Hunt to find sex attacker

27-year-old assaulted

A MANHUNT is under way following a city centre sex attack on Tyneside.

Police launched a probe after a 27-year-old woman was targeted in a harrowing assault as she made her way home just yards away from Newcastle United’s St James’ Park.

It’s believed she was found by a concerned passerby who contacted police.

Detectives put up a cordon around the isolated path as they combed the area for clues in a bid to track the attacker.

Det Sgt Tim Douglass, of Northumbria Police’s Rape Investigation Team, said: “This was a particularly distressing ordeal for the victim, who was walking home after an evening out with friends.

“We are keen to speak to anyone who was in the Barrack Road area close to Leazes Park between 1am and 2am as they may have vital information which may be key to the investigation.

“I’d like to reassure people that we’re doing everything we can to piece together the incident and trace the suspect. Anyone with any information, even if they think it’s insignificant, is asked to contact Northumbria Police.”

The attacker carried out the serious sexual assault on Barrack Road in the early hours of Saturday.

Officers were called to the scene at 1.50am after concerns were raised for the woman who had been walking near Leazes Park.

She was unhurt but left “extremely shaken and terrified” by the incident.

Officers have released a description of the man they want to trace in connection with the attack.

He is described as being of a dark complexion and spoke with a broken accent. He’s thought to be in his mid 30s and of a medium build with stubble on his face.

He was wearing dark blue jeans and a dark hooded top.

Anyone with any information should call Northumbria Police on 101 ext 69191 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.
Inquiry dropped

POLICE are no longer investigating an alleged rape in Newcastle.

The incident was said to have taken place between 1.30am and 1.50am on Saturday, December 17, on Barrack Road in the west end of the city.

A 27-year-old woman had been walking along the road, near to Leazes Park.

Police appealed for witnesses to come forward after the alleged sex attack was reported. But following inquiries, they now say they are satisfied no crime was committed and are no longer investigating.

A spokesperson for Northumbria Police said: "We are no longer investigating this allegation and are satisfied that no crime has taken place."