

Earth First!

November 2007

Action



Update

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

Royal Bank of Scotland Climate Protests



On 15th October, over 32 actions took place against the Royal Bank of Scotland, a major backer of the aviation industry and the world's self-described 'Oil and Gas Bank'.

From Edinburgh to Cornwall, blockades, sabotage and street theatre targeted headquarters and local branches. There were too many actions to list here, so we've picked just a few: in Bristol homeless polar bears locked-on using suitcases filled with concrete. The 6½ hour blockade prevented vehicles from entering the RBS corporate office where over 500 staff work. In London RBS HQ

saw a roof top protest and roving pranksters left signs reading 'This Company is Out of Order' on 15 RBS and Natwest cash machines.

In Manchester banners read 'Climate Change: RBS Makes It Happen' and 'No Pipeline! Green Energy Not Gas'.

In Norwich a branch and offices were locked shut overnight and prevented from opening whilst

activists leafleted waiting staff and customers.

A Birmingham NatWest branch was flooded by thirty students, some dressed in boiler suits and carrying oil pipelines, others dressed as bankers.

In Aberystwyth climate refugees queued outside a branch to beg for a home loan.

The main Cardiff branch was closed for 3 hours after 20 activists entered the building and caused disruption.

Students did protest performance trying to 'open accounts' in St. Andrew's town centre, a travelling bard treated passengers on the RBS sponsored

Heathrow Express train to a song and a rant, activists gave 'pollution awards' to Edinburgh RBS branches, a group of 5 held a demo in Leamington, cash-points were stickered with anti-RBS stickers in Leicester and leaflets were stuck on lamp posts in Altrincham!

For more action reports and photos visit www.risingtide.org.uk

Bio-fury

BP Executive pied as Europe's largest BioFuels event disrupted:

On the morning of 17 October 15 climate change activists from protest group Food Not Fuel entered the BioFuel Expo & Conference taking place at the Newark Showground and took over the keynote speech. Oliver Mace, CEO of BP Fuels, the lead sponsors of the event received a vegan cream pie in the face. Another campaigner was D-locked to the podium and various alarms were placed around the room. The hall was emptied and talks were cancelled. There were no arrests, though some returned later to gatecrash the press briefing.

This action was followed by a second wave of protest as Biofuels Watch turned up with large banners and leaflets in the afternoon – much to the consternation of the conference organisers.

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The 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. Just send us the subscription slip from the back of this newsletter together with a donation. Or to get an electronic version (PDF file) for printing and distributing yourself email us at actionupdate@earthfirst.org.uk

This time we've not included a contacts list, but we'd like to next time. So drop us a line by 10 January if you'd like your group's details included.

The next issue will be out in February, so if you've got news to share about your campaigns and actions send us your articles (150 words maximum) to actionupdate@earthfirst.org.uk or post them straight onto our website: www.earthfirst.org.uk.



Oliver Mace, CEO of BP Fuels, just pied

www.earthfirst.org.uk

News In Brief

Critical Mass

There are currently Critical Mass bike rides in many major cities. For more details check www.urban75.com/Action/critical.html

First Glossop Critical Mass

Road Alert Glossop held Glossop's first Critical Mass on 14 Sept in opposition to the proposed Mottram-Tintwistle bypass.



Protest saves tree - for now

On 31 July Manchester residents on their way to work climbed into the branches of a 100-year-old tree and won it a temporary reprieve from being chopped down.

Enough -no supermarket

Lancaster residents occupied land being sold off to a supermarket on 8 Oct. Angry at sneaky deals being struck with developers they held the land for 24 hours before protesting outside a council meeting.

Shell oil plans halted

21 July, Alaska: Shell plans to drill exploratory oil wells in the Beaufort Sea were halted by the US Court of Appeals. The proposed wells were sited in the middle of the bowhead whale migration corridor.

14 Sept: a federal court denied Shell's request to lift an order blocking the company's Arctic Ocean drilling. www.pacificenvironment.org

Pipeline plans shelved

Plans to build a gas pipeline through the Amazon rainforest, from the Caribbean to Brazil have "cooled off" after local protests were backed by 75,765 protest emails.

www.rainforestportal.org

Bank pulls funding

The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) pulled funding for the \$20-plus billion Sakhalin-2 liquefied natural gas project in Russia in favour of funding more sustainable projects.

www.pacificenvironment.org

Food or fuel? (Bio-fury contd.)

