Woman is raped by three men in car park

WARREN WONG

Detectives launched a major investigation yesterday after a young woman reported that she had been raped by three men in Plymouth.

The 19-year-old was found in a distressed and confused state last night at 9pm when she flagged down a passing police car near Plymouth Parkway bus station.

She told officers she had been accosted by four young men who took her from Bath Street, near Union Street, up a flight of steps leading to the Pavilions car park.

She said three of them raped her while the other man looked on.

Eventually all four of them made off, and the girl eventually managed to recover enough to make her way to the side of the road and alert the passing police officers.

Scenes of crime officers were yesterday examining the area. They said exact details were still unclear as the girl was badly traumatised. Police are, however, treating the incident "extremely seriously."

The young woman was being comforted by specialist police officers.

The three men are described as white, aged between 22 and 26 and all with local accents. They were between 5ft 7in and 6ft tall. One had dark brown hair, was of muscular build and wearing a blue Ralph Lauren shirt and a gold chain.

The second had dark brown hair and the third was thin with mousy hair and was wearing a large gold sovereign ring. The fourth man was of indistinct build with blond hair.

Det Insp Andy Belting said yesterday: "We want to make an appeal to all members of the public. If you were in the Union Street area on Thursday night, or in Bath Street or in Royal Parade, you saw this woman as she was moving around, or four males, please give us a ring."

"You might have vital evidence which can help us with this investigation."

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 0960 700 400.
Rape hunt dropped

POLICE say they are no longer investigating an alleged rape in the centre of Plymouth. An investigation began after a 19-year-old girl said she was attacked by four men early on Thursday. Police said: “Following a further consultation with the alleged victim the investigation is being concluded and police are no longer looking for anyone in connection with the victim.”