

THE CROMWELL STREET ENQUIRY

How The Enquiry Began

In early August 1992 five children of the family of Frederick and Rosemary West were removed from home under Emergency Protection Orders, following child protection concerns. The removal was carried out jointly by police and social services and the children were lodged temporarily at Cowley Manor in Cheltenham (then a County Council conference centre), in order to keep them together.

Following their placement at Cowley Manor the children were interviewed jointly by police and social services staff. The interviews of some of the children took a long time; in one case the interview took approximately one and a half days to complete. During this interview a social worker recalls one child making a brief aside about the family joke of "Heather being under the patio." The police officer present does not, however, recall the comment being made and at a time when the focus of the investigation was on the child protection issues, such a brief and out of context comment was neither recorded or followed up. At the time Heather's whereabouts were also only of interest because she could have provided additional information regarding the child protection investigation.

From this time no further comment was made to either police or social services staff regarding Heather and the patio until the late spring/early summer of 1993. From April/May 1993 the residential social workers caring for the West children started to pick up on brief comments made by the children about the patio being laid at the same time as Heather left home, and also about the family "joke" of Heather being under the patio.

As these comments were being made only very occasionally, to different staff and with little weight by the children, the staff in the home were unsure whether or not to treat them seriously, bearing in mind the mental state of the children.

By July/August 1993, however, with the comments continuing to be made by the children, albeit in the same offhand manner, staff within social services became sufficiently concerned to feel the police should be informed. Telephone calls were, therefore, made by a social worker and a legal executive of the County Council who was involved in the lengthy and ongoing civil proceedings surrounding the case.



Having received the referral, the police began making enquiries to see if they could find Heather. No formal complaint or allegation had been made but extensive enquiries were made with local and national agencies and departments. These supervised enquiries took place, however, within the context of the police officers already having full and active case loads.

Early in 1994, having exhausted all enquiries to trace Heather, it was decided that formal witness statements should be obtained from social workers closely connected with the West children relating to the "family joke." With the evidence contained in those statements, together with the result of other police enquiries, successful application was made to Gloucester Magistrates for a search warrant under Section 8 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 enabling the police to search 25 Cromwell Street for evidence relating to Heather's whereabouts.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

29 September 1941

Frederick Walter Stephen West born at Bickerton Cottage, Much Marcle, to Daisy Hanna West and Walter Stephen West.

14 April 1944

Catherine Costello born in Coatbridge in Scotland to Edward and Mary Pettigrew Costello.

8 April 1949

Ann McFall born in Glasgow to Thomas McFall and Jane Hunter.

29 November 1953

Rosemary Pauline Letts born in Barnstaple, Devon, to Daisy Gwendoline Letts and William Andrew Letts.

28 November 1958

Fred West had a serious motorcycle accident and was taken to Herefordshire Hospital.

17 November 1962

Fred West and Rena Costello married at Ledbury Register Office.

28 November 1962

Fred and Rena arrived in Scotland moving into rented accommodation in Coatbridge. They later moved to Glasgow. Fred West was employed as a driver with a local ice cream company.

22 May 1963

Charmaine Carol Mary West born in Coatbridge to Rena West. Details of her father were not listed on Charmaine's birth certificate.

6 July 1964

Anne Marie West born to Rena and Frederick West.

1964

The Letts family moved to Bishops Cleeve.

11 December 1965

Fred West left Scotland and returned to Herefordshire with Charmaine and Anne Marie but without Rena who remained in Scotland.

23 February 1966

Fred West collected Rena from Gloucester Railway Station.

March 1966

Fred and Rena moved to The Willows Caravan Site at Sandhurst.

1 July 1966

Rena and Ann McFall caught a train from Gloucester to Manchester. The children were left behind at The Willows and subsequently placed in care.

29 July 1966

Rena West returned to Gloucester - it is believed Ann McFall was with her.

1 August 1966

Children were returned to Fred and Rena West and the family returned to the mobile home at The Willows Caravan Site.

The Wests were visited by a child care officer who was told Ann McFall had returned to Glasgow.

23 November 1966

Fred West moved to Watersmead Caravan Site at Brockworth.

September 1967

Fred and Rena moved to Lakehouse Caravan Site, at Bishops Cleeve, near Cheltenham.

20 October 1969

Rena left Fred and as a result the children were placed in care on 18 November 1969.

27 October 1969

Social Services called at Lakehouse Caravan Site and found a young woman looking after Charmaine and Anne Marie.

21 November 1969

Rena returned to Fred and the children were returned to their parents. Rena left within three days.

28 November 1969

Children returned into care.

1969

Rosemary Letts left home not long after her sixteenth birthday to live with Fred at Lakehouse Caravan Site.

July 1970

Fred, Rose, Anne Marie and Charmaine moved to 25 Midland Road.

17 October 1970

Heather West born in Gloucester to Frederick West and Rosemary Letts.

29 January 1972

Frederick West and Rosemary Letts married at Gloucester Register Office.

1972

The West family moved to 25 Cromwell Street from Midland Road.

Wednesday, 23 February 1994

Police obtained a warrant from Gloucester Magistrates to search the garden of 25 Cromwell Street.

Thursday, 24 February 1994

1325 hours Search warrant under Section 8 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 was executed at 25 Cromwell Street by Detective Chief Inspector Terry Moore, Detective Inspector Tony James and approximately 15 other officers. Mrs Rosemary West was at home at the time. She was told that her rear garden was going to be searched in connection with the disappearance of her daughter, Heather West.

1340 hours Frederick West left his work near Stroud but had not returned to 25 Cromwell Street by 5.30 pm that day when detectives left the house.

1940 hours Frederick West made his own way to Gloucester Police Station and was interviewed on a voluntary basis by Detective Constable Savage regarding the disappearance of Heather. In the interview he asserted that he had seen Heather recently in Birmingham.

1955 hours Rosemary West interviewed at home using portable tape recorder in the lounge on the first floor of 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, by Detective

Sergeant Terry Onions and PC Deborah Willats. This interview concluded at 2041 hours.

2130 hours Frederick West left Gloucester Police Station and returned home. It is believed that he then walked his dogs in Gloucester Park, in company with Rosemary West.