The conference promoted biofuels as *the* sustainable solution to the energy crisis and climate change. The activists sent the message that large-scale biofuels are greenwash and companies such as BP are ignoring its negative impacts on the environment. 'Biofuels are not providing the solution to our climate crisis. The only solution to climate change is an end to economic growth and a drastic reduction in energy use.'

Agrofuels (fuels produced from intensively grown crops such as soya and corn) result in the deforestation of tropical rainforests and burning of peatlands which massively increase carbon in the atmosphere. When the energy used to grow and produce the fuels are included in the balance, they use more energy than oil based fuels. Agrofuels also cause food insecurity by reducing land available to grow food and increasing food prices, resulting in large scale land dispossession in Africa, Asia and South America. Food or fuel? Surely no contest?!

Blockade of D1 Oils

18 October: protesters from No Agrofuels UK blockaded D1 oils refinery and offices to raise awareness of the detrimental impact of agrofuels. The protest was timed to coincide with the national Biofuels Conference in Newark. 18 protesters chained the 3 gates to the refinery shut and 2 protesters D-locked themselves to the gates. No vehicles were able to enter or leave the site and all work appeared to have been stopped. Banners were tied over the gates reading "No Agrofuels", "Land 4 People", and "Climate Change Profiteers".

More info: www.biofuelwatch.org.uk

Free Burma Protests

Protests all over the country have targeted Total Oil to highlight the company's role in propping up one of the world's most brutal regimes and to call on Total to stop funding the Burmese junta. Total is in a joint venture with the Burmese dictatorship in the Yadana gas project, which earns the regime hundreds of millions of dollars every



year. Aung Sun Suu Kyi, the elected leader of the Burmese government under house arrest, said: "Total has become the main supporter of the military regime". Total's operations have reportedly been marked by human rights abuses including forced labour.

Die-ins and blockades in London

London saw several die-ins and demos outside Total's offices informing office workers on what Total is really up to.

On 17 Oct workers were confronted with a "dead" body in a body bag, along with banners, placards and leaflets.



On 16 Oct 3 activists succeeded in shutting down a busy Total garage at Marylebone St by turning off the power, d-locking hoses and locking themselves together. On 18 Oct the garage was shut again, while a protest was held outside.

Total blockade in Bradford

On 2 Oct both entrances to the forecourt of Bradford Total garage were blocked for 1½ hours. Holding a banner reading 'Totalitarian Oil - Fuelling Oppression in Burma', they leafleted and spoke to passers-by and motorists.

Most drivers were supportive and chose not to try and cross the blockade. www.bradfordcampaigners.co.nr

Oxford

Also on 2 Oct activists in Oxford tried to block access at a Total garage but were moved to one side by cops. A large banner sent out a clear message about Total's support of the Burmese junta and many drivers changed their minds about buying from Total. On 6 Oct a Total garage was blockaded successfully.

Cardiff

Garages were blockaded and shut down for 3hours on 10 Oct and again for 2hours on 14 Oct.

For more action reports see

www.totaloutofburma.blogspot.com

Domestic Flights Blocked in Manchester



Passengers trying to check in for domestic flights at Manchester Airport on 8 October were blocked by seven people with lock-ons. The would-be fliers also received leaflets about climate change and rail timetables.

Banners reading 'Manchester City Council...supporting climate chaos' and 'Domestic flights cost the Earth' highlighted the hypocrisy of the Council's 'Green City' initiative while they own 55% of Manchester airport. No arrests were made.

Busy in Bristol

In August and September golf courses, a mobile phone mast, a goods railway and 4x4s have been hit in Bristol.

Parts of 3 golf courses were dug up and the message 'Decadent waste of water' sprayed near one of the club houses. A mobile phone mast was sabotaged.

