Hunt for towpath rapist called off

Police have called off an investigation into a woman's claim that she was raped by a man on a canal towpath while two women watched.

The woman claimed she was hit by one of the women wielding an iron bar before being raped by her attacker's male companion.

The attack is alleged to have happened on the towpath near George Street, in Reading, Berkshire, on 20 June.

On Thursday she told Thames Valley Police that she no longer wished to pursue the case.

Detectives say a two-week investigation had failed to produce any scientific evidence, eyewitness accounts from people in the area at the time, or images of the alleged attackers on CCTV.

This was despite the assault having taken place on what police describe as a "busy thoroughfare".

The police had issued descriptions of the
attackers and published an e-fit of the alleged rapist.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/berkshire/3044722.stm