

HM Coroner,
Coroners Court
2 Faraday Court
Faraday Drive
Preston
Lancashire PR2 9NB
coroners@lancashire.gov.uk

11 September 2023

Dear Dr Adeley,

On Tuesday the 29th of August 2023 I was approached for my views by the National College of Policing (NCP) who are reporting into the conduct and procedures of Lancashire Police during the Nicola Bulley case for the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner. At that time, I provided copies of evidence that I started side scan sonar search in the 'hot zone' south of the bench at 10:26hrs. At 10:32 hours, I identified a positive target showing legs, after further scans I measured the target to be 1.6 meters in length (see enclosure 1&2) of the likely location of the body of Nicola Bulley; this was days before her body was discovered by Police in shallows in the lower tidal section of the river.

I was shocked to hear that the NCP had no record of this and had not seen this evidence previously. This evidence was disclosed to the Police search advisor (PolSA James Pinder) at 10:53 on the 7th of February 2023 (see enclosure 3). The North West underwater search unit briefly dived the area, I was not present during the dive as I was continuing to sonar upstream, but I believe they either missed the body or possibly searched the wrong area. I am positive about this as I rescanned the area at 17:16hrs (see enclosure 4) on the 7th of February 2023 after the Police team said to me that had they searched the area I had identified, and at that time there was no evidence of any search activity having taken place around the target.

Therefore, I feel duty bound to bring this to your attention as I suspect that similarly to the NCP team you may not have seen this evidence either and therefore, whilst it may or may not change the verdict, I believe it is important in your role that you are made aware of all of the evidence in this case.

The images provided are time/date stamped on the high-resolution side scan sonar software which is renowned as the best in the world. For you to make any judgement I do think that it would best if you can see this for yourself. I have a demountable screen etc which I could bring to you for you to view the evidence. The NCP team did take the time to look at the images and were very surprised that this was the first time they knew about it and were grateful that I was able to show them and interpret the imagery, although I don't know their report outcome at this stage.

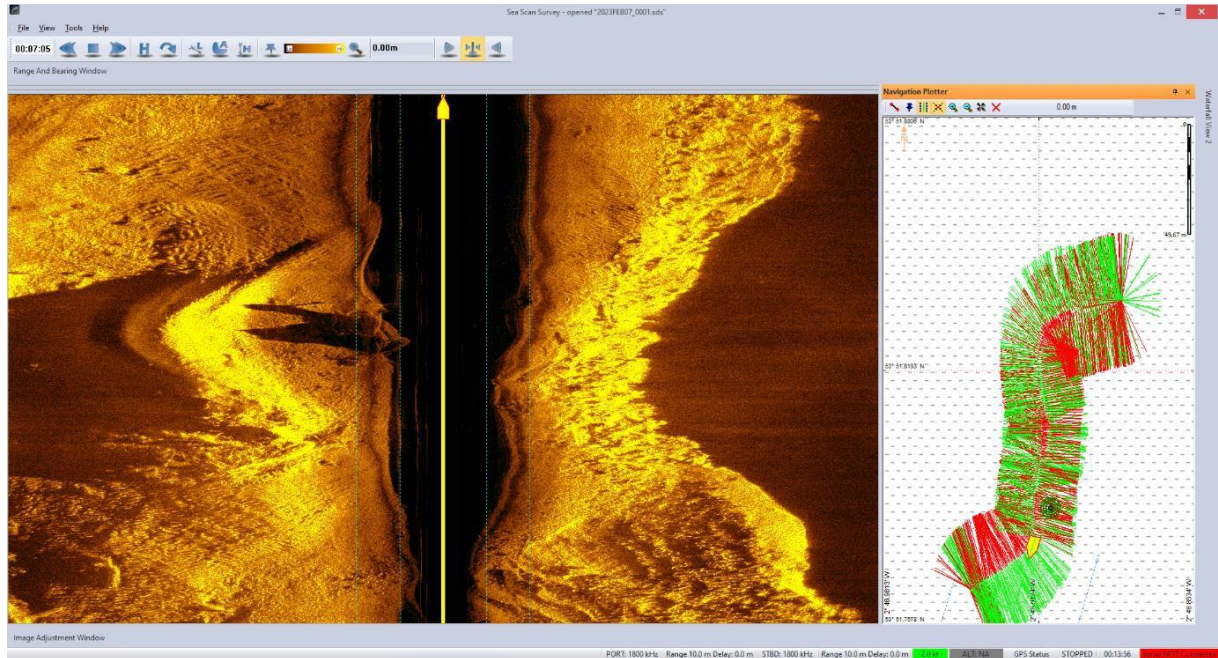
I have enclosed the side scan sonar images of the target seen by the NCP which I am able to provide to you too.

Please let me know if you are interested in seeing the evidence firsthand or require any further information from me.

