

EARTH FIRST!



SUMMER GATHERING
Northampton: 17th-22nd Aug 2016

Programme & Handbook

**Large Print version of this
handbook available
at the Welcome Tent**

Welcome

A very warm welcome to the 2016 Earth First! Summer Gathering from your organising collective. We hope you will find plenty here to interest and inspire you, to get you fired up about where we find ourselves and the rest of the planet, to make space to support each other, have fun, and that you leave feeling ready to take ecological direct action. Earth First!

If you're still feeling uncertain where to pitch your tent now you've seen the map, or you've never been to such an event, do please ask the Welcome Tent for a wee site tour.

Come along to the daily Introduction to Earth First! and the Gathering sessions each morning, to help get your bearings and ask questions, whether you're new to the EF! Gathering, or haven't been in a while.

During the Gathering, this year's EF!SG organising collective will be continuing to 'otter away' to create this incredible temporary community...and come the end, in true anarchistic fashion, we'll dissolve ourselves in a dribbling/shimmering mess, to water and nourish next year's organising collectives!

Well, truth be told, we'll be there to support the 2017 collectives, and with any luck, some of us refreshed and renewed, may become part of the all new singing dancing 2017 EF!SG or Winter Moot organising collectives.

We welcome people to get actively involved in running the Gathering through the different working groups (come to the morning meetings to get hooked in), or lending a hand and learning the ropes with the overall co-ordination (see timetable for How to run a Gathering).

If you might be interested in being involved in making next year's gathering happen, do ask questions throughout the gathering that might help clarify how involved you want to be, and come along to the sessions on Sunday to offer your skills and time.



About the Gathering & Earth First!

The Earth First! Summer Gathering is a chance for people and groups from across the country and beyond to get together to network, share practical skills, ideas and inspiration, all to help our actions and campaigns be as strategic and effective as possible. We also hope that there'll be a fair amount of plotting and planning, as well as fun and relaxation, so over to you...

This is an annual gathering for grassroots ecological direct action, this year focusing on welcoming people from impacted communities. It's also a chance to act out a little of our vision: organising without hierarchy, diversity within community, and a DIY culture that supports both individual responsibility and collective action, that builds trust, support, respect and community, whilst enabling healthy debate and challenging discussion.

The gathering is five days of workshops, networking and planning actions at a low impact eco-living camp organised non-hierarchically. It's run without leaders by

everyone who comes along, so come prepared to chip in! It happens generally during the school holidays, and often takes place in August.

This last couple of years has seen a huge increase in interest in Earth First! and what it can offer. Last year's gathering was the largest for many years with over 200 workshops, a size not seen since the 1990s.

This exciting resurgence of Earth First! in Britain is being driven by the growing threats from fracking, nuclear, bio-energy, GM, road-building, incineration and more, which are focusing many people's attention on the growing need to halt the destruction of our battered ecosystems and start repairing the damage that has already been done.



The Gathering Site

This year's gathering is on a nature reserve and caravan park run by the family who are hosting us. There is no live Stock but they do have rescue goats.

We ask people to be respectful when walking in the reservation by staying to paths and that dog owners only walk dogs on the rail path behind the camping field to the right.

We are welcome to swim in the lake but ask you sign in and out at the site office on the way and please don't take children. Wellbeing is also by the lake so ask you to be aware of noise.



The Ethos Of The Gathering

Everyone is crew

For most stuff that needs to be done, there will already be coordinators; they'll be introduced at morning meetings. To ensure things run smoothly, work teams need to form for different tasks such as toilets, shuttle-bus runs, water collection etc. Join a team and volunteer for one-off tasks – it's how everything gets done. See something that needs doing? Do it if you can – there are tools kept on site and people who'll show you how to use them. This should all become clear at the first morning meeting you attend.

Morning Meetings

Each day of the gathering will start with a 9am Morning Meeting. These are short (no more than 30mins), but important as it's here that timetabling changes are announced, site coordinators introduce themselves and people volunteer themselves for the jobs that keep the site running smoothly. Attendance is very much encouraged!

Mobile Phones/Mobile Internet Devices

This is an issue of both courtesy and security. If you've brought a phone and/or a tablet to the gathering, please keep it in your tent and switched off. If for emergency reasons you have to bring a phone or similar to a workshop or any space where there are other people (under cover or outside), ensure it's clearly visible at all times and let people know.

Cameras

The Gathering site is a no-photo zone. The success of the gathering relies on it being as safe a space as we can make it and not taking photos is a crucial part of that effort. We have had experience of journalists taking photos for their exclusive in the past; this policy makes them easier to spot! Please stop anyone taking photos and ensure they delete them, except for the two consensual exceptions outlined in the

safer spaces policy.

Journalism

Journalists in the role of journalists are not permitted at the gathering; as individuals who care and want to learn and contribute, you are of course welcome. We are not seeking media coverage through this Gathering and it's important that the space, though public, is conducive to planning and plotting. If you notice someone on site taking photos or gathering news, let the Safety PIN team know right away.

Police

Police are not allowed or welcome on site. However, under our bar license agreement they can do one check of the bar with prior notice. They will be escorted to the bar and back by the licensee. We will let the morning meeting know that this is due to happen that day.

Otherwise, they may be visible outside the site or even attempt to enter the site. If in any other cases, you do see police on-site, let others know immediately and ask them to leave. It's always useful to know your rights – please grab & read a stop and search guide from the welcome tent.

Security

Be careful what you say! The EF! Gathering is no different from any other public space in that what you say might be over-heard by someone who isn't on 'our side'. This isn't a big deal and it shouldn't negatively impact on any part of the gathering, including story-telling and organising. Just be cautious not to incriminate yourself or others, regardless of the company you are in. Think about appropriate levels of security for the kinds of campaigning and direct action you are talking about.

• • •

Making Workshops & Meetings Work

Facilitation is the role of making workshops and discussions runs smoothly, and ensuring that everyone who wants to participate can. This goes beyond noting who wants to speak next or doing funny signals with your hands! It's also about facilitating continuity in the discussion and keeping an eye on the many dynamics at play in any group.

However, though the role is held by the workshop facilitator, possibly aided by someone from our facilitation pool, everyone is responsible for helping things flow. It's easy to create super-human expectations, and possible that they will need a hand.

Whilst there is a reality that some of us will know more than others, or have more experience in one thing or another, we can keep an eye on our own and others' participation and be aware of informal hierarchies crystallising.

Not everyone is comfortable speaking in groups, especially large ones. Some of us think carefully what we are about to say if we're given the time to, and others speak 'from the hip'; we hope your workshop will work for both types of people. It's fine to participate in whatever way that suits you, and hopefully the facilitation will ensure time for talking in pairs and small groups, where appropriate for the workshop or discussion.

Jargon, big concepts and abbreviations can be needed, but be aware of levels of understanding and explain where needed by anyone. Also think about how tiring it is for people whose first language isn't English.

Do be constructively critical, but try to avoid shooting down others' ideas in flames, especially when you're not suggesting an alternative. 'That's a stupid idea', 'everyone thinks', 'obviously' and similar phrases can help you win an argument, but tend to silence others.

Only use any hand signals (such as putting your hand up to speak) that the facilitator has chosen to introduce.

With some timetabled discussions, there may be people who have been asked to prepare in advance, to introduce different viewpoints.

Some discussions will be for people who haven't yet made their mind up firmly, so please be sensitive to this in not trying to out-argue others till they agree with you, but giving them space to come to their own conclusions.

We are all on our different political journeys, and though Earth First! comes from a radical perspective, we encourage diversity and difference within that.

Do please volunteer for the facilitation pool if you have experience, or want to gain some through shadowing people – on Thursday and Saturday we have Facilitating Meetings workshops too.

...



Safer Spaces Agreement

Our Safer Spaces Agreement aims to help get things right for everyone at this gathering. Free and open discussion is key to this event. We want you to feel welcome, to be heard and be able to fully participate. Anarchy is about people co-operating with each other as equals.

Why?

A safer space is a dream and a vision of a better society, or what it could be like to feel supported and free. In a safer space we recognise and respect that we experience things in different ways and that we have different ideas and ideals on how to make changes in the world. If we want to create a radical community, then we have to question our learned behaviours and challenge ourselves and each other. We need to work towards acting in ways that are respectful, and build a community of trust and support.

We recognise that whatever everyone's intentions, subtle, very unsubtle and sometimes shifting hierarchies, reflecting those in a lot of mainstream society, are usually around in all of our groups and relationships, in our collective discussions and organising. Class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and all the other issues that can influence how we relate to each other, negatively or positively, will be on site with us.

Many cultures are present at this event and we won't all speak the same language, even though we'll mostly all be speaking the same language – that doesn't mean we should adopt what might appear to be the mainstream culture of this event! Other differences and diversity may be less visible, so try not to assume that everyone is the same, and we hope you can bring all parts of yourself with you.

How?

It doesn't have to be a choice between getting stuff done and figuring out how we get along,



particularly if we get more skilled at the latter.

This document is our current best thinking. If you have suggestions that may improve it, please let this event's organisers know, so the next organising collective, and other campaigns, can build on the ideas here.

Points 2-4 below are a condition of your participation in the EF! Summer Gathering 2015. If the collective intelligence of those present is unable to resolve the situation, expect other participants to contact the site's Safety PIN team. If the situation still isn't resolved, the Safety PIN team may well exclude you from the site. Drug or alcohol use, or mental health issues are not an excuse for avoiding responsibility for oppressive behaviour; we will however try to do it as supportively and sensitively as possible. In short, don't take the piss but don't get scared and start treading on eggshells either.

Points 5-15 below are an invitation from this year's organising collective. Don't substitute them for your own thinking though. What's below is only as effective as the people you're in discussion with, the people who read this and what it means to them.

1. As always, you are responsible for your own behaviour. At this gathering, we also ask you to take on the collective responsibility of seeing that things go well for people around you.

2. Racism, ageism, homophobia, sexism, transphobia, ableism or prejudice based on ethnicity, nationality, class, gender, gender presentation, language ability, sexuality, asylum status or religious affiliation is unacceptable. If you experience any of the above, we hope you are supported by those around you in challenging such behaviour or beliefs. If you experience it but are not on the receiving end of it, challenge it; don't leave it to the person or people who may be impacted by it. At the same time, think about how you constructively challenge it in a way that will be really understood, and doesn't marginalise someone else in turn. Respect the person – challenge the behaviour.

3. Notice and respect each other's physical and emotional boundaries. Some people are very happy with touch, kisses and hugs but not everyone. Try and tell the difference and if you're unsure, ask. No means no.

4. Leave your cameras, journalists or cops at home! This Gathering is a space for learning, networking and organising ecological direct action. Some of us have cameras or are journalists – however, what is important at this Gathering is that all participants do not have to worry about being photographed or quoted. So please don't take photographs on site, don't carry your mobile with you (if you need to for emergency reasons, ensure it is obviously visible at all times to others), and don't gather scoops!

5. Try and be aware of the space you take up, and the rank and privileges you bring with you – if you're used to talking, try listening, and vice versa. Consider stepping aside if this means you and others like you are usually the first to step up. Think about how you can support other people if it looks like they might need your support.

6. Try and avoid making assumptions about what the opinions, background and identities of other participants are.



7. Try not to judge, put each other down or compete.

8. Be aware of the language you use in discussion and how you relate to others. Try to speak slowly and clearly and use uncomplicated language. Try not to use phrases that give you extra rank or make what you are saying harder to disagree with, such as “of course...”, “obviously...” “we all believe that...”, “no-one here does...”, “history tells us...” and similar generalisations.

9. The organising collective has, given the location of this event, tried to make meeting spaces as accessible as possible to the widest range of people. Tell the people you’re with if something needs to change for you to participate more easily e.g. hearing issues, needing a chair, and please look out for others. It’s not always easy having to keep raising an issue yourself.

10. Foster a spirit of mutual aid and respect. Listen to the wisdom everyone brings to the group.

11. Wherever possible, give each person the time and space to speak. In large groups, or for groups using facilitation, raise your hand to speak.

12. If you need to challenge someone’s behaviour, try your best to be respectful and constructive. Consider taking a deep breath and thinking about what wording might help you hear a challenge if you were on the other end of it.

13. If you are challenged, listen, reflect on what you’ve heard, check you’ve understood correctly and try to manage all that defensiveness that most of us experience when this happens. Shame and blame won’t move anything forwards. Try to focus on creating equality and learning.

14. If you and the people, or wider group you’re in discussion with, are unable to resolve a situation where someone, or a number of people’s equal rights are not being respected,

the site has a Safety PIN team that may be able to assist.

15. We ask you to not drink alcohol till after 7pm, and to limit the quantity you drink not just based on the impact to your own liver, but also on not people trying to sleep nearby.

16. Please respect the power-down times in the programme – these are the cut-off times for amplified music and loud noise, that help us all keep a productive focus for the Gathering and best allow us all to enjoy ourselves, whether through socialising or sleeping.