A non-passenger railway line that transports cars and fossil fuel to the Midlands was also sabotaged. The track was cut three quarters of the way through in two places and marked with high visibility paint. A warning banner reading: 'Stop: Trees on line' was fixed across the line and a pile of wood was placed across the line next to the damaged part.

Over the last 6 months forty 4x4s in Bristol have had both front tyres punctured. A 'corporate entertainment' company called 4-Play, which provides off-road driving for 4x4s in the South West, had vehicles spray painted '4-Play - blow-job the planet'.

Irony Dies in Yorkshire

Morons from the Regional Development Agency, Yorkshire Forward put on a 'flood summit' to 'learn lessons from the

floods' on 3 September and decided the best place to hold it was... at an airport. The 'summit' was attended by prominent climate criminals such as the Secretary of State for Business and the Minister for Competitiveness.

Meanwhile people gathered outside to leaflet participants and discuss the real issues and causes of flooding, including aviation.

Brecon The Law

24 August saw the Brecon Beacons gas pipeline works sabotaged during a night of covert action. It's the latest effort in the campaign to fight the building of a high pressure gas pipeline across southern Wales. A small crew bypassed security and, equipped with just a wrecking bar, immobilised eleven earth working machines including tippers and excavators, and the pipeline itself. Protesters say they badly damaged engines and hydraulics on the machines. www.fightthepipe.co.uk

Dawn Raid on Coal Power Plant

On 8 October Greenpeace campaigners entered Kingsnorth power plant which could be the site of Britain's first new coal-fired station for 20 years. Some chained themselves to coal conveyor belts while others loaded up with provisions and started to scale the smoke stack. They aimed to take the plant off the Grid and called on the government to reject the proposals for the site.

Sowing the Seeds of Resistance in Reading

On 17 Sept Cow Lane allotment holders in Reading began action against plans to bulldoze the site to make way for a new road. When surveyors arrived to gather information for the new road design, allotment holders quickly mobilised to greet and dismiss the surveyors. One landscape architect then turned up but was also quickly dismissed.

Allotment holders put a banner over the entrance and handed out 500 leaflets to motorists. The group also made it clear that they will fight to save their allotments, and that companies involved would not be immune from action. www.cowlane.org.uk

News in Brief

Mystery callers at quarry

Unknown saboteurs paid a visit to Barnstable quarry aggregate industries. All electric cables in the building were cut, a truck and offices damaged and 'Earth First!' written across a whiteboard.

Spirit of Freedom Newsletter

August edition now out - produced by the Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, it contains contact details for activists imprisoned around the world.

www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk

Toolkit for Climate Action

Get your free copy from contact@networkforclimateaction.org.uk or view online at www.networkforclimateaction.org.uk

The toolkit hopes to inspire action and contains heaps of resources: ideas for action, facts and science, fliers, graphics, contacts, and more.

Camberwell squat evicted

The Camberwell Squatted Centre was unexpectedly evicted at 4.30am on 30 August. Bailiffs and cops climbed through a window and surprised the occupants.

Residents got a few hours to move out and managed to rescue almost all the gear in the building.

Free cake in Oxford

On 10 and 15 September people in Oxford set up 'Costa Nothing' outside a Costa coffee shop. They handed out free tea, coffee and cakes and 'Gentrification is crap' leaflets. Thinking of making this a regular event, the group are asking for anyone interested in getting involved to email dizzydaisy@riseup.net

EDO house visit

18 Sept - Paul Hills is Managing director of EDO MBM - a Brighton based arms company. Posters were put up around his house informing his neighbours of his complicity in mass murder in Iraq and Afghanistan and to call the police if they see him.

Early morning raid at squat

16 Oct 4am: police illegally evicted squatters from a new squat on Franklin road, Brighton.

Earth First! website www.earthfirst.org.uk

Read and post your action reports! Plus links and image galleries.

International News

Australia: Coal Power Station Shut Down

On 3 September activists shut down power generation at the Loy Yang power station in Victoria for five hours as a protest against inaction on climate change by the Australian Government.

