

Earth First!

action update

No compromise!

number 6 September 1993 20p

TARGET TARMAC

23rd August Disguised as the eco police Friends of the Earth (Independent 24 Aug 1993) "stormed" into Roadstone House, Tarmac's HQ in Wolverhampton, at around 7.30am. Wearing green police helmets but otherwise looking much like any other environmental activists, they entered the building when a Tarmac employee kindly opened the door for them. They locked themselves in offices while the police searched the building. They were arrested for alleged burglary, and held for 14 hours before being released.

Later protesters occupied another Tarmac office. Protesters wandered around looking through files, draws, cupboards and generally having fun. Four people were arrested after locking themselves in offices. A third office at the Tarmac depot (where loads of earth destroying machinery is stored) was occupied towards the end of the day.

In 1992 over 40% of all the Government's road contracts went to Tarmac. Tarmac are one of the largest single contributors to the Tory party. Coincidence? Probably not....

Contact 0962 841 587 for further information on Tarmac's dubious deeds.

JESMOND DEAN

After the 14 arrests on the 12th July (see EF! AU no 5) the protests concentrated on tree sitting, with around 11 people in hammocks strung between 20 or so key trees. **2nd August** One woman arrested as a dozen or so small trees were felled. **3rd August** Workmen attempted to saw off a branch of one of the occupied trees while the occupier was standing on the branch! They then tried to knock off branches with a JCB. **5th August** Two people arrested as workmen attempted to remove a tree in order to begin work on a power sub-station. **9th August** National day of action 30 protesters invaded the site and climbed on machinery. Two protesters were picked up in the buckets of JCBs and one was driven down the road fifteen feet in the air! **10th August** Protesters visited Newcastle Civic Hall and surprisingly gained a 45 minute discussion with Mr. McNamara, one of the main slimeballs behind the road. **11th August** Two protesters locked onto cement lorries, which had to be partially dismantled to release them, and were subsequently arrested. **16th August** National Day of Action 40 protesters invaded the site and danced on diggers and locked onto machinery. Work was stopped all morning until the Police arrived to cut the lockees free. Protesters reappeared on site again in the afternoon, with two people locking on. They were arrested some time later when the Police returned.

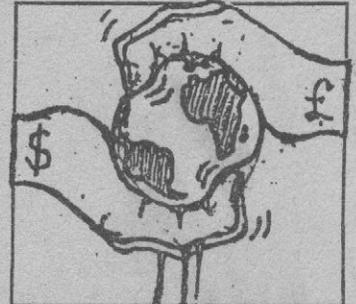
Meanwhile the tree sits are continuing and more actions will be done as and when there are the people to do them. **People are needed NOW!** all the time, not only on days of action.

New contact number, Cradlewell Road Alert: 091 261 6151



prison news

Seven protesters were imprisoned for breach of injunction (see EF! AU no 4) on 23 July, for 28 days. They have now all been released after spending 13 days in Pentonville (men) or Holloway (women). (One protester was released after three days on agreeing to purge her contempt of court.) All are more determined than ever to stop the government's thoroughly insane roads programme. Whilst in prison they received about 50 letters a day from around the world. They were visited regularly, including visits from Carlo Ripa da Meana and Chris Smith, the shadow environment minister.



partners in crime, or people for change?

20 - 22 September Partnerships For Change is a government-sponsored meeting planned as an update of the UNCED conference in Rio 1992. Participants will be invited from local business, trade unions, and campaigning organisations. Ordinary people, community leaders and grassroots organisations cannot attend.

A group called "People for Change" are planning to challenge this. A press conference has been arranged for the 20th Sept. Speakers will include Victor Meyer from El Salvador, Maria Helena, director of World Development Movement, and the "Twyford Detainees".

Actions, events, FUN will be happening concurrently with the conference. An alternative display at the Friends' Meeting House will be set up - places still available through David Harris (061 232 9550).

The message is that Partnerships for Change will change nothing and is a waste of time, money and resources. For details contact Manchester EF! 061 225 7128.

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Newcastle
NOW!!!**

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Ancient woodland protest

3rd August 1993 Earth First! activists protested at the clear felling of ancient woodland at Bramdean near Winchester. The land belongs to Matthew Moreton, a local scumbag landlord - the trees were being removed purely to make a profit. Activists occupied the felling site, preventing any trees from being cut. The site is close to the site the Dongas camp moved to after "Yellow Wednesday".

