



SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

PRESS RELEASE

9th December 2006

BODY FOUND – COPDOCK MILL – POLICE LAUNCH MURDER INVESTIGATION

Police today (Saturday 9th December) launched a murder investigation following the discovery of a woman's body in water at Copdock Mill, near to Ipswich, yesterday, (Friday 8th December.)

Formal identification has taken place today and police can confirm that the body is that of missing 19-year-old woman, Tania Nicol.

A post mortem has been conducted today at Ipswich Hospital by a Home Office Pathologist further tests will need to be carried out to ascertain the cause of Tania's death.

Detective Superintendent Andy Henwood who is leading the investigation into the murder of Tania Nicol and Gemma Adams, said: "Following the discovery of Tania's body in the brook at Copdock we are now beginning a linked murder investigation."

"There are obvious similarities between Tania and Gemma's disappearances and subsequent deaths so we will be treating these as linked investigations. However, we will be seeking further opinion from specialist advisors to confirm this view."

"A team of specialist search officers remain in the area around where Tania's was found in Copdock today and cordons will remain in place until the searches are complete."

"Our enquiries are continuing to try to ascertain where and when Tania and Gemma's bodies were placed in the water and the circumstances of their deaths."

Tania Nicol was last seen on Monday 30th October when she left her home address in Woolverstone Close, Ipswich.

Gemma Adams was reported missing to police in the early hours of Wednesday 15th November 2006 when she failed to return home after spending the evening in Ipswich.

Both women had been into Ipswich with the intention of working as prostitutes.

Continues....

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Det Supt Andy Henwood continued: "Officers have been working on these enquiries now for a number of weeks, since the women went missing. The discovery of both women's bodies in these circumstances is of great concern to us, it is very rare to have a linked murder investigation and we are now reliant on information from the public to help move these investigations forward."

"We still need to hear from people who saw Tania and Gemma on the evenings they disappeared, or saw suspicious activity in the Hintlesham area where Gemma's body was found or indeed along the stretch of water known as Belstead Brook. The bodies were found in the same water way albeit around two miles apart."

"Both of the women's bodies were naked when they were found and we still need to trace the clothing they were wearing on the nights they went missing."

Anyone who has any information in relation to these investigations is asked to call Suffolk police on 01473 613500 or Crime stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Ends