Activists from Real Action on Climate Change entered the power station at 5am and locked themselves on to a coal conveyor and an overburden conveyor belt. This forced the shut-down of the 600MW generator, halving production from

Victoria's biggest coal fired power station. Loy Yang supplies 30% of the state's power. The electricity price in Victoria rose to \$63/MWh because of the action and is expected to cost the operators thousands of dollars in lost production. Police Search and Rescue squad were forced to cut the activists free from the conveyor belts.

This action came just one day after Greenpeace activists painted 'Australia Pushing Export Coal' on the side of a coal ship at Newcastle near Sidney. This is the world's largest coal port and set for major expansion to double its capacity.

The protests came at the start of the 2007 APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) meeting being hosted by Australian Prime Minister John Howard. www.realactiononclimatechange.blogspot.com

Strike-Bike

A bicycle factory in Nordhausen, Germany has been occupied by 135 of its workers since 1 July,

and is now run collectively and without bosses. Bought by asset strippers in December 2006, it was due to be shut down with production moved overseas.

The workers are now manufacturing their own 'strike-bike'. After a call-out for solidarity they have been overwhelmed with orders, enough to keep them in business for quite some time.

www.strike-bike.de



Norwegian Whaler Scuttled

Svolvaer, Lofoten Islands: on the evening of 30 August unknown persons sank the Willassen Senior - an outlaw Norwegian whaling vessel. An undercover video of a Norwegian whale hunt, taken in May 2005, shows how the now sunken whaling ship pursued a piked (minke) whale in choppy conditions. The whale was harpooned and subsequently riddled with bullets from a high-powered rifle. It spent 15 minutes diving, resurfacing, and rolling about on the surface in extreme agony before it finally succumbed to the attack and died.

The Willassen Senior is the fifth Norwegian vessel to come under attack for illegal whaling activities since 1992. The list to date includes: the Nybraena - scuttled dockside in 1992 (Lofoten Islands); the Senet - Scuttled dockside in 1994 (Fredricksberg, Norway); the Elin-Toril - Severely damaged in 1997; the Morild - Sunk in 1998.

www.seashepherd.org

Global Actions Against Heavy Industry

On 12 September people in South Africa, Iceland, Trinidad, Denmark and Australia co-ordinated protests against heavy industrialisation. The protests focused on the aluminium industry - especially Alcan/Rio Tinto and Alcoa. In South Africa, 250 people marched on Alcan's headquarters and blocked the

entrance for 1½ hours, protesting against Alcan's easy access to electricity while 30% of South Africans have no access to electricity at all.

In Iceland people protested outside government offices and gathered along the next proposed dam route. Later the Icelandic Minister for the Environment was visited at her home and politely asked to 'stop talking shit on green issues.'

In Denmark a demo was held outside the Icelandic embassy and Australian residents continued to fight Alcoa's mining plans through the courts.

www.savingiceland.org

Mung beans vs. 4x4s

Bands of people calling themselves The Indians of the Concrete Jungle are targeting the tyres of 4x4s across Sweden. Armed with mung beans and gravel the group has deflated the tyres of over 1000 4x4s since June.

Despite the fury of 4x4 owners, the group has generally got a positive response and only one Indian has been caught so far.

To disarm the 4x4s the cap of the tyre's valve is unscrewed, a mung bean or a grain of gravel is inserted, and the valve is screwed back on the tyre. The bean or gravel pushes down the peg in the middle of the valve, gently releasing the air. The whole manoeuvre takes about 10 seconds, after which follows the long sound of the air gushing out. A letter explaining the action to the owner is left on the windscreen.

A copy of the letter to 4x4 owners as well as action reports are available in English on the web log. The Indians hope that repeated deflation will develop from a slight annoyance into a real obstacle for driving 4x4s.

<http://asfaltsdjungleinsindianer.wordpress.com>

Swedish Climax

Newly formed climate activist network *Climax* has been busy targeting climate criminals in Sweden. In a series of blockades in spring and summer traffic was stopped on the runway of Stockholm airport, on a major road bridge and on a central road in Stockholm city centre. Another action saw the entrance of a travel agency

blocked with sand – highlighting the effects of global warming in South Africa. Sweden's major newspaper found its greenwash tactics exposed as activists unloaded coal outside their entrance and proceeded to sweep it under a carpet. The paper promotes carbon offsetting as a solution to climate change. www.klimatet.org (in Swedish)

GM Crop Trashing

17 August: Movimento Verde Eufemia targeted the first genetically modified crop in the Algarve region of Portugal. Mowers destroyed 1 hectare of the 50 hectare genetically modified corn field in less than 20 minutes. On arrival of the police the mowers dispersed into the parade on the road, leaving the cops unable to do anything except direct traffic. <http://eufemia.ecobytes.net>

Having it!

