

# Earth First!

## Action Update

'Rebellion is a spark in the wind, but a spark in search of a powder keg' – Andre Breton  
Autumn 09

### NUCLEAR EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

Nuclear lobby are back with a vengeance – now is the time to stop them.

Now is the crucial time for nuclear power. The British government is determined to push through a new generation of nuclear reactors: the sites will be announced this winter and planning applications could start early in 2010. Resistance is growing in the communities that are most directly affected, both in the UK, and at the other end of the radiation trail – near uranium mines from India to Canada. The nuclear industry has succeeded in jumping on the climate change bandwagon and presenting itself as the clean, green answer to energy insecurity. This is bollocks. Once the energy intensive process of uranium-mining and dealing with waste has been taken into account the carbon savings are minimal, and nuclear remains a distraction from real solutions to climate change. Building the proposed ten new reactors would triple the amount of nuclear waste that future generations will have to deal with. It will also massively increase the chances of a devastating accident, especially with all the 'new' nuclear sites in coastal locations – ironically made more vulnerable by rising sea levels and climatic instability. And even without a disaster, radiation is a health and environmental problem now: the levels of radioactive pollution around Sellafield in Cumbria are already



higher than in the exclusion zone around Chernobyl, and the Irish sea is among the most radioactive waters in the world.

#### Building resistance

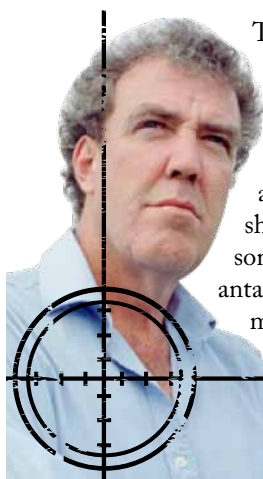
In Essex this August, a flotilla of boats sailed to the proposed site of a new nuclear reactor at Bradwell, carrying banners saying 'Save the Blackwater estuary' and

'No to new nuclear'. The sailors were supported by people on Bradwell beach, who spoke to holiday makers and circulated a petition.

[www.banng.org.uk](http://www.banng.org.uk)

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### Top Rear



This September 7th, activists paid a visit to Jeremy Clarkson's house – and dumped a pile of shit on his front lawn. "He can deal with our emissions since he won't deal with his!", commented one activist. Another added, "Jeremy is keen to land us in the shit! So he can have ours ...". Jeremy Clarkson recently drove to the Arctic to deliberately antagonise environmentalists, at a cost of an estimated 1.7 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

[climaterush.co.uk](http://climaterush.co.uk)

### Oiled up and Ready for Action

In Aberdeen, one of the world's biggest oil and gas conferences was interrupted by two protesters who stripped naked, covered themselves in a sticky, oil-like substance and walked through the exhibition with a banner which said 'Climate Stinkers Uncovered'. They were greeted by smiles, laughs and camera flashes from other attendees.

A local police inspector commented that "these were not the actions of normal human beings", but of course, in the words of one protester: 'Without real cuts to oil consumption, the Scottish Climate Bill is nothing more than the Emperor's New Clothes'.

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Earlier on in August, villagers in Oldbury, Gloucestershire, held a five-hour blockade of a proposed new nuclear site. Contractors were due to start ground investigations and seismic studies, when they found their way blocked by local residents.

Cumbria not only plays host to the most ferociously radioactive stockpile of nuclear waste in the world, but is also the proposed site of three new nuclear power stations and Britain's first high-level nuclear waste dump. Local campaigners complain that the nuclear industry is attempting to buy out opposition through

'bribe' money poured into public services. This October, a protest was held in Carlisle at the ordination of Cumbria's new pro-nuclear Bishop.

[toxiccoast.com](http://toxiccoast.com) , [web.mac.com/mariannebirkby1/iWeb/Radiat...](http://web.mac.com/mariannebirkby1/iWeb/Radiat...)

### Why does it always uranium on me?

Not only are nuclear power plants a disaster waiting to happen, but the uranium mining that they depend upon also causes immediate devastation. It can be no coincidence that a third of uranium comes from the highly impoverished African nation of Niger, or that in the United states, Canada and Australia mining is concentrated in 'isolated' indigenous land. This October, thousands of people marched in major Indian cities to protest about the health impacts of uranium mining. In the US this summer, Havasupi people called a three day protest camp in response to threats from Denison Mining to re-open its uranium mine near the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. In August, an international occupation camp was established in Finland to monitor the prospecting activi-

