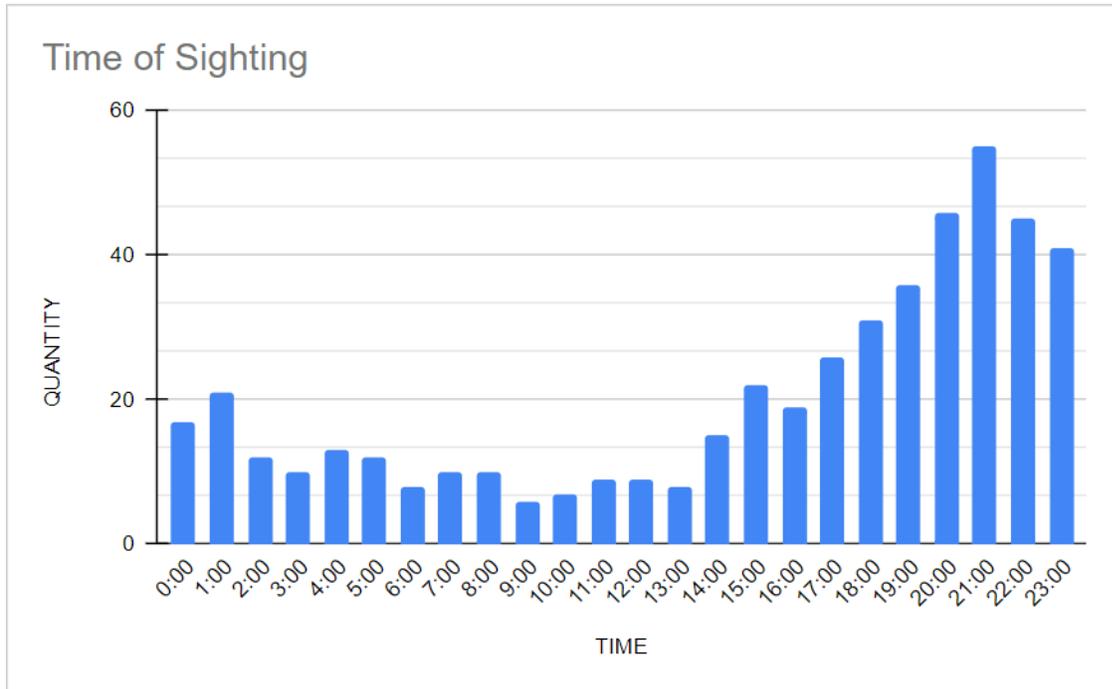
### 2. Work

Most people spend Monday to Friday simply working or at home. Does having extra free time at the weekend allow people to just chill and take in what is happening around and above them?

We would love to hear your thoughts on why you think this might be the case for the second year running. Please reach out to us on social media or email us with your opinions.



The chart below clearly shows how sightings increase as the evening comes in. The majority of sightings take place in the night sky, between 8pm and midnight. There are still a considerable of sightings made during daylight hours, which we address below.



### A visual phenomenon

That's where and when sightings are made, but *what* are people seeing?

There is a wide range of different shapes and descriptions given. For recording purposes, we have developed some general categories.

For example, a description of a tic-tac or cigar-shaped object is categorised as a Cylinder. Likewise, delta and arrow-head descriptions are as described as a Triangle shape, and so on. The 'Other' category includes mainly one-off shapes or descriptions, such as 'line' or 'cloud-like', that don't fit into the more obvious categories.

These shapes are taken from the (sometimes very basic) description given by the reporting witness. As in both 2020 and 2021, Star-like and Orb are the most commonly reported shape.

SHAPE	QUANTITY
Star-like	126
Orb	80
Circular	55
Cylinder	52
Sphere	42
Triangle	35
Disc	34
Other	24
Oval	22
Square	6
Diamond	4
Unknown	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>497</b>

Most sightings take the form of 'lights in the sky' sightings. Many reports state that these objects are moving and performing manoeuvres that are not characteristic of aircraft or satellites, which can often appear as 'star-like' in the night sky.

Triangle and Disc (or saucer) objects continue to be seen across the country. Sightings of Cylinders have increased from 31 in 2021 to 52 in 2022.

