

CCTV FOUND IN HUNT FOR SARM

Cops say footage contradicts boyfriend's statement

BY **PATRICK HILL**

POLICE have released fresh CCTV footage of missing Brit Sarm Heslop in a bid to solve the mystery.

The former air hostess, 41, was last seen with her American boyfriend Ryan Bane, 49, at a restaurant on St John in the US Virgin Islands in March 2021.

Never-before-seen footage shows the pair leaving a bar where they had been drinking for about 90 minutes.

Sarm appears to steady herself before sitting down on the dock, then seems to roll over before getting in a dinghy.

The CCTV timestamp reveals the pair set off on the 10-minute journey to Bane's £500,000 yacht Siren Song at 8.45pm. This contradicts a coastguards report, which says Mr Bane claimed they got back at 10pm. He has so far refused to cooperate with police. Officials handed the tape to the BBC ahead of a documentary due to air this week.

Virgin Islands police commissioner Mario Brooks said: "The timeline is suspicious. That's one of the reasons we need to talk to Ryan." There is no suspicion that Mr Bane was responsible for Sarm's disappearance.

Mr Bane did not talk to the BBC, but his lawyer Davie Cattie did.

Mr Cattie called the timeline claim "irresponsible" and said it reflected a possible error by a man under stress.

He added: "Ryan assumed Sarm perhaps hit her head and fell overboard, or had gone swimming... and she likely passed by drowning that evening."

Sarm, from Essex, moved in with Mr Bane after they matched on dating app Tinder eight months earlier.

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■ **Missing in Paradise: Searching for Sarm, Wednesday, BBC Two, 10pm**



MYSTERY Sarm vanished without a trace