## Nuclear Power Campaign Strategy weekend

**21-22 November, London**

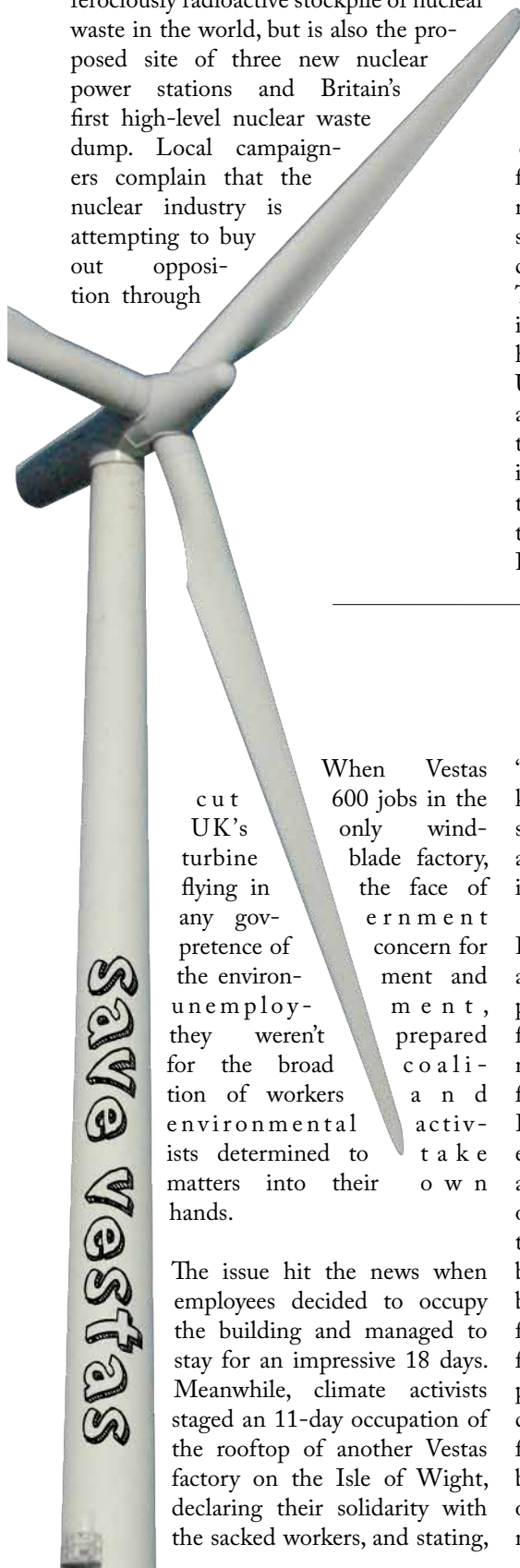
Get organised to stop a new generation of nuclear power stations being built! Your chance to get involved in anti-nuclear campaigning, to network, and to plan.

We'll be asking for donations for vegan food and venue.

For more details, or to help organise, contact: [nonewuclear@aktivix.org](mailto:nonewuclear@aktivix.org), 01524 383 012 [nonewuclear.wordpress.com](http://nonewuclear.wordpress.com)  
Organised in conjunction with the Nuclear People Power Network

ties of the company Areva and provide a base for resistance.

[nuclearfreeinland.org/en/ranua](http://nuclearfreeinland.org/en/ranua)  
[ukrivers.net/nonewuclear](http://ukrivers.net/nonewuclear)  
[stopnuclearpower.blogspot.com](http://stopnuclearpower.blogspot.com)



When Vestas cut 600 jobs in the UK's only wind-turbine blade factory, flying in the face of any government pretence of the environment and unemployment, they weren't prepared for the broad coalition of workers and environmental activists determined to take matters into their own hands.

The issue hit the news when employees decided to occupy the building and managed to stay for an impressive 18 days. Meanwhile, climate activists staged an 11-day occupation of the rooftop of another Vestas factory on the Isle of Wight, declaring their solidarity with the sacked workers, and stating,

"In the face of man-made climate-change, keeping these workers with their unique specialist skills is as urgent for powering a sustainable future as it is for the for the island communities."

Following the evictions, workers and other activists focused their efforts on trying to prevent the blades being removed from the factory. This included a second camp at the main river gate, defended by one of the former factory workers sitting up a tripod. Earlier in September, workers and protesters arrived by power-boat to occupy cranes and vessels at the city's docks. Meanwhile on land protesters locked themselves to a crane that was loading up blades to be shipped away. Others occupied the barge that was used to fetch the blades from the factory. One of the activists suffered minor injuries during the traumatic police removal. Four others intend to press charges against Vestas shipping manager for endangering their lives by turning on both cranes and moving the boom whilst one protester was still attached to the moving parts.

## Stormy weather at Vestas

The original solidarity camp remains, with a thriving vegan kitchen and a 'living room' with comfy chairs and a brazier. The question of where to take the campaign next remains open.