Friday, 25 February 1994

1115 hours Detective Constable Savage and Detective Constable Law visited 25 Cromwell Street and spoke to Frederick West at his front door. They explained they were making enquiries about relatives and were then led into a living room where Rosemary West was watching television. Mrs West was uncooperative when asked for her mother's details. Frederick West then took his wife from the lounge into the hallway and shut the door while the officers remained in the lounge. After a few seconds he returned and said, "can we go to the police station?"

The officers then walked out of the front door with Frederick West and got into a CID car parked outside the house. Frederick West then admitted that Heather was in the garden, but stated that the police were looking in the wrong place.

1120 hours Detective Constable Savage arrested Frederick West for the murder of his daughter. He was then taken to Gloucester Police Station and detained.

1225 hours Rosemary West was arrested at home on suspicion of the murder of Heather West by Detective Sergeant Onions. She was taken to Cheltenham Police Station where she arrived at 1245 hours.

1631 hours Rosemary West was interviewed by Detective Sergeant Onions and Detective Constable Smurthwaite at Cheltenham Police Station. She denied the murder of her daughter, Heather West.

1657 hours Frederick West was interviewed by Detective Constable Savage and Detective Constable Law about the murder of Heather West. He admitted killing his daughter and gave some explanation about the circumstances.

1725 hours Rosemary West was taken to Gloucester Police Station.

1834 hours Detective Constables Law and Savage accompanied Frederick West to the back garden at 25 Cromwell Street. He then roughly indicated the area where he had buried Heather in the back garden.

2027 hours Rosemary West was interviewed by Detective Sergeant Onions and Detective Constable Smurthwaite.

2030 hours Frederick West was interviewed again about the murder of Heather.

Saturday, 26 February 1994

An incident room was set up on the fourth floor of Gloucester Police Station, Bearlands. This was led by Detective Superintendent John Bennett, the Senior Investigating Officer, and Detective Chief Inspector Terry Moore, acting as Deputy Senior Investigating Officer.

- 1119 hours Authority was given by an Acting Superintendent to extend Frederick West's detention in custody over 24 hours until up to a period of 36 hours from his arrest.
- 1134 hours Authority was given by an Acting Superintendent for the detention of Rosemary West to be extended to over 24 hours.
- 1150 hours Rosemary West interviewed by Detective Sergeant Onions and Detective Constable Smurthwaite. This interview concluded at 1230 hours.
- 1332 hours Frederick West was interviewed again and this time retracted the admission regarding the murder of his daughter, Heather. A second interview commenced at 1405 hours. Frederick West continued to retract his admission of killing Heather West.
- 1603 hours A support group officer digging in the rear garden at 25 Cromwell Street found, close to the surface in a location other than that indicated by Frederick West, a human bone. He stopped digging and informed a scenes of crime officer. The bone was taken to Gloucester Police Station where it was examined by the Home Office Pathologist, Professor Bernard Knight. Professor Knight confirmed that the bone was a human femur. He then went to Cromwell Street and excavated the remains which transpired to be that of Heather West. When the remains were excavated both femurs were found to be present. Due to the initial find it became obvious that there might be a second set of remains buried in the garden.
- 1632 hours Frederick West was interviewed at Gloucester Police Station and changed his story, this time admitting the murder of Heather West.
- 1845 hours Rosemary West was further interviewed.
- 1917 hours Frederick West was questioned about the other femur found in the garden and admitted killing and burying a person he called Shirley Robinson.
- 2034 hours Frederick West appeared before Gloucester Magistrates' Court and a warrant of further detention for a period of 36 hours was obtained.
- 2111 hours Frederick West was interviewed and admitted killing and strangling a person whom he described as a friend of Shirley Robinson. This person transpired to be Alison Chambers. [Note the investigation was never able to establish a link between Alison Chambers and Shirley Robinson. In fact Shirley Robinson disappeared in May 1978 and Alison Chambers did not arrive in Gloucester until January 1979].
- 2135 hours Rosemary West was arrested for the murders of Shirley Robinson and an unknown female.
- 2136 hours Rosemary West was taken to Gloucester Magistrates' Court for application for a warrant of further detention.

Sunday, 27 February 1994

- 1015 hours Frederick West was taken back to Cromwell Street and indicated where he buried Shirley Robinson and the other as yet unidentifiable female whom he wrongly described as a friend of Shirley Robinson.
- 1145 hours Rosemary West was further interviewed.
- 1202 hours Frederick West again interviewed regarding the murder of Heather West.
- 1412 hours Frederick West interviewed and gave further details regarding the death of Heather West, which he said was without Rosemary West's knowledge.
- 1613 hours Frederick West was charged with the murder of his daughter, Heather West, by Detective Constable Law. He made no reply after charge.
- 1856 hours Rosemary West was further interviewed.
- 2030 hours Rosemary West was bailed from Gloucester Police Station to return at 10.00 am on Monday, 25 April 1994.
- 2122 hours Rosemary West was released from the police station and taken to 25 Cromwell Street to her family.

Monday, 28 February 1994

- 1000 hours Frederick West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court charged with the murder of his daughter, Heather West. He was remanded in police custody for three days.
- 1159 hours Frederick West was interviewed and explained how he killed Shirley Robinson.
- 1540 hours Frederick West was again interviewed and explained how he had killed Shirley Robinson without Rosemary West's knowledge.
- 1720 hours A support group officer digging in the back garden of 25 Cromwell Street found the remains of a person, who was subsequently identified as Alison Chambers, in the rear garden. The Coroner David Gibbons was informed.
- 1742 hours Frederick West was again interviewed and explained how he killed and buried Shirley's friend, later identified as Alison Chambers.
- 2100 hours A support group officer digging in the back garden at 25 Cromwell Street found the remains of a person who was subsequently identified as Shirley Robinson.

Tuesday, 1 March 1994

- 1130 hours Frederick West was interviewed regarding the murder of the person who transpired to be Alison Chambers.
- 1532 hours Frederick West was again interviewed and gave further details about the remains.

Professor Bernard Knight attended at the house to examine the remains prior to removal for forensic examination.

