

Earth First!

Action Update

Dec 01/Jan 02

Issue 80

A monthly
round-up of
ecological
and other
direct action
from around
Britain

"Mumma told me to do it..." Julian Cope

Doha, Doha, Doha!

Between Nov 9th and 13th, Governments met in Doha, the capital of Qatar for the latest round of WTO trade negotiations. Despite things looking shaky for "The North" following stubborn opposition from both India and the ACP (African/Caribbean/Pacific-Rim) countries, the mainstream media here has largely portrayed the talks as a victory for the EU. Of course it wasn't just in the talks that dissent against the free-trade steamroller was shown, demonstrations, actions and anti-WTO events happened in over 25 countries across the globe (including in Doha itself) and on the internet.

UK round-up

Bangor: 150 people turned out for a rally followed by a march to the town centre (with a samba band)

Bristol: West Country Activist Gathering

Guilford: Surrey Activist Group and some WOMBLEs went leafleting and mischief making

London: Picket of Qatar embassy, RTS benefit gig and teach in.

Manchester: People got suited up and went off for a day in the office. First on the list was the "nasty scummy lawyers firm" Addleshaw, Booth and Co. (heavily involved in PFI and the privatisation of

Images from Doha



Hackney education). They made it to the 8th floor and spent ten minutes explaining themselves to staff whilst helping with some re-filing, before making a hasty exit in the face of overwhelming security. Also hit were Price Waterhouse Coopers where the 6th floor was reached for some re-filing whilst security were cunningly distracted by (you guessed it!) a samba band! Newcastle: Over 50 people made a whistle-stop tour of anti-capitalism taking in the Army Recruitment Centre, Burger King, a lap dancing club, Starbucks, McDonalds, Nike and Esso with a samba band, whistles, skateboards and leaflets. This was followed by a number of events at the Eclectic City 3 squat opened specially for the occasion

Outside the UK events ranged in size from tens to thousands in locations as

The philosophy behind Earth First! is the use of non-hierarchical organisation and direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces responsible for the destruction of the Earth and its inhabitants.

It is not a cohesive group or campaign rather a convenient banner for those interested in these ideas.

diverse as New York and Tehran. Very few were met with serious repression. For more on global protests <http://protest.net/qatar.html> http://uk.indymedia.org/front.php3?article_id=15759

New protest sites

A camp has set up on the route of the planned A46 bypass, near Alvaston, in Elvaston Park Coronation Plantation, Derbyshire. They set up on Nov 20th and are keen to get more people down there, particularly from the Derbyshire area. dot@theadora.screaming.net 07812434217 01332 727237. Site mobile 07769534725.

Also...Rumours are circulating of an upcoming need to take direct action at Swiss cottage, Camden in opposition to plans for 170 luxury flats on top of public spaces and community facilities. There has already been a vigorous local campaign, including a three-week vigil. Recently, fences around the construction site were torn down two nights running. It is unclear what the immediate future is, however preparations are being made (all offers of tat welcome). For more info: <http://freespace.virgin.net/z.jordan/swisscottagecamp@mail.ru>

26-27th Jan sees the welcome

Winter Moot 2002

return of the EF! Winter Moot. The Moot is an opportunity for people involved in the Earth First! network to reflect on the issues that surround taking direct action like ideas, inspiration, focus,

mancef@nematode.freeweb.co.uk 0161 226 6814

failures and successes.

Accommodation is available from Friday night. Friday afternoon will see a joint skill sharing session with DAN (Disabled People's Direct Action Network). Winter Moot 2001, 29a Beswick Street, Manc.

The EF! AU is produced to aid the sharing of news, information and ideas amongst those interested in taking action. It is edited by a different collective each year to avoid the centralisation of power and information. We welcome submissions and articles (max 150 words) so if you've set up a group, taken action or want to publicise a campaign or project please let us know. No matter how big or small it seems, we'd like to share your news and inspiration. Feature articles and ideas are also appreciated.

Anti-copyright - photocopy and distribute

News in brief...

- ★ Digna Ochoa, a prominent Mexican human rights' lawyer who has defended several members of the Zapatista army, was murdered on Oct 19th.
www.chiapaslink.ukgateway.net for the latest on the Chiapas situation
- ★ GAP Inc. recorded a \$178.8 million dollar loss last ¼ after 2 years of falling profits. www.gapsucks.org
- ★ 6 people arrested during a demo at Wales's only GM crop trial at Sealand, Flintshire last July have now been charged with criminal damage. (see AU 77)
- ★ On Oct 6th 3 animal rights protesters staged a roof top demo at the home of DuPont director, W.M. Barry. One protester, Kerry Whitburn, is now on remand. See Prisoners
- ★ A McDonald's in Ottawa, Canada was trashed on Oct 16th during protests against meetings of the policy-making committees of the IMF & World Bank.
- ★ The leaders of Tuvalu, a tiny island country midway between Hawaii and Australia, in the Pacific Ocean, have announced that they will abandon their homeland because of rising sea levels. This will create 11 000 environmental refugees.
- ★ An RTS group has formed in Paris: reclaimlarue@hotmail.com they are in occupation of a building in Paris and are keen to hear from other activist groups
- ★ A McDonald's in Tucson, Arizona, USA, was torched on Sept 7th. The action was claimed by 'activists working in the interest of Animal and Earth liberation'. Other US ALF/ELF actions; a new biotech lab in Long Island, NY sabotaged on August 21st; 200 wild horses freed from a holding facility in Corvallis, California on Oct 17th. The horses were contained to clear land for grazing cattle; The arson in October of a maintenance building connected to the Coulston Foundation research lab, which has the largest colony of captive chimpanzees in the world; Tree spiking 100's of trees in the Gifford Pinchot National forest, Randle, WA
- ★ The 3 Spanish anarchists being held for planting bombs (reported in last issues NIB) have thankfully been let out of prison. However they may still face charges inforepresion@yahoo.es
- ★ The UK Mumia Abu-Jamal support campaign has a new website, detailing the legal case against Mumia's conviction <http://uk.geocities.com/mumiauk>. Radical black eco-activist, Mumia is still on death row and its asked that everyone uses this information to raise awareness and campaign for him in whatever way they can.