[savevestas.wordpress.com](http://savevestas.wordpress.com)



## Tesco - every little hurts

In mid-September, Worthing residents and Titnore Woods tree campers held a community picnic against a new Tesco (including massive car park) being built, with plans for a housing development also in the pipeline. In an inspiring display of what a handful of people with one D-lock can do, work was stopped for the day by sandwich-eating locals in front of the gate and a couple of women who legged it in to the site to lock on to a dumper. Deliveries were turned away, more lorries queued up to leave the site, and workers were sent home. After negotiating with

the cops, a locker-on walked away, keeping her D-lock and avoiding arrest. An info stall was well received by shoppers – in a town with seven Tesco stores, people are starting to miss independent local shops. Construction is racing along fast, so if you want a slice of the action, you'd better get there soon. <http://titnore.wordpress.com>

One July night in Cambridge, a digger used in the construction of a Tesco on Mill Road was disabled. Eyewitnesses saw the digger being transported away after door locks and other parts had been glued.



## GM Round-Up: Ready?

GM foods are once again being pushed, this time using the food and climate crisis to guilt trip UK consumers into acceptance. The GM industry is claiming that GM foods are needed to feed the world and stop climate change. This is pure spin. For 20 years the industry has promised one miracle crop after another, but so far there are no crops that increase yields, or are resistant to salt, drought or heat. Almost 100% of crops grown worldwide are herbicide and pesticide resistant, and designed to tie farmers into a vicious cycle of corporate control.

This summer has seen mass protests in India against GM maize and rice; GM trees and fields ripped up in Germany and France; street protests in Spain; and hunger strikes in Poland (to mention just a few). From Paraguay to the Philip-

pinas farmers are risking their freedom to destroy the crops that threaten their livelihoods. They are making it clear that they are relying on the solidarity of European consumers to stop GM in its tracks.

In Paraguay GM soya is the cause of deforestation and environmental destruction on a massive scale, as well as major health impacts from pesticides and increased malnutrition. It has concentrated land ownership to a point where just 2% of landowners control 70% of the land. Over 100,000 small farmers have been evicted, and 100 people killed in conflicts over land. A journalist visiting the country in 2007 described the impact on communities: "The families, trees and birds are gone. The schools are empty. The air is filled with the toxic stench of the pesticides used to protect the soy crops."

The UK this year was yet again free from GM growing. Field trips by campaigners confirmed that no GM trials took place, even though both BASF and Leeds University had government approval for trialling GM potatoes at the same sites as last year. But GM is far from dead in this country – 60% of all maize and 30% of all soya fed to cows and pigs in the UK is imported GM feed. What's more, products from GM fed animals do not have to be labelled. Not content with this, the government is gearing up yet again to force us into accepting GM growing. So watch this space.

[www.bangmfood.org](http://www.bangmfood.org)

[www.gmcontaminationregister.org](http://www.gmcontaminationregister.org)

[www.gmfreeze.org](http://www.gmfreeze.org)

## Earth First! Winter Moot

6pm Fri 5th - Sun 7th Feb 2010  
North East England

A weekend of strategic discussions, networking and campaign planning for the ecological direct action movement.

This year's Moot will include discussions on the theme of "readying ourselves for unpredictability and instability in the UK and globally". The current and impending crises of economics, ecology, energy & society fundamentally alter the terrain of struggle – impacting both on the practice and possibilities for a radical ecological movement.

This year's Moot will be held in County Durham, an area with a large number of opencast coal mines, both active and at the application stage. The weekend will include opportunities to meet with activists involved locally in campaigns against these.

Cost including vegan food and crash pad accommodation: **£20-£30** (depending on what you can afford)

More info and venue details: [www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk](http://www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk)

Contact [wintermoot@earthfirst.org.uk](mailto:wintermoot@earthfirst.org.uk) with queries, access needs and offers of help.

# OLD KING COAL MEAT

**T**ime is running out for effective action against the forces behind climate chaos, and around the world, people are no longer content with lobbying politicians but rather are taking matters into their own hands – directly stopping machinery and coal trains, and shutting down power stations. In particular, smaller affinity-group-based ‘surprise’ actions are increasingly successful in forcing climate criminals to a standstill.

### Two stop Ffos-y-fran for day

Following the Climate Camp Cymru in August, two activists single-handedly stopped work at the controversial Ffos-y-fran opencast coalmine near Merthyr Tydfil on 23rd September. Suspended in a net over the entrance to the mine, one of them commented: “The endless pursuit of economic growth on a finite planet is the driving force behind climate change, and today’s action shows how effective ordinary people can be, with just two people bringing Wales’ biggest coalmine to a standstill.”