Though we have a no photographs or journalistic activities policy on the gathering site, you may be approached by someone who has offered to do little drawings of workshops, activities, spaces and individuals (with consent). She may ask you why you’re here, what motivates you to take ecological direct action, what you’ve learned or similar questions. Feel free to answer her, and then she might cunningly incorporate it into your little sketch, which we’ll tweet @earthfirst_uk

Similarly, there are smartphone video workshops – presume that if you are participating in these it may involve photography. The trainers and participants will also be practising their skills outside these workshop spaces, though only off-site or at the physical activity spaces (such as climbing) at the bottom of the bottom field, on the edge of the site, and with the consent of all those who might appear in the videos.

• • •

About Earth First!

What is EF!?

On these islands, where wildness is scarce and the juggernaut of economic growth is strong, where can our passion and sense of social justice fit, how can we struggle for what is dear to us, for our very survival in an interconnected and unjust web of humans, other animals and plant species?

Earth First! does not accept a human-centred worldview of 'nature for people's sake'. Instead, we believe that life exists for its own sake, that industrial civilisation and the ideas behind it, of relentless economic growth and the fiction of human progress, are leading us to hell in a handcart, and setting us against each other. People and environment cannot be seen as separate, or we are doomed; we call it ecological direct action because in an ecology all things are seen as connected – it is within this understanding that we say Earth First!

There are no 'members' of EF!, only Earth First!-ers. When the law won't fix the problem, we put our bodies on the line to stop the destruction. Earth First!'s direct action approach draws attention to the crises facing the natural world, and it saves lives.

Earth First! was formed in the UK in 1991, in response to an increasingly corporate, compromising and ineffective environmental community. It is not an organization, but a movement. There are no 'members' of EF!, only Earth First!ers. We believe in using all of the tools in the toolbox, from grassroots and legal organising to direct action and monkeywrenching.

The general principles behind Earth First! are non-hierarchical organisation and the use of direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces responsible for the destruction of the Earth and its inhabitants. EF! is not a cohesive group or campaign, but a convenient banner for people who share similar philosophies to work under, as a local group or as an individual.

If you agree with the above and you are not racist or otherwise discriminatory, if you believe action speaks louder than words, then Earth First! is for you. Whether you think of EF! as a movement, a network, an idea or simply a name to use for actions, get involved – you are Earth First! Earth First! is a network of people and campaigns fighting ecological destruction and the forces driving it. Our structure is non-hierarchical, without formal leadership and we do it for passion, love and rage. To put it simply, the Earth must come first.

Early History

In 1979 five friends hiked into the desert. All long term activists sick with careerism, legality and failure, they knew a new kind of group was needed. One that would break the law, push open the envelope, hit the corporations where it hurt (in the pocket) and most of all never ever compromise in defence of mother earth. Around their camp fire Earth First! was born. EF!'s first act was one of sarcastic symbolism – and defecation. In a land full of memorials to the genocidal victor, EF! raised a plaque commemorating Victorio, an Apache who wiped out a mining camp.

The next EF! action was at the Glen Canyon Dam, where a three hundred foot polythene banner was unfurled down the side of the dam, looking for all the world like a vast crack opening up. The demonstrators chanted "Raze the Dam". People had campaigned in the past against new dams but no one had campaigned to pull down those already built. The Glen Canyon Dam in fact held special significance. In a sickening deal the big environmental groups had accepted the damming of the canyon in return for the cancellation of a dam elsewhere. This was exactly the kind of compromise EF! was founded to resist.

Thus from the very beginning EF!ers set themselves not only the task of defending the last fragments but of reversing the process: pulling down the dams and the powerlines. EF! launched its proposal for a network of vast wilderness preserves – half of Nevada for instance would be declared "off limits to



industrial human civilisation, as preserves for the free flow of natural processes.” EF! didn’t want people to wait for the state to set them up. Instead the people themselves should make them happen – direct action. If logging needed stopping – stop it, blockade it, trash the machines. If a road needed digging up – Dig It Up! This militancy was a touchstone of even early EF!, but it wasn’t just its militancy that made it stand out globally.

All around the world groups were turning to direct action in environmental struggles. In both Britain and Germany, for example, anti-nuclear mass action had been growing apace. What was really unique in the environmental movement was EF!’s militant biocentrism.

Within a year EF! moved beyond symbolism to direct struggle. Around the country a combination of civil disobedience and sabotage halted logging and oil drilling. Groups were setting up all over. What many in industry had originally written off as a joke was quickly becoming a nightmare. In 1985 EF!ers published *Ecodefence: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching*. This was unashamed, heads held high 350 page manual on how to trash pretty much any machine with which civilisation attacks the wild. Written by over 100 contributors to the *Earth First! Journal*, this book was information for action. Diggers trashed, forests occupied, billboards subverted, logging roads dug up, trees spiked, offices invaded, windows smashed, snares disabled, computers scrapped – EF! was on the move.



But so now was the state. The FBI wasn't about to let a crew of hippies, feminists, cowboys and desert anarchists continue to hammer company profits. The late '80s onwards saw a wave of reaction that included infiltration, set ups, conspiracy trials, raids, corporate directed anti-environmental hate groups and even assassination attempts on 'leading' EF!ers. This was a continuation of the FBI's COINTELPRO (Counter Insurgency Programme) previously unleashed in the '60s/'70s upsurge against the Weather Underground, the New Left, the American Indian Movement, the Black Panthers and the Puerto Rican liberation movement. Now some of the same agents that had destroyed those movements were overseeing the attack on EF!

Pre-existing divisions over philosophy, tactics and not least of all personality were exacerbated by the crisis that engulfed EF! A split begun to emerge between supporters of EF! co-founder Dave Foreman and long term California organiser Judi Bari. All the while both were under serious corporate/state attack. Foreman was woken up one morning with an FBI gun to his head and charged with conspiracy to down power lines. Bari was car bombed. The split and state attacks seriously weakened US EF! and it would never fully recover it's accelerating drive. Nevertheless survive it did and at the beginning of the '90s it was still the kick ass environmental movement of the developed world. It's actions, ideas and attitude would inspire a massive wave of action across the Atlantic.

EF! In Britain

Inspired by vibrant EF! groups elsewhere, the first clutch of radical ecological Direct Action in Britain happened in the early 90s. Actions were mainly targeted at road-building, wilderness destruction and logging imports coupled with the awareness that we were struggling against the underlying forces behind the trashing of the earth. Though the timber actions were the first really big direct actions with many hundreds of people invading dock-yards and timber merchants, plus the 'ethical shoplifting' of stolen hardwoods, the huge campaign that EF! instigated was against the mega road-building programme.

During 1991, Earth First!ers made links with residents opposing the M3 extension at Twyford Down. Activists and travellers set up camp on the Dongas, ancient track-ways cut deep into the earth, home to rare Chalk Blue butterflies and orchids. EF! groups kept this first road protest camp stocked with people and tat, and organised actions to obstruct work – locking-on to cranes, night-time flooding of the site, and regular disruption of construction.

The first ever protest tripod in the UK (a technique borrowed from the Antipodean Intercontinental Deluxe Guide to Blockading), later in '92, was made from a sycamore, and got a round of applause from the bemused workers once we'd got it up fast...before they started desperately building new access roads round us, to try to save the concrete bridge they were half-way through building before it set! The first tree-sits in Britain took place in 1993, organised by Jesmond Dene EF! and the Flowerpot Tribe.

In those days before the internet EF! posted out info to every environmental, hunt sab, or peace group. This paid off in the massive resistance to the roads programme, which saw protest camps springing up around the country including at Newbury and the M11 in London; weekly actions taken to road builders and politicians: their gardens dug up, their roof-tops

squatted, their events disrupted; and a generation radicalised in taking direct action and creating autonomous spaces. The 'biggest road building programme since the Romans' was slashed three times by a third, and countless places were saved from the onward march of car culture.

As road-building waned due to the successes of the campaign, the late 90s saw increased activism around globalisation both at home and abroad. The Global Street Party against the G8 meeting in Birmingham in 1998 had not only forced the politicians to flee town for the day, but had also laid the foundations for June 18th 1999. June 18th took the form of a masked Carnival against Capital, with a series of kick-ass autonomous direct actions throughout London, and a co-ordinated attempt to seal off the city through actions on roads, bridges, stations and the tube system in the morning. Huge disruption of and economic damage to the corporate centre of the country ensued!

The following year a mainly British, mainly EF! bloc travelled to Prague for the World Bank & anti-IMF summit protests – and through preparation and guile, succeeded in getting some people into the sealed conference complex. We also experimented with ways of organising mass protests made up of many affinity groups, using a system of scouts and decision-making on the move.

Whilst all this big headline activism involved masses of people and samba bands, many small groups of people were busy in the fields of Britain, going out there and trashing GM crops. There is little question that 'we' won last time. In 1997 GM products were unlabelled all over the supermarket shelves and GM

crop trials were exploding all over our fields.

By 2005 we had successfully halted the growing of GM food in Britain, kicked out many of the biotech companies, and limited the importation of GM food to animal-feed. Fields were trashed by mass day time invasions and secret night time forays. 'Crop squats' included the now iconic pink castle, a giant fortress of concrete, wood and canvas that prevented planting in a field for three weeks, before the farmer arrived to sow backed up by seven tractors, eighty police officers and a helicopter. After this the combined efforts of locals and other activists destroyed enough of the crop that the trial was abandoned. In 1997 Monsanto's head offices were occupied by fifty people who had fun taking over the phone lines, and in 2004 Sainsbury's storage depots faced co-ordinated blockades, preventing the movement of milk from cows fed on GM feed.

The growth of EF!

The first EF! Gathering was on a beautiful squatted site near Brighton in February '92. Already EF!ers had been active setting up the first anti-road protest camp at Twyford Down, peat stripping machinery in Yorkshire had been 'decommissioned' and there had been shutdowns of timber yards, Carmageddon (proto-Reclaim the Streets) road blockades,



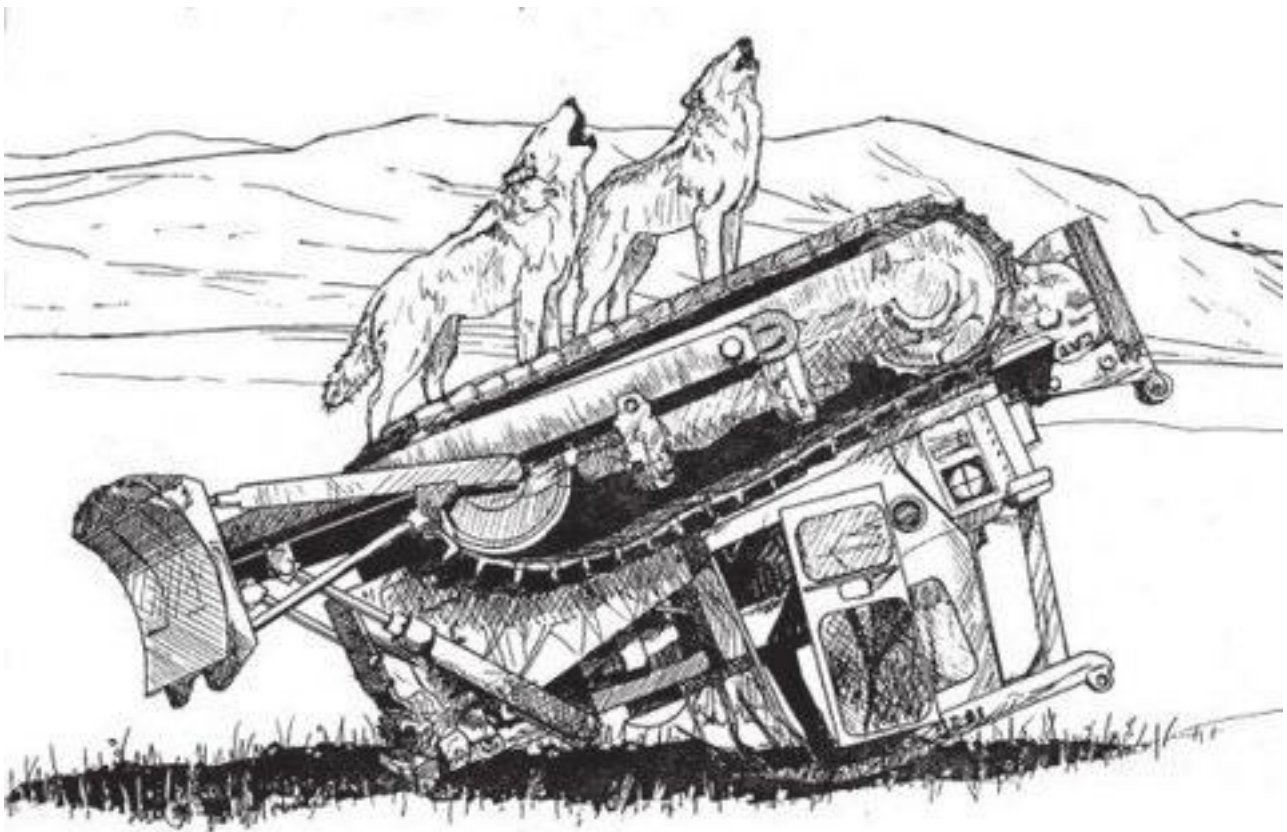
and countless smaller actions by day and night. Later that spring, EF!ers went on a roadshow round the country to stir things up.