Bristolians break stuff

Against the war...

In response to the terrorist war being waged on the innocent people of Afghanistan, Bristol anarchists have taken action against state and corporate property. In the city centre in early October, the windows of the armed forces recruitment offices were graffitied with glass etching fluid; "War of Lies", accompanied by a paint bomb and glued locks. On the night of October 25th McDonalds was attacked, most windows smashed, anti-capitalist, anti-war graffiti sprayed and locks glued. It was shut the next day. Let "collateral damage" mean more property damage. No more capitalist war and terror. Sabotage the machine! To be continued...

The real targets

As the murderous war machine continues to destroy the lives of innocent people in Afghanistan, anarchists in Bristol continue the struggle against our true enemy. The only just war is the war on capitalism, the real war against terrorism. On Nov 6th a city centre Starbucks café was smashed up and forced to stay closed the next day. Starbucks is an icon of capitalist progress i.e. abuse of workers and ruthless profiteering, and so presents itself as a natural target. The same night a Barclays Bank was spray painted. Sabotage the war/no peace under capitalism. To be continued...

Eclectic City relived

One year ago, an empty building which had previously been a community resource centre was re-opened by the Eclectic City Collective in Newcastle. Evicted after a month, the Council and developers have done nothing since.

On October 1st this year, the collective held a birthday party to highlight this: "the fact that this building has been laying empty for over a year is a disgrace. They should be ashamed. We offered a free place for entertainment, meeting and information - these things just don't exist anymore in Newcastle's city centre."

The empty building, and other empties nearby were decorated with posters and slogans saying 'council shame', 'community space not derelict waste' etc, along with drawings of what the building could have been used for. The paint remains, pointing out to everyone who walks by that developers and the Council are more interested in profits than people. Contact 0191 272 4635.

GM court victories

Successful defence

After waiting over a year for their trial, on Nov 19th two people were found not guilty on two counts of criminal damage for cutting down Genetically Modified (GM) maize at Preston Wynn in Herefordshire. The project was part of a government experiment testing the effect of GM crops on other plants. The trial started on Nov 13th at Worcester Crown Court. The defendants say that their action on August 5th 2000, in openly cutting down the GM maize using sickles was lawful as they acted to prevent immediate damage to near-by crops, the environment and public health. This is the second jury acquittal for cutting down GM crops in Britain. Contacts: Media liaison 07905 771 174 /pager - 07666 723 818. Mike Schwarz, Solicitor 0207 8334433. Defendants 07890 899541.

Appeal won

On Oct 16th, a GM puller won her High Court appeal against a charge of Aggravated Trespass. The judge decided the charge was not appropriate for someone who pulled up GM crops if no-one was in the field at the time, as nobody's lawful activities were being interrupted. The case relates to the pulling up of Aventis GM maize at Over Compton, Dorset after a rally on 16th July 2000. At least 19 other related cases may now never come to court.

Contact: 07973 953 446

www.gn.apc.org/pmhp/gs

Visa-card 1: Charges dropped

Bad news...Almost a year after a field of GM oilseed rape was 80% destroyed covertly, police arrested the owner of a credit card found on the field (doh!!). He was charged with over £17,000 of criminal damage. Good news...In yet another blow to the biotech nasties, the charges were dropped the day before the Visa-card 1 was due in court. After a spate of victories in the courtroom (and in the fields!), the CPS seem unwilling to prosecute people caught destroying GM trials, this the latest in a run of dropped charges.

For a list of damaged and destroyed GM trials in the UK last year, contact the Genetic Engineering Network: 0207 2721586. gen@gn.apc.org www.geneticsaction.org.uk. "My first little book of GM crop decontamination" is also available, including top tips on how not to get caught!

The new list of National Seed List trials for Aventis' Winter Oilseed Rape line MS8/RF3 is now on the GEN website

Action in Staffordshire!

November 3rd was a big day in North Staffs. It all started at 11am outside the Roebuck Centre in Newcastle-under-Lyme with Critical Mass-ers supporting a peace vigil against the war in Afghanistan. Shunning cycle lanes the group then took a busy road, almost going into Stoke itself. Motorists were less than understanding; they revved their engines, overtook on the wrong side of the road, cut up the Critical Mass and shouted abuse. Then at the end of the ride the first 'Voice of the People' street party took place in Hanley city centre. Supported by the 'SoundAction' samba band, dutch skipping, fire juggling, an information stall and a mass distribution of onion bhajis; local groups handed out info and networked. Numbers swelled to 150-200 people. North Staffs Critical Mass is the first Saturday of every month, meeting Queens Gardens, Newcastle-u-Lyme, Staffs at 11:30am. Further info 0775 162 8185 www.actionnet-northstaffs.co.uk

Support Trash

On Halloween 2001 British eco-activist 'Trash' was caught 'trashing' quarrying equipment at the Nine Ladies quarry site. Judging by past sentencing for ecotage at this protest site, Trash is guaranteed a prison sentence. As far as we are aware, Trash is not yet inside. However, his supporters are asking that everyone send him letters of support straight away to help keep his spirits strong. See Prisoners.

