

Plymouth man cleared of raping woman at her home

Darren Opie, aged 30, is acquitted of attack after just over an hour

BY STUART ABEL COURT REPORTER

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Darren Opie, who has been cleared of rape

A man has this afternoon been cleared of raping a woman after a trial.

Darren Opie, aged 30, was unanimously acquitted by a jury following just over an hour of deliberations.

Mr Opie, of Woodland Drive in Plympton, pleaded not guilty to raping the woman at her city home on June 5, 2016.

He told his week-long trial at Plymouth Crown Court that sex was consensual.



Innocent: Darren Opie (Image: The Herald)

Mr Opie, who has mild autistic disorder, said that she took off her clothes and kissed him.

He denied her claimed that she repeatedly told him “no” that night.

The court heard that they saw each other again in the days which followed.

Mr Opie produced a thank you card which she had sent him. It was signed “much love” and had several kisses.

He showed little reaction as the forewoman announced the verdict.

But Mr Opie said outside court: “I absolutely just want to move on with my life and start to rebuild.”

He had told the jury he had a mild autistic disorder, previously known as Asperger’s, but had largely worked since leaving school – most recently as a mortgage arrears adviser.



Plymouth Crown Court

He added that they had gone for a day out in Torbay on the day of the incident. Mr Opie said that everything was normal the morning after they had sex.

The pair had first met on an internet dating site, the court heard.

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