Against this backdrop people came up with a definition for EF! in Britain, and agreed guidelines. Violence was defined as only against living beings, sabotage was to be “neither condemned nor condoned”, and EF! groups were to be up for receiving anonymous ‘ecotage’ communiques and doing press work on behalf of the night time elves (also called ‘Earth Liberation Front’).

Throughout '92 and beyond, a series of Earth Nights were called – “Go out and do something for the Earth... at night!”. ELF took the label Terra 1st long before the state dubbed them domestic terrorists. Their other name – Earth Liberation Fairies was an attempt to not fall into macho stereotypes. Similarly, sabotage became known as pixying. Valuable resources were published, like “Road Raging”, a protest camp manual and the Ozymandias’ Collective Sabotage & Direct Action Handbook, both still available on the internet.

The question of what Earth First! is remains open today. It is partly this openness that makes EF! continue to be a relevant, rare and radical concept. Some have attempted to define EF! as a network or movement, but however you see it, groups are autonomous to do what they want, how they want. There is no national decision-making process. As long as you try to work non-hierarchically and use direct action to stop the trashing of the Earth and its inhabitants, as long as you’re not a discriminatory fuckwit, you can call your actions Earth First! Get together with a few mates, and do it yourself.

• • •



Start a Group!

This is a fight we can only win together...

Earth First! is an international movement composed of small, bioregionally based groups. They apply 'direct pressure' to stop the bleeding, with a potent combination of education, organising and action. Nothing is more empowering than standing defiant against the destruction of the Earth with other like-hearted people.

Start a Group!

You don't have to do it alone. There will be other people living near you who are as concerned and willing to do something as you are. While it may not seem like it from the media, few people are keen on the idea of ecological crisis. Once you've found some like-minded people you can work with, anything you want to do will become a lot easier. Here are some ideas that might help you start a new group:

- **Host a film screening** – This is a simple and effective method of getting a decent sized group of interested people in one place. Preface the film(s) with a short introduction about the intention to start a group, collect contact details and have the date of a follow-up meeting booked so you can advertise it on the night.

- **Hold a public meeting** – Get in touch with the nearest existing group to you (or if there isn't one contact outreach@earthfirstgathering.org) and get them to give a short talk about the regional threat before showing a couple of short films. Take contact details from those attending and have a follow-up meeting (your group's first meeting) already arranged so that you can advertise the date on the night.

- **Advertising with leaflets/posters** – When you have a date/venue/time sorted for your public meeting/film screening or first group meeting, print a stack of fliers and put them through every door in your immediate area. We



have known friendly posties to help with this. It is also a great task for you to share with any keen people you have already met up with.

Getting Organised

Visible, organised and active local groups are a powerful force. There are some key-things that can help your group be as healthy, functional and effective as possible:

- **Regular face to face meetings** – Organise meetings that other people can easily attend, with a decision making process that everyone in the group can contribute to. Create working groups for discrete tasks so that general meetings are not bogged down in detail. This can make a big difference to engaging people in the campaign.

- **Be easily contactable** – Have a dedicated non-personal email address that is regularly checked and made publicly available via a simple website, as well as on group literature (e.g. flyers, posters etc.). Get a non-personal phone number (a cheap PAYG mobile) and share responsibility for answering calls.

- **Presence in the local community** – Have regular events and actions that people can get involved with and attend existing community events. Generating local news stories (via press releases) and publicising company/industry activity will help to raise the profile of

the issue in your community.

- **Produce materials** - a newsletter, window posters, flyers, badges, t-shirts, car stickers and signs, etc.

- **Have a social media presence** – Facebook and Twitter are both useful outreach tools. Update them regularly with local/group news and try to include lots of pictures/videos. N.B. Social media companies can and will sell detailed information about you and your group to companies you are fighting as well as to advertisers, in addition to sharing information with the police – Organising is for face-to-face meetings, the internet is for publicity.

- **Make connections with nearby groups** – Regional networking, organising (consider building a regional coalition of independent groups) and solidarity can save on repeating work. It will build the pool of skills you might be able to draw on, vastly increase numbers at big local events/demos/actions and intimidate the industry. It can also inspire others to form groups.

- **Organise an Action** – Direct action is a great way for your group to start making change happen. A well thought out campaign of action, both private (covert) and public (accountable), can cause severe damage to your target whilst inspiring others to do the same. Covert actions might allow you to remain anonymous and though they up the risk factor can have huge impact, whilst public or accountable actions can be great ways to introduce larger numbers of people to the cause, reduce the vulnerability of those involved and potentially increase awareness of the issue amongst the wider population. Ecotage (ecological sabotage) is also an option you may want to consider with a proud and effective history, though not for or as an open local group.

Read the section on Why Direct Action? in



this handbook. Follow links at the end of this section to training collectives with a selection of guides and handy tips.

Skills & Resources

Taking effective action & campaigning requires a wide range of skills, resources and sometimes some cash. Gaining new skills and sharing what you already know with others, is one of the most rewarding and crucial parts of grass-roots organising.

There are some great trainers in Britain & Ireland offering a broad range of workshops designed specifically for those in the movement, including training aimed at helping members of your group to share the skills they have as effectively as possible. Here are some ideas on how your group can maximise its potential:

- Find out what people can do – Your group will already have lots of transferable skills you can use. People with good time management, reliability, admin & organisational experience? Maybe you already use social media? Do you have an eye for design? Fill out forms regularly at work? Is photography your thing? Can you drive a car or minibus? These are invaluable campaign skills that are useful and can be shared with others and used in your group.

• **Get new skills & knowledge** – Contact one of the below training collectives

• **Seek out sympathetic local people** – There may be people and businesses who are sympathetic to your cause, who can not be actively involved in the campaign. They may be able to contribute financially. They may be able to help by donating resources, loaning equipment, advertising space, meeting space or a venue. There are lots of ways that people can be involved in supporting campaigns even if they have little time.

• **Organise a group fundraiser** – Quiz nights, sponsored walks/cycles, raffles, gigs, bring and buy sales, etc. There are a multitude of ways to raise cash and increase the visibility of your group/campaign, gain new members and give existing members a chance to work together and socialise outside of meetings.

• **Apply to sympathetic funding bodies** – Grass-roots community campaigning shouldn't be expensive particularly if you prioritise and plan regular group fundraisers. However there are some funding bodies who are sympathetic to the plight of communities threatened by environmental harm. Sometimes an injection of cash can help increase the scale of you plans.

Training Collectives

Seeds for Change Lancaster:
www.seedsforchange.org.uk/contact

Seeds for Change Oxford:
www.seedsforchange.org.uk/contact

Rhizome: rhizome.coop

London Roots: <http://london-roots.org.uk>

Tripod Collective (Scotland):
<http://tripodtraining.org>

Turning the Tide:
<http://www.turning-the-tide.org>

Next Year's Gathering: Get Involved

Earth First! needs you! These gatherings can be incredible, unique places that offer workshops and experiences you won't find anywhere else in the UK. There is no set group of people that the make the EF! Winter Moot & Summer Gathering happen – it relies on volunteers coming together each year as a new organising collective and getting it done together. The more people get involved, the easier the task is and the better the gatherings gets to be.

If you're web-savvy, into social-media, graphic design, writing (and ranting), organising, meeting other people that are committed to radical ecological direct action or just want to try your hand at some of these things – get involved!

Don't feel like you have the skills required? Don't sweat it. This process is ABOUT gaining new skills and experiences – you'll be provided with support and skill-sharing sessions from those that organised the gathering this year. Making the Winter Moot & Summer Gathering happen is a serious undertaking, but it's also incredibly rewarding. The sustainability of this movement relies on people who care stepping-up and mucking in.

Keen? Come along to the 'Organising the next EF! (Winter Moot & Summer) Gatherings' session Sunday @ 2pm. See you there!



Wednesday

Introduction To Earth First! & the Gathering

Weds 9:30 (30 mins) *Earth First!*

If it's your first time or you're curious about how EF! and the Gathering works, come and ask questions and hear a bit about why Earth First! and why people got involved. See how the EF! network can support your passion to fan the flames... *Also at: Thurs 9:30, Fri 9:30, Sat 9:30, Sun 9:30*

Camp Hygiene

Weds 10:00 (75 mins) *Camp Skills*

General principles to keep people at camps healthy and how germs spread

How To Set Up A Field Kitchen

Weds 10:00 (75 mins) *Camp Skills*

Key practical and health considerations for field kitchens

How To Put Up Marquees And Domes

Weds 10:00 (75 mins) *Camp Skills*

Learn how to erect structures & maintain them against the elements

Learn About Laying Out A Site

Weds 10:00 (75 mins) *Camp Skills*

Best practice for laying out a site, including legal requirements such as fire lanes and licensing laws

How To Build Hands-Free Hand-Washing Stations

Weds 11:30 (90 mins) *Camp Skills*

A must for camp hygiene, simple & low-tech

Help Make The Space Welcoming And Beautiful

Weds 11:30 (90 mins) *Camp Skills*

Sprucing up the site, including welcome tent

Simple Site Plumbing

Weds 11:30 (90 mins) *Camp Skills*

Basic principles, including soak-aways

How To Do Mass Catering

Weds 11:30 (90 mins) *Camp Skills*

A hands-on workshop in vegan mass catering in fields and on protests. Come and learn how to feed the masses, wholesome, tasty and

hygienic, with time to ask questions and hear experiences – come ready to chop! *Also at: Weds 17:30, Thurs 11:30, Thurs 17:30, Fri 11:30, Fri 17:30, Sat 11:30, Sat 17:30, Sun 11:30, Sun 17:30*

Learn field-massage for activist care and resilience

Weds 14:00 (60 mins) *Solidarity & Resilience*

This is adapted Indian Head Massage so it can be used in many tense situations from tree occupations to helping people in lock ons. It spans shoulders, neck, and face, no oils, done in a seated position, and **can** be done over clothing. Consensual and caring human touch and massage can help emotional and physical connection and resilience amongst activists. Preface will touch on personal boundaries, consent, and safety applicable to the workshop content. Improved massage skills and confidence to help fellow activists in the field or elsewhere. Partner up within the workshop or arrive with a partner to practise on. Techniques will be demonstrated then you will be guided to apply them on one another. Age 16 and up. Max 14 people. Up to 2 people are welcome to observe without physical participation (more than that and it becomes an audience I'm afraid).

Art Space Drop-In

Weds 14:00 (300 mins) *Creative Activism*

Drop in to the Creative Resistance space to make visual material for actions (like banners, masks, posters, stencils, prints etc.), to enhance the colourfulness, creativeness and clarity of your actions. You are welcome to work on props and visuals for any projects as well. *Also at: Thurs 14:00, Fri 14:00, Sat 14:00, Sun 15:15*

Daily Discussion

Weds 15:15 (120 mins) *Earth First!*

A series of discussion sessions on a topics picked during the gathering based on the suggestions and popularity among of those attending *Also at: Thurs 15:15, Fri 15:15, Sat 15:15, Sun 15:15*

Know your rights

Weds 15:15 (120 mins) *Action Skills*

Officers often rely on the lack of legal understanding of those participating in protest. This interactive session will give you the tools to take action more confidently. This workshop covers: The most five most important things to know when dealing with the police.

Understanding the limits of Stop and Search and learn how to resist information gathering techniques used by officers. What happens when you're arrested: we take you through the process and your rights in custody. Laws commonly used against protesters. *Also at: Thurs 15:15*

Resisting the Prison Industrial Complex in the UK

Weds 15:15 (120 mins) *Campaigns/Issues*
This workshop is a chance to learn about struggles against prisons across England, Wales & Scotland. The two hour workshop explores the role of prison in our lives, how the P.I.C harms individuals and communities and alternatives to it. We introduce examples of state violence, like the IPP sentences, and we focus on prison expansion, as well as the role of prison labour. We explore recent resistance & ongoing struggles and aim to support new groups to emerge that can fight this racist, sexist, brutal system.

How To Build A Mass Movement For Radical Change: The state of the art from successful movements around the world

Weds 15:15 (120 mins) *Campaign & Strategy Skills*

Activism wasn't discovered yesterday - and you can do it well or badly. Over the past 10 years activists and researchers have developed common aims, strategies and ways of working which lead to the growth of effective mass movements. In this workshop which we will look at the present state of the art drawing upon the momentum model developed in the United States and Radical think tank research in the UK. Both show how to build mobilisation by an escalation of radical nonviolent direct actions combined with a thorough trainings of participants in the movement's aims, values and structures. There are now a number of exciting and inspiring ways which have been shown to work in terms of building support.

Where next for biodiversity in the UK?

Weds 17:30 (90 mins) *Campaigns/Issues*
A chance to discuss and share information on some inspiring ecological projects from the British Isles and to reflect on the challenges ahead. An informal discussion which will look at re-wilding, landscape scale ecology and the potential for creating new common land for people and wildlife.