Manchester Thorntons

Four women from Manchester were stunned when they saw that Thorntons, the chocolate shop, claimed in their window displays that "1975 - women get equality" and "2001 - women finally got what they wanted- 5 new Belgium chocolates." Outraged by this offensive propaganda, they visited two Thorntons shops in central Manchester to show them what they thought and what they wanted! A letter was written to the manager explaining why they were there, their objections and demanding the withdrawal of the displays. The window displays were graffitied "2001 - women get what they want - freedom, justice and equality" and "Smash Patriarchy!". The shop windows had posters glued to them stating how women are still the subjects of domestic violence, rape and sexual harassment, and how we are seen as aggressive if we challenge oppression and discrimination. They got away from both shops before the police were called. A

spray glue used was very quick drying and strong! Visit your local store and show them what you think.

DfID occupied

Twelve members of the anti-war group Justice Not Vengeance occupied the Department for International Development (DfID) for 3 hours on November 2nd to demand an immediate end to the bombing of Afghanistan and a massive aid effort to avert looming famine. The group displayed a banner reading 'A matter of conscience. FOOD NOT BOMBS. A matter of survival' and refused to leave. The group had planned to leave after two hours, but DFID officials offered them an 'on the record' meeting with Sir John Vereker, DFID Permanent Secretary, so they stayed a little longer. CALL Justice Not Vengeance on: 07947839992. www.justicenotvengeance.org.

London sit-down

Around 500 people gathered in torrential rain on Saturday 21st October, for an anti-war march to Whitehall, where around 60-70 of them then participated in a 1.5 hr sit down protest blocking one side of the road. Police declined to arrest anyone and, after a group discussion, the group moved on to opposite the cenotaph to lay white flowers and hold a minute's silence in memory of all of those killed.

Naval kidnapping

On Nov 2nd, 20 people from Brighton Against the War barricaded themselves in the Royal Navy Unit at the University of Sussex, taking a male officer hostage in the process. The protesters spent several hours in the building, hanging a banner from the window reading 'War IS State Terrorism!' Outside, 200 students who had been holding a daily peace vigil also threatened to storm the building at Falmer, near Brighton. Police negotiators spoke with the group who eventually emerged at 2.15pm after having shut the unit down for the whole day. No one was hurt but all 20 were arrested on suspicion of false imprisonment and Section 5 of the POA. For dozens of anti-war documents and general information http://struggle.ws/stopthewar.html. To join the haltWAR list, email: haltWAR-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Everyone hates McDs

Local residents and New Forest Council have won their year long battle against McDonalds – after turning them down twice McDs time to appeal ran out in November. Also, McDs have pulled out

of a public enquiry in High Wycombe. For more info see www.mcspotlight.org. McSpotlight is also launching a new residents page - called Stop The Store (STS) to carry reports and details of local residents fighting against McDs as well as handy advice - so if you know about a local campaign then contact stopthestore@mcibel.org

OK KO'd –cafe evicted

The Manchester OKasional cafe was illegally evicted at the beginning of November. Builders and police kicked in the shopfront window to gain access before nicking all the occupants. The OKasional Cafe collective have been squatting empty buildings for the past four years and the current eviction is the most violent and heavy handed since the retaking of the Hacienda in 2000. All those arrested were charged with stealing electricity, despite the collective having contacted the electricity company. It has been conjectured that the raid could have been timed to clear the building (which had been acting as an anti-war info shop and is located opposite the centotaph and peace gardens) before the major peace demo in the city the following weekend.

Diary Dates...

December 2001

26th 5th International pizza punk day-Anarchic Xmas alternative
em@eroding.org.uk.

26th ANTI-HUNT DEMOS- Contact League Against Cruels Sports 020 7403 6155, Hunt Saboteurs Association: 01273 622827; or your local Hunt Sab group.

28th Critical Mass (London) 6pm South Bank, under Waterloo Bridge. 07801 703016 criticalmass.london@virgin.net

January 2002

26th Prison Abolition or More Prisons? conference. 10.30 am-5pm, Conway Hall, 25 red lion sq. c/o BM Hurricane, London WC1N 3XX.

prisonabolition@hotmail.com

26-27th EF! Winter Moot 2002, Manchester. 0161 226 6814
mancef@nematode.freemove.co.uk

February

8-11th International Animal Rights Gathering. Filmacademie, Overtoom 301, Amsterdam. Targets: Biomedical Primate Research Centre (BPRC)
vrienden@groenfront.nl

The diary is looking a little empty this issue - make sure to send in your dates

New spoof newspaper

The newest spoof offering from RTS – The Spun is now available online www.the-spun.co.uk or contact rts@gn.apc.org for paper copies.

ABC proposal

The Anarchist Black Cross Network (committed to the support of class-struggle prisoners) has published a new draft proposal aimed at consolidating and building the struggle against the prison system. All those involved in resisting the prison system are invited to get in touch and comment on the proposal with the hope of building the network. See <http://www.anarchistblackcross.org/>

Ecotopia 2002

Plans for Ecotopia 2002 (the pan-Europe activist meeting) are underway and organisers are keen to hear from anyone in the UK who might be willing to host workshops – particularly ones with a radical 'Green and Black' flavour and a practical skill sharing focus. If you are interested contact suckola@hotmail.com. For info on previous Ecotopias visit www.antenna.nl/eyfa

War Cry (?)

WAR CRY is a new radical newsletter for anyone living or working in West London. To get a free copy, send a SAE to West London Anarchists & Radicals, BM Makhno, London WC1N 3XX.

May day 2001

An urgent request for any footage from Oxford Street, during the 2001, London May day protests – to build a case against the police action – has been recieved.

Contact david@mawsond.fsnet.co.uk if you think you have anything useful.