This is a threat to large areas of ancient woodland in Britain. The Forestry Commission is in danger of being privatised. We must act now to save what is left of Britain's ancient woodland.

NO M11 Link

14th August 200 people marched along the route of the doomed road. More people joined in through Wanstead and Leytonstone. The march started at the last part of the planned road and ended where work is due to start on the 13th September. At this point protesters staged a sit-down in the road blocking traffic for 15 to 20 minutes. Various people spoke at a gathering afterwards.

350 houses are still at risk and there is an urgent need for squatters to occupy these houses before it is too late. Actions are planned for the future and contractors can expect to be greeted by protesters on their first day of attempted work.

Contact Green Man EF! 081 806 6254 for further information or offers of help.

Gathering

10th to 13th September somewhere in Shropshire. We know where it is but it's a secret. Workshops will include fundraising, legal, prisoner support, self defence, seizing the media, NVDA, wobblers, tactics, facilitation, animal rights, bender building and anything else you can think of. Camping will cost £1 per night. Three meals a day will be provided by Close to the Edge Vegan Cafe at £4 per day. Total cost for the weekend will be £15 all in and £3 self catering. **Please book as early as possible, contact Nottingham EF!, (0602 508 073) for further details, maps etc.**

Western Shoshone

A defence fund has been launched following the recent symbolic trespass on crown land (see EF! AU no 5). The trespass aimed to draw attention to the issue of Western Shoshone sovereignty over the land where Britain is pressing to continue its nuclear testing programme. While nobody is being taken to court for this nuclear trespassing against people's lives and livelihood, the crown responded by charging 14 women with conspiracy to commit criminal damage and behaviour likely to cause alarm, distress or harassment.

Although the conspiracy charges have now been dropped, there are immediate emergency legal bills outstanding and the women are now appealing for financial contributions to a defence fund. Please make cheques payable to: "The Women's Nuclear Test Ban Network" c/o The Bristol Women's Centre, 82 Colston Street, Bristol BS1 5BB.

pitponia ef!

Pitponia EF! - probably the first EF! group in Scotland, but definitely the first not connected to the electricity grid! Pitponia in the words of one of the group is a "vision of a viral deep green state, we hope to buy up wild hillsides and replant them, but in the meantime our boundaries stop at our garden fence". They are happy to give advice to others wanting to come off the electricity grid. **Contact 0659 74434.**

whatley quarry

12th July 45 activists invaded Whatley Quarry near Frome in Somerset, to express outrage at the massive amount of quarrying allowed in these hills, and its drastic effects on water tables. The stone is used mainly to feed construction companies with materials to build motorways and other such industrial nightmares.

Four people were arrested, three were later released and one was charged with criminal damage. TV and newspaper reporters trespassed for shots of protesters on machinery. FoE were also present with The Facts. Massive regional news coverage was gained which was generally sympathetic. Meanwhile the battle continues - more actions are imminent. **Contact South Somerset EF! 0935 33493.**

Faslane Peace Camp

20th September The aim is to help delay work on Trident nuclear weapons by coming to Faslane Peace Camp on **Friday 17th, Saturday 18th, Sunday 19th September** and blockading RNAD Coulport on **Monday 20th September.**

One Trident warhead has the destructive capability of 10 Hiroshima bombs. One Trident missile can carry up to 8 independently targetable warheads. One Trident submarine can carry 16 missiles, the Government has ordered 4 Trident submarines. Trident costs us £3 million a day. For more details **contact Faslane Peace Camp 0436 820 901.**

wymondham valley

The Wymondham Bypass is another section of the upgrading of the A11 into a dual carriageway all the way from Norwich to London. Lobbying, presenting alternatives to the public inquiry and buying up the land adjoining the Lizard and selling it in metre squares to protesters have all proved fruitless. Legal action to challenge the DoT had to be abandoned due to lack of funds. Construction work is due to start in September. All that is left is direct action. An action camp is planned - a site is prepared, which is owned by objectors. More information will be available soon, **contact Wymondham bypass campaign, c/o The GreenHouse 0603 631 007.**

Beatties protest

24th July Wirral EF! and Underground Power launched a protest about Beatties store, Birkenhead, continued selling of racist "gollywogs".

