

Fact sheet

The Savilian Professor left their office at 14:00 to go to a meeting.

The Professor's PA heard someone enter the office at exactly 14:05:00, and leave again about 14:10. They presumed that the Professor had forgotten something and had returned to pick it up.

The theft was reported when the Professor returned at 15:00.

A partially cleaned footprint was discovered in the office. Only two patches of mud remain, and in these the mud has been smudged so the detail of the print is gone.

A number of other footprints have been discovered at seven places around the building. A careful analysis reveals there are 9 different types of print.

The working hypothesis is that one of these prints belongs to the thief. They entered the building, ran a number of errands, and then went to the Savilian Professor's office, arriving there at 14:05:00. Before leaving the Professor's office the thief realised they were traipsing mud around, and tried to clean the prints in the office, and their shoes (perhaps they even removed their shoes).

There is CCTV footage available for the front entrance of the building, but the hard drive has been corrupted so that the images are only partial and it takes some time to retrieve an image from the system. There is therefore no way we can go through all the footage.

If we can work out which places the thief visited between entering the building at ① and arriving at the Savilian Professor's office ⑨, and we can work out which route they took (the working hypothesis is that they would take the most efficient route), then we can identify what time they entered the building, and therefore which CCTV images we should focus on.