# Young woman’s bravery stops attempted kidnapping in Hove as perpetrator sentenced to seven years



A young woman’s harrowing experience of attempted kidnapping in Hove has highlighted the grave realities of violence against women and the psychological repercussions it can inflict. The disturbing incident, captured on CCTV, occurred in the early hours of August 5 last year, and resulted in the assailant, Cameron Boxall, receiving a seven-year sentence for his crimes.

The victim, merely twenty years old, was walking home from work when she encountered Boxall, who was wearing a balaclava. Initially, he approached her under the pretext of seeking directions, but the interaction swiftly escalated into a terrifying confrontation. As Boxall forcefully attempted to drag her into a stolen Mini Cooper, the victim’s instinct to fight back proved crucial. She fought desperately, sustaining bruises and scratches in the process, until he eventually kicked her out of the moving vehicle. Passersby responded immediately, offering assistance and calling emergency services.

The court proceedings revealed that Boxall had meticulously prepared for the crime, even purchasing rubber gloves just prior to the attack. His actions demonstrate a calculated intent not merely to commit a spontaneous act of violence but to execute a chilling plan against an unsuspecting stranger. Prosecutor Gareth Burrows outlined how Boxall had identified his target beforehand, positioning the stolen car strategically on a route he knew she would take, thereby laying in wait before making his move.

In her emotional victim impact statement, the young woman detailed the profound impact the incident had on her life. “What happened is still raw to me,” she said, expressing the lingering fear and anxiety that have left her feeling unsafe in her own neighbourhood. She remarked, “I always thought Brighton was a safe place to live. I won’t go out on my own any more; I feel I’ve lost my freedom.” Such sentiments resonate deeply in a society where many women unfortunately grapple with the fear of violence in everyday situations.

Boxall, who admitted to the charges of kidnapping and vehicle theft, attempted to downplay his heinous actions by claiming a motive relating to a drugs debt. However, the facts presented in court challenged his narrative; the victim’s handbag was recovered untouched at the scene, undermining his desperate justification for the attack.

Detective Sergeant Jack Sagar from the Surrey and Sussex Major Crime Team described Boxall as a dangerous predator, commending the victim for her bravery and resilience. His comments reflect a growing concern within law enforcement and communities about the safety of women and the urgent need for effective measures to combat such predatory behaviour. Superintendent Petra Lazar reinforced this commitment, asserting that every person has the right to feel safe in public spaces and reaffirming the police's determination to tackle violence against women and girls.

This incident serves as a grim reminder of the lurking dangers that women may face, even in familiar environments, and underscores the importance of vigilance and community support in preventing such crimes. Boxall's sentencing is a crucial step towards justice for the victim but also brings to light the ongoing dialogue about safety and accountability in society.

Boxall was sentenced under new sentencing guidelines, reflecting a legal system increasingly aware of the severity of violent crimes against women. The extended sentence ensures that he will serve a significant portion of his time in prison before being eligible for parole, a necessary measure to help safeguard the public from individuals who display such extreme violent tendencies.

As this case unfolds, the collective voices advocating for safer communities resonate ever more powerfully, urging society to confront the uncomfortable truths surrounding gender violence and support victims in their recovery journeys, ensuring that the streets remain safe for all.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8
2. Paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 6
3. Paragraph 2, 3, 4
4. Paragraph 7
5. Paragraph 5
6. Paragraph 6

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14696307/Chilling-moment-balaclava-clad-thug-snatches-woman-street-random-drives-screaming-buying-rubber-gloves-sickening-kidnap-plot.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.sussex.police.uk/news/sussex/news/court-results/man-pleads-guilty-to-kidnapping-woman-in-hove/> - Cameron Boxall, 21, pleaded guilty to kidnapping a 20-year-old woman in Hove on August 5, 2024. He also admitted charges of vehicle theft, driving without a license, and possession of cannabis. The incident involved Boxall forcing the woman into a stolen Mini Cooper after asking for directions. The victim managed to escape, and Boxall was arrested following an investigation that included CCTV footage and mobile phone data. He was remanded in custody and is awaiting sentencing. ([sussex.police.uk](https://www.sussex.police.uk/news/sussex/news/court-results/man-pleads-guilty-to-kidnapping-woman-in-hove/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.sussex.police.uk/news/sussex/news/news/man-charged-with-kidnapping-woman-in-hove/> - Cameron Boxall, 21, was charged with kidnapping a woman in Hove on August 5, 2024. Additional charges included vehicle theft, driving without a license, and possession of cannabis. The incident occurred when Boxall, driving a stolen Mini Cooper, asked the victim for directions and then forced her into the car. The victim escaped shortly after and called for help. Two other men were arrested in connection with the case but released on conditional bail. ([sussex.police.uk](https://www.sussex.police.uk/news/sussex/news/news/man-charged-with-kidnapping-woman-in-hove/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2025/02/03/brighton-man-pleads-guilty-to-kidnapping-woman-in-hove/> - Cameron Boxall, 21, admitted to kidnapping a 20-year-old woman in Hove on August 5, 2024. He also pleaded guilty to charges of vehicle theft, driving without a license, and possession of cannabis. The incident involved Boxall forcing the woman into a stolen Mini Cooper after asking for directions. The victim managed to escape, and Boxall was arrested following an investigation that included CCTV footage and mobile phone data. He was remanded in custody and is awaiting sentencing. ([brightonandhovenews.org](https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2025/02/03/brighton-man-pleads-guilty-to-kidnapping-woman-in-hove/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwyxd412yw5o> - Cameron Boxall, 21, was charged with kidnapping a woman in Hove on August 5, 2024. Additional charges included vehicle theft, driving without a license, and possession of cannabis. The incident occurred when Boxall, driving a stolen Mini Cooper, asked the victim for directions and then forced her into the car. The victim escaped shortly after and called for help. Two other local men were arrested in connection with the case but released on conditional bail. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwyxd412yw5o?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.sussex.police.uk/news/sussex/news/witness-appeals/hove-kidnapping-further-appeal-for-information/> - Detectives investigating the kidnapping of a woman in Hove on August 5, 2024, appealed for witnesses who may have been approached by the occupant of the vehicle used in the offence. The suspect, Cameron Boxall, 21, was arrested and charged with kidnapping, vehicle theft, and other offences. The police urged anyone with information to come forward to assist the investigation. ([sussex.police.uk](https://www.sussex.police.uk/news/sussex/news/witness-appeals/hove-kidnapping-further-appeal-for-information/?utm_source=openai))