Sex assault cry was false alarm

POLICE sealed off a park in Abergavenny at the weekend to investigate a woman's sexual assault claim which turned out to be untrue.

Scores of crime officers were called to Swan Meadow in the town centre in the early hours of Sunday after Gwent Police received the complaint at 12.20am.

The park, which is behind the town's bus station, was cordoned off at the Lower Monk Street and Monmouth Road entrances until 1.30pm on Sunday.

The woman, in her late teens, told police she had been the victim of a "serious sexual assault" as she walked home from a party. But she retracted her complaint later on Sunday after admitting her memory of events had been muddled.

"The park was sealed off as part as part of an investigation into what was initially presented as a serious sexual offence," said Inspector Huw Nicholas, of Gwent Police.

"However, it later transpired that the woman had become confused at a party after taking a certain amount of intoxicants.

"Later in the day as the intoxicants left her system she remembered that no offence had taken place."

Inspector Nicholas explained no action would be taken against the woman, who he said made the allegation "in good faith", because the force did not want to deter other women from coming forward in rape cases.

http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/1808673.Sex_assault_cry_was_false_alarm/