## **Close Encounters**

Dr J. Allen Hynek developed the Close Encounters system of classifying UFO reports in 1972, after he had finished investigating UFO reports on behalf of the US Government.

- Nocturnal Lights refer to lights seen in the night sky
- ❖ From 2022, we also added a second 'Nocturnal' classification to our database, to differentiate between a simple 'lights in the sky' sighting and a clear object/shape being seen in the night sky; known here as 'Nocturnal lights – craft'
  
- Daytime Discs are UFOs seen in daylight hours
  
- Close Encounter of the First Kind: a sighting in which detail can be seen and that takes place no more than 500 feet away
  
- Close Encounter of the Second Kind: a UFO sighting that leaves a physical effect, such as vehicles malfunctioning or animals reacting
  
- Close Encounter of the Third Kind: when an entity is witnessed, seemingly occupying or piloting the UFO

Further classifications of the Hynek Scale have been introduced, including:

- Close Encounter of the Fourth Kind: this involves an abduction event
- Close Encounter of the Fifth Kind: human-initiated communication with an ET

Sightings made during 2022 in the UK can be classified via the Hynek Scale as below:

CE RATING	QUANTITY
NL in the Sky	217
NL Craft	78
Daylight Disc	184
CE1	12
CE2	1
CE3	0
CE4	0
CE5	0
Unknown	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>497</b>

Although the majority of reports are nocturnal, there was a considerable number of daytime sightings, with 37% of reports made during daylight hours.

This shows that skywatches don't only have to take place at night. Likewise, even if it's cloudy, don't let that put you off, as there are plenty of reports that mention UFOs going into, out of, hiding behind or turning into clouds. There is no excuse not to get out there, and if you do see something unusual, make sure you report it.

The one CE2 report was of an incident in Didcot, Oxfordshire on 21 December. The witness reported five lights in a circle formation, flying back and forth over a moving vehicle, appearing to cause the car's radio to malfunction.

### Where's the evidence?

In 2022, we began recording what type of evidence was given to back up reports. More than half of reports relied on witness testimony only, with no supporting evidence. The table below shows the type of evidence that supported the remainder of reports.

EVIDENCE	QUANTITY
Testimony	262
Video	122
Photo	103
Sketch	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>497</b>

'Sketch' refers to the witness adding a drawing or computer graphically-designed image to show what they had seen.

In the cases that had both photo and video evidence, this is recorded under video only, as this is a stronger piece of evidence.

Our database shows which reports have which type of evidence accompanying them. We are working to update our database to include these videos and images. Meanwhile, videos and images are available from the source websites for these sightings.

### **Freedom isn't free**

As always, our many Freedom of Information requests met with mixed results. In our annual request to each of the police forces in the UK (see results below), some were cooperative, sending the requested information swiftly. Our particular thanks go to Police Scotland, who were very helpful with a number of requests, providing us with good, useful information. On the flip side, many requests were ignored, passing well beyond the 20-day window in which a response is required. Others refuse flat-out to provide any information.

Of the many reports we received from forces that did respond, many were clearly a result of either hoax calls or calls made by those with mental health difficulties. Unlike some media outlets who still include these in their articles, we do not include them in our stats, our database or this report.

We made 45 requests to police forces, receiving just 23 responses. Of these, and once we narrowed down the nature of the reports provided, just four resulted in genuine sighting reports, which we added to the database. This is down significantly on the 21 reports that we were able to add last year.

These 23 responses are:

Supplied Information	7
No information held	9
Refused due to cost	5
Refused due to similar	1

The one that was refused due to a similar report already being published was from South Yorkshire Police, who directed us to a totally unrelated request that involved cryptids and witches from earlier in 2022. One notable reply was from West Yorkshire Police who sent 17 pages of documents, with 99% of the information redacted. From that 1%, we were able to identify one genuine report.

We would genuinely like to thank those that did provide information (or responded having carried out the searches but had no information) for their helpful and timely cooperation.