Bodies of resistance

Weds 17:30 (90 mins) *Solidarity & Resilience*
Stress, trauma and grief are held in our bodies, and with those bodies we can re-learn the simple skills of resilience and recovery that our culture has trained out of us. We'll discuss our coping strategies, their risks and rewards, and share the best tools we know. From smoking to shaking, from stimming to deep pressure massage, every one of us can improve our own personal first aid toolkits for the middle of an action or the everyday grind. Trauma sensitive and accessible to all.

Mutual Aid for People Supporting the Environment

Weds 17:30 (90 mins) *Solidarity & Resilience*
We're forming a mutual aid organisation and would love to share our ideas with you and hear yours. None of us exist or can work in isolation and for every person shutting down fossil fuel production there are many others involved in supplying essential life services like food or shelter. Our focus will be sharing non-monetary support, time and resources. We welcome you to get involved in what ever way you feel you can.



Wednesday cont.

Facilitation Skills

Weds 17:30 (90 mins) Skills For Working In Groups

Whether you have years of experience or none, you are very welcome to join this workshop. It'll be a skill-share for everyone to pool what works when facilitating and why. (London Roots) *Also at: Fri 15:15*

How To Do Mass Catering

Weds 17:30 (90 mins) *Camp Skills*

A hands-on workshop in vegan mass catering in fields and on protests. Come and learn how to feed the masses, wholesome, tasty and hygienic, with time to ask questions and hear experiences – come ready to chop! *Also at: Thurs 17:30*

We The Uncivilised

Weds 20:00 (120 mins) Critical Reflections
Disillusioned by a cultural story of consumption and alienation, a couple are called to action. Carrying with them their unborn child, they embark on a year long journey around the UK, searching for the seeds of an alternative culture and with it hope for the future. Without any prior filmmaking experience, they buy a second hand film camera, and set off with an intention to share their experience. They speak to grassroots activists alongside pioneering voices, including; Satish Kumar, Polly Higgins, Mac Macartney, Bruce Parry, Martin Shaw, Glennie Kindred, and The Late Patrick Whitefield, on their quest to uncover an 'uncivilised' story of relationship, connection and belonging. Film is 90 minutes long and will be followed by Q&A.

...

Thursday

Wild Yoga

Thurs 7:30 (60 mins) *Solidarity & Resilience*
An early morning session of dedication to body, land and community. Trauma sensitive and accessible to all. Breathe with the earth that birthed you. Move with the land that nourishes you. Sit with grief, with joy, and with hope. Come together, heart to heart, hand in hand. *Also at: Fri 7:30*

Introduction To Earth First! & the Gathering

Thurs 9:30 (30 mins) *Earth First!*
If it's your first time or you're curious about how EF! and the Gathering works, come and ask questions and hear a bit about why Earth First! and why people got involved. See how the EF! network can support your passion to fan the flames... *Also at: Weds 9:30, Fri 9:30, Sat 9:30, Sun 9:30*

Regional Meet-Ups & What Next

Thurs 10:00 (75 mins) *Earth First!*
Chance to network with individuals/groups from your region, build links, assess threats, initiate collaborations and build solidarity (Main space) *Also at: Sat 10:00*

Mapping Migration Struggles

Thurs 11:30 (90 mins) *Campaigns/Issues*
Collaboratively mapping the European border regime, migration routes, solidarity projects and grassroots resistance to the border. Where do we go from here?

Update on resistance to nuke dumping in Bure, France

Thurs 11:30 (90 mins) *Campaigns/Issues*
Update on resistance of the French people to Andra's plans to dump nuclear waste in Bure, the forest was occupied and then re-occupied in mid-july. After an attack on the occupiers by private security, Andra have lost a court case against the occupiers – as they have begun work illegally. Come along and find out the latest info.

Stop Synthetic Life!

Thurs 11:30 (90 mins) *Campaigns/Issues*
GM is back, with even more dangerous technology. Now scientists say they have

already made synthetic lifeforms and new species. They want to create GM babies, and not content with Terminator seeds, they want to terminate entire species and engineer ecosystems using 'gene drives'. Behind the new 'synthetic biology' is an explicit philosophy of total domination and control of nature. Many of the key scientists and companies are based in Britain. This workshop will explain the new technology and discuss what we can do about it.

Activist basic self-defence

Thurs 11:30 (90 mins) *Practical Skills*

Non-macho self-defence for activist and everyday life. Uses technique instead of strength and safe enough to practise on your friends. Try to get there on time for a bit of a stretch to avoid injury. Gender: all/non Age: 16 and up. Max: 14 people

Lockpicking

Thurs 14:00 (60 mins) *Practical Skills*

Learn how locks work, and how to open them using lockpicking and other bypass techniques. At the end of the workshop, and at other times during the gathering, there will be practice sessions where you can try your hand at lockpicking. If you have your own lockpicking tools, bring them along for practice!

Workers' control for peace and ecology: the example of the Lucas Plan

Thurs 14:00 (60 mins) *Critical Reflections*

Surviving ecological crisis and overcoming the technocratic capitalist system that produced it can only be achieved with the help of the working class. 40 years ago, workers at the Lucas Aerospace arms company showed how this could work, with their Alternative Plan for arms conversion and socially useful production. Join the celebrations of their legacy and moves towards new peoples' plans for the future.

Cover Up! The Case for Protest Anonymity

Thurs 14:00 (60 mins) *Critical Reflections*

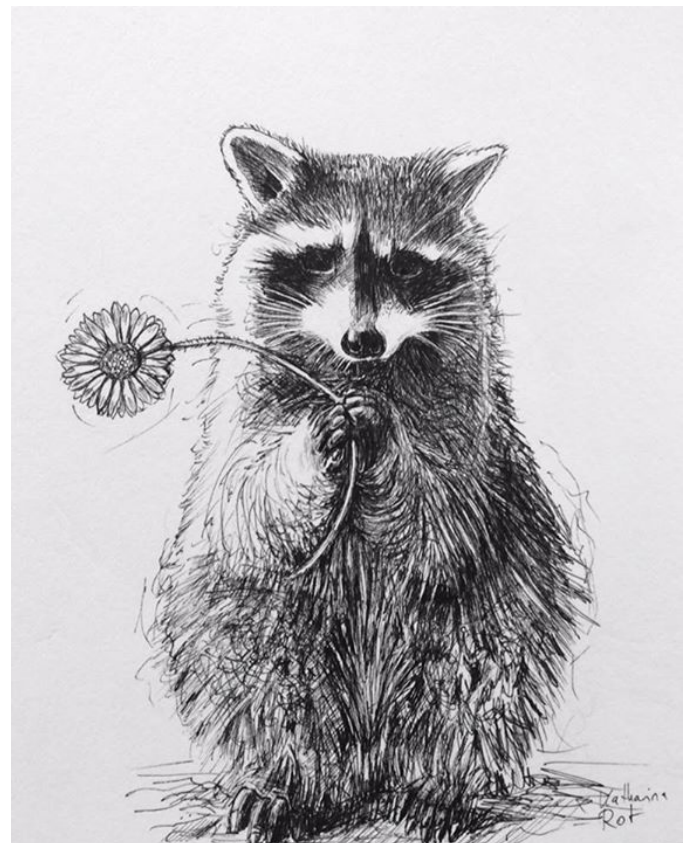
In the face of concerted attempts to undermine political protest movements, it is perfectly legitimate to actively resist police surveillance.

One way is to always cover your face: a tactic that works best when hundreds of people adopt it collectively. However, many insist wearing a face mask removes personal accountability for how protesters act in support of their beliefs. Others, including Netpol, argue anonymity may represent the main deciding factor for many about whether they are able to 'stand up and be counted' at all. This workshop explores these issues and how we begin to overcome barriers to greater protest anonymity, such as targeting and arrest by police, separation from other protesters and questions of legitimacy.

Meditation and Activism

Thurs 14:00 (60 mins) *Action Skills*

Direct action is effective in campaigns to stop bad stuff happening, but how can we tackle the root of the seemingly endless tide of greed, hate and violence that needs combating. Meditation and similar practices and faiths can provide a foundation of strength, calm and clarity. This workshop looks at ideas and discussion on how we innerresource with the proactive approach of direct action to achieve a secure and just future.



Thursday cont.

Overcoming Fear

Thurs 14:00 (60 mins) *Solidarity & Resilience*
Everyone feels fear at different situations. When fear prevents us from doing the things we want to, there are ways we can work to overcome it. We'll work as a group through some techniques to help you overcome fear to grow your capability.

Art Space Drop-In

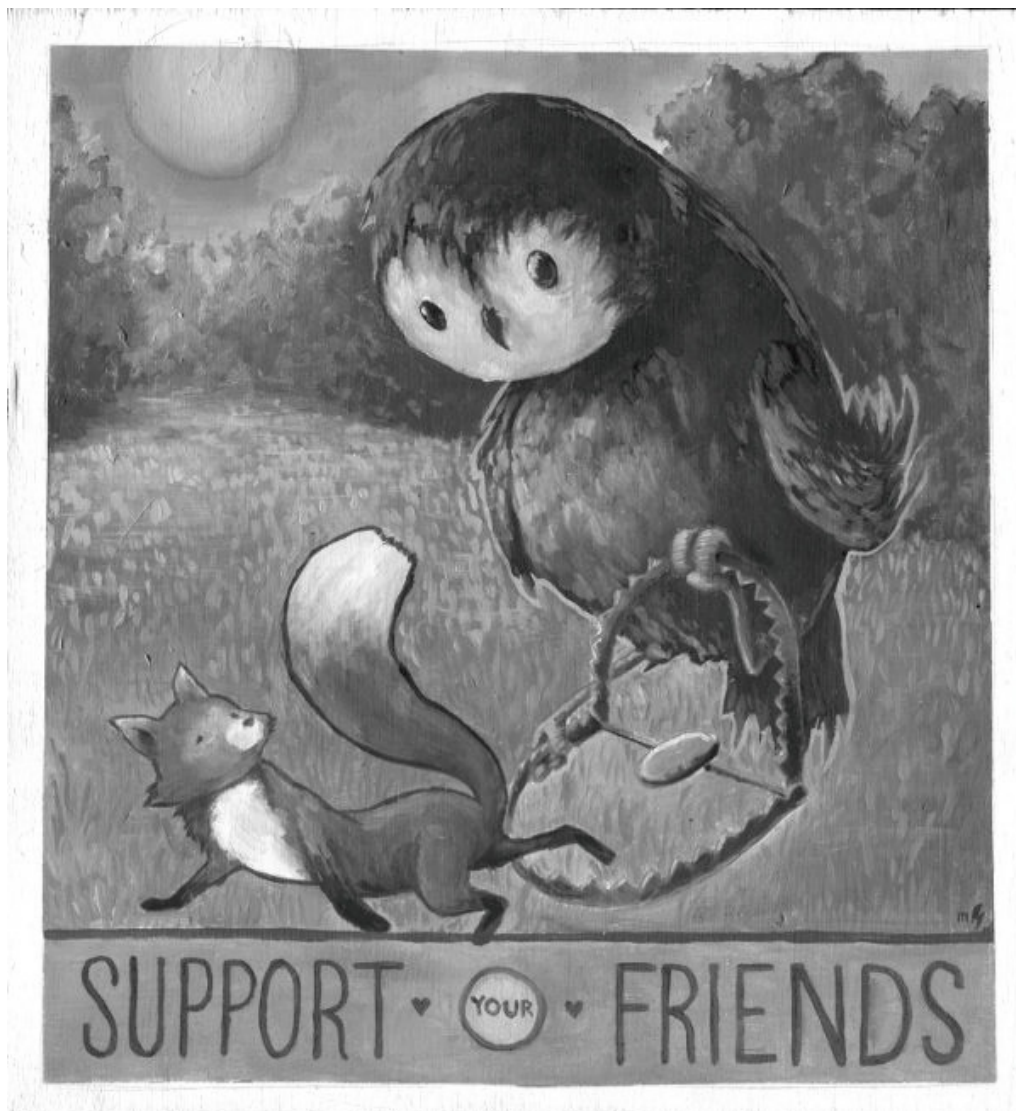
Thurs 14:00 (300 mins) Creative Activism
Drop in to the Creative Resistance space to make visual material for actions (like banners, masks, posters, stencils, prints etc.), to enhance the colourfulness, creativeness and clarity of your actions. You are welcome to work on props and visuals for any projects as well. *Also at: Weds 14:00, Fri 14:00, Sat 14:00, Sun 15:15*

Daily Discussion

Thurs 15:15 (120 mins) *Earth First!*
A series of discussion sessions on a topics picked during the gathering based on the suggestions and popularity among of those attending *Also at: Weds 15:15, Fri 15:15, Sat 15:15, Sun 15:15*

Engaging with Conflict to Support Our Groups

Thurs 15:15 (120 mins) *Skills For Working In Groups*
Conflict can bring up a lot of intense feelings, including pain, fear, anger and hopelessness. And, it can also be a path to creative change. In fact, working through conflict, with whatever support we need, can help groups get stronger, more resilient and more effective at bringing about social change. Come along to explore conflict with the Activist Mediation Network. We'll look at conflict from a systems perspective, and practice essential skills for working through conflict.



