

Earth First!

Action Update



(30p) Where Sold

"Big cars are the dying flame of civilisation" - Betty Blue

CASUALISATION KILLS DOCKS SHUT IN MEMORIAL ACTION

Earth First activists united with the Simon Jones memorial campaign and our old friends the Liverpool Dockers last month holding actions in memory of Simon Jones and in celebration of his life.

Simon was an activist who was hassled off income support. He joined Personnel Selection; an employment agency, which found him work first as a binman and then with Euromin on the docks of Shoreham Harbour. This is one of the most dangerous jobs in Britain and Simon went to work with no experience, no training and no hard hat. After 2 hours work a crane crushed his skull. Simon's work mate and witness to his death was ordered to clean rubble bags, worth £5, which had been stained with Simon's remains so that they could be sold. When he refused he was sent home without pay.

The 1st of September this year would have been Simon's 25th birthday and it was marked by an action on the Euromin docks. Over 40 activists occupied the docks, and brought work to a halt. Banners were hung from the 68ft lighting rigs reading 'Casualisation Kills' and 'Simon Jones RIP'. A local gran served the activists coffee and doughnuts while the workers were all sent home on full pay. A Liverpool Docker who had taken part in the action described the day as a brilliant success.

Two days later the Personnel Selection offices in Brighton were occupied. Phone calls were answered by protesters who informed the callers that the agency was closed due to incompetence. Major clients were informed that the company had collapsed. A banner reading 'Murderers' hung from an office window over a main road while passers by were given leaflets explaining the occupation. After two rounds of negotiations Personnel Selection agreed to shut the offices, send the workers home on full pay and display a notice on the front door reading 'Due to an

occupation these offices have been closed'.

The situation surrounding Simon's death is by no means unique. Deaths and major accidents, such as limb loss, at work are regular occurrences with only 1 in 20 of these being investigated last year. Casualisation and dangerous working conditions are issues which effect us all and which should be resisted by us all.

The Simon Jones Memorial Campaign has already embarrassed a Labour minister into promising legal reform. It continues to network and to actively resist the conditions responsible for these tragedies and the capitalist system which creates them. Simon Jones Memorial Campaign, PO Box 2600, Brighton BN2

AVON RING ROAD

The campaign against the Avon Ring Road (stage 2) hangs in the balance. This road, due to become Bristol's M25, is the largest Local Authority road scheme in the country. The latest section destroys a disused railway line, a swathe of Siston Common, and would be built on top of a kilometre of Sustrans' premier cycleway - the Bristol & Bath Railway Path.

Campaign group, SCRAPPIT, has held back the road for almost four years with High Court legal challenges. But now site clearance contracts are due to be let in October. Parties and temporary camps have been held on the route of the road but any day now the chain saw gangs could move in on the beauty spots that lie in the path of this tarmac monster. Fresh campaigners and activists are needed now.

Contact: SCRAPPIT c/o 84 Colston Street, Bristol.

KEBELE CAFE, 14 Robertson Road, Easton, Bristol.

Issue 52, October 1998

The Action Update is a monthly roundup of ecological direct action news and forthcoming events in Britain. Each issue also carries an insert. This month's inserts are on fundraising for action and 'where now for Earth First?'

TEIGNGRACE VICTORY!

News of another victory for direct action greeted activists at the EF! summer gathering, as mining company Watts Blake Bearne (WBB) withdrew their application to quarry clay from the Teigngrace valley in Devon.

Six camps were set up around the proposed site last July to campaign against the relocation of the Rivers Teign and Bovey. This proved to be the spark for a vibrant and dynamic local campaign, with both protesters and the local community taking active roles. By October, after several actions and rallies, thousands of letters and a 200 mile walk to London, a public enquiry was granted. The camps tatted down so as not to disturb the wildlife any more than necessary.

WBB were caught out a number of times during the enquiry. First, they were spotted going back to dig up the foundations of Twinyeo Farm, a site of archaeological importance mentioned in the Domesday Book which they had bulldozed a few years before. Then it was found that they had under-estimated the maximum flow rate in the river by 111%. This has serious consequences for the towns downstream, as it would make flooding much more likely. This proved to be the final straw, and they withdrew their application. However, they intend to resubmit modified plans, and in the longer term they have plans to quarry Southern Dartmoor.

AQUA 01626 363844

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News In Brief

◆ Richard Dixon and Rose Browning have been released from prison pending their appeal against their charges from Whatley Quarry on October 19th.

◆ David Chain, an American EF! activist, was killed by a falling redwood tree when trying to stop logging at Fortuna, CA. The logger from Pacific Lumber claimed not to see him, but as there were several other activists nearby, this seems unlikely.

◆ Pigs Might Lie - From Radio 4 phone in: *'when I'm at work it's part of my job actually to sort of tell lies'*
'So you're a journalist then?'

'No, I'm a serving officer in the Metropolitan Police...90% of my colleagues do the same'

◆ Zap the Embassy! In solidarity with the Zapatistas of Chiapas, Mexico, there is a picket outside the Mexican Embassy on the first Friday of every month. The picket on 2nd of October will evoke memories of earlier state repression: it is the 30th anniversary of the date when 500 students were massacred in Mexico City, at the same time as the Olympic Games. Pickets take place from 12.30 - 2pm. Mexican Solidarity Group: 0181 6796930

◆ The Ukrainian Rainbow Keepers are facing severe state harassment over their campaign against the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which is financing nuclear projects in their country. Apartments have been raided and computers stolen, and individuals have received threats of prison and murder.

◆ The Hillingdon Hospital workers are marking the third anniversary of their strike with a march and rally to highlight their struggle. The strikers, mainly Asian women have been sold out by UNISON and are desperately short of cash. Meet Oct. 3rd at the hospital 1pm. More info: 0956 135311.