Across Germany night time gardeners have destroyed dozens of large scale GM fields this summer, including GM barley, potatoes and maize. An agricultural research station had its windows broken and was attacked with chemicals. A mass action saw hundreds of people converge for a weekend of action training and affinity group forming, followed by a public rally and march past several fields of illegally planted Monsanto GM maize. Over 50 crop trashers jumped through police lines and disappeared into the fields. In the largest field (69 hectares) busy gardeners managed to destroy 5 hectares within a couple of hours. GM maize cobs were secured for future court cases against Monsanto's illegal plantings. 62 people were arrested on the day – campaigners plan to turn the court cases into a big public debate on GM. www.gendreck-weg.de



Angry bee-keeper secures GM evidence

Rosspport Shell to Sea

Despite eviction threats against the Rosspport Solidarity Camp, Ireland the campaign against Shell's plans for a gas pipeline and refinery carries on.

14 September saw protests in Leeds, London, Bristol, Reading and Madrid, whilst in Rosspport itself over 150 people occupied the refinery site.

The solidarity camp that has been providing a base for activists has now been served with a notice to quit by Mayo County Council. The camp has been flooded with friendly offers of help and several houses are being repaired ready for moving into. The camp will be dismantled over winter, but actions will continue.

Meanwhile on 3 August a group of campaigners from Norfolk paid a visit to Shell's processing plant at Bacton to show their solidarity with Rosspport.

Saving Iceland

Saving Iceland is an international campaign to prevent Iceland's wilderness from being turned into a series of monolithic power stations to power aluminium smelters - one of the most polluting, energy intensive industries in the world.

After a busy summer of actions the Saving Iceland protest camp has now been wound up. Actions are however continuing, for details check the website. 24 July: protesters closed access to RioTinto's smelter in South-West Iceland, by using arm-tubes and climbing onto cranes on the smelter site. The blockade was in opposition to the expansion of aluminium smelters in the region.

26 July: blockades close two roads to Hellisheidi Power Station. Activists locked on to vehicles and one climbed a crane and unfurled a gigantic banner: 'Stop producing energy for weapons'.

30 July: ELF saboteurs struck at Smurfit Kappa, a plastics factory owned by Rio Tinto Alcan in Chelmsford, Essex. The gates were locked shut, office doors and loading bays sabotaged with glue and a message left painted on the wall. Vehicles were sabotaged.

www.savingiceland.org

Convergence for Climate Action, USA.

Just prior to the UK Camp for Climate Action, Rising Tide North America hosted two Climate Convergences.

Over 400 people gathered for the West Coast Convergence for Climate Action in Washington. There were 100 workshops

and two days of direct action including a lock down in front of the PacifiCorp building in Portland, to demand that the company shut down the four dams it operates on the Klamath river and stop developing coal fired power plants.

At the South East Convergence for Climate Action in Asheville, activists took direct action against Bank of America regarding their many investments in climate injustice. They locked-on and blockaded the entrance. www.risingtidenorthamerica.org

Digger Diving at Tara



A campaign to stop the proposed M3 motorway in Ireland is gathering momentum. The M3 route cuts through the Tara valley, heart of Ireland's ancient heritage. In June the EU told Ireland to stop construction and is now taking the Irish government to court. Meanwhile a small but strong protest camp has been the starting point for plenty of direct action to stop illegal construction work.

August and September saw a series of route walks attended by up to 30 people. Work was stopped by people repeatedly occupying construction machinery and blocking access to historical sites.

The camp needs food, financial and moral support, plus equipment such as tarps and mobile phones. They would desperately like to see more people and supplies on site

Route walk and Digger Diving

Every Monday at Rath Lugh camp 10am.

