



Annex A

Gathering evidence for rape and sexual offence investigations

Where should I search?	What should I search for?
Crime scene location(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ preserved physical and/or forensic evidence ■ evidence of disturbance ■ concealed evidence
Crime scene location(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ evidence of grooming, targeting, harassment, rape, sexual assault ■ indecent images ■ use cell site analysis for movement tracking ■ consider locations services on victim’s phone to identify crime scene, victim route before and after, and offence time ■ contact between suspect and victims, victim’s friend or family
Mobile telephones and landlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ websites visited ■ evidence of grooming, targeting, harassment, rape, sexual assault ■ indecent images ■ victim and suspect movement tracking ■ identification of location where the offence occurred ■ contact between suspect and victims, victim’s friend or family ■ preparation for the offence (s)
Emails, computers, social media accounts, internet sites visited, video/audio recordings including CCTV, written text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ suspect’s routines, eg, membership of dating agencies, singles clubs, evening classes ■ people the suspect is in contact with, who could be potential witnesses ■ financial transactions relating to the offending
Employment records, financial information, credit card use, banking, social security records, telephone or internet billing, council tax records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ history of violence not reported to the police but which might be substantiated by health providers ■ sexual health problems, in case the suspect has transferred (or contracted) a sexually transmitted disease to (or from) the victim ■ prescribed medication and health needs caused by a current or previous injury ■ evidence of mental ill health, learning difficulties or physical disabilities
Medical records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ vehicle movement and any potential witnesses ■ link vehicles through PNC checks

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ vehicle movement and any potential witnesses ■ link vehicles through PNC checks
Clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ description of clothing for image matching ■ damage including stretched elastic on underwear, rips, missing buttons, broken zips ■ blood or dirt stains ■ false nails or eyelashes ■ drugs, touch DNA, body fluid transferal
Other agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ disclosure of rape or sexual offences which have not been reported to the police
Previous reports made against the suspect which were retracted, discontinued (with no further action), or which led to convictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ evidence of serial offending ■ potential witnesses and/or victims ■ bad character evidence
Early reports made by witnesses and/or victims against the suspect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ supporting evidence
Property disposal checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ attempts to conceal evidence ■ taking 'trophies' of a crime
Fingerprints, fingermarks, footmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ links between suspect and scene ■ support for victim's account ■ scene interpretation
Injuries on the body (minor abrasions, restraint bruises, minor scratches or older healed injuries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ support for victim's account ■ scene interpretation
DNA samples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ speculatively search these with samples held on the NDNAD for matches against individuals or linked offences, even if the victim retracts their report or decides not to support a prosecution ■ delete DNA profile samples and fingerprints unless you find a match or the suspect is convicted – for exceptions see sections 1.2.4 and 1.2.7 of the Home Office Policy Paper (4 April 2013) Protection of Freedoms Act 2012: how DNA and fingerprint evidence is protected in law
Forensic samples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ traces of drugs and/or alcohol ■ links between suspect, victim and scene(s) ■ support for victim's account ■ interpretation of injuries