These were:

*Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Derbyshire Constabulary, Kent Police, Lancashire Constabulary, Leicestershire Constabulary, North Wales Police, North Yorkshire Police, Northamptonshire Police, Nottinghamshire Police, South Wales Police, Staffordshire Police, Surrey Police, West Midlands Police, West Yorkshire Police, Wiltshire Police, Police Scotland, Police Service of NI*

Forces that replied but refused to give us any information were:

*Durham Constabulary, Lincolnshire Police, Metropolitan Police Service, Northumbria Police, South Yorkshire Police*

We have sent follow-ups to those that have so far failed to respond but, as of the date of publication of this report, we have received no replies.

## **Conclusion**

It's good to see such an increase in reported sightings throughout 2022 and we hope this will continue in 2023. The stigma around the topic appears to be reducing. We hope this encourages more people to come forward and talk about their experiences and report what they are seeing.

There are many different aspects of Ufology we don't cover in this report, such as the abduction phenomenon and human-initiated contact (HICE/CE5), mainly due to our current resources. However, this is something we do consider and report on throughout the year. We urge anybody with any type of experience to reach out to us, in confidence, and to know they have this safe space to turn to.

We couldn't do this without the ever-expanding UFO Identified team. Abigail Hyslop, Natalie Pearce and Steve Yarwood work so hard throughout the year writing articles, conducting research projects, investigating sighting reports, helping to organise and run our many events. It's thanks to them that UFO Identified has grown as much as it has in the past 12-24 months. We are excited about the new plans we have launched for this year and beyond. Thanks also to Joff Brown for assisting with editing and proofreading our articles and reports.

We all do this by giving up our free time, and out of our own pocket. If you have enjoyed reading this report or attending any of our many (mostly free) events, or you feel that we bring some value to your interest in UFOs, please consider supporting us in any way that you can.

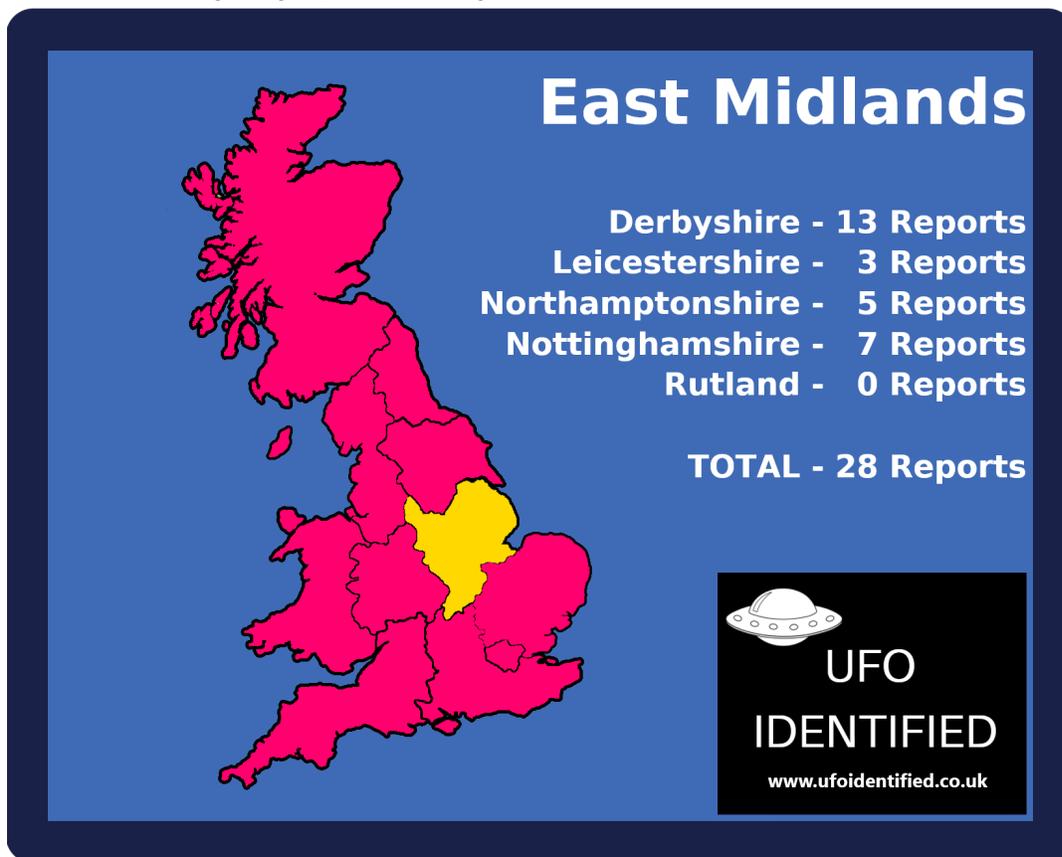
Fancy a new t-shirt? We have some awesome designs in our shop. Want to become more involved and play an active role in the UFO topic? Consider becoming a member. If you would like to make a one-off donation, you can send to [paypal.me/ashellisufo](https://www.paypal.me/ashellisufo).