How to get there

Transport Links £16 National Express to Dublin or £26 Rail and sail from Euston London. Then €7 Bus to Tara Cross 20-25 minutes walk from Tara Vigil camp. Vigil Camp 00353(0) 861758557, Rath Lugh Action camp 00353(0) 867372983 www.tarapixie.net, www.savetara.com

Camp for Climate Action

Camping at Heathrow

For the second year running the Camp for Climate Action brought together a burgeoning network of people wanting to tackle the root causes of climate change. Over 1500 people came to the camp for 10 days of low-impact living, education, networking, strategising, and direct action. The 2007 camp was near Heathrow Airport and highlighted the lunacy of the government's airport expansion plans, targeted industry giants profiting from the climate crisis, and raised awareness of the need to fly less. For info and contacts for getting involved in climate action:
www.climatecamp.org.uk
www.networkforclimateaction.org.uk
www.risingtide.org.uk

Action Round-up

Banner drops in Oxford and Edinburgh

28 July: Oxford climate activists dropped a banner from Carfax Tower promoting the Camp for Climate Action. 25 people handed out flyers for the camp and built an ark to accommodate the earth's 7 billion people.

3 Aug: Edinburgh activists dropped a 16 metre long banner from the Crags to promote the Climate Camp. The banner read 'This planet has no emergency exits'

Sleazy-Jet and Fry-in-air

10 Aug: a spoof demo at Bristol Airport attracted lots of media attention and public support as Sleazy-jet and Fry-in-air dropped by.

Winging it

13 Aug: Activists set up a climate camp on the wing of an Airbus A380 on its way to be assembled in France, pledging to stay until government ministers come up with a 'safe' aviation policy.

The Four Horsemen

14 Aug: four drivers from Meltdown Chauffeur Agency waited patiently for their clients at Heathrow's Arrivals gate. The clients didn't turn up, presumably they were delayed - but their arrival is inevitable. Mrs D. Eath, Mr. F. A. Mine, Mr. P. E. Stilence, and Mrs. War.

Gorilla spotted at Bristol airport

15 Aug: an endangered gorilla was

spotted outside Bristol airport on top of the Monument to Progress. The clearly agitated creature was attempting to swat planes out of the sky as some sort of protest against climate chaos.

Hoax march

15 Aug: 80 people went to support a local demo against airport expansion. This turned out to be a police set-up as they were promptly kettled and taken to near the airport.

Private jets blockaded

16 Aug: Farnborough and Biggin Hill airports, both exclusively used by private executive jets, were blockaded by two teams of climate activists in disgust at the obscenity of the super-rich using planes as a taxi service.

Clown walk-about

16 Aug: clowns went walk-about with a wheelie bin. Don't ask why!

Department for Transport



17 Aug: activists superglued themselves to the front doors of the Department for Transport's London headquarters. A tourist spontaneously joined the protest by glueing himself to the doors too.

Travel agencies closed

17 Aug: the doors of six London travel agencies were chained shut and plastered with signs saying 'Closed, gone to the Climate Camp.'

XL airlines blockaded

17 Aug: ten people occupied the office of private charter company XL, which has a contract with the Home Office to deport rejected asylum seekers, exposing the connection between climate change and forced migration. The company has now stopped doing deportation flights!

Kids' blockade

18 Aug: children and their parents blockaded the World Freight Centre at

Heathrow in protest at the damage to the climate caused by unnecessarily flying food around the world.

Carmel Agrexco protest

18 Aug: 60 people occupied Carmel Agrexco's Heathrow warehouse in Hayes, where produce is air freighted in from territories occupied by Israel, highlighting the issues of food miles and the unjust and unlawful distribution of natural resources in the Middle East.

Solidarity with Nippon workers

18 Aug: Campers join picket in support of strike down the road at Nippon Express, where workers were fighting against a new work regime and pay cuts.

24 hours of action: 19-20 Aug

Kids and parents marched together with local residents to Sipson Village, along with RinkyDink Sound system, a funeral procession and a 'monstrous plane' figure. Later on people marked out the boundary of the proposed third runway.

At Sizewell A and B nuclear power stations five protesters stopped traffic with a concrete lock-on. A banner read: 'Nuclear power is not the answer to climate chaos.'

