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Body found in missing man search

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From Press
Association

Police searching for a teenager who vanished during heavy flooding have found a body. Mitchell Taylor, 19, was last seen in the early hours of last Saturday after leaving a bar in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

His distraught family had said his disappearance was "totally out of character" and coincided with the peak of the floods in the town.

A Gloucestershire Police spokeswoman said the body had been discovered by an Italian hovercraft crew in a submerged field. The body was on flooded parkland near the town's iconic abbey.

On the other side of the submerged playing fields lies Tewkesbury rugby club, where Bram Lane and his son Chris were found dead earlier this week. They are thought to have become overcome with fumes from a petrol powered pump as they worked through the night to clear floodwater from the clubhouse.

The body was discovered by a team of three Italian volunteers who flew to Gloucestershire on Wednesday to help with the relief efforts.

The three, who work for the Tortezone Nazionale, came to Britain with a specialist hovercraft.

Claudio Ricossa, who, with the other men, is from Turin in the north of Italy, said: "We did not want to find something sad, but we have done this many times before."

Tally Giampa, from Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue, who is acting as an interpreter for the men, said two of them had been on holiday when they answered the call for help.

"Our thoughts go out to the family. This is yet another tragedy in Tewkesbury," he said.

Mitchell's mother, Jane Taylor, said earlier this week: "It's not like him to be gone from home for so long." She said her son was last seen by his brother's girlfriend at 1.30am on Saturday. Officers had been searching for him in flooded areas, on the ground as well as from the air.