

**Main Menu**

[Home Page](#)

[News](#)

[Opinion](#)

[Arts](#)

[Arts Calendar](#)

[Sports](#)

[Obituaries](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Farm & Garden](#)

[Energy Saving Tips](#)

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**Search uncovers no Maitland connection**

Written by [Jedd Kettler](#)  
Wednesday, 31 October 2007



**Police blocked off Hutchin's Bridge Road earlier this week while K-9 units searched the area for clothing possibly belonging to Brianna Maitland.**  
Photograph by [Jedd Kettler](#)

MONTGOMERY: After searching for two days in a wooded area near where a weathered pair of woman's jeans was found by a local resident, police said Monday they have found no other potential links to the Brianna Maitland missing person case.

Police investigators said this week that there is no definite connection between the worn piece of clothing and Maitland's disappearance three-and-a-half years ago, but it was important to take the

possibility seriously.

"We have an article of clothing found in a remote location in the town where a young lady has been missing for three years. When you have that kind of a combination, (a search is) the right thing to do," said Capt. Ed Ledo of the Vermont State Police Criminal Division, standing at day's end near the site of Monday's search. "You want to make sure that it doesn't involve the disappearance, as well as - could it be linked to it?"

Police are still awaiting results of forensic biological and DNA tests on the jeans, which were discovered Thursday night, Oct. 25, by a local resident wandering by. Results of those tests are not expected for several weeks, but long exposure to the elements may also have wiped away any evidence, if indeed there were any to connect them with Maitland.

"There's no indication right now based on any investigation we've conducted that would link that article of clothing to the Brianna Maitland missing person case. We don't have anything that tells us that," Ledo said.

On Saturday, Oct. 27, some 10 Vermont State Police troopers searched the immediate area. Rain and the number of personnel available limited that search but on Monday a more extensive search was aided by clear weather and more personnel.

On Monday, some 30 VSP, other search officials and K-9 units combed a 1-

mile radius around the original location between the Gibou Road and Hutchin's Bridge Road, said Ledo. The search party included nine members of New England K-9 Search and Rescue, and four Connecticut State Police K-9 units, in addition to VSP Search and Rescue.

"As a result of the search both Saturday and today, we're confident that we've covered it very well, and no items of interest were located," Ledo said.

The area is known to be frequented by locals, including youth and hunters, though officials have no reports that Maitland herself visited the area.

The area had not been part of previous searches in the case, and police do not anticipate further searches there.

Maitland was 17 years old when she disappeared after leaving work at the Black Lantern Inn in Montgomery on the night of March 19, 2004. Her car was found backed into a house about a mile away, and this week's search was centered around the remote Gibou Road location more than five miles south of Maitland's last known location.

Police have received numerous and disparate leads in the case, none of which have yet shed clear light on Maitland's fate. Despite criticism from some, police insist the case is still an important and open one, and that they continue to consider all leads.

That has not changed since this week's searches.

"It's an open case, and it will stay open," Ledo said.

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