

Man jailed for 'terrifying' rape

A 50-year-old man from Suffolk has been jailed for 10 years for what a judge described as a "terrifying attack upon a 17-year-old girl" 20 years ago.

Phil Collins, of Dickens Road, Ipswich, raped the girl in Gippeswyk Park in the town in January 1990.

The investigation into the attack was reviewed by Suffolk Police in 2008 in light of forensic science advances.

Collins, who had denied the offence, was found guilty at Ipswich Crown Court.

'Raped repeatedly'

Sentencing, Judge David Goodin told Collins he had been convicted "of a terrifying attack upon a 17-year-old girl, a wicked crime in which you used a knife to ensure her subjugation to your will".

He added: "Masked and dressed in dark clothing on a night in January 20 years ago, you awaited your victim.

"When she passed, you took her, effectively at knife point, and forced her to strip to her socks. You then raped her repeatedly."

Collins had denied rape, two charges of indecent assault and two of a serious sexual offence.

He was given two 10-year sentences for the serious sexual offence charges, 10 years for rape and eight years each for indecent assault, to run concurrently.

Collins will not be eligible for parole for five years and will remain on the sex offences register for life.

Speaking outside court, Det Ch Insp Rick Munns, of the Suffolk and Norfolk major investigation team, said: "This result sends a very clear message to anyone who thinks they have escaped justice for similar offences.

"With every advance in science it is only a matter of time before they too are arrested."

Story from BBC NEWS:

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