Forest hunt for Gambrell

Fugitive Richard Gambrell, the man the police want to interview in connection with the murder of Llanddewi Breifn sheep farmer, Mr. John Williams, is now believed to be hiding out in the New Forest area of England.

Hampshire police are busy searching a large, heavily wooded area as well as open moorland, and have not ruled out the possibility that he may have been responsible for a couple of break-ins in the area over the weekend.

Two guns were stolen during one of the raids but the police have confirmed that these have both been recovered.

A senior police spokesman said today that they are warning people in remote areas that Gambrell tends to stick to the countryside and are asking them to be on their guard.

The search is taking place in bitterly cold weather and Dyfed-Powys police are fairly confident that the man in Hampshire is Gambrell, the man they are anxious to question.

A spokesman said that there had been a lot of possible sightings since his photograph and description were released but said that this one was a "strong possibility".

Gambrell was last positively sighted at Llanwrtyd Wells where he spent two nights in a local hotel, leaving in a hurry on the Tuesday following the murder, after reading his description in the morning paper.

Another favourable sighting was in West Yorkshire 11 days ago when a man answering his description and calling himself Gambrill sought hospital treatment for pneumonia and depression.

Last weekend more than 5,000 posters were distributed to the police stations throughout the country showing photographs of a clean-shaven and a bearded Gambrell.

The description on the poster says he was born in Kent, is of tall, of thin build with dark brown, wavy hair tinged with grey, nicotine-stained teeth, long bony fingers, also nicotine-stained, with casual clothing like jeans, heavy pullover and anorak and often carries a rucksack.

He was last seen wearing a shiny yellow plastic waterproof jacket, reversible to blue.

The murder incident room which had been set up at Llanddewi Breifn village hall has now moved to Lampeter.

Although the hunt had been scaled down it is being stepped up at irregular intervals in case the killer is still there or doubles back into the area.

Yesterday more than 100 officers, some with guns, were searching the hills, empty houses, derelict buildings and any other possible hiding places.