

We have been asked to forward this press release to you -

West Mercia Police has ended its investigation into a suspicious incident in rural Herefordshire that was reported to them on Friday 25th March.

Officers received reports of a van and a 4x4 acting suspiciously at around 9pm in Ridgeway Road, which runs between the villages of Sutton St Nicholas and Withington.

It was reported that four men and a woman were seen in these vehicles and concerns were expressed by a member of the public that the woman was being carried and put into one of the vehicles.

Detectives were keen to identify the people involved, but despite an in-depth investigation, including a widespread appeal on local and regional media, they haven't traced her and no evidence of criminality has been discovered.

Detective Inspector Martyn Barnes of Hereford CID said: "The serious nature of the report we received from a very credible witness suggested a woman may have been abducted and as such a major investigation was launched with the aim to identify her and ensure her welfare.

"In our attempts to do so, we have received significant support from local communities in Herefordshire, including hard to reach communities such as local migrant workers and the travelling fraternity.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who's supported us in this investigation, including the local and regional media. I would like to reassure the public that we have left no stone unturned in our search."

All UK forces and Interpol were contacted and the description of the woman and circumstances were checked against any reported incidents, including missing persons.

Exhaustive local inquiries also failed to identify the woman, including checks conducted with keepers of vehicles similar to those involved (a BMW X5 and a dark-coloured panel van).

Det Insp Barnes added: "To date, no similar incidents or persons can be linked with our inquiry. Following the release of E-fit images, intelligence led us to a man in Hungary, but he was also eliminated from the inquiry.

"At this stage I am satisfied that all relevant inquiries have been concluded and while I am confident that the witness's credibility is not in doubt, the investigation will be ended and held on record as a suspicious incident.

"I am at pains to reassure the public that we do not believe that anyone has come to any harm. There may well be a perfectly innocent explanation for what was seen that Friday night in March and if anyone knows what occurred, I would still be very keen to hear from them; please call me on 0300 333 3000 or you can pass on information via Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111."

Also, with regard to the fatal accident in **Dorstone** Police are appealing for witnesses after a young woman was killed in a road traffic collision in Herefordshire late last night (Monday 18 July).

At 11.43pm, West Mercia Police received a report that a Ford Fiesta, driving along a country road between Dorstone and Hay-on-Wye, left the road and struck a tree before coming to a stop in a field.

All five people in the car were treated by paramedics and taken to Hereford County Hospital. An 18-year-old woman, who was a passenger in the car, died in the early hours of this morning as a result of her injuries sustained in the collision.

The others were all treated for a range of injuries and two people - an 18-year-old man and a 17-year-old boy - remain in hospital, both in a stable condition.

Sgt Darren Godsall, who is investigating the collision, said: "We are at an early stage in our investigation. We do not believe there were any other vehicles involved and we are looking into what caused this car to leave the road.

"If anyone saw this grey Ford Fiesta driving from Dorstone along the back lanes towards Hay-on-Wye last night, we would like to hear from them."

Sgt Godsall can be contacted via the West Mercia Police non-emergency line, 0300 333 3000, or information can be passed on anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Thanks for reading this

Fiona p.p.

Hereford Rural South & Golden Valley LPTs

PS 3113 Robin Davies robin.davies@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

PC 2368 Christopher Lea 07855 785080

CSO 6993 Kevin Powell 07779 141232

CSO 6173 Fiona Witcher 07779 141232

CSO 6482 Katie Middleton 07779 141223

CSO 6366 James Cooke 07779 141223

herefordruralsouth.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

goldenvalley.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

0300 333 3000 Main switchboard -

Please use this number to report incidents