◆ Any groups who would like to show the slideshow on Canadian Forests as seen at the EF! gathering contact Simon on 0171 474 0474 (w) or 0181 555 1252 (h).

◆ Border crossers beware! Britain has pioneered an agreement in Europe to monitor 'sizeable groups which may pose a threat to law and order'.

◆ Calling all Subvertisers! Contributions needed for new website/ book on the art of subvertising. Please send photos, ideas, letters, essays, cartoons etc to Subvertise! - address on contacts page.

◆ 35 French Councils banned cars for a day as part of National Car Free Day, but activists went one step further, blocking the Champs Elysees in Paris with a tripod at rush hour.

WORK STARTS AT ASHTON COURT

The Ashton Court Camp was set up 7 months ago in opposition to the extension of a limestone quarry owned by Australian Multinational Pioneer Aggregates into a wildflower meadow and public parkland.

The Meadow contains over 90 rare species including wild orchids, skylarks, badgers bats which are currently being translocated by Alaska Environmental (as seen at Twyford Down, Selar and Manchester). Work has been successfully disrupted a number of times, including regular action shuttle runs during the EF! Gathering. The 8ft galvanised steel fence surrounding the whole site also seems to keep falling apart

Pioneer were informed recently of the existence of a tunnel, dug through limestone under the noses of Pinkerton's security. With little regard for the tunnellers' safety, they have continued blasting and relocation using heavy machinery. The campaign is trying to force Pioneer to recognise their legal duty of care, which applies to trespassers as well as workers and guests. Eviction papers for the camps would mean they had to recognise this and stop blasting.

There's potential for actions every day, and solidarity actions against Pioneer plants and quarries would be welcome.

Camp Mobiles: 07970 423834 / 0467 430211
Pioneer: 01275 392471

Alaska Environmental: 01929 463301
Stokewood Farm, East Stoke, Wareham,
Dorset BH20 6AL

PLOUGHSHARES PRISON PROTESTS

On 19th Sept, five Trident Ploughshares 2000 activists, remanded for objecting to a toxic world and genocide, held a peaceful protest in the Scottish women's prison, Cornton Vale. The protest was against the launch of the new sub Vengeance. The prison authorities reacted with brutal force, injuring two of the women. One of the women received the threat "walk or I'll hurt you". The action which warranted this response was the refusal to eat, talk and leave the cells for the day. Another action was thwarted the night before by a strip search, which revealed a banner made of a bedsheet with messages stuck to it in toothpaste. So many complaints about the women's treatment were sent to the Scottish Office that the fax machine broke down.

Angie Zelter, Anja Light and Jens Light were tried on 22nd and were found, in the words of his honour "Guilty but with regret". Ian Thompson's trial was adjourned, due to his solicitor possibly breaching the official secrets act. The plot thickens....

The next camp is due to happen from 12th to 19th Nov. Be there for mass action, spraying and snipping of fences, great camp food and crap cell food. For more information contact TP 2000 Fax (01603) 666879 e-mail reforest@gn.apc.org 42-46 Bethel St, Norwich NR2 1NR, Tel (01263) 611953

SIEMENS OFFICE OCCUPIED

Activists from Manchester EF! recently occupied the regional head office of Siemens, a German multinational who are building unsafe nuclear power stations across Eastern Europe, including the well-known Mochovce plant in Slovakia. 12 people took part in the action, which was partly a memorial action for Ray Leach, a peace and environmental activist who died recently. The aim was to get Siemens to comment on the contradiction between their environmental policy and building nuclear power stations, and it was successful in this respect since Alistair McDonald, the communications manager will be meeting the group in November. More info: 0161 834 8301.

SCOTTISH SNOWBALLS

At 5:30 on Sunday afternoon, a number of concerned individuals carried out a citizens' inspection of a potentially hazardous 'test' site of genetically modified (GM) crop at Coltrannie Farm in Perthshire, owned by Plant Breeders International, a subsidiary of Monsanto. Three people were arrested and charged with housebreaking and theft for attempting to take sample plants from a potato crop to send off to Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Department for the Environment, Transport, and the Regions (DETR) for GM testing.

'Our sampling is necessary because of confusion over this and other crops. Despite confirmation from the DETR on Friday that the crop in question was GM, the farmer in charge of the crop has today denied this. Following our arrests, he permitted samples to be taken. Once again, our action has demonstrated how the law, government ministers, the DETR, and the police act to uphold the undemocratic interests of transnationals over the interests of a public clearly against [gene] technology', said a Scottish GenetiX Snowball participant. Fife EF! 01334 477411.

ENGLISH SNOWBALLS

On 18th Sept., injunctions from Monsanto were outrageously extended to include the genetiX snowball press liaison person and anyone doing an action in the name of genetiX snowball. with the six injunctioned snowballers liable for any damages accrued.

The fourth English snowball action took place on the Sunday 20th Sept, following a training day in Cambridge. An unexpectedly early harvest of the sugar beet for disposal meant the activists missed their chance of disrupting the experiment. Nevertheless some 40 snowballers went to the AgroEvo HQ near Kings Lynn to plant trees, bulbs and biohazard signs to indicate the presence of genetically modified plants. One of the younger 'genetiX Harvest' participants - a six year old, planted a sapling sweet chestnut tree in the grounds of the testing station. There was a police presence by the time they arrived, but no arrests were made and the event passed off peacefully.

