

Woman fined following Nantwich sexual assault hoax

She has received a fixed penalty for wasting police time

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Police investigating an area of Mill Island in Nantwich (Image: Andrew Roach)

A woman who sparked a major police investigation after reporting a 'serious sexual assault' in Nantwich has been fined after the incident turned out to have been a hoax.

A section of Mill Island was cordoned off by officers and an investigation launched after police receive reports of the incident at about 2.50am on Sunday, December 20.

The alleged sexual assault provoked widespread concern among the community that more women could be in danger and a public appeal for information was made, with police releasing descriptions of two men who were said to have been in the area at the time.

However, two days later, police confirmed the investigation had 'concluded' and said they were satisfied 'no crime has been committed'.

On Monday, a spokesman for Cheshire Constabulary told the Chronicle the 'claimant' had been issued with a fixed penalty notice for wasting police time.

When asked how the decision was made regarding what action to take against the woman, Beat Management Inspector Alison Ross of Crewe Local Policing Unit told the Chronicle that 'lots of different factors are taken into account' and that each case is put 'into context'.

She added: "We treat all reports of sexual offences very seriously and investigate every offence thoroughly. We treat each person as a victim unless we have information to prove otherwise.

"It has come to light through our extensive investigation that this incident had not happened."

<https://www.crewechronicle.co.uk/news/woman-fined-following-nantwich-sexual-10688928>