

Forensic Geology Exercise

Contents list

- Newspaper report – outlining the evidence sheet for people smuggling.
- Sand samples – microphotos of the sand samples we used.*
- Suspect samples – microphotos of the samples we used.* (These photographs will be useful if you wish to run this exercise without giving students sand specimens and hand lenses or microscopes to use to look at the samples)
- Data sheets for suspects 1, 2, 3 and 4 - giving extracts of interviews with suspects, photographs and personal details
- Data sheet – with the evidence of the white van

*You can use your own sand samples if you wish.

If you want your students to make up their own pretty suspects, they can be done at www.morphases.com We used screen capture software (Faststone Capture) to paste the faces onto the sheet.

Maggie & Peter Williams

BODY FOUND IN WEST MIDLANDS

People smuggling four arrested



Early today, a dog walker discovered a body rolled in a blanket near Stourbridge. A Police spokesperson stated that they are treating the death as suspicious and have set up an incident room at the crime scene. They are linking the death to a white van found abandoned near Worthing. They believe that people-smugglers who entered Britain at Staffin on the Isle of Skye dumped the victim when he became ill. Police are asking for anyone who has seen the vehicle to contact their local police station.



White van found abandoned near Worthing.



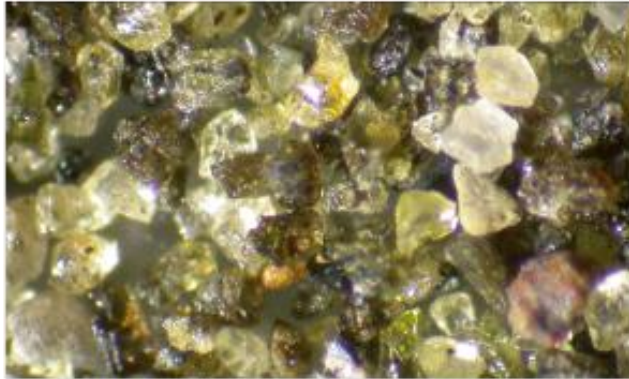
Detective Inspector Philip Nicey, in charge of investigations said today that they had certain leads that they were following up and that four people had been taken into police

custody, three men and one woman, but that nobody had been charged. He said that they were waiting for forensic tests at the crime scene, on the van and on samples taken from the four suspects.

Forensic Geology

Case Study: People smuggling

Microscopic analysis of sand grains from the crime scenes.



Microscopic view of sand grains from Staffin, Scotland. These sand grains match samples taken from the victim, the blanket in which he was wrapped and from the tyre treads of the white van abandoned at Worthing (Sample 5).



Sand grains from the banks of the River Severn near Stourbridge, where the body of the victim was found. These grains match grains found inside the white van abandoned at Worthing (Sample 6).

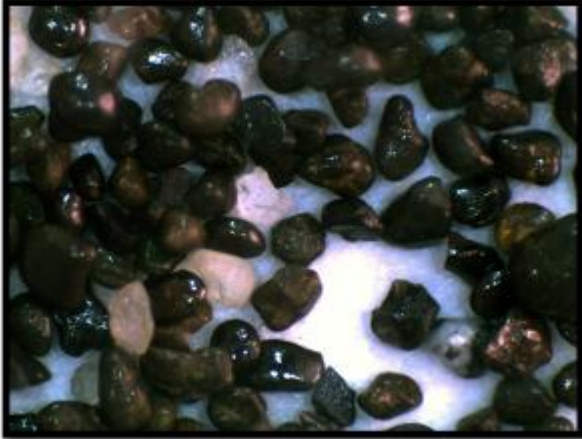


Sand from the beach at Worthing. Found only in the tyre treads of the van, but not on the victim or the blanket in which he was wrapped (Sample 7).