Mayday 2002

Never deterred, plans are underway for Mayday 2002 in London. Contact londonmayday@yahoo.co.uk if you'd like to get involved

New group in Norwich

Norwich Anarchists is a new pro-direct action group which supports a range of social and environmental issues, including human emancipation, world peace, animal liberation and ecodefence. The group will be active in prisoner support and intends to produce its own newsletter for which people are invited to send articles and/or any local information. Norwich Anarchists, PO Box 487, Norwich, NR2 3AL. 0794 1657 485

EF! Journal request

The Earth First Journal (US) would like photos (at least 200dpi) of the Chief Executive Officers of any corporate nasties you fell deserve attention. Please include their name, corporation and any other pertinent information collective@earthfirstjournal.org

Job opportunities

Just a quick reminder for everyone planning to come to the Winter Moot in January, that this is bound to be a top chance to get involved (amongst other things) in those projects that hold the network together. Specifically plans for the EF! Summer Gathering will be getting underway (currently rumour is that it will probably be somewhere in the south-west). A collective will be needed for next

years Moot and of course it's nearly time to offer the Action Update to a new collective. So give some thought as to what you might want to do before you get there and the seamless transfer of these tasks may be possible. If you'd like to get involved with one of these things but can't make the Moot, it would be a good idea to get in touch with the relevant project before mid-January so your interest is known when they get discussed.

E-activism

☪ As the AU went to press the EU summit in Belgium was about to get underway. We've be recommended <http://www.anarchie.be/eurostop/en> to keep up to date with progress.

☪ A new e-mail list aimed at global co-ordination of anti-war resistance has been launched. E-mail peacenowar@lists.riseup.net to subscribe.

☪ Construction on the Lamberhurst/A21 bypass (20 miles up the road from Hastings) is due to start next spring/summer. www.lamberhurstbypass.com has been set up to oppose this and help, advice and support is wanted.

☪ The Blackwater Valley Environmental Justice Newsletter is now available online <http://www.bvej.freewebsites.com/>. If you were an e-subscriber re-subscribe online.

☪ ROOTS is the bimonthly newsletter of A SEED Europe, an action-oriented youth network working on economic globalisation. Read online at <http://www.aseed.net/> or subscribe by sending a mail to aseedeur@antenna.nl

☪ Also recommended the spoof WTO website at <http://www.gatt.org/>

Prisoners

If you know of anyone who you think we ought to be supporting get in touch with the AU or ELP (listed opposite), let us know as much as possible (what they're in for, how long, when they're due for release, details of any support campaign etc.). The AU prioritises listing new eco-prisoners ELP carry a more detailed list.

UK

Trash, c/o Nine Ladies Anti-Quarry Camp,.Lees Cross, Lees Road, Stanton Lees, Nr Matlock, Derbyshire. Trash is not yet inside, however, his supporters are asking that everyone sends him letters of support straight away to help keep his spirits strong.
Kerry Whitburn EM 8649, HMP Bedford, St Loyes St, Bedford, MK40 1HG

Rae Newlands

GN6613, HMP Holloway, Parkhurst Rd, London, N7 ONU, England. On remand on charges relating to both anti-blood sports activity and anti-HLS campaigning.
Heather Avery, HMP and YOI, Highpoint, Stradis Hall, New Market, Suffolk, CB8 9YG
Natasha Dellamaine, HMP and YOI, Highpoint, Stradis Hall,

New Market, Suffolk, CB8 9YG

Greg Avery, HMP Belmarsh, Weston Way, Thamesmead, London, SE28 0EB
These 3 SHAC organisers were sentenced to 12 months imprisonment each. Charges related to the publication of the SHAC newsletter that allegedly encouraged readers call, send unsolicited stuff to, and otherwise harass HLS employees and investors.

Europe

Geert Waegemans Begijnestraat 42, 2000 Antwerp, Belgium. Serving five years for an attempted arson on the car of a Judge, two McDonalds arsons and two arsons against the meat industry has had some new charges placed against him. Write letters of support and for more information.

Earth Liberation Prisoners support network

c/o BM Box 2407 London, WC1N 3XX
Online newsletter earthlibprisoner@mail.com
www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk
Urgent ELP Bulletin sends out names of new prisoners as soon as ELP gets them animalearthliberation@bigfoot.com

Writing to prisoners

Remember to include the prisoners number and a return address (prisons won't accept the letter without one, not all accept PO Box address) for more tips on writng contact ELP or Anarchist Black Cross c/o 6 Tilbury Place Brighton BN2 2GY

"Any political movement that does not support it's political internees is a sham movement"
Ojore Lutalo, political prisoner



Large heath butterfly feeding on bog rosemary

Peat Processing & How to Stop It

Peat is stripped when the land is dry enough to support the machinery, which is usually between Easter and the beginning of October. The moors are criss-crossed with drainage ditches and channels (from under a metre to 2 or 3m wide and over 2m deep), and there are pumping stations at various points, which keep the water flowing out. Blocking these drains and putting the pumps out of action protects the hydrology of the peat.

During the cutting season the surface is scraped off and pushed into ridges by tractor-type things and then collected by harvesters, which are distinctive by their conveyor belts. There are only three harvesters and we

suspect they are not easy to replace. These move the now crumbly peat into dumper trucks, which leave it in a giant stockpile along the narrow-gauge rail lines. The stockpile is covered over to prevent it from becoming too dry in the summer or from soaking up water in the winter, which makes it more difficult to handle. There are two trains, which transport the peat back to the works at the northernmost edge of Hatfield Moor. They run through the summer, but are rarely used to full capacity in the winter as there is no other work done on the moors. They tend to derail themselves if they go too fast or if they get rocked too much. In the past the lines have been tampered with.