### Coal rail depot brought to standstill

On 5th October people from South of

the border came up for a blockade of Ravenstruther coal railhead, near Scotland’s Mainhill protest camp. This is where all the coal from local opencasts is loaded onto rail and taken south to Drax and Iron Bridge power stations. Ten people took part, with two people D-locked to the front gate and two more up a support strut of the three storey conveyor belt with a banner reading ‘No New Coal’. The blockade lasted nearly 7 hours, keeping coal lorries off the roads and cancelling three coal trains. 5 were arrested for Breach of the Peace but were in high spirits, having cost Scottish coal £180,000 and stopping the transport of 6380 tonnes of coal, equivalent to 11,675,400 kg CO<sub>2</sub> – not bad for a day’s work. The court date is set for 6th January. This was the second time the railhead was blockaded for the day. “All it took was a small bunch of up-for-it people and half a day’s preparation. It’s amazing how simple and effective this action was.”

### Peat-burning resisted

Irish climate campers succeeded in shutting down two peat burning power plants at Shannonbridge and Lanesborough. Shannonbridge was shut for the duration of the camp, and Lanesborough was shut down by a handful of activists locking themselves to the gates while another group dropped a banner from a building. Two were arrested. A third peat power plant in Edenderry had five women dropping a banner from the power station’s conveyor belt. On 18th August, 60 campaigners filled in drainage trenches to restore valuable peat bog destined for burning at the power plant. Ireland’s degraded peatlands release 0.97 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.

### Coal terminal closed

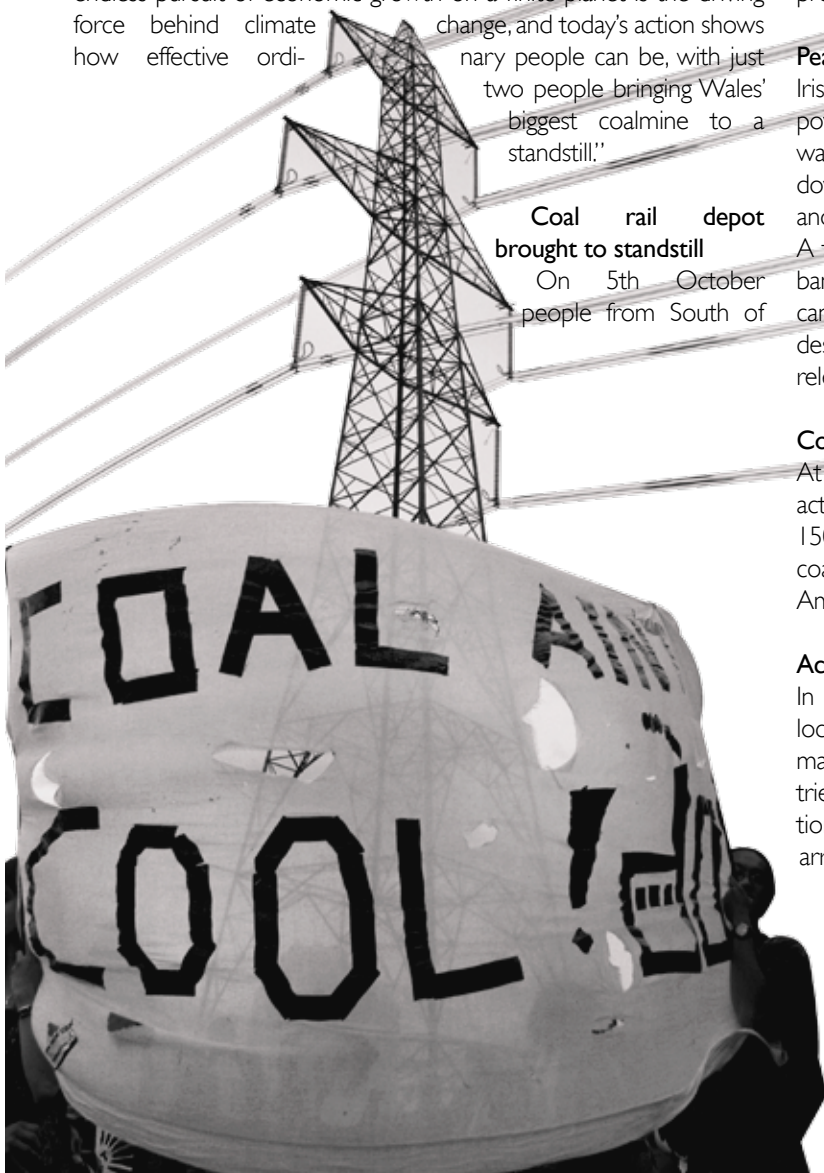
At the Netherlands/Belgium camp, more than 400 people took action against coal, the meat industry and nuclear power. Between 150 and 200 people succeeded in entering and shutting down a huge coal terminal in Antwerp, where coal arrives from Africa and South America before being distributed around Europe.