Know your rights

Thurs 15:15 (120 mins) *Action Skills*

Officers often rely on the lack of legal understanding of those participating in protest. This interactive session will give you the tools to take action more confidently. This workshop covers: The most five most important things to know when dealing with the police.

Understanding the limits of Stop and Search and learn how to resist information gathering techniques used by officers. What happens when you're arrested: we take you through the process and your rights in custody. Laws commonly used against protesters. *Also at:*

Weds 15:15

The Hammer Blow – East Timor Ploughshares Action

Thurs 15:15 (120 mins) *Critical Reflections*

In 1996 a group of women caused nearly £2m damage to a British Aerospace warplane, due to be delivered to Indonesia for use against the people of occupied East Timor. After six months in prison on remand, the women were acquitted of all charges: the first ever acquittal in this kind of serious damage case. Come and find out more, and listen to a talk about the recently published book, 'The Hammer Blow'. How was the action planned? What was it like in prison? Why were the women acquitted? What can you do to maximise your chances of acquittal in this kind of case? Talk, with questions and discussion.

Ecology and Autonomy: An anarchist midwife's view of birth

Thurs 15:15 (120 mins) *Critical Reflections*

With a background in direct action, challenging power hierarchies, and defending ecologies and human rights, I came to midwifery thinking I was heading in a new direction – how wrong I was! After 3 years training within the NHS I have worked 3 years in an independent midwifery team. This workshop is a space to chat about the birth spectrum in the context of our values, politics, and instincts, and for me to be useful to anyone with birth questions. Please also come along with related skills/knowledge/experience to contribute to the discussion.

Climbing Techniques and Practice

Thurs 17:30 (90 mins) *Action Skills*

There will be climbing workshops most days that will cover a range of climbing skills that could be needed in relation to direct action. It draws on techniques from rope access, tree work and rock climbing to provide practical experience in the variety of techniques available. Even if you haven't had any previous climbing experience come along and have a go, and climbing is a fun and rewarding sport. Times subject to change (see workshops board). Also at: Fri 17:30, Sun 11:30

Lost art of Bulldozer Diving - Safely stopping planet destroying machinery on working sites

Thurs 17:30 (90 mins) *Action Skills*

If we will be so daft as to stand in front of moving vehicles/machinery/ships, lets learn how to do it safely. This is a skill sharing workshop with a practical display on how to safely stop vehicles and machinery, so come and share your best methods fracking lorries to coal conveyor belts (and maybe even a war ship).

Zapatista Alternatives: Autonomy and the Zapatista Communities in Chiapas

Thurs 17:30 (90 mins) *Critical Reflections*

From which context did the Zapatistas emerge in 1983 (foundation of the EZLN)? What was their journey until the Uprising in 1994, and from 1994 until now? What is their relationship with the adherents of the Sixth Declaration (the Sixth International)? We look at the trajectory of the Autonomous communities and, based on it, explore Zapatista notions of autonomy, freedom, collective power and individual and collective responsibility in our different calendars and geographies.

Understanding Anarchism - Past, Present And Future

Thurs 17:30 (90 mins) *Critical Reflections*

The workshop covers a history of anarchist ideas and covers the ideas of the most famous anarchist writers, how those ideas developed over time, plus some discussion of main anarchist branches. Then a discussion of where anarchist ideas have been used in

Thursday cont.

praxis, quite a lot about the spanish civil war and revolution, the revolution in Syria and fight against ISIS, discussion of our groups activities, our group is really more of an anarchist umbrella group for various activities, anti-fash, hunt sab, social housing and so on. Then finally some discussion for future developments ,new projects and what an anarchist society would look like.

#AxeDrax: How can we get the UK's biggest coal burner and the world's biggest wood burner to close down?

Thurs 17:30 (90 mins) *Campaigns/Issues*
Formerly the UK's largest coal-fired power station (and site of the first ever UK climate camp), Drax is now the world's largest biomass power station, burning imported wood chips from clear-cut wetland forests in the southern US. We will briefly introduce the problems with this type of biomass before moving on to a brainstorm and facilitated discussion of how to campaign against power stations, joining the dots between different forms of extreme energy, climate change, human rights and community agency to choose where our power comes from and who profits.

Power and Privilege in Our Groups

Thurs 17:30 (90 mins) *Skills For Working In Groups*

Whether you're relieved to read that workshop title, haven't come across the phrase power and privilege before, are irritated by it, or anything in between, this participative workshop is for you. Our groups and campaigns often unintentionally replicate the power structures many of us are trying to challenge. We'll be talking about how race, culture, class, gender and other issues play out in environmental groups, how we talk (or don't talk) about them, how we get better at listening to each other and specifically, what we can do so all voices are valued equally.

How To Do Mass Catering

Thurs 17:30 (90 mins) *Camp Skills*

A hands-on workshop in vegan mass catering in fields and on protests. Come and learn how to feed the masses, wholesome, tasty and hygienic, with time to ask questions and hear experiences – come ready to chop! *Also at: Weds 11:30*

Cinema

Thurs 20:00 *Creative Activism*

Radical cinema space showing a wide variety of full length and short films. See board outside for details of films being shown. *Also at: Weds 20:00, Fri 20:00, Sat 20:00, Sun 20:00*



Friday

Wild Yoga

Fri 7:30 (60 mins) *Solidarity & Resilience*

An early morning session of dedication to body, land and community. Trauma sensitive and accessible to all. Breathe with the earth that birthed you. Move with the land that nourishes you. Sit with grief, with joy, and with hope. Come together, heart to heart, hand in hand. *Also at: Thurs 7:30*

Introduction To Earth First! & the Gathering

Fri 9:30 (30 mins) *Earth First!*

If it's your first time or you're curious about how EF! and the Gathering works, come and ask questions and hear a bit about why Earth First! and why people got involved. See how the EF! network can support your passion to fan the flames... *Also at: Weds 9:30, Thurs 9:30, Sat 9:30, Sun 9:30*

Campaigns Round-Up (UK & international)

Fri 10:00 (75 mins) *Earth First!*

Your campaign's chance to plug what you've been up to in the last year & call out for people to get involved! (Main space)

The Future Of Long Term Land Squatting

Fri 11:30 (90 mins) *Critical Reflections*

Come and find out more about the eviction of Yorkley Court and what it means for the future of long term land occupations

Self defence for queers of all genders

Fri 11:30 (90 mins) *Practical Skills*

A chance to talk about the problem behaviour and situations that we face, share strategies as well as stories, and practice both verbal & physical tactics. You can defend yourself whatever your level of fitness/ability/age. We can adapt all the strikes and exercises for your body even if you're injured.

No Nuke Dumping

Fri 11:30 (90 mins) *Campaigns/Issues*

The government has designated their plans for a nuclear waste dump as 'nationally significant infrastructure' so that they can impose a dump on the community of their choosing. What does solidarity mean as communities are pitted against each other and NIMBYism rears

it's ugly head as they face the prospect of nuclear waste dumping? is 'geological disposal' of nuclear waste really the solution? Join us for an open discussion

The Revolution in Rojava

Fri 11:30 (90 mins) *Campaigns/Issues*

What's really happening in the north of Syria? Is it really a revolution? Presentation & discussion about the new bottom up system of democratic confederalism and womens liberation movements that are shaping the region.

Cars and capitalism: How do they work together and what can we do about it?

Fri 11:30 (90 mins) *Campaigns/Issues*

Cars are choking our health, our communities and the environment to death, and are a major contributor to climate change. A new road building programme is being rolled out in the UK, buses are being cut, cycling is still a marginal activity... The aim of this workshop is to collectively explore car dominance from an anti-capitalist perspective. We'll ask questions such as: What does car dominance mean? Which function does it serve in a capitalist system? How is it maintained? Who is losing out? Who is benefiting? What can we do about it? Does it make sense to focus on it? We hope this workshop will be relevant to those who are involved in other campaigning issues and would like to reflect on how to include an anti-capitalist perspective to their resistance.

How To Do Mass Catering

Fri 11:30 (90 mins) *Camp Skills*

A hands-on workshop in vegan mass catering in fields and on protests. Come and learn how to feed the masses, wholesome, tasty and hygienic, with time to ask questions and hear experiences – come ready to chop! *Also at: Weds 11:30, Thurs 17:30*

Foraging And Plant Identification

Fri 11:30 (90 mins) *Practical Skills*

Tour of the site, identifying and collecting a variety of wild plants and discussing their uses for food, medicine and other applications as well as folk lore and history. Introduction to some commonly foraged plants and foraging

Wednesday

7:30	Weds		
8:00	Breakfast		
9:00	Morning Meeting		
9:30	Introduction to EF! & the Gathering		
	Space 1	Space 2	Space 3
10:00-11:15	Camp Hygiene	How To Set Up A Field Kitchen	How To Put Up Marquees And Domes
11:30-13:00	How To Build Hands-Free Hand-Washing Stations	Help Make The Space Welcoming And Beautiful	Simple Site Plumbing
13:00	Lunch		
14:00-15:00	Learn Field-Massage For Activist Care And Resilience		
15:15-17:15	Daily Discussion	Know Your Rights	How To Build A Mass Movement For Radical Change
17:30-19:00	Mutual Aid for People Supporting the Environment	Where Next For Biodiversity In The UK?	Facilitation Skills
19:00	Evening Meal		
20:00	Evening Entertainment		
	Pub Quiz		
	Night Time Programme		
23:00	Power-down (all amplified sound & loud noise to have ended)		

Working Groups & Site Work Period		
Space 4	Space 5	Outdoors/Elsewhere
Learn About Laying Out A Site		
		• How To Do Mass Catering
		• Creative Resistance: Art Space Drop-In Until 19:00
Resisting the Prison Industrial Complex in the UK		
Bodies of Resistance		• How To Do Mass Catering
Evening Programme		
20:00 We The Uncivilised screening, discussion		

Thursday

7:30	Thurs	Wild Yoga		
8:00		Breakfast		
9:00		Morning Meeting		
9:30		Introduction to EF! & the Gathering		
		Space 1	Space 2	Space 3
10:00-11:15		Regional Meet-Ups & What Next		
11:30-13:00		Activist Basic Self-Defense	Self-Organisation for Organisers	Stop Synthetic Life
13:00		Lunch		
14:00-15:00		Cover Up! The Case for Protest Anonymity	Overcoming Fear	Lock Picking
15:15-17:15		Daily Discussion	Know Your Rights	Engaging with Conflict to Support Our Groups
17:30-19:00		#AxeDrax: How can we get the biggest coal/wood burner to close down?	Lost Art Of Bulldozer Diving	Power & Pivilege In Our Groups
19:00		Evening Meal		
20:00		Evening Entertainment		
		Live Music		
		Night Time Programme		
23:00		Power-down (all amplified sound & loud noise to have ended)		

Working Groups & Site Work Period		
Space 4	Space 5	Outdoors/Elsewhere
Update On Resistance To Nuke Dumping In Bure, France	Mapping Migration Struggles	• How To Do Mass Catering
Workers' Control For Peace And Ecology	Meditation And Activism	• Creative Resistance: Art Space Drop In until 19:00
The Hammer Blow – East Timor Ploughshares Action	Ecology And Autonomy: An Anarchist Midwife's View Of Birth	
Understanding Anarchism – Past, Present and Future	Zapatista Alternatives: Autonomy and the Zapatista Communities in Chiapas	• Climbing Techniques and Practice • How To Do Mass Catering
Evening Programme		

Friday

7:30 Fri	Wild Yoga		
8:00	Breakfast		
9:00	Morning Meeting		
9:30	Introduction to EF! & the Gathering		
	Space 1	Space 2	Space 3
10:00-11:15	Campaigns Round-Up (UK & International)		
11:30-13:00	Capitalism And The Car: How do they work together and what can we do about it?	The Future Of Long Term Land Squatting	Self Defence For Queers Of All Genders
13:00	Lunch		
14:00-15:00	What Is Fracking? An Exploration Of Unconventional Oil & Gas	Inflatable Tools For Direct Action	Co-operation And Consensus
15:15-17:15	Daily Discussion	Burnout And Resilience - Village Building At The End Of The World	Active Nonviolence?
17:30-19:00	Campaigning To Kill Coal	Zapatista Alternatives: The Wheels of Capitalism	Precurity Consciousness Raising
19:00	Evening Meal		
20:00	Evening Entertainment		
	Live Music/Performance		
	Night Time Programme		
23:30	Power-down (all amplified sound & loud noise to have ended)		

Working Groups & Site Work Period		
Space 4	Space 5	Outdoors/Elsewhere
Kurdish Struggles & Rojava	No Nuke Dumping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foraging And Plant Identification • How To Do Mass Catering
Ecological Children's Camp 2017	Practical Workshop On DC Electrics, Off-Grid Solar And Batteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Resistance: Art Space Drop-In Until 19:00
Resisting The Atomic Menace	Facilitation skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fences
We Need To Talk About Violence!	Spycops & Latest On Pitchford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climbing Techniques and Practice • How To Do Mass Catering
Evening Programme		
20:00 Cinema		20:00 Not Seen, Not Heard: Moving About In The Dark Without Being Detected