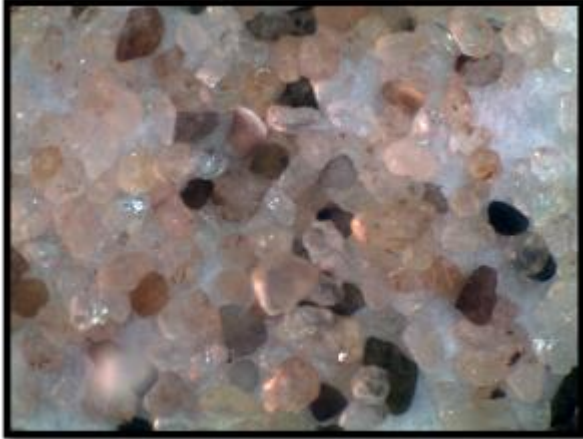
Forensic Geology

Case Study: People smuggling

Data sheet: Sand samples from suspects



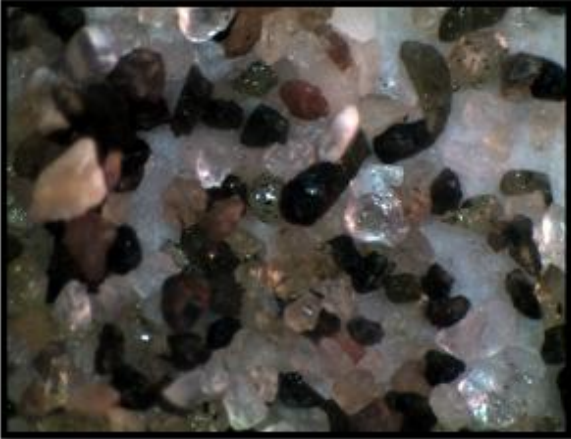
Suspect 1 sample



Suspect 2 sample



Suspect 3 sample

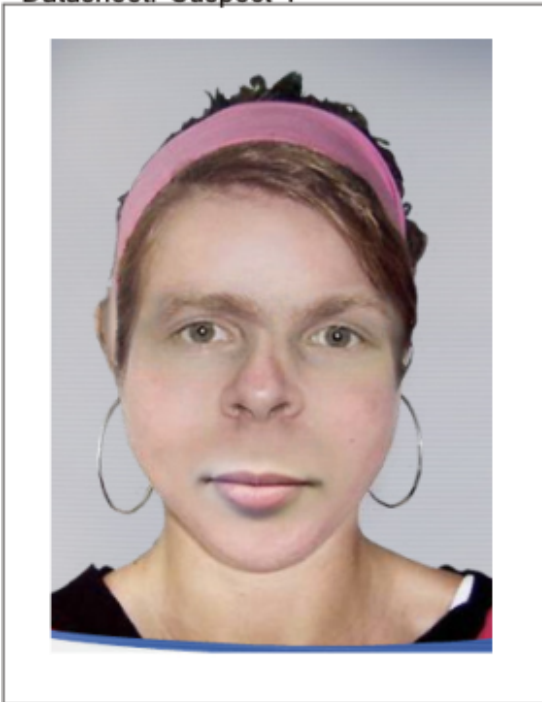


Suspect 4 sample

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Case Study: People smuggling

Datasheet: Suspect 1



Name: Ivy L. Eagle
Age: 27
Height: 1.27m
Weight: 61kg
Residence: 167, Legpull Lane
Cheating Hill

Fingerprints: 

Other distinguishing features: mole on right shoulder

Other forensic evidence: Samples of sand taken from shoes (Sample 1).

Extract of the interview with Ms Eagle, 17/04/2003

Present DS Goodboy and DC Angel.

DSG: Where were you between the morning of 6th August 2002 and 7th August 2002?

ILE: I was on holiday on the Isle of Wight.

DSG: Can you be more specific?

ILE: I was staying at Yaverland.

DSG: Can anyone corroborate this?

ILE: No, I rented a cottage on the coast for a holiday.

DSG: What sort of holiday was that?

ILE: Bird watching.

DSG: Are you sure that you didn't visit Worthing while you were on holiday?

ILE: Quite sure.

DSG: and you have never been to Skye?

ILE: Never, I am sure about that.

DSG: What about Stourbridge?

ILE: What about Stourbridge?

DSG: Have you ever been there?

ILE: Only as a child with my parents.