### Actions down under

In Australia, 4 people shut down the Dendrobium coal mine by locking onto a conveyor belt. Australia saw 3 climate camps, with many actions, including Switch Off Hazelwood, where 300 people tried to enter and shut down one of the world’s dirtiest power stations – 22 people managed to get over the fence and got promptly arrested.

### Practising for COP15

On 26th September, 1500 Danish activists tried to shut down a Copenhagen coal power plant. The action had been openly announced, with police gearing up for massive use of force and to trial new anti-protest laws. 100 of the protesters got inside, but the plant was kept running in breach of its own safety regulations. 100 people were arrested. [shutitdown.dk](http://shutitdown.dk)



# LET'S HIS MATCH

## Ratcliffe Swoop

English Climate Campers are set to attempt their own shut-down of Ratcliffe-on-Soar coal-fired power station. Back at the end of August, they spent a week skillsharing in a field in London. **See our Stop Press report on page 8.**

## Mainshill Madness

Coalition of campers and villagers resists open-cast coal

Scotland is fast developing into a hotspot in the battle to stop the expansion of new coal in the UK. It is here that the vast majority of new open cast sites is planned – 20 new open cast coal mines have already been granted planning permission.

Set up in June, the Mainshill Solidarity Camp in South Lanarkshire is directly resisting a new coal mine, but also providing a base for actions against surrounding coal infrastructure.

The camp is situated in the Douglas Valley, which over the past 20 years has seen intense coal mining by Scottish Coal, despite the overwhelming resistance of local people. Poniel, Broken Cross, Glentaggart, and Spieslack mines are all still working, with extensions planned. Dalquhandy was the largest open cast coal mine in Europe before closing down a few years ago.

## Lives blighted by coal mining

Living next to coal mines is no fun, as attested by the local people: endless trucks removing coal, the constant noise of blasting, high levels of coal dust and a countryside ripped to shreds. The handful of jobs are hardly worth it. A recent study on the health impacts of open cast mining also found a much higher incidence of heart and respiratory diseases in areas blighted by coal opencasts than in the general population. [coalhealthstudy.org](http://coalhealthstudy.org). In September, 90 Douglas residents attended a meeting on the health impacts of coal mining. It's no surprise then that when Scottish Coal applied for Mainshill, there were 650 letters of objection from the area, Douglas being a

town with 1000 people!

In the words of one of the campers: "It's places like Douglas where direct action can be at its most effective – rooted in community struggle. At Mainshill, the fight is against feudal land ownership and a fat-cat Lord, a corrupt Council, a mining company that stops at nothing for profit and a government that prioritises cheap coal over health and the environment."

## Direct Action

In August, the Mainshill camp hosted the Scottish Camp for Climate Action with over 100 people. Mid-week, a long conveyor belt was cut by an anonymous group, stopping the transport of coal from Glentaggart mine. Once stopped, the conveyor belt is difficult to restart, being heavily laden and several kilometres long. The action produced cheers from the camp, but disappointed locals, as they'd campaigned for the belt in order to reduce the number of trucks on the road. This sparked fruitful discussions between 'activists' and 'locals' about acceptable forms of action. Other actions included an afternoon of games on Lord Home's lawn; dumping of coal and a demonstration outside Lanarkshire council offices; and an attempted interview of the resident corrupt councillor – with his sons assaulting two Indymedia journalists.

Mid-September saw Scottish Coal return to Mainshill with a drilling rig and logging equipment. The contractors have now set up their own site south of the camp. Previous contractors had been uncomfortable with the safety implications of working heavy machinery on an occupied site, but new contractors Scottish Woodlands are racing ahead – felling trees only tens of metres from people and dwellings, and working throughout the night. Actions are intensifying in a bid to stop work. A drilling rig was climbed and occupied for a day. Logging machines have had their locks glued, stopping work for most of the day. Night time 'harvester diving' occurred, and we've just heard that on 13th October, loggers were kept off the site by a sky raft hung above the access road.

## Invite to visit

Campers are urging people to visit the camp and to take action: "Most of the expansion of British coal infrastructure is happening in Scotland. Even if just for a few hours, people are needed. You can go and stop work for the day, chop wood, build defences, or do the washing up. It is impossible to stress how fast the work on site is

happening, and how quickly the area is being devastated!"

You can visit the camp any time or get a bunch of people together to come up for their open weekend gathering, complete with practical protest workshops and actions, from **Sat 31st Oct – Mon 2nd Nov.**

A brochure of coal infrastructure targets in

Scotland is available from [www.coalactionscotland.noflag.org.uk/?page\\_id=10](http://www.coalactionscotland.noflag.org.uk/?page_id=10)

The camp is 1.5 miles from Douglas, near junction 12 of the M74.