★ DOSH TO COSH CAPITALISM ★

- Ideas for Fundraising for EF! Groups

One of the strengths of the direct action movement has been our ability to steal, blag, borrow and skip a lot of our gear, without having to use (much) money. However there are some things that we do need money for, and money can really strengthen a group's potential for effective, radical action and its ability to mobilise locally. Not many EF!ers or EF! groups have much experience of acquiring cash for action (fundraising), and a lack of cash and resources has disempowered a lot of groups and caused them to stagnate. This sheet aims to share experience from groups that have tried fundraising, and to give some tips on what has worked. Fundraising is a lot easier than you think, and we hope this insert opens up new possibilities for you and your group.

Stronger autonomous EF! groups with resources (vans, CB radios, marquees) and cash behind them will mean a more effective direct action movement. If each group could then pass a proportion of what they raise to the things that make up the EF! network, then EF! would become a real fighting force. The network is the "glue" linking the autonomous groups - the Action Update, national actions, gatherings, Do or Die. Imagine if every group went out and raised £300 each, kept £200 for their own local actions but passed £100 onto the gathering organising collectives, or to the Action Update.... We'd no longer be pissing around quite so much, but could be a serious force.

More examples of what could be done: £20 could print up some leaflets, buy a d-lock for blockades, collectively rent a couple of allotments, or hire a hall for a public meeting. £50 will print and post out a local newsletter. £100 could hire a coach to take you to a national action. £200 will get you some good CB radios. More can go towards saving for a van or a marquee.

So, here's a few suggestions:

Stalls at gigs - Find out when bands that are sympathetic to EF! / direct action (Levellers, Chumbawumba, Rage Against the Machine) are playing in your area. Contact them early on and find out if they'd mind you doing some fund raising there. You could just do some bucket rattling or set up a stall as well. Make sure it's obvious who you are, and have lots of propaganda to hand out - Action Update and your own local newsletters or leaflets. It's a great way to get to see lots of bands and to raise cash at the same time. An EF! group that did this at a Levellers gig raised £70 in just a couple of hours by bucket rattling before and after the gig. You could also ask at your local club if they do a regular club night. Ask the bands or DJs to point out you and your stall.

Pub collections - These are another way to raise cash, fast, especially if you can do it in appropriate fancy dress (the Hunt Sabs do it in fox costumes - perhaps we should get caveman costumes?). Always ask permission first from the licensee and pick your pubs carefully. This has proved successful in the past and can be quite a laugh (honest). One EF! group raised £50 in 2 hours. Pissed people often chuck in notes!

Stalls in town - have loads of propaganda printed up, an eye-catching banner and lots of enthusiastic people to staff the stall. Prominent collection buckets often start to fill up. Maybe this is illegal, but the worst that's likely to happen is being asked to move on.

Door to door collections - Apparently this has been done and has yielded good results. Make sure that it is clear who you are and what group you are from - so people don't think that you're crooks. Remember that this is technically illegal, if anyone gives you hassle - to be above board you need to be a registered charity and have official name badges.

Benefit gigs and other fundraising events - These have to be well planned and publicised or you may end up losing money. If having a gig, only pay expenses for local bands and set an entrance charge that will make you money but people can afford too (have a concessionary rate for those on a low income). Other events could be a folk evening, nature talks, bingo night, jumble sale (recycling!), a ceilidh or something else that fits in with your local culture and community (charity polo match, anyone?).

All of the above suggestions involve your group going out into your local community. Fundraising this way will not only raise you money, but it also puts you in touch with your support base. It's good to see people's reaction to you and your politics. It'll also really help with raising your profile locally (without relying on crap local papers).

Of course fundraising should not substitute for group action (you don't want to end up like a local Greenpeace group) but should be seen as necessary to make our action and mobilisation more effective. Whenever you go out to raise money, always carry leaflets with contact details of your local group and campaigns on it, and other propaganda. See every

WHAT NOW FOR EARTH FIRST!?

The following is a list of notes which arose from strategy discussions held at the Earth First! Gathering. They are not attempting to be a cohesive proposal, and do not represent any consensus decisions but are just a list of points from brainstorming sessions, intended to stimulate action and further discussion. If we are serious about radical social change, we need to focus on how it is to be achieved.

A Question of Organisation: *The 'how' of Earth First!*

The way we organise is not just a practical question of how to get things done more efficiently - but can offer us a way of starting to create the type of society we desire. Earth First! is a network but how well is it working? Is there anything we can do to make it less dependent upon a small number of people, more inclusive, sustainable and a greater threat to that which we seek to destroy?

- A roadshow around UK, between squat centres, sixth forms etc. Three days of intensive events and actions, but leaving effective and empowered activists behind - don't just pack up and go.
- We propose that EF! here and now, adopts as its underlying aims - "to dismantle international capitalism" - because this is what is at the root of environmental destruction. Be blatant about it - put it on any literature, comments, statements.
- We propose that EF! learns from the animal rights movement, and decides on one national target, and every local group commits to an ongoing (months) long campaign to shut it down - turning up to monthly or bi-monthly actions. This doesn't preclude local actions, either on local issues or same target, happening in the meantime.
- Every EF! group should link with a specific other struggle. These could be local or international links. E.g.; South Downs EF! twinned with Zapatistas, Manchester EF! twinned with local allotment holders.
- EF! should organise a big national offensive action.
- Destroy all genetic test sites in the UK, linking with community groups and global issues, but not becoming totally submerged in the issue.
- Planning in local communities and at a national level for a fun and effective 'Stop The City' type demo, on June 18th 1998.
- Regionally-based networking gatherings: Emphasis on linking with grassroots groups who do not identify with our 'movement'... to open up to their agendas rather than aiming to co-opt them into ours. Links should be made for the purpose of material support, common action and skills sharing.
- Strong, local affinity groups (collective responsibility, self-sufficient, national networking, land, community, outreach)
- Revamp the Earth First! network (through sorted affinity groups, networked through focused gatherings and national hits, long term plans for local groups, dropping EF! name from the national network and adopting a more inclusive title)
- Hooking up with local people wanting to take action and skill share/empower.
- Two national gatherings per year, one in summer, similar to as they are now in countryside, but with possibility of indoors venue, more focus on networking etc. The other should be in winter, probably in a city and focused on EF! strategy and planning.
- Someone or a group similar to the Action Update co-ordinating group publishing/co-ordinating a list of EF! groups' resources (set up an EF! resource database to support community groups).
- Local groups can then go out and get in touch with local communities and say "here we are and this is what we can offer you". The resource group would provide support to encourage local direct action.
- Focus on urgency of sustainable communities, both for ourselves and to others
- Preparing tactically for having to provide for needs within our own communities locally/nationally
- Work on making our network work.
- Looking for issues with community involvement - challenges us in terms of working with people
- Do more action at local level - getting local groups who need to do action to think of hooking up with EF!, e.g. greenfield housing / greenfield development issues; genetics; crop sites ...
- Do more action as Earth First!