Wednesday, 2 March 1994

Detectives received information from a member of the public about a missing person called Lynda Gough who had stayed at 25 Cromwell Street. Forensic examination of the two sets of remains found on 28 February revealed them to be those of two women.

1150 hours Frederick West was interviewed regarding his background history.

1530 hours Frederick West was charged with the murders of Shirley Robinson and an unknown girl, who subsequently transpired to be Alison Chambers.

Thursday, 3 March 1994

Frederick West was interviewed a number of times during the day. He was asked about other residents at 25 Cromwell Street and denied any knowledge of Lynda Gough. Digging at 25 Cromwell Street continued as well as numerous enquiries from the incident room set up at Gloucester Police Station.

Friday, 4 March 1994

Specialist ground scanning equipment, which indicates any disturbance behind solid matter, was used at 25 Cromwell Street.

1418 hours Frederick West was interviewed and admitted knowing Lynda Gough but stated that she had moved to Weston-Super-Mare. As the interview drew to a close at 1517 hours, Detective Constable Savage told West that the police intended to search the whole of 25 Cromwell Street including the house.

1735 hours A handwritten note was passed to Detective Superintendent Bennett from Frederick West which stated "I, Frederick West, authorise my solicitor, Howard Ogden, to advise Superintendent Bennett that I wish to admit to a further (approx) nine killings expressly Charmaine, Rena, Lynda Gough and others to be identified." Signed: F West.

1810 hours Frederick West was interviewed and admitted killing and burying Lynda Gough, Rena and Charmaine. He also gave an explanation about how Lucy Partington was killed.

2220 hours Detectives took Frederick West back to 25 Cromwell Street dressed in a similar overall to those worn by the police search team. He indicated areas where bodies were buried and returned to the police station at 2325 hours.

Saturday, 5 March 1995

Frederick West interviewed several times during the day.

1147 hours The remains of a person subsequently identified as Therese Siegenthaler were found in the cellar area of 25 Cromwell Street.

1356 hours Frederick West was taken to a field at Kempley where he pointed out an area in which his first wife Catherine was buried.

1451 hours The remains of a person subsequently identified as Shirley Hubbard were found in the cellar area of 25 Cromwell Street.

Sunday, 6 March 1994

Frederick West interviewed several times during the day.

0902 hours The remains of a person subsequently identified as Lucy Partington were found in the cellar area of 25 Cromwell Street.

1150 hours The remains of a person subsequently identified as Juanita Mott were found in the cellar area of 25 Cromwell Street.

1420 hours Frederick West was taken in a car to the Worcester area where he pointed out where he said he had dropped off hitchhikers.

Monday, 7 March 1994

0926 hours Professor Knight examined and removed the remains later identified as those of Lucy Partington and Shirley Hubbard from excavations in the cellar. He later removed the remains subsequently identified as those of Juanita Mott from under a staircase in the cellar and Therese Siegenthaler from concrete in front of the false fireplace in the left-hand corner of the cellar.

1000 hours Frederick West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court and was further remanded in custody to police cells until Friday, 11 March 1994.

1425 hours The remains subsequently identified as Lynda Gough were found inside 25 Cromwell Street and examined by Professor Knight who was still at the scene.

1855 hours Frederick West was taken to Fingerpost Field near Kempley and explained that he knew Ann McFall but did not kill her. He indicated the position where he thought she may be buried but could not explain precisely how he knew this or how she met her death.

Tuesday, 8 March 1994

Frederick West interviewed five times during the day regarding the murders of the various victims.

1910 hours The remains of a person subsequently identified as Carol Ann Cooper were found in the cellar area of 25 Cromwell Street.

2115 hours Frederick West was taken to 25 Cromwell Street and pointed out where a "Worcester Girl" was buried in the cellar.

Wednesday, 9 March 1994

Ground penetrating radar used on open field site at Kempley. Positive lines of enquiry were being followed up in an attempt to identify the remains. To date there had been no

positive identification. This would take some time and would involve the Home Office Pathologist and other specialists.

Ground scanning equipment was used on the waste ground at the rear of 25 Cromwell Street.

Detective Superintendent Bennett sent a facsimile request to the Home Office for Frederick West to be remanded in police cells for further questioning, instead of being sent to prison under Section 29 of the Criminal Justice Act 1961.

Frederick West was interviewed three times during the day.

Thursday, 10 March 1994

Detectives began to enquire deeper into the missing person, Alison Chambers, as a possible victim.

0934 hours A warrant under Section 8 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act was issued by Gloucester Magistrates for a search of a field at Kempley for the remains of Ann McFall. A second warrant was also obtained to search for the remains of Catherine West in another field at Kempley.

Frederick West interviewed regarding his antecedents.

Eight sets of remains had now been moved to The College of Medicine at the University of Cardiff in Wales.

Police had liaised with other forces throughout the country and also contacted Holland, Germany and Switzerland in an effort to identify the victims.

Friday, 11 March 1994

1000 hours Frederick West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court on eight separate charges of murder, he was remanded in custody to Gloucester Prison for 28 days, to reappear at Gloucester Magistrates' Court on Thursday, 7 April 1994.

Frederick West interviewed once during the day.

Home Office Prison Department inspected the cell complex regarding the continued detention of Frederick West.

Frederick West's solicitor, Howard Ogden, gave written approval for Frederick West to be remanded in police cells, rather than taken to prison.

Frederick West was taken to HM Prison, Gloucester to await a Home Office decision regarding where he would be held.

The Home Office gave consent for Frederick West to be held at Gloucester Police Station under Section 29 of the Criminal Justice Act 1961 from Friday, 11 March 1994 until further notice, under normal remand conditions.

The ninth set of remains had now been removed to Cardiff for forensic examination. Excavations at the house continued, concluding at approximately 8 pm.

Saturday, 12 March 1994

No excavations and no work were completed at 25 Cromwell Street for the first time since the enquiry commenced. This allowed the officers involved in the work to take a break.

Other enquiries, however, still continued from the Murder Incident Room.

Sunday, 13 March 1994

Police officers commenced digging at about 9 am in the cellar area of the house. No further developments.

Monday, 14 March 1994

Frederick West interviewed four times during the day.