We have huge plans and initiatives in place for 2023, all aimed at building the UFO community in the UK and giving people a place they can go to meet others who share their interest, and learn more about the whole topic. We are expanding out of the North West and every penny to help us do this really does make a difference.

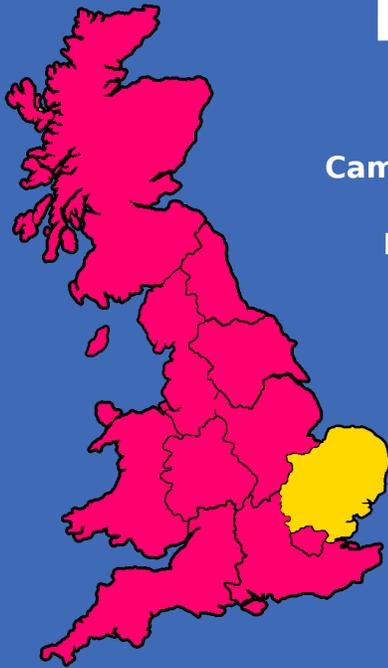
**Thank you!**

**Appendix.**

Breakdown of sighting reports per region



## East England



Bedfordshire - 4 Reports  
Cambridgeshire - 11 Reports  
Essex - 14 Reports  
Hertfordshire - 6 Reports  
Norfolk - 6 Reports  
Suffolk - 12 Reports

**TOTAL - 53 Reports**



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## London



City of London - 4 Reports  
Greater London - 20 Reports

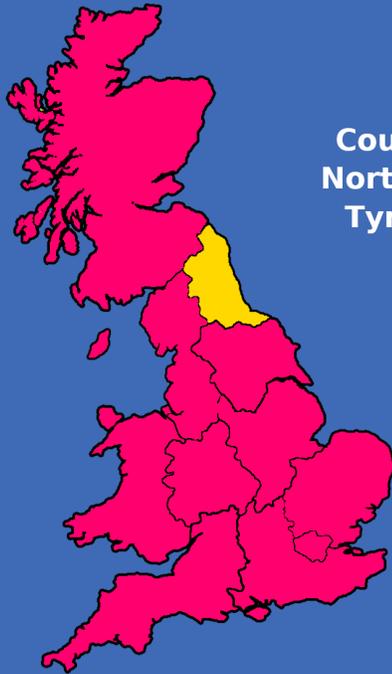
**TOTAL - 24 Reports**



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## North East



County Durham - 3 Reports  
Northumberland - 3 Reports  
Tyne and Wear - 11 Reports

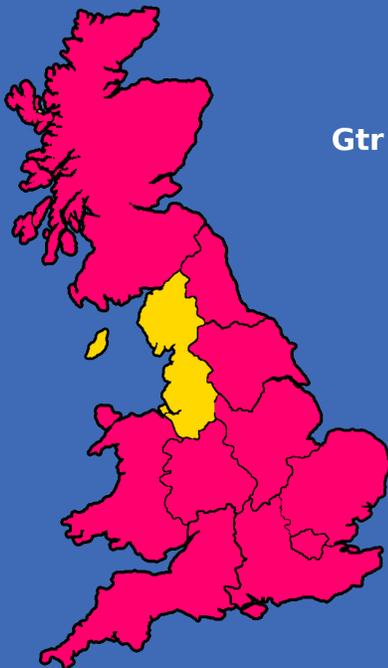
**TOTAL - 17 Reports**



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## North West



Gtr Manchester - 26 Reports  
Lancashire - 19 Reports  
Cheshire - 15 Reports  
Merseyside - 6 Reports  
Cumbria - 2 Reports