How we can make the movement more inclusive: *The 'who' of Earth First!*

What do we mean when we say 'our movement'? We are people with diverse backgrounds and experiences and we all hold different positions of power in a number of complex hierarchies. How does this affect us and our movement?

- Change media stereotype - we're diverse not alternative - through leaflet about EF! history and aims
- Target groups we may have common ground with
- Communicate with our natural allies (dockers etc.)
- Challenge our own prejudices - racism, sexism, homophobia etc.
- Talk openly about our activities - it is normal to be a revolutionary, you know!



- Friendly camps - child space and better hygiene
- Basic practicalities: access to sites, physical comfort.
- Bring 2 new people each to next year's EF gathering
- Remember that getting involved in the community is as important as actions
- Get more rest: sleep first! self sufficiency and personal sustainability (people don't have to burn out)
- Local friendly approachable actions and groups
- As a general policy, try to keep alcohol and drugs out of sight
- Don't stereotype by appearance - stress issues not lifestyle
- Be positive when presenting your ideas - don't be aggressive
- Listen to/learn from people, don't make them feel guilty - EF! does not have a monopoly on truth
- Socialise after meetings and actions to help newcomers get more involved.
- Use tools from other movements (e.g. peace movement) to improve group dynamics
- Don't let the same people always dominate meetings
- Fun introductory games (although remember that they can put people off as well as welcoming them)
- De-intellectualise-make literature easy to read
- Use more creativity, theatre, etc.
- Offer a broader scope of participation - some people cannot afford to get arrested due to work and family commitments
- Build coalitions of organisations to represent a broader cross section of people
- Actively encourage people to help organise actions. Many activists never get involved in organisation
- Think about how much we want to open up / encourage challenges to our own ideologies?
- Prioritise meeting new people / local people with open days on site, barbecues etc. and make it fun for them
- 'Children Welcome' signs, and real access for people with disabilities
- More emotional support for people just starting to get involved
- Organise training and briefing sessions prior to actions, and debriefings afterwards.
- Lots of people work 9-5 so schedule meetings at other times
- Link with other NGOs/groups e.g. FoE when we have common ground (but beware of compromise!)
- Groups should do more stalls, e.g. at gigs and in town centres and campaigns should produce more leaflets to go on them.
- Make better use of resources, skills, tools e.g. computer hacking, signing, "preaching"
- Question, educate, empower OURSELVES
- Empower people not currently active - enable them to defy authority & hierarchy and take control of their own lives;

Looking for the Root of it all: *The 'why' of Earth First!*

In our wider analysis of what is wrong with the world who do we see ourselves as being against? Bosses, cops, transnational corporations, politicians, the authoritarian left, the media - all of these and more?

EF!: "Confronting, stopping, reversing the forces destroying the Earth and its inhabitants"

In order to achieve the above, our movement needs to focus on the following:

- Challenge the education system, get the next generation to speak and think for themselves, work together, discover their own radical world view;
- Global capitalism (of course, again)
- Recognise that capitalism works in the interests of the dominant class therefore we need to become conscious of class and the role it plays within our movement and in wider society.
- Use Millennium as focus for educating people about urgency of creating sustainable communities in order to survive into the future
- Co-operative and sustainable alternatives can exist in all spheres of our society, and it is as important to build these up as to dismantle system that oppress us.
- Recognise that patriarchy is another force oppressing people and destroying the Earth.
- Advanced technology is inherently alienatory and difficult to sustain in a non hierarchical society.

The Earth First! Winter Gathering

At the Summer Gathering it was felt by some people that a second annual gathering was needed, focussed solely on strategy and the direction the movement is going. The first EF! Winter Gathering will take probably be held indoors early in the new year.

If you are interested in helping to organise this gathering, or have views on what should be on the agenda, then please contact Nottingham EF!, c/o The Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW 0115 958 5666