Email: [mainshill@riseup.net](mailto:mainshill@riseup.net), Phone: 07806926040  
Travel directions and wish list: [mainshill.noflag.org.uk](http://mainshill.noflag.org.uk)



## Shell Shenanigans

The last few months have included difficult times but also great collaborations with activists from the local community, across Ireland and other countries. The Solitaire ship laid the first section of pipe, and dredgers are now back-filling the sea bed. Shell's private security firm IRMS continue to target and assault protestors. Earlier in the year, they sunk the boat of local fisherman Pat O'Donnell, one of the 'Rosspoint 5', and attacked Willie Corduff, another campaigner; both men were hospitalised. During September, there were 2 accidents involving Shell's boats, one causing an oil spill and another damaging a supply ship to the pipeline, making a mockery of their 'environmental risk assessments'. The ruling on compulsory purchase orders for land to lay the on-shore pipe section has been put back till the end of October. Resistance against

Shell's intimidation tactics and the impending environmental catastrophe continues. With several international anti-Shell campaigners recently remanded for a blockade and bailed away from Mayo, the solidarity camp is urging more people to come and take action against Shell! [rossportsolidaritycamp.110mb.com](http://rossportsolidaritycamp.110mb.com)

## Ready Steady Throw!

Climate activists dropped a 70 foot banner across Niagara Falls to protest the exploitation of dirty tar sands oil in Canada. The planned expansion of tar sand mining will strip-mine an area the size of Florida. Churning up ancient boreal forest, and with skyrocketing rates of cancer (by 400%) for indigenous First Nation people living downstream, the tar sands have been called the most destructive project on Earth. [ran.org](http://ran.org)

## Radio silence

Following years of health and environmental concerns, and after exhausting all legal channels, Earth Liberation Front activists tore down two radio station towers in Washington State. Opponents of the towers argue that AM radio waves cause adverse health effects such as cancers, harm wildlife and interfere with phone lines. Since its North American inception in 1996, the ELF has inflicted well over \$150 million in damages to corporations and government agencies. [elfpressoffice.org](http://elfpressoffice.org)

## Log-jam

Members of the Algonquins of Barriere Lake, Canada, are blocking the machines of Abitibi-Bowater forestry workers, preventing logging in their territory. The actions follow 3 years of waiting for Canada to acknowledge protected tribal lands and uphold previous agreements on sustainable development. [earthfirst.org.uk/actionreports/node/23070](http://earthfirst.org.uk/actionreports/node/23070)

## Wham Dam and thanks very much for the truck, ma'am

Ongoing resistance against hydroelectricity in the Maliset Reserve, Canada, so far lasting 150 years, continues with Tobique First Nation seizing the dam and a truck worth \$170,000; demands have been made for compensation for damages. Some gains have already been made, with the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs committed to funding the restoration of eroded riverbanks and the clean-up of waste dumped around the dam. [nbmediacoop.org](http://nbmediacoop.org)

RAN releases seventy-foot banner over Niagara Falls to welcome Prime Minister Stephen Harper to the U.S.

## Down in the Jungle

The twenty-year-long struggle against the destruction of Bornean rainforests by logging companies escalates; after some success to prevent the spread of logging earlier in the summer, many villages of the hunter-gatherer Penan tribe have now mounted new roadblocks, demanding an end to government-backed logging and palm-oil plantations and a recognition of land ownership rights. [survivalinternational.org](http://survivalinternational.org)

## Green Skyr hits industry bosses

Activists in Iceland are resisting the growth of the government-sponsored aluminium industry and the destruction of wild ecosystems. Direct actions this summer have included lock-ons to smelter plants' gates, throwing of green Skyr (an Icelandic dairy product), targeting the director of an energy company, banner drops and super-gluing door locks of government ministries and construction companies. Clashes with police resulted in violence towards protesters, false media allegations of retaliation and further demonstrations outside police stations. Actions are taken in solidarity with people losing their lives and/or livelihoods through cultural genocide caused by bauxite mining and alumina refining elsewhere in the world. [savingiceland.org](http://savingiceland.org)

## Seeds of Resistance

Gardeners fed up with their unsustainable city took part in a "Permablitz™" in central Auckland. 20 gardeners appropriated neglected public land for community benefit, digging up grass, planting vegetables and various fruit trees. For a UK example of amazing yummy guerilla-permission planting: [incredible-todmorden.co.uk](http://incredible-todmorden.co.uk)