Once at the peat works the peat is filtered, washed and heat-treated before having the various chemicals/fertilizers added to make the various types of compost. Once it has been treated it would be completely useless (and probably ecologically damaging) to return it to the moor. It is wrapped and heat-sealed and then stacked on pallets for storage and distribution. There are vast stocks of wrapped up pallets of peat all round the perimeter of the works, waiting to be distributed.

There is only one entrance to the site, via a small metal bridge over a major drain. Every vehicle entering the works (i.e. staff cars and distribution lorries) uses this bridge. Plans & photos of the peatworks are on the web-site, along with comprehensive info on Scotts, other peat sites & campaigns, campaign updates, peat ecology, etc.:

www.peatalert.org.uk



Large red damselfly flies, mating on a blade of grass

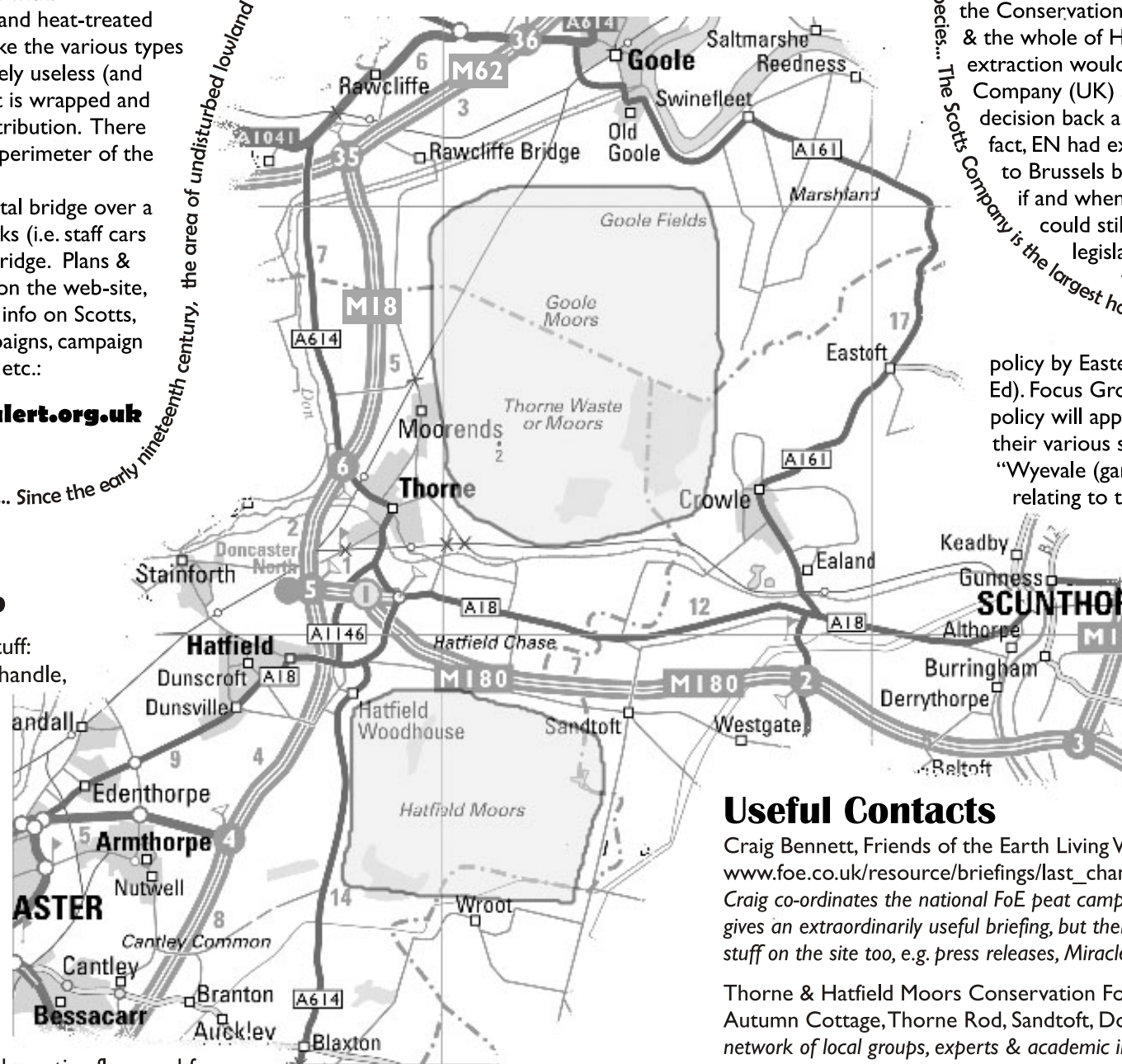
What is Peat?

It is undeniable - peat is a wonderstuff: cheap, sterile, lightweight and peasant to handle, with good water and air holding qualities.

Peat forms in very wet or water-logged habitats such as bogs, where the dead vegetation is in effect preserved rather than decomposed. There are two basic kinds of peat: sedge and moss, or sphagnum. This is created by a slow build-up of sphagnum moss in a bog that is either 'blanket' or 'raised'. Raised bogs in lowland areas are of greatest interest to peat extractors as they can be many metres deep. They are also the ones environmentalists are most concerned about.

Theoretically a living peat bog can regenerate at about 15mm per year. Unfortunately, large-scale modern production has made this unlikely, because the land is drained before extraction. Not only is recolonisation by the native flora and fauna remote, but the delicate and complex water tables in adjacent undrained areas are also put under threat.

peat alert



Location of Thorne & Hatfield Moors

Aren't Thorne & Hatfield Protected?