The search at 25 Cromwell Street continued but again there were no new developments. Six square metres of concrete was delivered to infill the cellar area to ensure the house was structurally safe.

Tuesday, 15 March 1994

Detective Superintendent John Bennett and Detective Chief Inspector Terry Moore visited the house to view the progress.

Wednesday, 16 March 1994

1037 hours Frederick West was interviewed by police artist, Detective Constable Bob Wilcox, to obtain artist's impressions of the victim.

Digging and the search of the house continued and was expected to continue for a few more days, although there were no new developments.

Thursday, 17 March 1994

2033 hours Frederick West was charged with the murder of Carol Ann Cooper.

Digging continued in the cellar of the house.

Friday, 18 March 1994

Rosemary West was moved to new accommodation at Dursley.

Digging continued at the house. A press conference was held at Brunswick Campus, Gloucester, by Detective Superintendent Bennett.

Saturday, 19 March 1994

No work carried out at 25 Cromwell Street for only the second day since the inquiry started.

Sunday, 20 March 1994

Frederick West was interviewed after visit to 25 Midland Road. Denied any involvement in disappearance of Mary Bastolm, although he is taken to Bristol Road in Gloucester.

Searching resumed at the house.

Monday, 21 March 1994

Searching continued at the house. More concrete was delivered to make the house structurally safe - total amount of concrete delivered so far was 17.3 cubic metres.

Tuesday, 22 March 1994

Work continued at the house in the afternoon.

Wednesday, 23 March 1994

Digging work in the kitchen and basement area carried out. Advice taken from civil engineers regarding safety of the house.

Thursday, 24 March 1994

Digging at 25 Cromwell Street continued, more concrete delivered.



Friday, 25 March 1994

Warrant under Section 8 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act was issued by Gloucester Magistrates for a search at 25 Midland Road in connection with the disappearance of Charmaine West.

No work at 25 Cromwell Street.

Sunday, 27 March 1994

No work at 25 Cromwell Street for the third successive day. Enquiries continued within the incident room at Gloucester.

Monday, 28 March 1994

Frederick West charged with the amended charges of murders of Alison Chambers, Lucy Partington, Juanita Mott and Linda Gough.

Digging and searching resumed at 25 Cromwell Street. Press conference held at Gloscat, Brunswick Road, by Detective Superintendent Bennett.

Tuesday, 29 March 1994

Excavations commenced at Letterbox Field near Kempley.

Work continued at 25 Cromwell Street - still no further developments.

Wednesday, 30 March 1994

Work at Cromwell Street continued - two further deliveries of concrete made to infill areas previously excavated.

Tuesday, 5 April 1994

Work resumed at 25 Cromwell Street after a short break for Easter.

Wednesday, 6 April 1994

Frederick West taken to site at Kempley where he indicated the probable location of his first wife, Catherine West. A further 11 tons of concrete delivered to Cromwell Street.

Thursday, 7 April 1994

Frederick West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court and remanded in custody until Thursday, 5 May 1994. Searching continued at 25 Cromwell Street.

Friday, 8 April 1994

0905 hours Frederick West served with amended charges in respect of the murders of Therese Siegenthaler and Shirley Hubbard.

Detective Superintendent Bennett held a media briefing at Gloscat with an update of the current progress of the enquiry.

Saturday, 9 April 1994

No work carried out at Cromwell Street.

Sunday, 10 April 1994

1112 hours Search team officers digging at Kempley found what appeared to be human remains. The search was halted and scenes of crime officers called.

Searching continued at 25 Cromwell Street but was now nearing completion.

Monday, 11 April 1994

1038 hours Professor Bernard Knight removed the remains from Kempley. At the conclusion of his initial examination he was able to confirm that the remains were human and those of a female. These remains were later to be identified as those of Catherine Costello.

Work at Cromwell Street continued.

Tuesday, 12 April 1994

Work still continued at 25 Cromwell Street.

Wednesday, 13 April 1994

0930 hours Media informed that work was now starting on a second field site adjacent to Stonehouse Coppice.

1740 hours Frederick West charged with the murder of Catherine Bernadette West between 1 January 1969 and 27 February 1994.

Bricklaying took place at 25 Cromwell Street in preparation for removing extension. More concrete was delivered.

Thursday, 14 April 1994

1100 hours HM Coroner for Gloucester, David Gibbons, opened separate inquests into the deaths of the nine remains from Cromwell Street. Having been satisfied that all nine were properly identified he adjourned each inquest sine die.

Friday, 15 April 1994

The rear extension at 25 Cromwell Street was demolished by workers from Gloucester City Council.

Saturday, 16 April 1994

No work carried out at 25 Cromwell Street.

Sunday, 17 April 1994

Work continued at 25 Cromwell Street, the area on which the extension stood is searched.

Tuesday, 19 April 1994

Detective Superintendent Bennett held a media briefing to update the press on developments so far.

Wednesday, 20 April 1994

0925 hours Rosemary West arrested at Cheltenham by Detective Constables Harris and Harrison in connection with unrelated matters.

Portable building was erected at 25 Midland Road.

Preparations made for the search of 25 Midland Road. Search continued at 25 Cromwell Street. Rosemary Pauline West again arrested.

Thursday, 21 April 1994

Rosemary West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court charged with an unrelated matter. Proceedings in respect of this were later discontinued by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Rosemary Pauline West appeared before Gloucester Magistrates. Mrs West was remanded in custody for three days until Monday, 25 April 1994.

Friday, 22 April 1994

The well found at 25 Cromwell Street was searched but nothing found.

Saturday, 23 April 1994

1540 hours Rosemary West arrested for the murder of Lynda Gough.

Sunday, 24 April 1994

1815 hours Rosemary West was charged with the murder of Lynda Gough and replied, "I'm innocent."

Work continued at 25 Cromwell Street but no further developments.

Monday, 25 April 1994

Mrs West was charged with the murder of Lynda Gough between 1 April 1973 and 27 February 1994. Rosemary West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court where she faced the one charge of murder and was remanded in custody until April 29. At Cromwell Street final stages of search were taking place prior to the building being handed over to the solicitors representing Mrs West.

At 9am Detective Superintendent Bennett held a media briefing outside 25 Midland Road, Gloucester, where the details of the search that was to take place there were outlined.