**EF! Contacts**

**EF! Gathering Collective**  
earthfirstgathering.org.uk  
summergathering@earthfirst.org.uk

**EF! Action Update Collective**  
earthfirst.org.uk/efau  
actionupdate@earthfirst.org.uk

**Bath Activist Network**  
PO Box 426, Bath BA1 2ZD, 07949  
611912 bathactivistnet@yahoo.co.uk

**Derby EF!**  
derby@earthfirst.org.uk 07852 460871

**Lancaster EF!**  
The Basement, 78a Penny St,  
Lancaster LA1 1XN lancasterbasement@aktivix.org

**Leeds EF!**  
leeds@earthfirst.org.uk

**Manchester Climate Action**  
manchester@climatecamp.org.uk

**Norfolk & Waveney EF!**  
PO box 487, Norwich NR5 8WE  
norfolk@earthfirst.org.uk,

**Nottingham EF!**  
245 Gladstone Street, Nottingham  
NG7 6HX notts@earthfirst.org.uk

**Preston EF!**  
preston@earthfirst.org.uk

**Scotland EF!**  
scotland@earthfirst.org.uk

**Thames Valley Climate Action**  
oxford@climatecamp.org.uk

**West Wales EF!**  
westwales@earthfirst.org.uk

**Worthing Eco-Action**  
PO Box 4144 Worthing BN14  
7NZ worthing@eco-action.org

**Kernow Action Now!**  
kernowaction@gmail.com

**Networks**

**Coal Action Network**  
coalaction.net

**Genetic Engineering Network**  
geneticsaction.org.uk  
(website out of date)

**Network for Climate Action**  
networkforclimateaction.org.uk

**Plane Stupid**  
planestupid.com

**Rising Tide UK**  
62 Fieldgate Street, London, E1 1ES  
risingtide.org.uk  
07708 794665

**Saving Iceland**  
savingiceland.org

**Support**

**Activists Legal Project**  
activistslegalproject.org.uk

**Activist Mediation Network**  
activistmediation.org.uk

**Activist Security website**  
activistsecurity.org

**Advisory Service for Squatters**  
020 3216 0099  
squatter.org.uk

**Activist Tat Collective**  
atcoop.org.uk

**Activist Trauma Support**  
activist-trauma.net 07962 406940

**Earth Liberation Prisoners**  
Prisoner support  
spiritoffreedom.org.uk

**FreeBeagles**  
Activist legal stuff  
freebeagles.org

**Indymedia UK**  
For (non-eco) news & views  
indymedia.org.uk

**Schnews**  
Free weekly news sheet and  
website. schnews.org.uk

**Seeds for Change**  
Action training. seedsforchange.org.uk

**Tripod Training for creative social action**  
tripodtraining.org

**UK Action Medics**  
actionmedics.org.uk

**Protest Camps**

**Bilston Woods Anti-Bypass Camp**  
c/o ACE, 17 West Montgomery  
Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA  
0775 3280009  
bilstonglen-abs.org.uk  
Occupied since 2002 to  
block road building & a new  
biotech research facility.

**Faslane Peace Camp**  
Shandon, Nr Rhu, Helens-  
burgh, Scotland G84 8NT  
01436 820901  
Opposing nuclear weapons  
since 1982 at Faslane Naval  
Base, 30 miles from Glasgow.

**Mainshill Solidarity Camp**  
Nr Douglas, Lanarkshire, SW Scotland  
coalactionscotland.noflag.org.uk/  
07806926040  
Occupied since summer 09, pre-  
venting an open cast coal mine.

**Titnore Emergency Action (TEA)**  
Box 4144, Worthing, West Sussex  
07913 534083  
eco-action.org/porkbol-  
ter/camp-titnore...  
Camp opposing road building, a  
Tesco Hypermarket and a housing  
/commercial development

**Global Contacts**

See earthfirst.org.uk for EF! groups in  
North America, Mexico, Australia, Phil-  
ippines, Nigeria, Slovakia, Czech Repub-  
lic, Italy, Poland, Netherlands, & Belgium.

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**Night time exploits**

In September, unknown people sabotaged three vehicles at a Somerset site constructing unaffordable housing. Electronic cables were cut, making the machines unusable. A LandRover dealership in West Hertfordshire had tires anonymously slashed on a number of luxury cars in mid October.

**Can I have a sub?**

In August, 5 Trident Ploughshares activists walked straight into Faslane naval base, making a mockery of security. [tridentploughshares.org](http://tridentploughshares.org)

**Rushing it**

In September the Climate Rush staged a one month tour of south west England, visiting local landmarks such as Oxford

Airport, where two protesters clambered under a hedge and jumped over a fence to access the runway. [climaterush.co.uk](http://climaterush.co.uk)

**Dicey goings-on**

In the run-up to the DSEi arms fair, activists glued up the locks of a Royal Bank of Scotland branch in Somerset. RBS is one of the largest investors in, and profiteers of, environmental destruction and the international arms trade. Meanwhile in Cambridge, protesters paid a visit to the offices of DSEi exhibitor Mott MacDonald, unfurled a banner and talked to the manager about the arms trade. [dsei.org](http://dsei.org)