EF! CONTACTS OCTOBER '98

Arun Valley EF! c/o 1 York Road, Littlehampton, W. Sussex 01903 721615 arunet@radicallifedemon.co.uk	Manchester EF! Dept 29, 1 Newton Street, Manchester M1 1HW. 0161 224 4846 manet@avocadosglobalnet.co.uk	EF! SUPPORT GROUPS	Y Ddeilen Werdd/The Green Leaf c/o G & MEF! or JimK@undeb.bangor.ac.uk	Green Anarchist Network BCM 1715, London WC1N 3XX	Ashton Court Bristol 0117 939 3093 / 0467 430211	OKasional Cafe c/o Manchester EF!
		Acme Tat Supplies (protest-tat at cost) c/o Leeds EF!	OTHER CONTACTS	Hunt Saboteurs Association PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX 01273 622827 hsa@gn.apc.org	Brewery Fields Campaign c/o G & M EF! 0836 563980 jimk@undeb.bangor.ac.uk	INTERNATIONAL
Bath EF! (As for West Country Activist)	Mid-Somerset EF! PO Box 23, 5 High St, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9PU	Corporate Watch (as for Oxford EF!) 01865 791391 mail@corporatewatchiway.co.uk	Advisory Service for Squatters 2, St Pauls Road, London N1 2QN 0171 359 8814	Friends of MOVE PO Box 14129, London W12 8GR	Birmingham Northern Relief Road Campaign Greenwood Protest Site, London Road, Canwell, nr Sutton Coldfield, W.Midlands 07970 301978 / 932224	An Talamh Glas & Pobal an Dulra (Irish AU) Unit 66, Liffey Trust Building, 117 Upper Sherriff Street, Dublin 1, Eire +353-1-855 0965 allenr@bluewin.ch
Blackburn EF! 12 Balmoral Road, Darwen, Lancashire BB3 2EW 01254 777079	Norfolk EF! The Greenhouse, 42-46 Bethel Street, Norwich NR2 1NR	Spirit of Freedom (Earth Lib. Prisoners) c/o BM HEAL, London WC1N 3XX earthlibprisoner@hotmail.com		ALF Supporters Group BCM Box 1160, London WC1N 3XX 1003021616@comp userve.com	The Land is Ours (as for Oxford EF!) 01865 722016	A SEED Europe PO Box 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands +31-20 6682236 aseedeur@antenna.nl
Bristol EF! c/o Box 51, Greenleaf Bookshop, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB 0117 939 3093	Nottingham EF! c/o The Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW 0115 958 5666	Head State Support Group 72 Park Road, Worthing BN11 2AN	Anarchist Black Cross c/o PO Box 446, Sheffield S1 1NY	Legal Defence & Monitoring Group BM Haven, London WC1N 3XX 0181 5337116	Camp AARDVARK St Mary's Churchyard, Southampton 0589 650993	Autonomous Green Action
Cambourne EF! c/o Hartis Farm, Copper Hill, Troon, Cambourne, Cornwall	Oxford EF! Box E , 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ	PROPAGANDA	Anarchist-Primitivist Network PO Box 252, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 3AY	Making Waves (boats/training) PO Box 1377, Sheffield S36 4BZ 01226 762359 pp3mo@aol.com	Crystal Palace (development) Big Willow Ecovillage, Palace Parade, London SE19. 0181 761 7826	POB 4721, Station E, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5H9, Canada
Cambridge EF! Box E , 12 Mill Road, Cambridge	Pendle EF!Prospect Farm, Leaches Road, Colne, Lancs, BB8 8ET 01282 870 919		Act Locally! c/o TAPP	Anti-Fascist Action BM Box 1734, London WC1N 3XX	London GreenPeace & McLibel Support Campaign 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX 0171 713 1269 info@mcspotlight.org	Faslane Peace Camp Shandon, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, Scotland G84 8HT 01436 820901
Cardiff EF! c/o Green Group, Glamorgan Uni SU, Pontypridd, Mid- Glamorgan CF37 1DL	Reclaim the Streets PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY. 0171 281 4621 rts@gn.apc.org	Anarchy, A Journal of Desire Armed C.A.L Press, POB 1313, Lawrence, KS 66044, USA	Anti-Quarry Action (AQUA) Kimberly Mill Park, King's Steignton TQ12 3NR 01626 363844	No Opencast 190 Shepherds Bush Road, London W6 7NL 0171 603 1831	Menwith Womens' Peace Camp (spybase) A59 Kettlesing Head Lay-By, Nr Harrogate, N. Yorkshire HG3 2RA 01943 468593	Australian EF! AU PO Box 3163, South Brisbane 4101, Australia ef_au@hotmail.com
Cardigan Bay EF! Temperance House, Taliesin, Powys, Mid Wales	Reclaim the Valleys c/o Swansea Environment Centre, Pier Street, Swansea SA1 1RY	Aufheben c/o POB 2971, Brighton, BN2 2TT, UK.	Campaign Legal Group (self-training) 43 Swan Meadow Road, Poolstock, Wigan WN3 5BJ. 01942 513792	Save the Hillgrove Cats Box CB, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford 0121 632 6460	Friends of Lyminge Forest c/o 3 Abbott Rd, Folkstone, Kent, CT20 1NG 01303 257046/265 737/0468945595 merlin@envirolink.org	Coast Mountains EF! 1472 Commercial Drive, Box 128, Vancouver V5L 3X9, Canada +1-604-708 9660
Exeter Env. Network PO Box 185, Exeter EX4 4EW	Reading Roadbusters R.I.S. Centre, 35-39 London Street, Reading, Berkshire 0118 954 6430 roadbusters@clara.net	Counter Information c/o Transmission, 28 King Street, Glasgow G1 5QP	Disabled Action Network 3 Crawley Road, Wood Green, London N22 6AN 0181 8891361	Subvertise! c/o Box E 111 Magdalen Road Oxford OX4 1RQ subs@vernify.i-way.co.uk	Earth First! Journal POB 1415, Eugene OR 97440, USA +1-541-344 8004 earthfirst@igc.apc.org	Czech Republic EF! Zeme predevsim! PO Box 237, 16041 Prague 6, Czech Republic zemepredevsim@czn.cz