Tuesday, 26 April 1994

1947 hours Rosemary West charged with the murder of Carol Ann Cooper and replied, "I'm innocent."

At 11 am the search commenced at 25 Midland Road.

Wednesday, 27 April 1994

At 25 Midland Road the search commenced on the rear garden and the adjoining rear garden of number 26.

Thursday, 28 April 1994

1522 hours Rosemary West charged with the murder of Lucy Katherine Partington and replied, "I'm innocent."

The search continued at 25 Midland Road. Rosemary West was further charged with the murders of Carole Ann Cooper between 9 November 1983 and 27 February 1994 and Lucy Partington between 26 December 1973 and 27 February 1994.

At Cromwell Street the work was concluded and the building handed over to the solicitors.

Friday, 29 April 1994

Rosemary West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court and was again remanded in custody to police cells for three days.

Frederick West handed a note to the interview teams stating "I have not and still cannot tell you the whole truth ... from the very first day of this enquiry my main concern has been to protect another person or persons."

Searching continued in the garden area of 25 Midland Road but nothing significant found.

Saturday, 30 April 1994

1351 hours Rosemary West charged with the murder of Therese Siegenthaler and replied, "I'm innocent."

No work carried out at 25 Midland Road.

Tuesday, 3 May 1994

Rosemary West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court and was further remanded in police custody until Friday, 6 May 1994.

Searching resumed at 25 Midland Road following the Bank Holiday break. Council engineers prepared an area to search in the kitchen of 25 Midland Road and the concrete floor was removed. Nothing of evidential value found so far.

Wednesday, 4 May 1994

1555 hours Rosemary West charged with the murder of Shirley Hubbard. She made no reply.

1910 hours An officer excavating below the kitchen area at 25 Midland Road found human remains which later transpired to be those of Charmaine West.

Thursday, 5 May 1994

Professor Bernard Knight attended at 25 Midland Road and excavated the human remains later identified as those of Charmaine West which had been found the previous evening. The remains were subsequently removed to The College of Medicine at the University of Wales, Cardiff, for further forensic examination.

Friday, 6 May 1994

At 9 am Detective Superintendent Bennett held a media briefing outside 25 Midland Road where the press were updated. It was also announced that Rosemary West had been charged with the murder of Shirley Louise Hubbard between 14 November 1974 and 27 February 1994.

Rosemary West appeared in Gloucester Magistrates' Court charged with five murders. She was remanded until 3 June 1994.

1634 hours Rosemary West charged with the murder of Juanita Mott, replied "I'm innocent by the way."

Saturday, 7 May 1994

The search continued at 25 Midland Road.

Sunday, 8 May 1994

No work carried out at 25 Midland Road.

Monday, 9 May 1994

At 11.30 am Detective Superintendent Bennett held a media briefing to update the press on progress at 25 Midland Road.

Tuesday, 10 May 1994

Work continued at 25 Midland Road but there were no further developments.

Wednesday, 11 May 1994

1435 hours Frederick West charged with the murder of Charmaine West.

More concrete delivered to 25 Midland Road.

Thursday, 12 May 1994

Searching continued at 25 Midland Road.

Friday, 13 May 1994

1156 hours Frederick West's last interview while in custody at Gloucester Police Station.

Monday, 16 May 1994

Rosemary West charged with the murder of Juanita Mott between 1 April 1975 and 27 February 1994. Cellar at 25 Midland Road continued to be searched.

Wednesday, 18 May 1994

1610 hours Rose West charged with murder of Shirley Ann Robinson, replied "I'm innocent."

Monday, 23 May 1994

1708 hours Rose West charged with the murder of Alison Jane Chambers.

Thursday, 26 May 1994

1725 hours Rosemary West further charged with the murder of her daughter Heather Ann West between 28 May 1987 and 27 February 1994. She replied, "I'm innocent".

Friday, 27 May 1994

The search team completed their work at 25 Midland Road.

Thursday, 2 June 1994

Frederick West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court, where nine murder charges had now been amended to joint charges with Rosemary West. He was remanded in custody to reappear on Thursday, 30 June 1994. The reinstatement at 25 Midland Road was complete and the property returned to the possession of the owner.

Friday, 3 June 1994

Rosemary Pauline West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court where she was remanded in custody to reappear on Thursday, 30 June 1994. The excavation continued at Kempsey which was now the only site being worked by the police.

Tuesday, 7 June 1994

1822 hours Officers digging in Fingerpost Field found remains later identified as Ann McFall.

2000 hours Professor Knight commenced the removal of the remains of Ann McFall but could not finish the task because darkness fell.



Thursday, 9 June 1994

0945 hours Professor Knight completed the removal of the remains of Ann McFall.



Thursday, 30 June 1994

DC Barnes arrested Frederick West for the murder of Ann McFall.

Both Frederick West and Rosemary West appeared together at Gloucester Magistrates' Court. Frederick West, charged with eleven counts of murder, was remanded in custody to police cells for three days until Monday, 4 July 1994. Rosemary West, charged with nine counts of murder and other sexual offences, was remanded in custody until Thursday, 28 July 1994.



Sunday, 3 July 1994

Frederick West was charged with the murder of Ann McFall.



Wednesday, 27 July 1994

The inquests were opened at 11.00 am at Dursley Magistrates' Court, by HM Coroner Mr David Gibbons, in relation to the last three sets of remains to be found. One set of remains was discovered at 25 Midland Road, Gloucester (Charmaine) and the other two in fields at Kempley, near Much Marcle (Ann McFall and Catherine Costello) at locations known as Letterbox Field and Fingerpost Field. The inquests were for identification purposes only and evidence was given by Detective Superintendent John Bennett, Professor Bernard Knight and Doctor David Whittaker.



Thursday, 28 July 1994

Frederick and Rosemary West appeared together at Gloucester Magistrates' Court on remand. They were both remanded in custody for a further 28 days until Thursday, 25 August 1994.

Wednesday, 3 August 1994

Frederick West dispensed with the services of Howard Ogden as his solicitor. Bobbets and Mackan took over representation.

Thursday, 25 August 1994

Rosemary West again appeared in court.