Thorne & Hatfield Moors have been commercially milled for peat for about 50 years and there has been opposition of varying militancy since it started. By the early '90s the Peatlands Campaigns Consortium (PCC) had achieved a significant drop in sales of peat, which was threatening Fisons' (the then land-owners) business. The company was forced to do a deal in which the land was gifted to English Nature, although Fisons retained the lease and minerals extraction rights for 20% of Thorne & 80% of Hatfield. The rest of the land is now a nature reserve, being restored and managed by English Nature. The whole area is notified as an SSSI.

In 1995 the nature reserves were given SAC status (Special Area of Conservation) under the EU Habitats Directive, and some areas of both the reserves and the workings were given SPA status (Special Protection Area) under the EU Birds Directive. These give more protection than any British legislation.

In 1997 English Nature proposed de-notifying the workings, based on research funded by Scotts (who by then had bought out the company). They claimed that the hydrology of the site was so badly damaged by the peat working that it could no longer be restored and was not worth protecting.

The Thorne & Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum (a network of local & regional conservation groups & experts) produced research to counter their evidence and SSSI status was retained. The campaign to save the moors was reinvigorated from this point.

In 1999, after being told by the EU that the UK must propose at least another 100 sites for SAC status, English Nature (under pressure from the Conservation Forum and the PCC) proposed the rest of Thorne & the whole of Hatfield. Should the site be given SAC status, peat extraction would have to stop, so since that time The Scotts Company (UK) and the government have been battling the decision back and forth between them, via English Nature. In fact, EN had expected the proposals to have been submitted to Brussels by now, but DEFRA is delaying again. However, if and when the Moors are ever granted SAC status, it could still take up to 7 years to implement the legislation while Scotts go through the various legal appeals, etc.

policy by Easter 2002: "Peat does not have a long term future in our business" (going all out there - Ed). Focus Group is a recent merger of Wickes, Great Mills, Focus/Do It All and several others. The policy will apply to the whole group, but at the moment they're pretty confused about what exactly their various stores do sell.

"Wyevalle (garden centre chain) is actively working with compost and plant suppliers on tests relating to the availability and use of peat-free growing media and will closely monitor the results of these tests. It is our intention to promote peat-free compost alternative products wherever possible... We will not recommend the use of peat as a mulch or soil improver"

Several supermarkets are expected to produce similar strategies in the near future. In the early 90s the Wildlife Trusts produced a "Peatland Protection Charter", to which 66 councils have signed up and several commercial growers, pledging to limit their use of peat. However, the sad truth is that 75% of peat sold goes to domestic gardeners via retail outlets, and most of the rest goes to commercial growers, e.g. for mushrooms, lettuces or golf courses. The only way to stop peat production is to get people to stop buying it.

Useful Contacts

Craig Bennett, Friends of the Earth Living World Campaigner
www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/last_chance_see.html
Craig co-ordinates the national FoE peat campaign. The web-site gives an extraordinarily useful briefing, but there is loads more useful stuff on the site too, e.g. press releases, Miracle-Gone info, etc

Thorne & Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum
Autumn Cottage, Thorne Rod, Sandtoft, Doncaster DN8 5TB
network of local groups, experts & academic institutions, has published key research helping to save the Moors, plus much lobbying.

The EF! Summer Gathering Write-Up will be appearing in the next issue of Action Update



Butterwort, a rare carnivorous plant

Too Little Too Late

The years of lobbying by members of the Peatlands Campaigns Consortium have led to major DIY firms developing strategies to phase out peat products: B&Q (the market leader) doesn't stock any Scotts products and is committed to diluting all other products to 85% peat-free by 2006.

Homebase (#3 in DIY sector) is announcing a similar policy (probably within the next three weeks), but they're only committing to a 10 year timescale.

Focus Do It All (#2) are committed to producing a

Since Northern EF! groups joined FOE's peat campaign last May, there have been 3 mass trespasses, 2 smaller trespasses, 3 site occupations and several night-time visits. For more information on these actions, resources to plan your own or to find out about future actions visit

www.peatalert.org.uk

c/o Leeds EF! CRC, 16 Sholebroke Ave, LEEDS LS7 3HB,
07971 073 282, info@peatalert.org.uk,

Action Groups

are local EF! contacts some are active groups others need more people to get in touch

Bath EF!
c/o PO Box 426
Bath, Somerset, BA1 2ZD

Dartmoor EF!
c/o PO Box 77, Totness
Devon TQ9 5ZJ

Grampian EF!
PO Box 248
Aberdeen AB25 1JE
grampianearthfirst@hotmail.com

Gwynedd & Mon EF!
The Greenhouse
1 Trevelyan Terrace, Bangor
Gwynedd LL57 1AX
01248 255 821
bangor-werdd@yahoo.co.uk

Leeds EF!
c/o CRC, 16 Sholebroke Av
Leeds LS7 3HB
0113 262 9365
leedsef@leedsef.org.uk

London Reclaim The Streets
PO Box 9656
London N4 4JY
020 7281 4621
rts@gn.apc.org

Manchester EF!
Box29, 22a Beswick St
Manchester, M4 7HS
0161 2266 814
mancef@nematode.freemove.co.uk

(Newcastle) TAPP
PO Box ITA
Newcastle NE99 1TA
ne991ta@yahoo.com

Norwich Direct Action Forum
PO Box 487
Norwich NR2 3AL
07944 874 393

Nottingham EF!
c/o 245 Gladstone Street
Nottingham, NG7 6HX
0845 458 9595
Nottsef@veggies.org.uk

Reading Roadbusters
R.I.S. Centre
35-39 London Street, Reading
Berkshire RG1 4PS
0118 954 6430
roadbusters@gn.apc.org