BP's essential role in the aviation industry was highlighted when twelve protesters superglued themselves to the entrance at BP headquarters.

Lord Soley, chairman of the Heathrow Forward campaign, was visited by a battalion of clowns who marked out the site of the Fourth Runway in his garden. Five 'drowned' figures floated in Trafalgar Square fountains to highlight the link between flying and climate chaos.

Meanwhile in Oxford protesters dressed as red herrings occupied Climate Care, a Carbon offset company, highlighting that carbon offsets are an ineffective con.

At the same time the office of the Carbon Neutral Company in London was leafleted by 10 people.





Eighteen protesters occupied the London office of the owners of Leeds airport, Bridgepoint Capital to protest against expansion plans.

BAA headquarters were blockaded overnight by hundreds of people. When protesters arrived at BAA on Sunday afternoon the police responded by sending in the riot squad. Despite this people settled in for a night on BAA's car park with shelters and wheelbarrow full of treats. BAA bosses didn't take any chances and left the offices closed on the next day.



Late on Sunday evening, the perishable food section of the BA World Cargo depot was blockaded for about four and a half hours by eight protesters locked to each other. This caused not only a huge queue of lorries loaded with exotic frozen foods, but also helped to draw away a large number of cops from the BAA headquarters stand-off.

Solidarity actions took place around the country including banner drops in Cardiff and Tyneside as well as leafleting at Norwich Airport, in Lancaster and in Newcastle.

Harmondsworth

21 Aug: 30 people on their way to Harmondsworth Immigration Detention Centre were penned by police into a car park invisible to the road. The action was to highlight the link between detention centres and climate change, and to show solidarity to those inside, detained for committing no crime.

Stansted airport demo

21 Aug: protesters leafleted at Stansted airport and attached the slogan 'Climate Change Kills' to a wall in protest at both aviation and airport expansion. www.climatecamp.org.uk

Lakenheath Lock-on

Anti-war campaigners caused hours of disruption after they locked themselves to lamp posts outside the main gates of RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk. The CND campaigners had joined hands with each other before their arms were covered with concrete and further encased with special tubing. They were cut out by police after 4 hours and arrested for obstructing the highway.

The demonstration aimed to mark the sixth anniversary of bombing operations in Afghanistan.

DSEi Arms Fair

DSEi (Defence Systems & Equipment International) is the world's largest arms fair which is held every two years at the ExCeL Centre in London's Docklands. As in previous years, it was the focus of a concerted campaign.

Actions kicked off on 11 Sept shortly after 7.30am when the security cordon around DSEi arms fair was breached by 20 people running into the car park. Later a solidarity blockade of BAE took place in Manchester. About 80 people joined a CAAT march and rally, and about 50 cyclists arrived at Customs House DLR station from a critical mass style ride that left Bank tube station mid-morning. Two people were arrested after 'rivers of blood' were poured onto the ramparts of the Arms Fair venue.



Space Hijackers managed to get a tank and sound system to the main entrance of ExCeL, after diverting the police with a decoy tank. They auctioned off the tank and invited the 200 strong crowd to a party against the arms fair to let the fair's delegates know what they think about their murderous business.

At 6.30am on 7 Sept a small group locked shut the gates of Norwich based arms manufacturer MSI. A low loader lorry which arrived, it is believed, to transport equipment to the DSEi arms fair was also locked on to by an activist after it forced its way through the barricade already set up.

Another small group entered from the rear of the compound and inspected the facility, taking photos, climbing on roofs

and leaving a couple of banners as a memento of their visit. www.dsei.org

No Borders Camp



The Gatwick No Border Camp took place from 20 to 23 September in West Sussex, as part of a campaign against a new immigration detention centre that is being built at Gatwick Airport. There were a number of actions:

anti-deportation campaigners 'paid a visit' to Virgin Holidays, Richard Branson's Tour Operator business in Crawley town centre. They were protesting at Virgin's involvement in forced deportations of rejected asylum seekers to unsafe countries. The Home Office regularly book Virgin Atlantic flights to countries such as Nigeria to forcibly remove people from the UK.