Thursday, 8 September 1994

Gloucestershire Police applied to the Home Office for financial assistance (£651,000) in relation to Cromwell Street enquiry.

Thursday, 22 September 1994

Frederick and Rosemary West reappeared in court. Both remanded in custody until 20 October 1994.

Tuesday, 8 October 1994

Surveyors from Gloucester City Council listed 25 Cromwell Street as dangerous.

Thursday, 20 October 1994

Frederick and Rosemary West reappeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court. Both remanded in custody until 15 November 1994.

Tuesday, 15 November 1994

Frederick and Rosemary West reappeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court. Both remanded in custody until 13 December 1994.

Tuesday, 6 December 1994

Chief Constable Tony Butler informed that Home Office would not provide any financial help for the Gloucestershire Constabulary in respect of the Cromwell Street investigation.

Tuesday, 13 December 1994

Frederick and Rosemary West reappeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court. Both remanded in custody. Committal hearing date fixed for 6 February 1995 at Dursley Magistrates' Court.

Sunday, 1 January 1995

Frederick West found dead in his cell at HMP Winson Green, Birmingham.

Friday, 13 January 1995

1000 hours Rosemary West charged with the murder of Charmaine West, replied, "I'm innocent."

Monday, 6 February 1995

Committal hearings commenced at Dursley Magistrates' Court. They were presided over by Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate Peter Badge.

Wednesday, 8 February 1995

Eggs were thrown at the van taking Rosemary West from the committal proceedings.

Tuesday, 14 February 1995

Mr Peter Badge, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, committed Rosemary West for trial on ten charges of murder and other charges which she had not previously faced.

Tuesday, 14 February 1995

Rosemary West committed for trial on ten counts of murder.

Thursday, 23 February 1995

Rosemary West to stand trial at Winchester Crown Court in October.

Wednesday, 1 March 1995

Neil Butterfield, QC, appointed a High Court Judge, therefore no longer able to act as leading counsel for the prosecution case of Rosemary West.

Wednesday, 15 March 1995

Confirmed that Brian Leveson, QC, had been selected to be the new leading counsel for the prosecution and accepted this position. Mr Leveson had been a QC since 1986 and a recorder since 1988, born 22 June 1949.

Wednesday, 10 May 1995

With the authority of the Official Solicitor and Leo Goatley, both counsels for the defence and prosecution visited and viewed 25 Cromwell Street. The house was sealed up after the visit.

Friday, 12 May 1995

Rosemary West attended a Pre-Trial Review at Winchester Crown Court and formally pleaded not guilty.

VICTIMS

Heather Ann West

Born: 17 October 1970

Heather was born in Gloucester, the first child of Rosemary Pauline West. She lived at 25 Midland Road until 1972 when the family moved to 25 Cromwell Street. She attended St Paul's Primary School and latterly Hucclecote School. Heather was last seen on 19 June 1987 but never reported missing to the police. Her remains were found at 1415 hours on Saturday, 26 February 1994 under the patio in the rear garden of 25 Cromwell Street.

Alison Jane Chambers

Born: 8 September 1962

Alison was born in Hanover, West Germany, and she later settled in Swansea. At the age of 16 Alison moved to Jordansbrook House, Gloucester, and worked for a firm of solicitors under a Youth Training Scheme. Alison's disappearance was reported to the Missing Persons Bureau and initially to the police as an absconder from care.

Her remains were found at 1720 hours on Monday, 28 February 1994, the second set of remains to be found.

Shirley Ann Robinson

Born: 8 October 1959

Shirley was born in Leicestershire and later lived in both Germany and the West Midlands. She was last seen in about April 1978 when she was heavily pregnant. Shirley was not reported to the police as a missing person. Her remains were found at 2100 hours on Monday, 28 February 1994 in the rear garden of 25 Cromwell Street under the patio.

Therese Siegenthaler

Born: 27 November 1952

Therese Siegenthaler was born at Trub in Switzerland but lived in the Berne area. At the age of 16 she left school but continued her education studying for a diploma in secretarial studies. Therese came to England in late 1972/early 1973 to continue her studies, becoming a sociology student at Woolwich College of Further Education in London and finding accommodation in Lewisham. At the weekend she worked in a shop in the Swiss Centre, Leicester Square.

On 15 April 1974 Therese left her accommodation the week before Easter intending to travel to Eire via Holyhead.

Therese never reached her destination. She was due back in England the week after the Easter break and when she failed to return, her disappearance was reported to Lee Road Police Station on 26 April 1974. An investigation was carried out by the Metropolitan Police covering a number of years but with no success.

The remains of Therese Siegenthaler were found at 1147 hours on Saturday, 5 March 1994 in the basement of 25 Cromwell Street. Her remains were the fourth set to be found at 25 Cromwell Street.

Shirley Hubbard

Born: 26 June 1959

Shirley Hubbard was born under the name of Shirley Lloyd, she was also known as Shirley Owen. In 1972 Shirley decided she wanted to be called Shirley Hubbard although her name was never officially changed. Shirley attended Droitwich High School and at the time of her disappearance was on work experience at Debenhams in Worcester.

On Friday, 14 November 1974 Shirley left work at Debenhams and was believed to be travelling home. She has not been seen since. Shirley's disappearance was reported to Droitwich Police who carried out extensive enquiries in an attempt to trace her but were unsuccessful. Shirley's remains were found at 1451 hours on Saturday, 5 March 1994 in the basement of 25 Cromwell Street. This was the fifth set of remains recovered from the house and garden.

Lucy Katherine Partington

Born: 4 March 1952

Lucy was born in St Albans, her family were living in the area at that time. In 1953 the family moved to Bishop's Cleeve. Lucy attended Gretton Infant School and later went on to Pates Junior and Grammar Schools. At the age of 19 she went to Exeter University. On 20 December 1973 Lucy returned home for Christmas.

On Thursday, 27 December 1973 at approximately 10.10 pm Lucy left a friend's house in Pittville to walk the short distance to the bus stop intending to catch a bus to the family home. She was last seen in Evesham Road, Cheltenham. The following day, Lucy was reported missing to the police. A major investigation was launched but Lucy was never traced. Lucy's remains were found in the basement of 25 Cromwell Street at 0902 hours on Sunday, 6 March 1994. Her remains were the sixth set to be found.