Fife EF! c/o 91 South Street, St. Andrews, Fife KY16 9Q 01334 477411	Sheffield EF! c/o SheFIN, 54 Upperthorpe Rd, Sheffield, S63EB. 0114 263 4494	Do or Die c/o South Downs EF!	Earth Circus Network CREATE Centre, Smeaton Road, Bristol BS1 6XN. 0117 9250505	Third Battle of Newbury PO Box 5642, Newbury, RG14 5WG 07000 785 201 thridbattle@hotmail.com	Sellafield Women's Peace Camp (bimonthly) Peace House, 5 New Road, Littleborough, Lancashire OL15 0141 2265066 /0113 2621534	Finland EF! Viivinkatu 17 AS 17, 33610 Tampere 61, Finland ransu@sci.fi
The GalGael Trust 3/2 Linthouse, Govan Scotland G51 4AD	Southampton EF! SUSU Pigeonholes, Union Building, Southampton University, University Road, Southampton eco@soton.ac.uk	DELTA c/o LEAF	EarthRights (env. law & right to protest advice) Law Centre Federation, Duchess House, 18-19 Warren Street, London W1P 5DB. 07071 225011 earthrights@gn.apc.org	Trident Ploughshares 2000 (anti-nuke direct disarmament) (as for Norfolk EF!) 01603 611953 reforest@gn.apc.org	Silver Birches Camp 9 The Parade, Epsom, Surrey, 0411 306330	FIN
Glasgow EF! PO Box 180, Glasgow G4 9AB	South Devon EF! Birdwood House, 44 High Street, Totnes, Devon. 01626 363844	EF! Action Update c/o Leeds EF! actionupdate@gn.apc.org	Environmental Ploughshares (affinity group-based NVDA) Box W, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ 01865 721366 info@urgent.org.uk	CAMPS AND SITES	AUTONOMOUS ZONES	Umweltprojektwerkstatt, Yorkstrasse 59 HH, 10965 Berlin, Germany +49-30 78913144 unprowe@jberlin.berlinet.de
Guildford EF! PO Box 217, Guildford GU1 1WS fax 01483 203212	South Downs EF! PO Box 2971, Brighton BN2 2TT savage@easynet.co.uk	Fifth Estate 4632 Second Ave, Detroit, MI, 48201, USA	Forest Action Network (as for Norfolk EF!) 01603 611953 fanuk@envirolink.org			Anarchist Teapot Box B, Public House Bookshop, 21 Little Preston Street, Brighton BN1 2HQ
Gwynedd & Mon EF! The Greenhouse, 1 Trevelyan Terrace, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 1AX. 01248 355821 afu01b@bangor.ac.uk	Swansea People EF! c/o Green Action, Swansea Uni SU, Swansea, Wales	Live Wild or Die POB 204, 2425B Channing Way, Berkley, CA 94704, USA	Gandalf Support Campaign c/o London Greenpeace, Panther House, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP lgp@envirolink.org	Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp (alt w/ ends) 33 Heron Road, Bristol BS5 0LT 0117 939 3746 / 01703 554434	Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh 17 West Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA. 0131 557 6242	Poland EF! PO Box 40, 43-304 Bielsko-Biala 4, Poland +48-33 183153 wapienica@prnwi.mostorg.pl
Hereford EF! Wern Derys, Michaelchurch Escley, Hereford HR2 0JZ 01981 510659	TAPP (Tyneside Action for People & Planet) PO Box 1TA, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 1TA	FINs - for a full list of Free Information Networks (& more), send SAE to London FIN c/o 99, Torriano Avenue, London NW5 2RX	Genetix Update c/o GEN	Alvis Factory (Scorpion tanks to Indonesia) Northview, Walsgrave, Coventry 01926 338805 / 0336 774113	Kebele Community Centre 14 Robertson Road, Eastville, Bristol BS5 6JY. 0117 939 9469 kebele@mailexcite.com	Rainbow Keepers (Ukraine) PO Box 322, Kiev 252187, Ukraine rk@cci.glasnet.ru
Hull On Earth c/o PO Box 33, Hull HU1 1AA	The Flat Oak Society c/o 3 St Alphege Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2EB. 01227 463368	The Porkbolter PO Box 4144, Worthing BN14	Squall 0171 561 1204 eds@squall.co.uk	Arthur's Wood Behind Moat House, Atrincham Road, Cheshire. 07775-602954	121 Centre (infoshop +) 121 Raiton Road, Brixton London SE24 0171 274 6655	Volunteers For Earth Defence 189 San Antonio Ext SFDm, 1105 Quezon City, Philippines
LEAF Box Z, 13 Biddulph St, Leicester LE2 1BH 0116 255 3223	Warwick EF! c/o Green Society, Warwick Uni SU, Coventry CV4 7AL suuad@csv.warwick.ac.uk	Schnews PO Box 2600, Brighton, E. Sussex BN2 2DX 01273 685913	Undercurrents 16b Cherwell Street, Oxford OX 4 1BG 01865 203661 underc@gn.apc.org	Camps and Sites	1 in 12 Club 21-23 Albion Street, Bradford BD1 2LY 01274 734160	
Leeds EF! c/o Cornerstone Resource Centre, 16 Sholebrooke Avenue, Leeds LS7 3HB 0113 262 9365 cornerstone@gn.apc.org	Wolves Eco Action c/o Wolves Hunt Sabs, Wolves Uni SU, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton	Smash Hits BM Box 5538, London, WC1N 3XX	West Country Activist c/o PO Box 426, Bath BA1 2ZD wca@conk.com			
Liverpool EF! 96 Bold Street, Liverpool L1	York EF! c/o York LEAF, PO Box 323, York					
Lune EF! c/o Bookcellar, 9 Meeting House Lane, Lancaster LA1 1TJ.						