A dozen activists blockaded the main gate of Group 4's offices near Crawley. Banners were hung on the gate saying 'no more racist prisons' and 'no borders'. Group 4 runs Dungavel detention centre and forms a key part of the deportation process of sending asylum seekers back to the countries where they may face war, torture and death. noborderslondon@riseup.net

Animal Rights Gathering

The U.K. animal rights gathering was held in Kent from 28th to 30th Sept. There were excellent workshops as well as discussions about increasing links between Animal Rights and the growing movement around Climate Change.

The gathering was policed provocatively, with a warrant enforced raid on the Sunday. Despite this people enjoyed the weekend, returning to campaigns with new enthusiasm.

The gathering ended looking towards the SHAC march in Huntingdon on 10th November, with calls for as many people as possible to attend the march, especially with police threats to try and limit the numbers to 500.

Faslane 365



On 1 October 600 people shut down Faslane nuclear submarine base to mark a year of blockades and protests against Britain's nuclear weapons. Protesters from across the UK and Europe shut down road access at both gates from 7am onwards. By 10.30am Strathclyde police had arrested an estimated 100 protesters, but as fast as they were removed more were taking their place. Fun on the day included sit-down blockades, lock-ons and a tripod. In the afternoon performances roused the crowd into spontaneous merry making whilst numerous 'GOAT' (Golden Oldies Against Trident) were carried away by police. A grand finale ensued for a mass circling of the gate and the band Seize the Day made a final lock on attempt. Since Faslane 365's campaign started on 1 October 2006, thousands of people have blockaded the base, and more than 950 have been arrested, giving many people a first experience of direct action and keeping the nuclear issue high on the Scottish political agenda.

Toss the Caber at Faslane

31 July: folks from Assynt (North of Scotland) were arrested after a fun afternoon of Faslane Highland Games. The Games included all the traditional competitions, such as Toss the Caber, Putt the Haggis and an Egg and Spoon Race plus some special events including

Welly over Faslane. The Games concluded with a magnificent Tug o' Peace, blocking the gate to the base.

SOCRAP!

4 September: 3 women from the 'Faslane 365 Serious Organised Crime Investigation and Prevention Team' entered the Faslane high security area. Just hours later 3 more peace protesters breached security at one of the oil depot gates of the Faslane nuclear submarine base, entering on bicycles. All six protesters were arrested under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act (SOCRAP), which is increasingly being used to prevent peaceful protests at sensitive sites, including nuclear bases.

Post 365

Bradford blockaders were having it again on 2 October. A banner announced 'Faslane 366 - to be continued'. With six blockaders superglued and handcuffed together bang in the middle of the road the police were not pleased.

www.faslane365.org, 0845 45 88 365

Smash EDO Camp

From 27 to 30 August, Smash EDO held an action camp in Brighton with the aim of holding creative direct action against the arms trade and a forum to discuss the anti-arms trade movement. Early on police forcibly moved in and removed the camp's infrastructure using a nineteenth century by-law. Despite police repression most campers remained put, new provisions were brought in, and activists maintained the camp whilst carrying out a series of daily actions including rooftop protests, bikes against bomb factories and demos outside EDO MBM.

Actions are continuing all the time: on 10 October Paul Hills, Managing Director of EDO was forced to smash the window of his own factory to let workers

What is Earth First?

Earth First! stands for the use of direct action and non-hierarchical organisation 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 but a convenient banner for people who share similar philosophies to work under.

In the UK people have been using the Earth First! banner for direct action since the early 90s – directly confronting and stopping road building, the quarrying of coal, rock and peat, freeing our fields of genetically 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. To find out more, including how to get involved go to our website: www.earthfirst.org.uk

in to start their day, after protesters secured all entrances into the factory. www.smashedo.org.uk

Teachers Take To Trees

For six months teachers have squatted a sports ground in Wembley, London, to protest against a privatised City Academy school being built on the site.

The council threatened to evict them so on 7 Aug teachers took to the trees. The next day a loud protest on the ground and from the trees warned people off sending their kids to a City Academy to be trained for corporate jobs .

www.tentcityoccupation.co.uk

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