Sheffield EF!
c/o Brambles Resource Centre
82 Andover St
Sheffield S3 9EH
0114 279 7164
jimthackery@yahoo.co.uk

South Devon EF!
c/o PO Box 77, Totness
Devon TQ9 5ZJ

SWAN Network
PO Box 70
Newport NP1 0YD
Swangroup@yahoo.co.uk

Contacts List Dec 01/Jan 02

Warwick- the old group's folded but someone wants to set up a new one!
Tomgreaves@hotmail.com

York LEAF
C/o SU Centre
University of York, Heslington
York YO10 5DD

Support Groups & Information Networks

Activists' Legal Project
16b Cherwell Street
Oxford, OX4 1BG
01865 243 772
activistslegal@gn.apc.org

Anarchist Teapot
Mobile Kitchen Project
6 Tilbury Place
Brighton BN2 2GY
katchoo22@tutty.com

Blatant Incitement Project
(outreach & small group support), c/o Manchester EF!
doinit@nematode.freemove.co.uk

CAGE Network
(against the prison system)
c/o 245 Gladstone Street
Nottingham, NG7 6HX
0845 458 9595

Corporate Watch
16b Cherwell St
Oxford OX4 1BG
01865 791391
mail@corporatewatch.org

Earth Liberation Prisoners support Network
BM Box 2407
London, WC1N 3XX
earthlibprisoner@mail.com

Genetic Engineering Network
GEN, Archway Resource C'tr
1a Waterlow Road
Archway, London, N19 5NJ
020 7272 1586
genetics@gn.apc.org

Primal Seeds
Suite 305, 255 Wilmslow Rd
Manchester M14
www.primalseeds.org
mail@primalseeds.org

URGENT
(green field housing network)
Box HN, 16b Cherwell St
Oxford OX4 1BG
01865 794 800
info@urgent.org.uk

Publications

Counter Information
Autonomous Centre E'burgh
17 West Montgomery Place
Edinburgh EW7 5HA
0131 557 6242

Do or Die
c/o Prior House, 6 Tilbury Pl.
Brighton BN2 2GY
doordtp@yahoo.co.uk

FINs - for a full list of Free Information Networks, send SAE to: London FIN
c/o 99 Torrino Avenue
London NW5 2RX

Genetix Update
c/o Totnes GenetiX Group
PO Box77, Totness
Devon TQ9 5ZJ
01803 840 098
info@togg.org

Green Anarchist
BCM 1715, London
WC1N 3XX

Peace News
5 Caledonian Road
London N1 9DY

Schnews
PO Box 2600, Brighton
East Sussex BN2 2DX
01273 685913
schnews@brighton.co.uk

The EF!AU has a list of local radical publications.
Send an SAE or e-mail.

Virtual News

<http://www.ainfos.ca>
a multi-lingual news service by, for and about anarchists

Allsorts - UK based e-news for activists
allsorts@gn.apc.org
www.uk.indymedia.org

Video

i-Contact video network
76 Mina Road, Bristol
BS29TX 01179140188
i-contact@videonetwork.org

RadiX-video archive for direct action - new address in December
radix@enviroweb.org
www.enviroweb.org/radix

Other Contacts

Advisory Service for Squatters
2 Saint Pauls Road
London N1 2QN
020 7359 8814
advice@squat.freemove.co.uk

ALF Supporters Group
BCM Box 1160
London WC1N 3XX
1003021616@compuserve.co.uk

Anarchist Federation
c/o 84b Whitechapel High St.
London E1 7QX

ChiapasLink
Box 79, 82 Colston St, Bristol
chiapaslink@yahoo.com

Disabled Action Network
3 Crawley Road, Wood Green
London N22 6AN
020 88891361

DELTA
Box Z, 13 Biddulph St
Leicester LE2 1BH
0116 210 9652
lynx@gn.apc.org
www.oneworld.org/delta

Friends of People Close to Nature (FPCN UK)
33 Gould Close
Welham Green, Hatfield
Hertfordshire AL9 7EB
01707 885 994
rains@fpcn-global.org

GenetiX Snowball
Box13, 43 Gardner St
Brighton BN1 1UN
rowantilly@gn.apc.org

Haringey Solidarity Group
PO Box 2474
London N8

Hunt Saboteurs Assoc.
PO Box 2786
Brighton BN2 2AX
01273 622827
hsa@gn.apc.org

Industrial Workers of the World
75 Humberstone Gate
Leicester LE1 1WB

The Land is Ours (TLIO)
16b Cherwell St
Oxford OX4 1BG
01460 249204
office@tlio.demon.co.uk

Legal Defence & Monitoring Group
BM Haven, London
WC1N 3XX

London GreenPeace & McLibel Campaign
5 Caledonian Road
London N1 9DX
020 7713 1269
info@mcspotlight.org

Making Waves
PO Box 1377
Sheffield S36 4BZ
01226 764279
pp3office@aol.com

No Platform anti-fascist network, PO Box 127
Leeds LS3 1TS

Reclaim the Satyagraha!
c/o 5 Caledonian Road
London N1 9DX
07973 539 390
enquiries@satyagraha.org

Solidarity Federation
PO Box 29, SW PDO
Manchester M15 5HW
0161 232 7889

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty Campaign (SHAC)
PO Box 38, Cheltenham
Gloucestershire GL50 1YN
0845 458 0630

Trident Ploughshares 2000
42-46 Bethel St
Norwich NR2 1NR
0845 458 8366
tp2000@gn.apc.org

Protest Camps

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp, 33 Heron Rd
Bristol BS5 0LT
0117 939 3746