The offensive stereotype of the stupid, wide-eyed gollywog is an example of racism, which is insulting to both white and black people. 250 signatures were handed in to the deputy manager. Beatties have other stores in Wolverhampton, Solihull, Dudley, Sutton Coldfield, Worcester, Northampton, Burton-upon-Trent and Birkenhead. **Contact Wirral EF! 051 652 5049.**

mahogany

20th June Around a dozen activists invaded Great Mills DIY and dead rainforest seller of Yeovil. Banners were hung from the roof and red smoke bombs were let off in the store. The fire brigade were called and customers were evacuated for 20 minutes. One activist was arrested and charged with public order offences. Great Mills have since hired two full time security guards to protect their store. This was the 4th action at this store, the campaign will continue until Great Mills management acquire a conscience.

24th July Rackman's Store (House of Fraser) in Birmingham was visited by the newly formed **Birmingham EF!** A display was set up outside the two main entrances, including posters, banners, an information table and a large black coffin, and leaflets were distributed. After a while stickers saying "Mahogany is Murder" appeared all over the doors, the windows, the loos, the lifts and the merchandise inside the shop.

Contact Earth ARC (0865 201 706) for information on ethical shoplifting (see EF! AU no 5 page 1) or for information on the ongoing **mahogany campaign.** An action is planned for the near future at a large store currently selling mahogany in London....



mcdonald's

16th October 1pm Euston Station March Against McDonald's. Protest against the exploitation of people and animals, and the destruction of the environment. For more information on McBastard's **contact London Greenpeace 071 837 7557**

London Greenpeace Fayre

30th October 11am to 7pm Fayre; **8pm to 11pm** gig; all at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. Stalls, videos, music, vegan, McLibel, food, workshops, videos,...**071 837 7557.**

narmada dam reprieve

2nd - 5th August Five people went on a hunger strike outside the Indian Embassy in London to help apply pressure to the Indian Government to review the Sardar Sarover dam projects. They were able to call off the action as the Indian Government announced that it had conceded to the demands of the NBA (Save Narmada Movement). This announcement was just hours before the deadline given when Indian Activists and tribal people were to drown themselves as a self-sacrifice to show the strength of opposition among the 200,000 people who would be displaced if the dam was completed.

The British ODA has ignored its own guidelines, on the environment and local consultation, by continuing to fund the project. This Indian peoples' movement will need further support once the review is completed in two month's time. For more details contact Narmada Action Committee (UK) c/o The Ecologist, Agriculture House, Bath Road, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 1DU, tel. 0258 473476.



A 27 Worthing Hill Fort

A Worthing Earth First! group has recently been set up to challenge the up and coming bypass dispute. In the DoT's spirit of divide and conquer, the "preferred" route runs through a highly residential area, so local opinion is screaming for a bypass. The only place available is the Downs. There are currently two routes being looked at which involve tunneling under part of Cissbury Hill - an ancient Hill Fort and SSSI, tunneling under Salvington Hill and Lancing Ring, and generally ruining the Downland, which is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This would destroy endless known archaeological sites, a number of trees with preservation orders, and a listed building. The DoT states that the route would have no significant impact on the flora and fauna etc etc. **Worthing EFI** would welcome any suggestions for the Public Enquiry on September 28th or any ideas generally. **Contact 0903 238603** for information.

3rd World debt

Late Sept - early Oct During last year's freshers fair, actions at the Manchester student branches of Lloyds and Midland over just three days reduced the number of new accountees by 40%, (from leaked correspondence between the branch managers and the local University Students Unions). Most students decide on who to bank with and then open an account all in the space of the first half of their "freshers week". Demos at key branches of the major high street banks for just these couple of days, would effectively screw the banks for the whole of the year. See **EFI AU** nos 4 & 5, and for further information contact **Manchester EFI 061 225 7128** or **L.A.M.B. 061 275 2930**.