**Calais misery**

Around 2000 migrants living in Calais are under threat of eviction and deportation. Activists, locals and migrants are working to oppose police brutality, deportations and the destruction



Migrants cross train tracks near a makeshift camp known as 'the Jungle', before its demolition by French police in September

of the camps. [noborders.org.uk](http://noborders.org.uk)

**Up the recession and down with climate criminals**

Climate campaigners this month had lots to celebrate. First e.on decided to delay its planning application for Kingsnorth coal power station by at least 2-3 years – apparently due to stiff opposition from a broad coalition and falling energy demands

caused by the recession. BAA followed suit, delaying their planning application for a third runway until after the general election. Then Dong pulled out of plans for a new coal power station at Hunterston. There's also the rejection of proposed agrofuel power stations in Portland, Dorset and Southall, Ealing. So direct action works – especially when it coincides with an uncertain economic climate. Time to ramp up the pressure on climate criminals everywhere?

## And now... the sports section

Campaigners against a £1bn golf resort planned in Aberdeenshire have 'decorated' statues in major Scottish cities with golf clubs and masks of Donald Trump, the American tycoon responsible for the scheme.  
[trumpstatues.wordpress.com](http://trumpstatues.wordpress.com)

## The day of the swoop

As we go to press around 1000 climate activists have been attempting to shut down

Protestors, ready to swoop, in the woods outside the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station.



Ratcliffe-on-Soar coal power station in Nottingham. There are many reports of repeated and passionate fence dismantling using bolt cutters, grappling hooks, ropes, fencing used as ladders, climbing, jumping, pulling and pushing. A group of ninja-styled cyclists pounced to take down the fence at different points. Despite a large police presence and two fences, a number of people managed to enter the area of the power station including the coal pile, but were swiftly arrested before being able to take further action. There were over 52 arrests, most on a

charge of conspiracy to commit aggravated trespass. Ratcliffe-on-Soar first hit headlines in spring 2007, when 10 climate activists walked into the power station and shut it down for the day by locking on to machinery.  
[www.climate-swoop.appspot.com](http://www.climate-swoop.appspot.com)

## Wrekin it

Just this month the Secretary of State gave the green light for yet another open cast coal mine at Telford & Wrekin – brushing aside widespread local opposition. Local campaigners are asking people around the country to help them stop this mine. Contact: [wrekin-stopwar@lists.riseup.net](mailto:wrekin-stopwar@lists.riseup.net)

## Target Brimar

On 5th October, citizen weapons inspectors entered the Manchester premises of weapons manufacturer Brimar. This action launched a new campaign against the company, which makes vital components for Apache helicopters, used by the Israeli military in Palestine

## Smash NATO! Crash their party!

Mass demo: Edinburgh, 13th November. Or form your own plan and make it happen. NATO meeting from 13th – 17th. Info and convergence space: [natowc.noflag.org.uk](http://natowc.noflag.org.uk).

## Get out yer D-locks

On Monday the 15th February 2010, there will be a big blockade of Aldermaston where the UK's new generation of nuclear weapons are being built.  
[blockawe.blogspot.com](http://blockawe.blogspot.com)

and Lebanon, the US Marines in Iraq and British and US forces in Afghanistan. [targetbrimar.org.uk](http://targetbrimar.org.uk)

## Hatfield saga continues

In Hatfield Moor near Doncaster, a community campaign has been launched against plans for underground gas storage. They held a demonstration in early October and are calling for support. [earthfirst.org.uk/actionreports/node/23195](http://earthfirst.org.uk/actionreports/node/23195)

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## About Earth First!

Earth First! is about direct action to halt the destruction of the Earth. We believe we can make a real difference by doing it ourselves rather than relying on leaders, governments or industry. We're a loose network of people, groups and campaigns coming together for ecological direct action and we believe in non-hierarchical organisation.

The name Earth First! is a banner for anyone who shares a similar philosophy to work under:

In the UK people have been taking direct action using the Earth First! name since the early 90s – stopping road building, the quarrying of coal, rock and peat, freeing our fields of geneti-

cally modified crops, protesting against climate criminals, fighting corporate power and much, much more.

**If you believe action speaks louder than words, then Earth First! is for you.**

### The Earth First! Action Update

brings you a quarterly collection of news and updates on ecological direct action from the UK and beyond. You can pick up copies from your local social centre, or even better: subscribe and get it direct. The next issue will be out in January, so if you've got news to share send us your articles (150 words max.), [actionupdate@earthfirst.org.uk](mailto:actionupdate@earthfirst.org.uk), mail to the address below or post straight onto our [website: earthfirst.org.uk](http://www.earthfirst.org.uk)

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