Juanita Mott

Born: 1 March 1957

Juanita Mott attended Winifred Cullis Girls' School at Coney Hill in Gloucester leaving in July 1972. She then had a number of short term employments, which included Birds Eye Walls and Cantrell & Cochrane at Eastern Avenue in Gloucester.

On Friday, 11 April 1975 Juanita left an address in Newent, where she was then living, believed to be travelling to Gloucester. Juanita had made arrangements to return to the address the following day but failed to do this. Juanita's disappearance was not reported to the police, however her family did contact the Missing Persons Bureau and the media. Juanita's details were included in missing persons articles, magazines and newspapers. Juanita's remains were found at 1115 hours on Sunday, 6 March 1994 in the cellar area of 25 Cromwell Street, the seventh set of remains to be recovered.

Lynda Carole Gough

Born: 1 May 1953

Lynda Gough lived in Gloucester with her family. She attended Calton Primary School and Longford School. She later went to a private girls school in Midland Road, Gloucester. In 1969 she commenced work at the Co-op in Brunswick Road, Gloucester, as a seamstress.

On 19 April 1973, Lynda left the family home leaving a note saying she had gone to a flat. Her parents told a friend, a local police officer, and Lynda's disappearance was reported to him, although it was appreciated by the family that she was not considered vulnerable. Lynda's remains were found at 1425 hours on Monday, 7 March 1994 in the ground floor bathroom area of 25 Cromwell Street. Her remains were the eighth set to be found at the address.

Carole Ann Cooper

Born: 10 April 1958

Carole was born in Luton, Bedfordshire, but later lived in Worcester. At the time of her disappearance Carole was residing at The Pine Children's Home in Worcester. She had been given permission to spend the weekend with her grandmother in Warndon, Worcester.

During the afternoon of 10 November 1973, Carole visited the cinema in Worcester with friends. She was last seen at about 9.10 pm getting onto a bus in Warndon. She was reported missing the same day by her grandmother. Extensive police enquiries were carried out by West Mercia officers but she was never traced. Carole's remains were recovered in the cellar area of 25 Cromwell Street at 1910 hours on Tuesday, 8 March 1994, the ninth set of remains to be found.

Charmaine West

Born: 22 March 1963

Charmaine West was the daughter of Catherine West, the first wife of Frederick West. She was born in Coatbridge in Scotland and later came to England.

Charmaine disappeared in 1971, the family home at that time being 25 Midland Road, Gloucester.

She was never reported missing to the police. Her remains were found under the kitchen floor of 25 Midland Road at 1910 hours on 4 May 1994 by a team of police officers. Her remains were the tenth set to be found during the enquiry.

Catherine Bernadette West (née Costello)

Catherine Bernadette Costello was born on 14 April 1944 in Coatbridge, Scotland.

She is described as being of medium build, 5'6" tall with naturally dark hair which was often dyed blonde.

Catherine married Frederick West at Ledbury Registry Office on 17 November 1962 and gave birth to a daughter, Charmaine, on 22 March 1963 and a further daughter, Anne Marie, on 6 July 1964. The marriage subsequently effectively terminated although it is known that she and Frederick West made contact and Catherine was last heard of in about 1971.

Her disappearance was never reported to the police.

Ann McFall

Ann McFall was born on 8 April 1949 in Glasgow.

After leaving school she worked in a knitwear factory in Glasgow and in 1966 moved with friends to the Gloucester area where she lived on caravan sites at Brockworth and

Sandhurst. She was last seen in the summer of 1967 when she was thought to be six months pregnant.

Her disappearance was not reported to the police.

ANSWERS TO JOURNALISTS' AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Q. What is the total number of people that Frederick West is suspected of having killed?

A. The police do not know. At one stage he admitted responsibility for the victims at Cromwell St, Charmaine at Midland Rd and his first wife Catherine found at Kempley. We know that he told people other than police officers that he killed more people but none of these claims can be authenticated. Neither can any of the locations that he mentioned in vague terms.

Q. To what did he confess in his statements to the police?

A. Frederick West made no written statements. He did, however, write a note to Supt Bennett and verbally admitted 11 murders. The exception out of the 12 victims found was Ann McFall; Frederick West never admitted involvement in the murder of Ann McFall although he did show us where he thought she was buried. During his interviews he frequently changed his story and ultimately denied being involved in any of the murders.

Q. Was Rosemary West believed to have been involved in the murder of Ann McFall and Rena West?

A. Rosemary West could not have been involved in the murder of Ann McFall because at the time she had not met Frederick West and she was only 13 years of age. There

is no evidence available to connect Rosemary West with Catherine West's murder although it is thought that Catherine probably was killed after her daughter Charmaine.

Q. How many missing persons were traced/reunited as a result of the investigation?

A. 110 missing people were found to be safe and well as a result of the enquiry. The Missing Persons Helpline gave enormous help to detectives during the investigation.

Q. What is believed to have happened to the missing kneecaps and fingers?

A. We do not know but we are sure that we found everything there was to find at the various scenes. Advice from Paul Britton suggested that it was possible that they could have been retained and taken elsewhere.

Q. Is there any record of Lynda Gough's disappearance being reported to the police by her mother and, if so, was there any mention that the woman in the house was wearing Lynda Gough's slippers?

A. We were unable to find any record of Lynda Gough having been reported missing although considerable effort was put to this end. We found out that her parents told an officer, who has since retired, about Lynda's disappearance and he states that he reported Lynda Gough as a missing person. He says he did not know that Mrs Gough had been to Cromwell St.

Q. Was the Wests' house known to the police for any other reason than the cannabis raids on lodgers?

A. The investigation established that, for a variety of reasons, over the years a number of officers visited 25 Cromwell St. These visits were not only in connection with Frederick and Rosemary West and members of their family but also lodgers and people visiting their home. They included arresting Frederick West for theft type offences, a lodger for burglary and looking for girls who were absent from care.

Q. Was Mrs West a known prostitute?

A. Mrs West was not known to the police as a prostitute.

Q. At what stage did Frederick West first confess?

A. When detectives visited 25 Cromwell St to enquire about Rosemary West's mother, Frederick West asked to go to the police station with them. He got into a police car and then said that he had killed Heather.