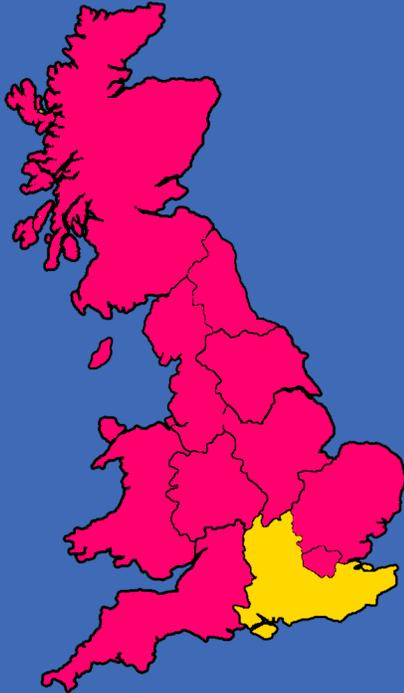
**TOTAL - 68 Reports**



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## South East



Berkshire - 4 Reports  
Buckinghamshire - 5 Reports  
East Sussex - 8 Reports  
Hampshire - 19 Reports  
Isle of Wight - 1 Report  
Kent - 11 Reports  
Oxfordshire - 6 Reports  
Surrey - 11 Reports  
West Sussex - 10 Reports

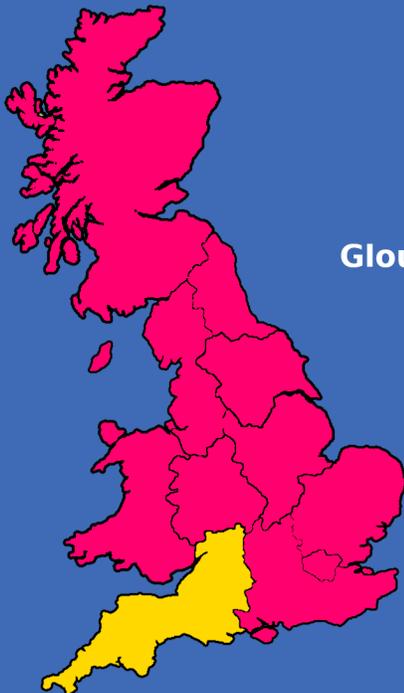
**TOTAL - 75 Reports**



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## South West



Cornwall - 13 Reports  
Devon - 11 Reports  
Dorset - 7 Reports  
Gloucestershire - 7 Reports  
Somerset - 14 Reports  
Wiltshire - 8 Reports

**TOTAL - 60 Reports**



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## West Midlands



Herefordshire - 1 Report  
Shropshire - 4 Reports  
Staffordshire - 14 Reports  
Warwickshire - 4 Reports  
West Midlands - 17 Reports  
Worcestershire - 2 Reports

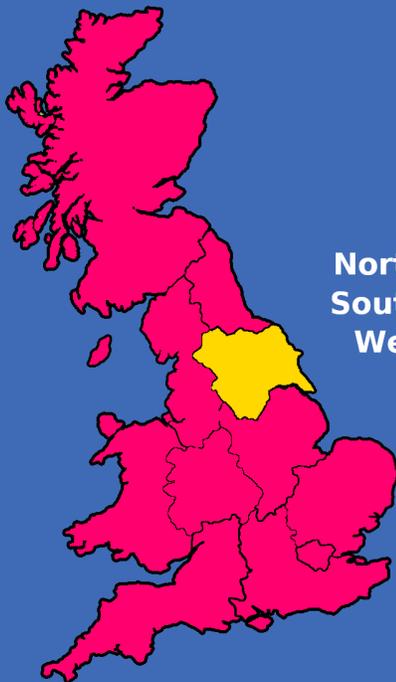
**TOTAL - 42 Reports**



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## Yorkshire & Humber



East Riding - 12 Reports  
Lincolnshire - 5 Reports  
North Yorkshire - 10 Reports  
South Yorkshire - 8 Reports  
West Yorkshire - 9 Reports

**TOTAL - 44 Reports**



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