WHAT IS EARTH FIRST!?

Earth First! is a network of autonomous local groups that organise non-hierarchically from the grass roots and use Direct Action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and its inhabitants.

International Contacts are entry points into that country's own network of groups. **Other Contacts** are ones whose aims and principles we agree with fully or in part, or groups that we think may be of use or interest to people. For groups web addresses visit www.k2net.co.uk/ef/

NEW ADDITIONS OR ALTERATIONS ARE SHOWN IN BOLD

ARTHUR'S WOOD

The camp at Arthur's Wood, is expecting eviction proceedings to begin imminently. The wood is to be felled as it will obscure Manchester Airport's radar operations when they build Runway Two. On the 18th September the National Trust, who own the wood, signed an agreement with the airport allowing them to carry out tree felling. The wood was given to the trust with the understanding that it was guaranteed to be in safe hands, but this agreement proves yet again that they are not fit to act as guardians of the land.

Numbers are gradually increasing on site, although more support is needed. A protracted eviction could secure time for a successful appeal.

NB. The campaign has been 100% successful in its original aim in preventing tree work during the bird nesting season. Contact 0161 988 1888 but please be subtle.

HILLGROVE CAMPAIGN-ONE STEP CLOSER TO VICTORY

On Sunday 6th September over 2,000 people marched on Hillgrove Farm, cat breeders for the vivisection industry, as part of the ongoing campaign to shut it down. Thames Valley Police had imposed a half mile exclusion zone around the farm but around 50 protesters managed to get into the fields at the back of the farm and after an hour long stand off people made their way back into Witney.

As usual the police meted out their own brand of private army brutality, but, undeterred, the protesters went on to do actions at 'Harlan Olac' (breeders of rats, mice and rabbits for vivisection) and the 'Pig Improvement Company', where good video footage was obtained. The police were in complete disarray and unable to stop them, an amazing sight considering there were over 500 police and 2 helicopters deployed. Notorious vivisector Prof. Colin Blakemore was also held in his house by police because of demonstrators outside his house.

Chris Brown, owner of Hillgrove Farm, stated in the press: 'Financially its a disaster, its been devastating, horrific. We're existing not living. And you can only withstand so much. I just wish I could see a future.' It seems likely that Hillgrove will not remain open much longer. Get involved while you can.

Contact Save The Hillgrove Cats 0121 632

HUNTINGDON E.G.M DISRUPTED

On 2nd September Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) held its Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). The meeting was disrupted for two hours by 150 share holding activists, one of whom described it as having "descended into chaos". That the company

had to call an EGM itself is a sign of the campaigns success in bringing the company to such financial desperation.

HLS have been the target of sustained protest over the past two years because of their role in the vivisection industry. This action is just the latest in a campaign which has seen links between the animal liberation and radical environmental movements being made, which has meant skills from both movements have been shared and put to good use.

Contact: Huntingdon Death Sciences Campaign. PO Box 325, Cambridge, CB1 2UF.

CARLISLE CALLING

Carlisle residents have been angered by a planning application by Alfred McAlpines to build 11 luxury houses in Knowe Field Woods on the northern edge of Carlisle, Cumbria. The proposed site is a 3/4 ha piece of woodland home to roe deer and woodpeckers. Thirty trees on the site have had their protection orders removed by the same councillors that originally granted them and it seems likely that these trees will be felled if the scheme goes ahead.

Schemes such as these are springing up around the country and are objectionable not only because of their environmental impact but also because in a country where thousands are homeless we are yet again faced with production for profit, not need.

Local opposition to the plans is very strong although the principal objectors are mainly in their 70s with no experience of direct action. They need help from activists if their campaign is to succeed.

For more information contact: 0161 232 1736

SECOND BATTLE OF LEYTON LOOMS

Leyton in East London looks set to become the scene of another road battle as construction of the Leyton 'Relief' Road now looks imminent. The road is to be built by LB Waltham Forest and is being pushed by the local Labour council. The scheme is essentially a part of the M25 eastern bypass, much of which has now been built. Local people are continuing to oppose the one and a quarter mile stretch through the Walthamstow Marsh nature reserve.

Construction looks set to begin in January 1999. There are squattable houses at the end of the route where the road is to join the M11 link road, but tree houses and tunnels do not look possible due to the marshy ground and young trees.

Local people have been fighting the scheme for twenty years and as the campaign looks set to adopt Direct Action they would appreciate the support and solidarity of activists. Fresh ideas are needed and more immediately help is required with publicity.

Contact: <katya@kay-oss1.demon.co.uk>
Sorry no phone contact..

STOP PRESS: Work has now started with the clearance of some young trees.

Action Diary

October

Stephen Lawrence march, date tbc - go along and join the EF! contingent, meet by the 'Earth First!-Smash Fascism' banner.

2-15. Global days of action against Genetic Engineering. Contact Genetic Engineering Network.

3-11. ToXic Planet. An interactive GE-free art-info squat experience in London! 0831 817384

10. Dutch RTS, Breda

11. National genetic banner drop day. From every church, from every steeple, 'Stop Playing God, Stop the genetiX Xperiment'.

11. Hillgrove Demo, contact 'Save the Hillgrove Cats'

12. International day of Solidarity with McDonalds workers

14-15. Trident Ploughshares 2000 actions. For contact details see article.

16. World Anti McDonalds Day: contact Veggies 0115 958 5666

17. Anarchist Bookfair: Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London email m.peacock@unl.ac.uk

17. Counter Globalisation Network resurrection meeting. 0181 980 4534 for more details.

18. Class War Federation conference

20. MAI negotiations start again in Paris

25 - 26 Big Blether 2. Weekend Workshops and environmental discussion in Glasgow. Contact 01555 820400

26. Genetics action. Contact Leeds EF!

31. Halloween cross dressing party at Faslane.

31. March on the Monarchy. Hyde Park 2pm
Contact MAM PO Box 14672, London E9 5UQ
pager 01523 160145

31 Bradford Mayday Conference 01274 734160

31.-Nov 2. Halloween in Cheltenham, parties and actions. Contact Toytown Camp.