Saturday

7:30 Sat			
8:00	Breakfast		
9:00	Morning Meeting		
9:30	Introduction to EF! & the Gathering		
	Space 1	Space 2	Space 3
10:00-11:15	Regional Meet-Ups & What Next		
11:30-13:00	Campaign Networking Sessions - Fracking, GM, Incineration, Coal		
13:00	Lunch		
14:00-15:00	Blockading With Equipment	Advance Security Workshop	Consensus Decision Making for Actions and Meetings
15:15-17:15	Daily Discussion	Fracking Frontlines: Major Threats In Lancashire & Elsewhere	Self Defence For Women
17:30-19:00	Campaign Networking Sessions - Nuclear, Aviation, Bio-Energy, Roads		
19:00	Evening Meal		
20:00	Evening Entertainment		
	Ceilidh, followed by DJs from 23:00		
	Night Time Programme		
1:00	Power-down (all amplified sound & loud noise to have ended)		

Working Groups & Site Work Period		
Space 4	Space 5	Outdoors/Elsewhere
Strategy, Tactics, Escalation	Building Connections	• How To Do Mass Catering
Dealing With The Legal System	Self Defence For Kids (aged 6-12)	• Creative Resistance: Art Space Drop-In Until 19:00
Getting Savvy On Social Media	Working With Conflict	• Foraging & Plant Identification
		• How To Do Mass Catering
Evening Programme		
20:00 Buried Sunshine (Cinema)		

Sunday

7:30 Sun			
8:00	Breakfast		
9:00	Morning Meeting		
9:30	Introduction to EF! & the Gathering		
	Space 1	Space 2	Space 3
10:00-11:15	Lock-On Construction	What's going in with squatting?	Earth First In Print?
11:30-13:00	Exploring Power	Zapatista Alternatives: To Walk by Asking Questions	Stopping Airport Expansion
13:00	Lunch		
14:00-15:00	Organising the next EF! (winter moot & summer) gatherings		
15:15-17:15	Daily Discussion	Reconnaissance For Actions	Defense Against The Dart Arts: Information Security for the Discerning Anarchist
17:30-19:00	Campaigns Report-Back/Next Steps & Evaluation		
19:00	Evening Meal		
20:00	Evening Entertainment		
	Open Mic Night And Spontaneous Co-creation		
	Night Time Programme		
1:00	Power-down (all amplified sound & loud noise to have ended)		

Working Groups & Site Work Period		
Space 4	Space 5	Outdoors/Elsewhere
Fox Hunts, Badgers And The Upcoming Culls	What Is Anarchism?	
Frack Watch: Keeping Tabs On The Fracking Industry	DIY Wind Turbines & Off-grid Electrics	• Climbing Techniques and Practice
Growing Earth First! - Local groups, web, publications and more		
Skilling Up For Action	Reflecting On Burnout	• Foraging & Plant Identification • Creative Resistance: Art Space Drop-In
Evening Programme		

Friday cont.

etiquette and personal safety. Countryside management act is at applies to foraging will be briefly covered. Examination of the nutritional and health benefits of wild foods and the 'polyculture vs the monoculture'. Consideration of wild and home grown food as a part of community self-sufficiency and autonomy. Open discussion and knowledge sharing. *Also at: Sat 15:15, Sun 15:15*

Art Space Drop-In

Fri 14:00 (300 mins) *Creative Activism*
Drop in to the Creative Resistance space to make visual material for actions (like banners, masks, posters, stencils, prints etc.), to enhance the colourfulness, creativeness and clarity of your actions. You are welcome to work on props and visuals for any projects as well. *Also at: Weds 14:00, Thurs 14:00, Sat 14:00, Sun 15:15*

Practical Workshop On DC Electrics, Off-Grid Solar And Batteries

Fri 14:00 (60 mins) Practical Skills
Cable sizing, watts, volts, amps, power consumption & reduction, DC safety and fusing, AC and DC production inc Inverters and grounding, AC safety including RCDs, Using meters and indicators, Q & A session

Ecological Children's Camp 2017

Fri 14:00 (60 mins) *Practical Skills*
The John Connor Camp happens one weekend each summer, providing 20-30 children and young people with fun and interesting activities that are underpinned by the principles of ecological understanding and care, non-hierarchy, mutual aid, and co-operation. It is a DIY event, similar in many ways to an Earth First! Summer Gathering, with parents, carers and their friends making the event happen. Come along to find out more and how you can participate in next years camp - whether you are a child, want to bring one or more children, or you want to contribute an activity.

Co-operation And Consensus

Fri 14:00 (60 mins) Skills For Working In Groups

Consensus decision-making needs co-operation, which is not always easy to find in a society built on competition. A fun session using group activities to explore what it means to co-operate, and how we can support ourselves and each other to leave competition at the door when we sit down to do consensus. (Rhizome)

What Is Fracking?: An Exploration Of Unconventional Oil & Gas

Fri 14:00 (60 mins) Campaigns/Issues
Fracking is a word, and one that means many different things to different people, but behind that word there is an industry intent on spreading its influence across the globe, into the lives of everyone on the planet. This workshop aims to unveil the gritty reality of the unconventional oil and gas industry which lies behind the fracking hype, and convey the fundamental knowledge which everyone will need in order to effectively resist this growing threat to the communities and the wider ecosystems of which they are a part.



Self-Organisation for Organisers

Fri 14:00 (60 mins) Solidarity & Resilience
This will be a skillshare to pool tips and try and find solutions to any challenges you have organising yourself so you're working sustainably. Everyone welcome - from the perpetually overwhelmed and disorganised to the unflappable and fast.

Inflatable Tools For Direct Action

Thurs 11:30 (90 mins) *Action Skills*
Using the inflatable cubes from Paris as a creative direct action tactic. See www.toolsforaction.net for more info.

Daily Discussion

Fri 15:15 (120 mins) Earth First!
A series of discussion sessions on a topics picked during the gathering based on the suggestions and popularity among of those attending *Also at: Weds 15:15, Thurs 15:15, Sat 15:15, Sun 15:15*

Resisting the atomic menace

Fri 15:15 (120 mins) *Campaigns/Issues*
Come and find out about resisting the atomic menace, if you thought there was nothing you can do about nuclear because it's already here think again! It's finally becoming clearer to the public (despite the media hype) that the governments new nuclear program is bollox, this is the time for us to get together and give it a shove so we can make way for the an new energy paradigm based on conservation, efficiency, and co-operation.

Active Nonviolence?

Fri 15:15 (120 mins) *Critical Reflections*
Active Nonviolence is a profoundly practical approach to bringing about change, grounded in the work of Gandhi, Martin Luther King and many others. It refuses to play by the rules of those who exert power over us, underpinned as they are by violence against people and the Earth. Instead it develops our collective power for change, based on connection and creativity. In this workshop we will explore, in an active and practical way, the relevance of Nonviolence to our own situations – challenging and questioning it, and hopefully taking away ideas we can use.

Over, Under, Through: Fences And Overcoming Them

Fri 15:15 (120 mins) *Action Skills*
When trying to take direct action we are often held back by fences. Come and find out about different types of fences, and how to get past them in a variety of ways. This is not just for people who are confident with heights and climbing! There will be an emphasis on how we can support each other to get a whole group where it needs to be, when possible. There is a practical element to this workshop so wear clothes and footwear that you can move and climb in at a level you feel comfortable with.

Burn out and Resilience - Village Building At The End Of The World

Fri 15:15 (120 mins) Solidarity & Resilience
We are living in uncertain times and the work we do seems more vital than ever and yet we are few who are giving much, sometimes too much. Its no surprise that this often leads to burn out and break down , depriving our networks of core skills , unique experiences as well as mighty hearts. This is an introduction open to anyone who has ever experienced the overwhelm of activism. Learn how to identify the symptoms of burn out and avoid them. We will explore strategies for balancing our lives and with it our work and look at re-framing our patterns and beliefs to enable us to re connect ourselves to the passions that keep us in fight for nature.

Facilitation Skills

Fri 15:15 (120 mins) *Skills For Working In Groups*
Whether you have years of experience or none, you are very welcome to join this workshop. It'll be a skill-share for everyone to pool what works when facilitating and why. (London Roots) *Also at: Weds 17:30*

Campaigning to kill coal

Fri 17:30 (90 mins) *Campaigns/Issues*
The coal industry is struggling, let's help it to choking on its own fumes! Direct action may need to be taken against a recent approval of a mine at Druridge Bay which is being strongly resisted by local residents. Communities are

Friday cont.

fighting for justice in relation to abandoned opencast sites. Coal Action Network are launching campaigns against coal power stations, come and shape the campaigns to end the industry which has contributed most to global warming.

Precarity Consciousness-Raising: Anxiety and modern life

Fri 17:30 (90 mins) *Solidarity & Resilience*
This will be a participatory session. It will explore the manifestations of anxiety and psychological distress in contemporary life, and seek to link these to the current economic and political situation (precarity, neoliberalism, attentive stress, performance management, disposability, etc). The first part of the session will be a small-group exercise in which people go round the group and list experiences of anxiety (and related problems). The second part will group these into categories. The third part will seek to link the categories back to the structures of capitalism and contemporary life.

Zapatista Alternatives: The Wheels of Capitalism

Fri 17:30 (90 mins) *Critical Reflections*
We take the Zapatista concept of 'the wheels of capitalism' and look at it in our calendar and geography. The wheels of capitalism can be those of a runaway train, of a bulldozer that quashes everything, of a machine that produces obedient individuals,... The Zapatistas in Chiapas identified four wheels: dispossession ('despojo'), repression, oppression, and disdain. Participants of previous workshops have added 'seduction' and 'attrition', to account for their calendars and geographies in the Global North. We look at participants' experiences with the different wheels, with what connects the wheels, and at what we can do about them.

We Need to Talk about Violence! A Discussion around non-violence and diversity of tactics

Fri 17:30 (90 mins) *Critical Reflections*
Violence and non-violence are contested

terms. For some, smashed windows represent violence, while for others only injury to persons counts as violent. Some justify tactics such as damage to property while others insist on a very strong concept of non-violence. Recently we have seen the use of an action consensus, in place of previous commitment to a diversity of tactics. This discussion will introduce examples of different tactics in practice, and provide a participatory space where we can talk through these issues at length.

Spycops & Latest On Pitchford

Fri 17:30 (90 mins) *Campaign & Strategy Skills*
A chance to catch up on the latest developments on undercover police, including what has been learned from the four undercovers exposed this year. Also looking at where things stand with the Pitchford Inquiry into the issue and what we can expect.

How To Do Mass Catering

Fri 17:30 (90 mins) *Camp Skills*
A hands-on workshop in vegan mass catering in fields and on protests. Come and learn how to feed the masses, wholesome, tasty and hygienic, with time to ask questions and hear experiences – come ready to chop! *Also at: Weds 11:30, Thurs 17:30*

Cinema

Fri 20:00 (mins) *Creative Activism*
Radical cinema space showing a wide variety of full length and short films. See board outside for details of films being shown. *Also at: Weds 20:00, Thurs 20:00, Sat 20:00, Sun 20:00*

Not Seen, Not Heard: Moving about at night without being detected

Fri 20:00 (mins) *Action Skills*
'Not seen, no heard: Moving about at night without being detected' – a practical exercise in ways of dressing and moving that gets you in place for an action without raising the alarm.

Saturday

Introduction To Earth First! & the Gathering

Sat 9:30 (30 mins) *Earth First!*

If it's your first time or you're curious about how EF! and the Gathering works, come and ask questions and hear a bit about why Earth First! and why people got involved. See how the EF! network can support your passion to fan the flames... Also at: Weds 9:30, Thurs 9:30, Fri 9:30, Sun 9:30

Regional Meet-Ups & What Next

Sat 10:00 (75 mins) *Earth First!*

Chance to network with individuals/groups from your region, build links, assess threats, initiate collaborations and build solidarity (Main space) Also at: Thurs 10:00

Campaign-Based Networking Sessions: Fracking, GM, Incineration & Coal

Sat 11:30 (90 mins) *Earth First!*

This workshop will start in the main marquee but split down into separate campaign sessions (in different spaces) after a very brief introduction to the available campaigns. Each session will focus facilitating a space where participants can network and organise around their chosen issue. Campaigns will include Fracking, GM, Incineration and Coal.

Strategy, Tactics and Escalation

Sat 11:30 (90 mins) *Campaign & Strategy Skills*

Through exploring aims, strategies and tactics, we'll discuss how to be more effective, and strategies for escalating campaigns all the way to success using direct action and other tactics.

Building Connections

Sat 11:30 (90 mins) *Campaigns/Issues*

If you are considering coming to the Reclaim the Power airport action in October then this is an opportunity to link up with others to form affinity groups prior to the action. Whether it is for the family friendly or bike blocks, or if you fancy acting as a smaller group, come along and get to know others.