Faslane Peace Camp
Shandon, Helensburgh
Dunbartonshire G84 8HT
Scotland
01436 820 901

9 Ladies Anti-Quarry Camp
Lees Cross
Lees Rd, Stanton Lees
Matlock, Derbyshire
Phone stolen - new no. soon!

Sellafield Women's Peace Camp, Box Z (as Leeds EF!)
0113 262 1534

Vallee d'Aspe Camp
Mobile+336 72634905

..and beyond

active campaigns that have had protest camps in the past

Action Against the Toll Motorway (AtoM)
0121 643 9117
actionagainstthetollmotorway@hotmail.com

Golden Cross Road Action Group (Essex), 01702 541 267
07957 915 977

Hockley Housing
01702 206 181

Third Battle of Newbury
PO Box 5642
Newbury RG14 5WG
07000 785 201

International

For International contacts we recommend the list in Do or Die 9 or ...

Peoples Global Action (PGA) against the WTO and neo-liberalisation, www.apg.org

Earth First! Journal
POB 3023, Tucson
AZ 85702 USA
Tel: (520) 620-6900
Fax: (413) 254-0057
collective@earthfirstjournal.org
www.earthfirstjournal.org

Every effort is made to keep this contact list as up to date as possible, but we haven't time to check every contact every month. If you have trouble using any contact on this list please let us know. Also please make sure you tell us of any changes. We appreciate receiving any ideas to improve this list and make it as useful as possible.

All additions and alterations each month are shown in bold.

The inclusion of a contact on this list in no way implies the support of the AU editorial collective for that group, it's ideas, actions or indeed anything else.

BBC building scaled

On Oct 12th, a group went to the BBC on Oxford Rd, Manchester to protest media mis-information about the 'war' in Afghanistan. Four people climbed onto the roof with the aid of a long ladder and hung "Blair's Broadcasting Corruption", from the three flagpoles. Other banners hung included "Destroy Imperialism not Afghanistan", "Truth - the first casualty of war" and "Stop Warmongering Scum Corporate Media". Despite a struggle with police and security on the roof they managed to stay and secure the ladder for later escape. Below 800 leaflets were distributed whilst a Samba band played. Manc EF! 0161 2266 814

mancef@nematode.freemove.co.uk

Shortcuts visits Shell

The recently formed 'Shortcuts' society encourages students in Manchester to become involved in wider campaigns. On Sept 29th it organised a day of free workshops including talks on non-violent direct action, permaculture, and subvertising as well as active political street theatre and meditation workshops.

On October 9th, Shortcuts dropped in on a Shell careers conference to tell them: 'Get the Shell out of Nigeria'. Given the floor for five minutes, one of the activists gave a speech pleading with the students to wake up and consider the alternatives. Shell's attitude was "We're a company, and we have to make profit first!". Setting off a fire alarm provided a welcome relief from corporate brainwashing and gave activists a chance to tell the people there that a wind energy company were also recruiting in Brighton. Upcoming interventions include BP, Nestle and the Army. Contact: shortcutz@yaho.co.uk

Contact

★ us! ★

EF!AU, PO Box 487

Norwich, NR2 3AL

Tel: 01603 219811

www.eco-action.org/efau

efactionupdate@bigfoot.com

Hackney NOT 4 sale

On Oct 12th, five Hackney residents occupied the head office of Nelson Bakewell property services and refused to leave until their demands were met, including the withdrawal of all community properties from auctions the following Monday. 2 women locked on with d-locks. Accounts and finances workers were handed leaflets about Nelson Bakewell. At 4pm when all office employees had left to go home and leaflets had run out, the remaining two protesters unlocked and joined the rest of the group outside. There were no arrests. Nelson Bakewell are heavily involved with the selling off of vital community services in Hackney as advisors to the council. 07752 592 740

hackney4sale@yahoo.co.uk

workers walk out

Also on October 12th workers employed by Hackney Council in London's East End went on strike against further planned cuts. Those striking included rubbish collectors, homecare assistants, parks and gardens workers and meals-on-wheels providers. Hackney Council workers face further cuts to wages and working conditions as the cash-strapped council opens up more facilities to the private sector.

auctions protest

Oct 15th saw a lively and noisy demo outside the Langham Hilton where Nelson Bakewell were holding an auction which included some of Hackney's community properties. A handful of Hackney residents went inside and disrupted the auction, one woman loudly

announced that the auction was closed because the buildings belonged to the people of Hackney and were therefore not for sale. After she was removed by security, others stood up and also voiced their objections, and were all eventually removed. There was a samba band outside and a spoof estate agent display was set up. Hundreds of leaflets were handed out. There were loads of police and security in vans and on all the doors but anyone who wanted to get inside. see www.indymedia.org.uk for Hackney updates.

Base Invaders

On Oct 10th, 30 people from the Just Peace coalition arrived at the RAF Valley base with pictures of Afghani children in refugee camps which were tied to the fence with the words "collateral damage?" underneath. The protestors were prepared to blockade the base but the base commander came out and ran the gauntlet of questions and statements. After faxing a statement to the MOD there was more talking and he did appear to have a bit of a wobble at some points. Other actions are being planned. JUST PEACE is a Welsh coalition of various groups. Gwynedd & Mon EF! 01248 255 821

SHAC takes on Shell

On Oct 20th 3 vanloads of protestors visited Shell petrol stations in Northern England. Shell's are being targetted because of their business dealings with Huntingdon Life Sciences. At Knutsford the protestors were met by some rather nasty Countryside Alliance types who tried to run a couple of people over. After this the protest moved to Northwich and then on to Middlewich and ended up at Congleton, protesting outside a Shell garage where they got pig-penned up. SHAC 0845 458 0630.

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