31. -Nov 5. Earth Nights

November

1. Anti-military Critical Mass Trespass Meet at 12 noon in vehicles for re-direction at Reading Services, Jct.12 of M4 Courtesy of Portsmouth Anarchist Network

2. Hunt sabbing season starts again. Contact your local group or national HSA: 01273 622827

28. No Shop Day. c/o Enough 0161 226 6668

January

9. Newbury Reunion, 'Candlelit vigil' Don't forget your lighters!

12. Mc Libel appeal starts.

June

18. Resistance will be as global as capital...
Grrrr! Contact London Greenpeace or RTS

Prisoners

Chris Garrett (Scouse Chris), (CL4664), HMP Altcourse, Fazackerley, Liverpool, L9 7LH. On remand for charges related to the Manchester Airport protests.

Rod Coronado, is a U.S EF! and ALF activist serving 57 months for his part in an action on a fur research centre which saw the release of two mink and an arson attack. Also serving a 57 month concurrent sentence for damage to a war memorial to the genocidal General Custar. Rod Coronado, 03895000, FCI unit SW, 8901 S Wilmott Rd, Tuscon AZ 85706, USA

COPEX

An array of action took place at this year's COPEX exhibition, the annual showcase for the trade in torture weapons. The gates of Wembley Exhibition Centre were blockaded on the first 2 days, with 500 activists taking part on the first day. There were 24 arrests for obstruction of the highway, and one activist managed to get into the exhibition building and spill red paint over the foyer before being arrested.

As another part of the protests the offices of COPEX exhibitors GEC were occupied for four hours by People for an Arms-Free Future. The occupiers, many of whom attached themselves to various items of office furniture and barricaded themselves into individual offices, were calling for an end to GEC's indefensible 'defence' activities, and an end to GEC itself, since it is a despicable monolith run by an overpaid Blair-knighted toady known as Lord Simpson. A heady stream of polite anti-GEC invective and information was delivered to passing drivers and pedestrians as the police searched for ever more powerful equipment to snap D-locks and make holes in elaborately barricaded office walls. Two intrepid PFAFFers were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage to a fire alarm system and theft of electricity via telephone calls, but were released uncharged after close of business at GEC that evening.

Back on the street, a beat copper regaled ejected occupiers with his theory that the only way to really change things was through world revolution. Now if only we'd thought of that...

GREEN GUARD GONE

Green Guard camp, set up to prevent the construction of 500 houses in Nantwich, near Crewe, has now been evicted. Dwindling numbers meant that the last few occupants chose to move off site the day before the eviction was due to take place. The next day, they watched from a nearby hillside as bailiffs came to evict the site.

The campaign continues, nevertheless. When the bulldozers came for the ancient hedgerows a few weeks later, they were occupied by local people, who proceeded to stop work for four days.

POLICE ATTACK NOTTINGHAM RTS

Nottingham's Reclaim The Streets party was held on September 19th, in part to compensate for the city council having banned the annual carnival. The party went ahead, but was marred by extreme violence from the local constabulary.

They had been promised 'zero tolerance policing' and that was exactly what they got. Around 1000 people were met by police lines as they left the meeting point. Some tried to break through the lines and one was thrown by police through a plate glass window. At this point the crowd retreated and another street was occupied until people were charged by mounted police. One woman holding a baby was dragged screaming across the street by three police officers.

The crowd eventually managed to meet up with a sound system and occupy Mansfield Road. The van containing the second sound system had its windows smashed and its driver and passenger dragged through them by police.

After this the party started and the atmosphere lightened as people danced and children played. Sadly, by this time the police harassment had driven many away. At 6:00 the party ended and the crowd moved off to the Forest Recreation Ground at which point the police arrested 54 people, some allegedly involved in confrontation earlier in the day, some just random party goers.

One witness commented: 'People deserve a carnival as a break from the monotony of daily life. The people of Nottingham wanted their carnival and when they tried to organise one the police decided to crush it.' They might have tried to crush it but they couldn't stop it

If anyone saw any arrests or assaults by police please contact Nottingham RTS c/o the Rainbow Centre. 0115 958 5666

OXFORD LMS BUILDING EVICTED

Wednesday 9th of September saw the start of the eviction of the LMS building in Oxford by Oxford University. The eviction lasted 60 hours, 10 times longer than predicted, and is believed to have cost over half a million pounds.

Local activists had squatted the building to resist the universities plans to destroy it and 8 nearby trees in order to build a business school (funded by an arms dealer) and a new six lane road.

The last tunneller was removed at dusk on Friday 11th, ending the eviction which saw 17 arrests, confiscation and destruction of personal property by police, damage to the (listed) building by police, 3 extra trees illegally felled, one policeman injured (when he fell through a roof) and one protester get two broken fingers. Legal proceedings have begun concerning the illegal fellings, the damage and the injured protester.

One activist commented: 'This whole saga has rekindled a centuries old feud - Town Vs Gown. We have shown the university that Oxford is not their playground, it is our home, and we have warned developers everywhere of the dangers of putting their profits before local people and the planet'.

The campaign of which the eviction was only one part is continuing. Contact BREATHE, c/o 38a Walton Crescent, Oxford. 07970 343 486. nomoreroads@hotmail.com

Legal Disclaimer

The editors of the AU condemn wholeheartedly illegal action and the AU is for information only

EF! Action Update needs your action reports (~200 words), articles, photos and feedback.

Contact us at: EF!AU, Cornerstone Resource Centre, 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Chapeltown Leeds, LS7 3HB 0113 262 9365

[<actionupdate@gn.apc.org>](mailto:actionupdate@gn.apc.org)

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