How To Do Mass Catering

Sat 11:30 (90 mins) *Camp Skills*

A hands-on workshop in vegan mass catering in fields and on protests. Come and learn how to feed the masses, wholesome, tasty and hygienic, with time to ask questions and hear experiences – come ready to chop! *Also at: Weds 11:30, Thurs 17:30*

Consensus Decision Making for Actions and Meetings

Sat 14:00 (60 mins) *Skills For Working In Groups*

Skillshare and a brief intro/refresher on CDM. Hear from each other about how and when you use CDM and why, and when you don't and why. All levels of experience and none welcome.

Self defence for kids (aged 6-12)

Sat 14:00 (60 mins) *Practical Skills*

A basic class, designed for children to learn about staying safe in different situations. It will involve shouting loud, lots of games and hitting pads. Parents are welcome to watch or join in if they want to.

Advance security workshop

Sat 14:00 (60 mins) *Action Skills*

Q&A session on security and related issues for actions and campaigns. Will cover a wide variety of topics including dealing with surveillance and potential threats from police, etc; will avoid in-depth discussion of computer matters.

Blockading With Equipment

Sat 14:00 (60 mins) *Action Skills*

Effective blockading for shutting things down. Tactics using equipment for people new to direct action and those with more experience.

Dealing with the Legal System

Sat 14:00 (60 mins) *Practical Skills*

Dealing with the legal consequences if you should be charged with an offence is increasingly relevant with the reductions in legal aid. Topics include... minimising legal risk, dealing with the court process and legal system, possible costs and consequences, representing yourself in court.

Saturday cont.

Art Space Drop-In

Sat 14:00 (300 mins) *Creative Activism*
Drop in to the Creative Resistance space to make visual material for actions (like banners, masks, posters, stencils, prints etc.), to enhance the colourfulness, creativeness and clarity of your actions. You are welcome to work on props and visuals for any projects as well. *Also at: Weds 14:00, Thurs 14:00, Fri 14:00, Sun 15:15*

Daily Discussion

Sat 15:15 (120 mins) *Earth First!*
A series of discussion sessions on a topics picked during the gathering based on the suggestions and popularity among of those attending *Also at: Weds 15:15, Thurs 15:15, Fri 15:15, Sun 15:15*

Getting Savvy On Social Media

Sat 15:15 (120 mins) *Campaign & Strategy Skills*
Are you phobic about social media? Is it useful as a campaigning tool? Come and share your knowledge/experience of using social media & pick up new skills too!



Self defence for women

Sat 15:15 (120 mins) *Practical Skills*
A chance to learn & practice some basic self defence strategies. How to use your voice and body as weapons! You can defend yourself whatever your level of fitness/ability/age. We can adapt all the strikes and exercises for your body even if you're injured.

Exploring Power

Sat 15:15 (120 mins) *Critical Reflections*
Power can be used to abuse and oppress, and it can also be used to empower ourselves and each other, to dismantle the world we don't want, and to create the world that we do. Power can be used to shut people up, and it can also be used to stand in solidarity. Working on issues of power and oppression can evoke so many different reactions - anger, guilt, shame, relief, confusion. We want to welcome you, and all your reactions to this workshop. Whether you have spent decades exploring power, or this is your first workshop, you are welcome. Over two sessions, we will explore what power is, where it comes from and how to use it well. *Also at: Sun 11:30*

Working With Conflict

Sat 15:15 (120 mins) *Skills For Working In Groups*
An exploration of the skills and attitudes needed to really hear different points of view and move through conflict in groups and between individuals (Rhizome)

Foraging And Plant Identification

Sat 15:15 (120 mins) *Practical Skills*
Tour of the site, identifying and collecting a variety of wild plants and discussing their uses for food, medicine and other applications as well as folk lore and history. Introduction to some commonly foraged plants and foraging etiquette and personal safety. Countryside management act is at applies to foraging will be briefly covered. Examination of the nutritional and health benefits of wild foods and the 'polyculture vs the monoculture'. Consideration of wild and home grown food as a part of community self-sufficiency and autonomy. Open discussion and knowledge sharing. *Also at: Fri 11:30, Sun 15:15*

Fracking Frontlines: Major Threats In Lancashire & Elsewhere

Sat 15:15 (120 mins) *Campaigns/Issues*

The fracking threat is diffuse, with a large fraction of the country already licensed and the industry's tentacles spreading well beyond those licensed areas, in the form of waste disposal and sand mining sites etc. On the other hand, trying to prove these projects are viable and attract the billions of investment needed to drill thousands of wells will be something which happens in certain specific places. This workshop will deal with these nationally significant fracking frontlines, and in particular with Cuadrilla's planned appraisal sites in Lancashire, what is planned and how it can be opposed.

Campaign-Based Networking Sessions: Nuclear, Aviation, Bio-Energy & Roads

Sat 17:30 (90 mins) *Earth First!*

This workshop will start in the main marquee but split down into separate campaign sessions (in different spaces) after a very brief introduction to the available campaigns. Each session will focus facilitating a space where participants can network and organise around their chosen issue. Campaigns will include Nuclear, Aviation, Bio-Energy and Roads.

How To Do Mass Catering

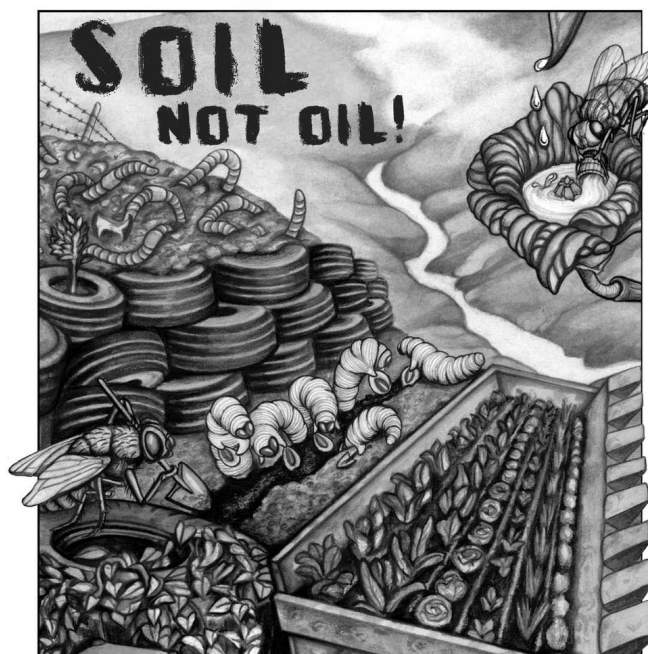
Sat 17:30 (90 mins) *Camp Skills*

A hands-on workshop in vegan mass catering in fields and on protests. Come and learn how to feed the masses, wholesome, tasty and hygienic, with time to ask questions and hear experiences – come ready to chop! *Also at: Weds 11:30, Thurs 17:30*

Buried Sunshine

Sat 20:00 (mins) *Campaigns/Issues*

Buried Sunshine is a solo performance of four monologues weaved together to tell a dramatic tale of coal, courage and corporate criminals in Colombia. The play is based on testimonies gathered first hand and is told around a hand painted storytelling map, to which audiences are invited to contribute. Please Be On Time



Sunday

Introduction To Earth First! & the Gathering

Sun 9:30 (30 mins) *Earth First!*

If it's your first time or you're curious about how EF! and the Gathering works, come and ask questions and hear a bit about why Earth First! and why people got involved. See how the EF! network can support your passion to fan the flames... *Also at: Weds 9:30, Thurs 9:30, Fri 9:30, Sat 9:30*

Lock-On Construction

Sun 10:00 (75 mins) *Action Skills*

Come and find out how lock-ons can be built and try your hand at some of the first stages of lock-on building - great session for anyone who has never built one before.

What's going on with squatting?

Sun 10:00 (75 mins) *Practical Skills*

A look at how the situation in England & Wales has changed since the introduction of section 144 (the criminal offence related to squatting in residential buildings). How can we still use squatting as a tactic for action & life?

Earth First In Print?

Sun 10:00 (75 mins) *Earth First!*

This is a brainstorm and discussion of ideas for a printed publication for Earth First - whether it's a good idea, what form/s it could take, how to make it happen. We will look at some old Do

Sunday cont.

or Die publications and Earth First related zines as well as sharing ideas on what we could make now. All welcome for suggestions, skill sharing and allocation of tasks.

What is Anarchism?

Sun 10:00 (75 mins) *Critical Reflections*
History, movement, organisation. From Ukraine, to Barcelona to Kurdistan and some other places in between. Part slide presentation and part discussion.

Fox Hunts, Badgers And The Upcoming Culls

Sun 10:00 (75 mins) *Campaigns/Issues*
What fox hunts are up to 12 years on from the Hunting Act and how they affect badgers with emphasis on their activities in the current badger cull zones. Plus info and updates on the cull.

Exploring Power

Sun 11:30 (90 mins) *Critical Reflections*
Power can be used to abuse and oppress, and it can also be used to empower ourselves and each other, to dismantle the world we don't want, and to create the world that we do. Power can be used to shut people up, and it can also be used to stand in solidarity. Working on issues of power and oppression can evoke so many different reactions - anger, guilt, shame, relief, confusion. We want to welcome you, and all your reactions to this workshop. Whether you have spent decades exploring power, or this is your first workshop, you are welcome. Over two sessions, we will explore what power is, where it comes from and how to use it well. *Also at: Sat 15:15*

Zapatista Alternatives: To Walk by Asking Questions

Sun 11:30 (90 mins) *Critical Reflections*
The Zapatistas do not offer a plan or programme to subscribe to: each according to their ways, in their calendars and geographies, connected through shared principles and coordinating through the Sixth. In this last workshop of the series we invite questions,

reflections and the sharing of stories and strategies of resistance and alternatives in the spirit of the recent seminar on critical thinking in the face of the capitalist Hydra.

Taking the power back! - An introduction to DIY wind turbines & off-grid electrical systems

Sun 11:30 (90 mins) *Practical Skills*
An introduction to V3 Power Co-op and the Hugh Piggott hand built wind turbine design. How to select a suitable site for a wind turbine and things to consider when installing a turbine. What an off-grid electrical system is composed of and how to appropriately size your system.

Stopping Airport Expansion

Sun 11:30 (90 mins) *Campaigns/Issues*
Direct action group Reclaim the Power are planning a mass action at a London airport on 1st October. It will consist of three blocks: a family friendly mass action, a bike block, and autonomous actions by affinity groups. We need your help to make this a mega successful action. Come and find out what is planned and how you can play a part in taking on the industry and government to ensure a safe and sustainable future.

Frack Watch: Keeping Tabs On The Fracking Industry

Sun 11:30 (90 mins) *Campaigns/Issues*
The fight against fracking is partially a battle over information. The industry's standard practice is to try to hide, obscure and diminish the appearance of its activities until it is too late to effectively oppose it. Gathering and distributing accurate information on the activities of the fracking industry is crucial to making resistance possible. This workshop aims provide a concise overview of what the industry does, the procedures and equipment it uses, and best ways of collecting useful information on it.

How To Do Mass Catering

Sun 11:30 (90 mins) *Camp Skills*
A hands-on workshop in vegan mass catering in fields and on protests. Come and learn how to feed the masses, wholesome, tasty and hygienic, with time to ask questions and hear

experiences – come ready to chop! *Also at: Weds 11:30, Thurs 17:30*

Organising the next EF! (winter moot & summer) gatherings

Sun 14:00 (60 mins) *Earth First!*

Come learn about how you can get involved in the exciting resurgence of Earth First! in Britain. Get involved in collectives to organise next year's (2016) Winter Moot & Summer Gathering – now is the time to start planning for an even better gathering next year!

Growing Earth First! – local groups, web, publications and more

Sun 14:00 (60 mins) *Earth First!*

Come learn about how you can get involved in the exciting resurgence of Earth First! in Britain. Get involved in helping run the EF! website and talk about launching dynamic new initiatives to engage and inspire new people.

Reconnaissance For Actions

Sun 15:15 (120 mins) *Action Skills*

A good plan for any kind of action usually involves checking out the site beforehand. This session will give you tips and practical experience to help you know what to look out for, and how to record the information without giving the game away too soon.

Defence Against The Dark Arts: Information Security for the Discerning Anarchist

Sun 15:15 (90 mins) *Campaign & Strategy Skills*

Stop being paranoid – take action. Explore scenarios where your security is in danger, identify what you need to protect, the threats and suitable counter-measures. The state does not have infinite resources – let's exploit that! This workshop will be drawing on real world experience of high risk situations where compromises are inevitable and the human is always the weakest link.

Skilling up for Action

Sun 15:15 (120 mins) *Action Skills*

Direct action training, specifically focused on the planned anti-airport expansion action in October. Practical hands-on training plus unleash your creativity with ideas for the day.

Foraging And Plant Identification

Sun 15:15 (120 mins) *Practical Skills*

Tour of the site, identifying and collecting a variety of wild plants and discussing their uses for food, medicine and other applications as well as folk lore and history. Introduction to some commonly foraged plants and foraging etiquette and personal safety. Countryside management act is at applies to foraging will be briefly covered. Examination of the nutritional and health benefits of wild foods and the 'polyculture vs the monoculture'.