The interview was suspended at 16.25.

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Case Study: People smuggling

Datasheet: Suspect 2



Name: Jack 'the hat' McKillin

Age: 28

Height: 1.68m

Weight: 76kg

Residence: 4, Jemmy Street
Robberston

Fingerprints: 

Other distinguishing features: 'the hat'

Other forensic evidence: Sand taken from band on
brim of hat (Sample 2).

Extract of the interview with Mr J McKillin, 15/04/2003

Present DI Nicey and DS Smiler.

DIN: Where were you between the morning of 6th August 2002 and 7th August 2002?

JM: I was in Liverpool.

DIN: Are you sure about that?

JM: No.... I know I was at Formby.

DSS: What were you doing there?

JM: I was sand yachting on the beach. It's one of the best places in Europe for sand yachting.

DIN: Was anyone else with you?

JM: No, I don't think so.

DIN: Was anyone else sand yachting?

JM: No.

DIN: Have you ever been to Skye?

DSS: For the record, Mr. McKillin shook his head.

DSS: Or have you been to Worthing?

DIN: Where's that?

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Case Study: People smuggling

Datasheet: Suspect 3



Name: Simon Muggler

Age: 32

Height: 1.65m

Weight: 86kg

Residence: 17, Porky Pies Street
Fingers Cross

Fingerprints: 

Other distinguishing features: scar on left cheek

Other forensic evidence: Samples taken from
trouser pockets (Sample 3).

Extract of the interview with Mr S Muggler, 18/04/2003

Present DS Perfect and DC Evans.

DSP: Where were you between the morning of 6th August 2002 and 7th August 2002?

SM: Ermm I was on a walking holiday.

DSP: Whereabouts?

SM: At various places, that I walked to.

DCE: ...and where were those places?

SM: Well I visited Libya.

DSP: And you didn't go to Worthing?

SM: That's too close to home for a holiday.

DSP: Anyone with you?

SM: Wife went with me.

DSP: Have you been to Scotland in the last year?

SM: No.

DCE: ...or to Stourbridge?

SM: Where is that?

DCE: In the Midlands.

SM: No, I've never been near there.

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Case Study: People smuggling

Datasheet: Suspect 4



Name: Dan Gerous

Age: 27

Height: 1.72m

Weight: 72kg

Residence: 4, Nickin Avenue
Stealhouse

Fingerprints: 

Other distinguishing features: tattoo on left leg

Other forensic evidence: Samples taken from
fabric of trousers (Sample 4).

Extract of the interview with Mr D Gerous, 15/04/2003

Present DI Nicey and DS Smiler.

DIN: Where were you between the morning of 6th August 2002 and 7th August 2002?

DG: Err I think that I was in London, let me check in my diary. Yes, I was in London.

DIN: What were you doing in London?

DG: I had meetings with some business associates on both days.

DIN: Could we have the names of those associates?

DSS: For the record DG has handed over business cards for Mr F. Orger and Mr Terry Bull.

DIN: We will, of course check up on this information.

DG: That's fine.

DSS: Have you been in Scotland in the past year?

DG: I was in Glasgow in April 2002 on business, but apart from that, no.

DIN: Have you been to Stourbridge?

DG: No, never.

DSS: How about Worthing?

DG: Is that the beach resort on the South coast, near Brighton?

DSS: Yes.

DG: No I've never been there.

...end of extract.

Forensic Geology

Case Study: People smuggling

Datasheet: Abandoned vehicle



Report on the white van found abandoned on the beach at Worthing, West Sussex on 20th August 2002.

Analysis of the sand grains found embedded in the tyres of the van indicate that it had been at Stourbridge where the body of the victim was found and also found were traces of sand grains from Staffin on the Isle of Skye. In the inside of the van fibres were found that matched the fibres from the blanket that was used to hold the body. Tyre tracks at Staffin showed the same tread patterns as the tyres on this van.



Crime scene with blanket



Tyre tread pattern from the van.



Pattern of blanket



Tyre track from Staffin.



Fibres taken from van at Worthing found to match material and colour of blanket used to wrap victim.