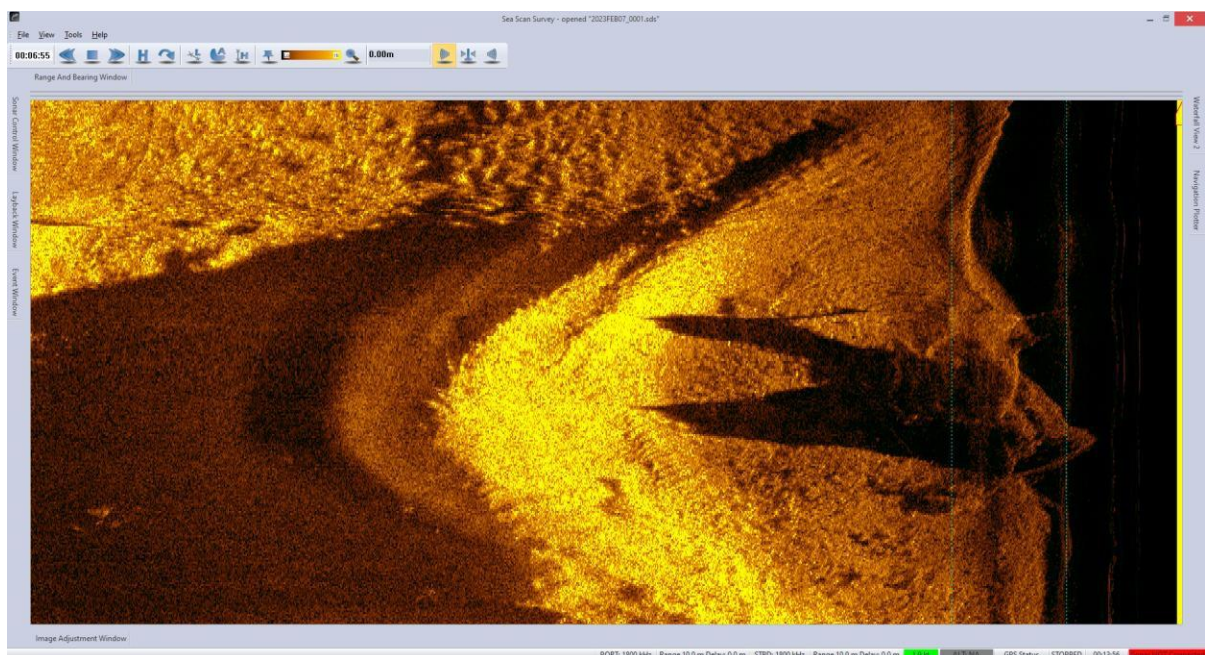
Yours sincerely

Peter Faulding, Chief Executive Officer

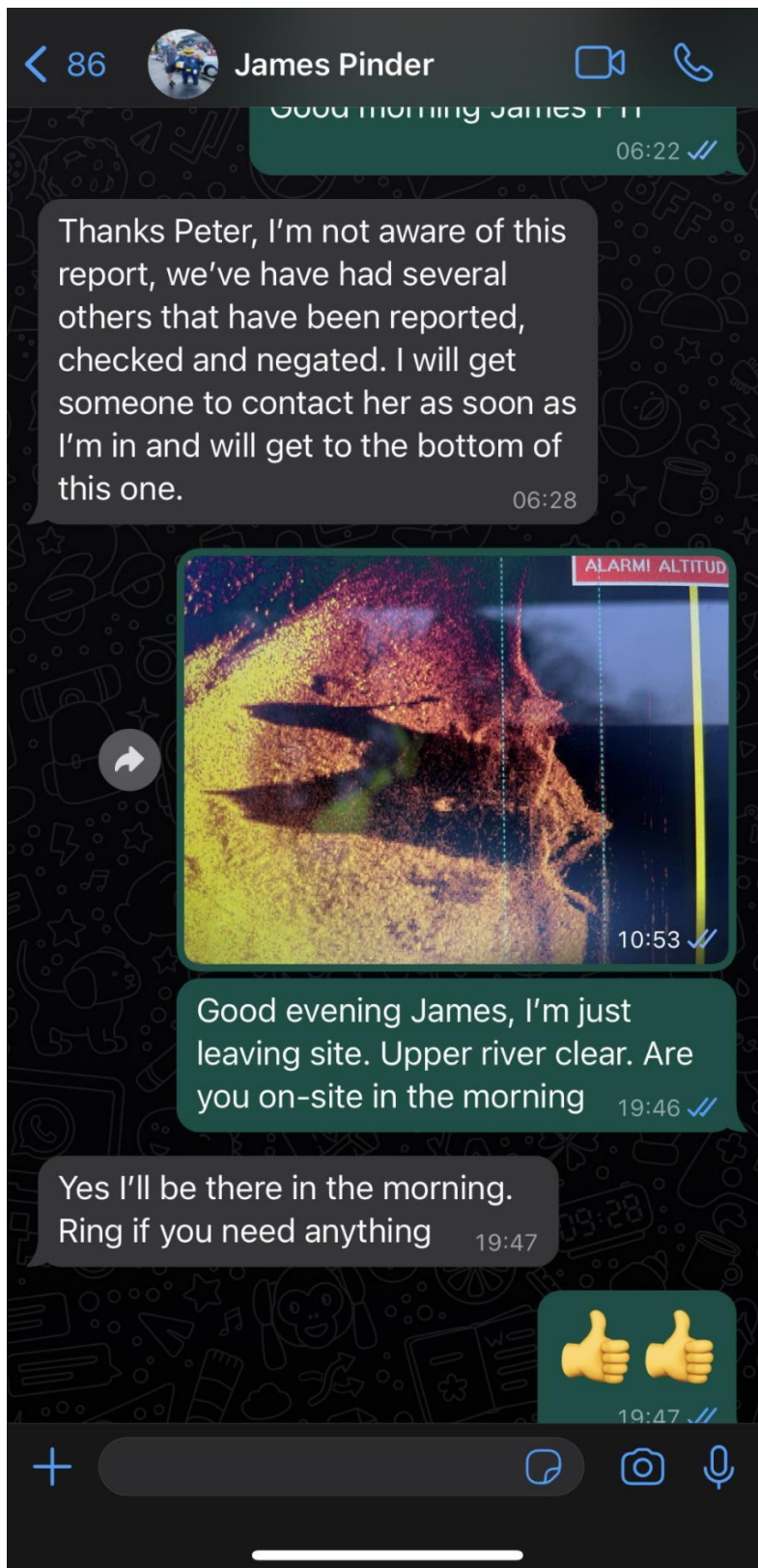
Enclosure 1



Enclosure 2



Enclosure 3



Enclosure 4

