

# The Argus

28th June 2001

## Student raped in park

**A rapist brutally attacked a 17-year-old student in a Brighton park, then casually walked away.**

The victim was in a wooded area of Wild Park, Brighton, when the man grabbed her and forced her to the ground.

He said nothing to her and appeared not to be armed.

The victim repeatedly screamed for help during her ordeal, which lasted upwards of ten minutes.

Afterwards the attacker, aged 20 to 35, strolled away, apparently in no hurry to escape.

The terrified teenager ran for help and today, three days after the assault, she has only just begun to tell the full story.

Acting Detective Inspector Paul Fullwood is heading the inquiry, code-named Operation Dolphin.

He said: "This was an horrific rape and it is imperative we catch this man before he has the chance of harming someone else."

The student was walking from Lewes Road and had cut through the park en route to Hollingbury when the attack happened, between 4pm and 7pm on Monday.

She had climbed a set of steps and was walking through woodland adjoining Hollingbury Golf Course when the man pounced.

Police are not sure whether she was followed from Lewes Road or whether the rapist was waiting to pounce in the woods.

The attacker is white with dark collar-length hair, blue eyes and clean shaven.

He wore a black T-shirt and faded blue jeans with a black Levi's belt. He carried a blue and white rucksack.

The man walked away towards Ditchling Road and police hope drivers and walkers in the area may have seen him.

He said: "We also want to speak to anyone who saw the girl and anyone acting suspiciously in Lewes Road and the park itself."

The victim is being offered counselling.

Wild Park gained notoriety in 1986 when nine-year-olds Karen Hadaway and Nicola Fellows, from nearby Moulsecoomb, were sexually assaulted and murdered in the park, close to the scene of this latest attack.

Anyone with information should contact Brighton CID on 0845 6070999 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/6777837.student-raped-in-park/>

# The Argus

4th July 2001

## Student made up rape claim

**A teenager who claimed she had been raped has been cautioned by police after admitting the sex attack never happened.**

Sussex police launched Operation Dolphin after hearing about the "horrific" attack in a wooded area of Wild Park, Brighton, the scene of the Babes in the Wood murders 15 years ago.

The 17-year-old student said she was raped last week by a man who casually walked away after her ten-minute ordeal.

However as officers questioned the woman further, they became concerned about inconsistencies in her story.

Yesterday they interviewed her again. She admitted she had made it up.

The woman was cautioned for wasting police time but officers are concerned about her welfare and she has been offered help by support agencies.

Police spokesman Carolyn Bond said: "It is not unusual for somebody who has been raped to have inconsistencies in their story due to shock and we do not want to deter genuine victims from coming forward.

"However in this particular circumstances it did become clear that the rape did not happen. We are now keen to reassure members of the public of this fact."

The girl claimed a man, aged 20 to 35, grabbed her from behind and forced her to the ground.

At the time, Acting Detective Inspector Paul Fullwood, heading the inquiry, said: "This was an horrific rape and it is imperative we catch this man before he harms someone else."

Wild Park gained notoriety in 1986 when playmates Karen Hadaway and Nicola Fellows, both nine, from nearby Moulsecoomb, were murdered there.

<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/5147345.student-made-up-rape-claim/>