Q. How many police officers in total worked on the investigation?

A. The number of police officers involved in the enquiry varied considerably from month to month but at its peak in March 1994 there were 84 police officers involved with the Cromwell Street enquiry. They were supported by other regular and civilian staff, also the Special Constabulary. In one way or another the entire force was involved.

Q. What is the estimate of the cost?

A. As at 16 October 1995 total cost to Force over budget £772,604.

Q. Are officers who worked on the case receiving counselling?

A. At an early stage all officers involved in the enquiry were told how they could obtain counselling. The Senior Investigating Officer directed that a stress counsellor should speak to officers and tell them of the facilities which were available.

Q. When did Fred West and Rose Letts meet?

A. Rose Letts left school at 15 and went to work in a bakery. It is thought she met Fred West around this time.

Q. What had Frederick West previously been imprisoned for?

A. He served a three day sentence in 1969 for non-payment of fines. He was imprisoned for nine months in 1970/71 for motoring offences and theft from his employer. A suspended sentence was brought into force after he had breached it by stealing fence panels from his employer.

Q. What information is available about the 1973 case involving Caroline Owens?

A. Frederick and Rosemary West were convicted on 12 January 1973 on charges of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and indecent assault and fined £25 for each offence. The case was prosecuted by the police as the Crown Prosecution Service did not exist in 1973. The police prosecution file, including statements etc, was destroyed in accordance with the then Force policy and only the record of conviction now exists. Accordingly there is nothing to indicate why the particular charge was preferred. As the Wests pleaded guilty, the victim of their assault would not have been required to give evidence.

There is no record of any police report to Social Services, probably because the offences did not involve children. Certainly at that time there was no requirement on the police to report such matters to Social Services. During the 1970's there was little or no communication between the police and social workers. Now it is certain that there would be a referral to Social Services as there has been a great improvement in communication but the action taken would depend on how much the children involved in the family were perceived to be at risk. It is not possible to make a categorical statement about what would happen as every case is different.

It is possible the children would be put on the 'At Risk Register'. This would mean that any enquiries concerning them or the family would be registered and show up each time anyone checked the register.

Q. Why weren't the Wests, who had been convicted of a sex attack on a young woman, questioned during the investigations into the disappearance of young women in the Gloucester area?

- A. Only six of the 12 victims were reported to the police as missing. There was nothing to link any of them to 25 Cromwell Street, except for Lynda Gough. The Wests provided a plausible response when a member of the Gough family visited 25 Cromwell Street. The sexual offence for which the Wests were convicted - indecent assault - was not considered a serious sexual offence and it is unlikely that any check relating to previous convictions made during the Lucy Partington enquiry would have thrown up the name of Frederick West. In the absence of the technology available today, the ability to search records at Criminal Records Office was strictly limited.

Q. What was the police connection with Jordan's Brook House?

- A. The staff at Jordan's Brook House (JBH) would report a girl missing if she did not return within 30 minutes of her permitted time. The police response would depend on the type of order under which the girl had been placed in the establishment. With some, the police were empowered to arrest the girl if they went missing.

In the early 1970's the regularity with which the girls absented themselves from schools like JBH meant that only rarely was there any press coverage given. Police recorded details locally and circulated them throughout the Force area, to the South West Regional Criminal Record Office at Bristol and New Scotland Yard. The Police Force covering the home address of the girl was informed and, after a period of time, the missing girl would feature in the Police Gazette which was circulated nation-wide. Only very occasionally, if the girl was considered particularly vulnerable, would there be media publicity.

Whenever girls went missing from establishments like JBH they would be questioned by police on their return - usually by a police woman - in an effort to ascertain their movements and also to be satisfied that they have not been involved in criminal activity. The girls tended to be extremely reluctant to disclose any information to the police, no matter how closely they were questioned.

Girls who absconded from establishments like JBH were frequently found to be living in flats throughout the city. Nothing emerged which connected them to Cromwell Street and they were most unlikely to volunteer information or confide in police officers.

Q. Is it true that Alison Chambers was not reported missing the last time she disappeared?

- A. We accept that, in line with normal practice, Alison Chambers was reported missing from Jordan's Brook House. However, within two months of her being reported missing, a letter was written by Alison to her mother indicating she was safe and well. This was forwarded on to West Glamorgan Health Authority who responded by

indicating she would be discharged from care. Following such action the police would not consider her to be a vulnerable missing person.

Q. Can you confirm that the Drug Squad raided 25 Cromwell Street?

A. Although no records exist now except for one retired officer's pocket book, it is known that in 1972/73 two drugs search warrants were executed in respect of flats within 25 Cromwell Street but which were not being occupied by the Wests. Such police activity was not unusual then (or now) in houses sublet to tenants.

Q. Did the Cromwell Street investigation establish any links with the disappearance of Mary Bastholm?

A. During the course of the investigation into Mary's disappearance over 250 different lines of enquiry were pursued. Following a complete review of the missing person file, which had been retained, over 100 people who had either initially been seen by the original investigation team, or people found by the current enquiry were interviewed. Some people in the original enquiry, who may have been of assistance, were found to have died. Despite these enquiries no evidence was found to support arresting Frederick West for any offence whatsoever in connection with Mary Bastholm, although he was questioned but denied any involvement.

The file in relation to her disappearance will be retained and kept open.

FINANCE

Costings of the Enquiry as at 16 October 1995 include:

Police Overtime	£471,427.43
Civilian Overtime	£14,134.14
Vehicle Costs	£39,286.00
Building Costs	£30,672.00
Purchase & Hire	£122,185.00
Telephones	£7,213.00
Subsistence & meals expenses	£40,829.00
TOTAL COST TO FORCE OVER BUDGET	£772,604.00
+ Cost of Officers' Salaries	£939,894.00
+ Cost of Civilians' Salaries	£14,425.00

TOTAL COST TO FORCE OF ENQUIRY

£1,726,922.00

Gloucestershire Constabulary Budget	93 / 94	£52.013M
	94 / 95	£54.035M
	95 / 96	£56.347M