John Gummer is a shitbag. Why is a minister of a foreign whaling government prepared to express more anger than our own environment groups? Why not write to Mr Gummer, expressing your feelings as eloquently as the Norwegians.

sarawak

The blockade which was first set up by the Penan at Long Mobui earlier this year is still ongoing. The blockade has successfully prevented the forest from being logged, but it has taken its toll on the Penan. Shortage of food and medicine and the lack of clean drinking water has resulted in the death of nine Penan. There is also the constant threat of violence from the police and paramilitary as well as from the logging company Samling Timber Company. The Penans at the blockade site maintain that they are ready to die to save the last of the rainforests and land for their children.

On 22 July, 15 people mirrored the ongoing struggle in Sarawak by forming a human and timber blockade outside the Malaysian High Commission in Belgrave Square, London. Eight people were arrested. On arrest each of the eight gave a Penan name. The eight's trial date is the 16th-17th December, at Horseferry Road Magistrates Court. There will be a demonstration outside the Malaysian High Commission on this day. **Contact Sarawak Solidarity Campaign 071 403 2876.**

clayoquot sound

9th August In the largest mass arrest in Canada's history, 304 children, women and men were arrested for peacefully blockading a logging road. Over 600 have now been arrested this summer in the defence of Clayoquot Sound's endangered temperate rainforest. There is an action camp which is overflowing and everyone there is riding a high on the energy of daily blockades. The UK obtains most of its paper pulp from Canada. Clayoquot Sound is one of the largest continuous tracks of temperate rainforest left in the world.

Actions are planned in Canada for 7th September to take the number of arrests over 1,000. In London, a support action will take place at BC House, Regent Street at 11.00am. **Contact Oxford EFI 0865 201 706** for details.

london motor show

21st - 31st October Earls Court, London. Cars cars and more cars, and then even more cars. Loads of fun to be had... The production of one car uses 100,000 gallons of water. **Protest.** **Contact Reclaim the Streets 071 737 0100** for details.

Aspe Activist Liberated

Eric Petetin was recently granted an amnesty by President Mitterand, having served nearly three months of an eighteen month sentence for cutting a fence to stop the Vallee d'Aspe road tunnel in the Pyrenees. His release came on 20th August, on the eve of a mass action which brought together locals and 100 international activists from the Ecotopia festival. Over 500 turned out at the celebratory rally and later many made their way to the work site where lines of armed special police blocked their way.

After the court decision in Pau on 2nd December 1992, all EC funding for this disastrous road project was frozen. The EC will be deciding whether to refund the project on 30th September. A fast is planned at the EC headquarters in Brussels for the week leading up to this decision. The aim is to get at least one representative from each European country to this fast. There is support for the protest from the European Greens. We must put more pressure on the EC - Eric's amnesty is another victory in this campaign. If you are interested in joining in the fast, contact **Oxford EFI 0865 201 706**, or **Lutz Kerber, Hardenburg Street 34, Room 3.14, 10623 Berlin, Germany. tel. 49 30 313 6834, fax 49 30 312 1398.**

shell in nigeria

Shell's oil operations in southern Nigeria are continuing to be the focus of protests by the Ogoni people of the Niger Delta. The growing number of demonstrations against the company is resulting in what appears to be a parallel move to counter this momentum: violent retaliation by the Nigerian Authorities. In April this year, one Ogoni was fatally shot in the back and many more wounded, whilst protesting the laying of new pipelines for Shell's use across their farmlands. **Contact Oxford EFI (0865 201 706)** for information.

Earth First!

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if you want to be included or need to amend your contact, please write to Oxford EF!, Box E, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ tel 0865 201706

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This action update was prepared in Oxford and printed and distributed somewhere else.

In future it will be edited by a different EF! group. The next group will be decided at the gathering in September. Any letters to Oxford EF! about EFIAU will be passed on to the new editorial team. Until we get a BCM Box that is....

Please write with comments suggestions abuse etc. Letters will not be published, at least while the Action Update is in its present form, but comments will be noted and hopefully incorporated in future editions.

The purpose of the Action Update is to report on NON-VIOLENT direct actions (not exclusively EF! actions) happening around the country at any time, and to publicise forthcoming actions. This is for entertainment purposes only - ha ha the planet is dying. Ha ha ha. Write a letter as a result of reading this.

More detail on the issues will be covered by "Do or Die" available from any EF! group.

To get articles in the next issue send photos and stories to Oxford EF! NOW! Thanks for the help on this issue.

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