# Bright orb in UK sky sparks UFO speculation before being linked to SpaceX launch



On the evening of March 24, residents across various regions of the UK experienced a moment of bewilderment as a bright, spinning orb lit up the night sky. This dazzling phenomenon, initially perceived by many as a potential UFO sighting, prompted widespread discussion and speculation on social media platforms, including X and Facebook. Observers reported that many children were particularly startled by the sighting, which was described as both fascinating and frightening.

The unusual occurrence, however, was soon linked to the launch of a SpaceX rocket, thus alleviating concerns about extraterrestrial activity. The orb was seen in multiple locations including Greater Manchester, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Staffordshire, as well as in other parts of the south of England. Reactions on social media were varied, with one person noting, "Pretty certain I just saw a UFO. Did anyone else see it?" while another parent expressed concern for their children saying, "Has anyone else just seen this over Radcliffe in the sky because me and the kids are freaked out."

Additional posts captured the intrigue surrounding the phenomenon, with one user describing the light as "One bright thing with white misty rings round it," while humourous remarks included suggestions that it was "Batman’s new call sign" or even "a worm hole to Alpha Centauri" that allows aliens safe passage to Earth. Another puzzled observer questioned, "What have we just seen??? It was moving and then faded away after about 2 mins and there were other small what looked like stars moving around it too."

The spectacle coincided with the launch of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, which occurred shortly after 1.45pm for the NROL-69 mission, serving the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). The connection between the rocket launch and the orb in the sky became the prevailing explanation. A similar occurrence in the USA in 2023 was confirmed to be the result of excess fuel vented from a SpaceX launch, which produced a comparable visual spectacle.

Residents' fascination with the bright orb not only highlighted the impact of modern space missions on everyday life but also showed the enduring human curiosity about the unknown.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://spaceflightnow.com/2025/03/24/live-coverage-spacex-to-launch-national-security-satellite-for-nro-on-falcon-9-rocket-from-cape-canaveral/> - This URL supports the claim about the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launch for the NROL-69 mission from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, which aligns with the timing and explanation for the observed phenomenon in the UK.
* <https://www.spacex.com/launches/> - This SpaceX official website lists various missions and launches, providing context for recent activities by SpaceX, although it might not specifically mention the NROL-69 mission.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is the source of the article describing the sighting of a bright orb in the UK sky linked to a SpaceX rocket launch.
* <https://www.patrick.spaceforce.mil/45ws/> - This website, related to the 45th Weather Squadron, provides weather forecasts that are relevant to launch conditions from Cape Canaveral, though it does not directly address the phenomenon in the UK.
* <https://www.facebook.com> - Social media platforms like Facebook were mentioned as places where residents shared their reactions and speculations about the phenomenon, though specific content would need to be searched for.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Reconnaissance_Office> - This URL provides background information on the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), the agency associated with the NROL-69 mission.