Consideration of wild and home grown food as a part of community self-sufficiency and autonomy. Open discussion and knowledge sharing. *Also at: Fri 11:30, Sat 15:15*

Art Space Drop-In

Sun 15:15 (120 mins) *Creative Activism*

Drop in to the Creative Resistance space to make visual material for actions (like banners, masks, posters, stencils, prints etc.), to enhance the colourfulness, creativeness and clarity of your actions. You are welcome to work on props and visuals for any projects as well. *Also at: Weds 14:00, Thurs 14:00, Fri 14:00, Sat 14:00*

Campaigns Report-Back/Next Steps & Evaluation

Sun 17:30 (90 mins) *Earth First!*

Feedback to the gathering & announcement of new plans or projects. Also a chance to evaluate how the gathering has been. (Main space)

How To Do Mass Catering

Sun 17:30 (90 mins) *Camp Skills*

A hands-on workshop in vegan mass catering in fields and on protests. Come and learn how to feed the masses, wholesome, tasty and hygienic, with time to ask questions and hear experiences – come ready to chop! *Also at: Weds 11:30, Thurs 17:30*

Cinema

Sun 20:00 (mins) *Creative Activism*

Radical cinema space showing a wide variety of full length and short films. See board outside for details of films being shown. *Also at: Weds 20:00, Thurs 20:00, Fri 20:00, Sat 20:00*

Contributing Groups

Corporate Watch

Corporate Watch is an independent research group. We have been investigating the social and environmental impacts of corporations and corporate power since 1996.

corporatewatch.org

Empty Cages Collective

The Empty Cages Collective have been working towards building a movement in England, Wales & Scotland that fights the prison industrial complex. Through touring, popular education, events & actions, the collective have tried to connect individuals and groups who share a rage against the prison system and a desire to build a different world.

www.prisonabolition.org

Frack Off is a collective focused on empowering communities across Britain and Ireland to resist the threats of extreme energy extraction, in particular unconventional oil & gas extraction or fracking i.e. shale gas, coalbed methane (CBM) and Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) frack-off.org.uk

Green & Black Cross (GBC) is an independent grassroots project. We are set up in the spirit of mutual aid and solidarity to support autonomous social struggles within the UK. Our main focus is legal support, including support for defendants.

greenandblackcross.org

London Roots

We are a London-based group offering workshops and training to strengthen grassroots groups working towards social change. We also organise skill-sharing events and provide meeting facilitation to help groups create the change they want to see. london-roots.org.uk

Netpol seeks to monitor public order, protest and street policing, and to challenge and resist policing which is excessive, discriminatory or threatens civil rights.

netpol.org

Reclaim the Power is a grassroots organising network for taking direct action on environmental, economic and social justice issues, working in solidarity with affected communities. nodashforgas.org.uk

Rhizome

We are a co-op providing facilitation, mediation, consensus building and training to community activists and co-operatives across the UK, and to those organisations that support activism in all its forms.

rhizomenetwork.wordpress.com

SWAN

South West Against Nuclear – resisting the new wave of proposed nuclear reactors in the UK. southwestagainstnuclear.wordpress.com

Veggies is a volunteer-led, community-based, social enterprise, promoting vegan catering and supporting campaigns for human and animal rights, environmental protection and social justice since 1984. veggies.org.uk



Why Earth First? Why Now?

Our Ecological Crisis

It is only possible to fail to appreciate the magnitude of ecological crisis we face if you have no sense of what has already been lost. Every day more ecosystems are destroyed, more species go extinct, and the populations which remain dwindle. A few hundred years ago, when vast areas of wilderness still remained in many parts of the world and populations of many large species were almost uncountable, it was harder to imagine that human activity could threaten such diversity on a global scale.

Those days are long gone. Humans and their livestock now account for well over 95 percent of the terrestrial animal biomass on the planet, and while that ratio is not yet as bad for plants, there are only two large untouched areas of forest left on the planet, in the Amazon and Congo basins, with 70 percent other remaining forest within 1km of human development. Worse, far from slowing, in many cases this destruction is accelerating, threatening to consume much of what remains in a few short decades.

Beyond simple quantity, the diversity and quality of most ecosystems and habitats are severely degraded from what they once were. Not only are most habitats highly fragmented, and ecosystems severely compromised, but waste from industrial and agricultural activity is poisoning land, sea and air, and destabilising the climate on a scale previously unimagined. The combination of all these effects is pushing the biosphere towards a crisis of unprecedented proportions and threatening the survival of much of life on Earth.

The March Of Civilisation

The causes of this calamity are not hard to diagnose. While the spread of humans across the planet has had a significant effect on the ecosystems they encountered during pre-history (as with many invasive species), in

most cases a new equilibrium arose from the chaos of the transition. Ultimately the problem stems from the ability of humans to change far faster than most other creatures (with the possible exception of bacteria and viruses), by changing, not their physical form, but their behaviour, knowledge and technology.

Long after humans had become incorporated into diverse eco-systems across the planet, huge new upheavals due to agriculture/ civilisation, and later industrialisation, have continued to throw those eco-systems out of balance, and in recent centuries a tidal wave of change has been unleashed by the accessing of vast stores of fossil fuels. This rate of change is now approaching the speed of catastrophic global events, like asteroid/ comet impacts or massive volcanic eruptions, which have previously caused mass extinction events.

Unfortunately, whilst humans are supposed to be the most intelligent creatures on the planet, this intelligence rarely seems to extend to any prior assessment of what the consequences of the changes in behaviour which are unleashed might be. It is only when the forest has been largely chopped down and wood becomes hard to obtain, that its destruction is lamented, as in the Epic of Gilgamesh, the first work of literature written over 4 thousand years ago.

A Machine Out Of Control

The reason for this apparent blindness to the consequences of 'our actions' is not hard to diagnose, but it is one to which most humans seem to have a deep psychological aversion. The reality is that human beings have little or no control over the course of human society, and have not done for many thousands of years. This reality is sometimes alluded to, e.g. 'the invisible hand of the market', or in the works of Kafka, but the reality of modern human societies is something which is never faced up to head on. We are trapped in machines built out of human beings, over



which no-one has any significant control, not even our supposed leaders.

The fact that the seeds of these modern, world-spanning entities have their roots in much smaller societies where some petty despot could wield a great deal of influence, and that some individuals benefit to greater and lesser degrees from the operation of these systems today, clouds people's perceptions as to how much control any individual or small group can have. In the byzantine structure of modern industrial societies, billions of decisions, large and small are taken by individuals every day, but that is for the most part just noise which has almost no effect on the operation of the system as a whole.

This rise of these unthinking machines (states, corporations etc.) can be viewed as the unintended side effects of attempts by at least some humans (elites) to free themselves from the constraints of the eco-systems of which they are a part, usually at the expense of most of the rest of society. The result has been quite the opposite, with the fate of the whole of humanity and the other inhabitants of the planet chained to the fate of these invented entities. Rather than escaping from all

constraints, effectively becoming gods, this has just enslaved us all to a system, which unlike the eco-systems it is fast replacing, is not designed to last for much longer.

The Road To Capitalism

Fashionable though it is to blame the continuing devastation of the planet on capitalism, the reality is that these problems started much earlier. In fact a good case could be made for the reverse, that capitalism has been caused by ecological destruction, rather than being the cause of it. The abuse of power and the drive to dominate and have power over others (in the widest sense) goes back a long way... The unsustainable centres of power (cities) which humans have built, were stripping their local environs of resources even in ancient Mesopotamia. The resulting resource crises either lead to expansion or

collapse, and those societies which expanded passed that expansionist culture on to others.

This need for expansion first found its outlet in militarism and empire building, and throughout history that has been the dominant means of overcoming resource limits. At the height of



many empires, a more sophisticated means of expansion and domination, based on money, trade and debt has emerged, to compete with purely militaristic solutions. This system (capitalism) builds the need for expansion/growth in to the very fabric of the system, rather than relying on decisions to go to war to drive expansion. In this light capitalism can be seen not so much a new phenomenon but a refinement of processes which are as old as civilisation.

An Extreme Energy Future?

The most modern incarnation of these mechanistic forces controlling our existence is extreme energy, a process which seems set to supplant capitalism as the dominant force driving the destruction of the natural world. As with any organism, the obtaining of energy (food) is a massive influence over behaviour, and the corporations and states which make up modern human societies are as bound by the laws of ecology as any other entity (however much they deny it). In their case fossil fuels are the food they require to exist,

but these finite resources are being depleted at a fantastic rate. The system's activities, while humans scrape a living (or not) at the margins, and everything is destroyed around us for no other reason than to keep the destruction going.

The system, for obvious reasons, almost always targets the easiest to extract fossil fuels first, but as they are depleted is forced to resort to progressively harder and harder to extract resources. In the early days of fossil fuel exploitation having to mine (or drill) a little deeper or target very slightly less concentrated resources made little difference. However, since US oil production peaked in 1970 and even more so since global conventional oil production peaked in 2005, the amount of effort being expended in fossil fuel extraction has sky rocketed as unconventional resources (tar sands, fracking, bio-energy etc.) have become a larger fraction of all extraction.

The first effect of this process is pretty obvious, that as the amount of effort expended on fossil fuel extraction grows the levels of ecological destruction associated with that extraction grow in parallel. Massive open cast mines cause more damage, in general, than tunnel mines and coating a region with thousands of fracking wells will do more damage than the few dozen conventional wells which would previously have produced the same amount of oil or gas. Simply drilling much deeper, in harsher environments, results in more risk and worse accidents as we saw with the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster.

The second effect is more subtle but no less important. In a society dependent on an energy source which requires some fraction of that energy to be used to extract it, the same fraction of all of that society's efforts must be channelled into energy extraction. In the last decade the fraction of the global economy devoted to fossil fuel extraction has exploded from under 5 percent to over 10 percent, as the average effort needed for fossil fuel extraction has grown. Without a radical change of direction we face a future where energy extraction comes to dominate all of the

system's activities, while humans scrape a living (or not) at the margins, and everything is destroyed around us for no other reason than to keep the destruction going.

While the present incarnation of extreme energy extraction is already a massive threat, this is a process that only leads in one direction. When one resource is depleted a more difficult and destructive one is next in line to be unleashed. Unless this out of control process is brought to a crashing halt pretty soon, the future we face will have no place for human beings, let alone any other life.

Why Earth First!?

Earth First! arose at the end of the 1970s as a result of the failure of mainstream environmental organisations to have any real effect on the ongoing destruction of the earth. While the multitude of environmental NGOs all started small, with high ideals and a can-do attitude, they soon foundered on the rocks of corporatism. Take any group of well-meaning people, put them in a big office and pay them reasonable salaries, and they will soon find it increasingly difficult not to make compromises, to preserve the flow of money which sustains them.

Unfortunately the present system is completely dependent on continual growth (and far too large and resource-hungry in any case), and that very growth can only be achieved by consuming more and more resources and producing more and more waste. Humans may not need fossil fuels (and most other resources, apart from food, clean air and water), but modern nation states, transnational corporations and similar entities could not exist without these massive resource flows. Saving the planet, and ourselves, implicitly means destroying the very system which mainstream organisations are a part of...

Over three decades later, the only thing which has changed is that mainstream environmentalism has become even more compromised and ineffective, while the threats we face now ever more urgent. Some such

organisations are now openly collaborating in the destruction of what they should be defending. Meanwhile a tidal wave of corporate greenwash, almost invisible it is so prevalent, is seeking to confuse, distract and delay any resistance to an ever more aggressive push to monetise (and so destroy) what remains of the natural world.

Unfortunately decades of compromise, collaboration and indoctrination mean it is very hard for most people to see beyond the smoke and mirrors of politics and spin, to what really needs to be done. We live in a fantasy world where almost everything that is deemed 'important' is an illusion, and anything real has been buried under layers of abstraction until it has almost no meaning at all. Dragging ourselves out of this morass of lies to face the stark reality beyond is far from any easy challenge, and one that will require a great effort of collective will.

Without people who will take a principled stand, tell it like it is and have a vision of a world which is not centred on the system that is destroying it, we are all doomed. Currently if there is anywhere that those people might come together, be inspired and supported, it is Earth First!

At it's best EF!'s style offers a way forward... We aren't rebelling against the system because we are sour on life...We are fighting for beauty, for life, for joy. We laugh at our opponents and we laugh at ourselves...we are willing to let our actions set the finer points of our philosophy rather than debating endlessly about our programme..we are willing to get started now, make mistakes, to learn as we go.

In this particular time, when mounting threats from all sides are driving a renewed awareness of the importance of defending and repairing our battered ecosystems, the resurgence of Earth First! in Britain is a hopeful sign. Whether we can all make it live up to this promise is a question for the future, but right now it is a very small oasis in a very large desert. Let us drink our fill, and be more possible than they can powerfully imagine.

What is Anarchism?

At its most basic, Anarchism is the principle that any form of authority or domination has a burden of proof to bear. It doesn't matter where this domination takes place – be it within a family, the workplace or between organisations/institutions – if it's a form of authority, domination or coercion, it has to be proven to be legitimate. If the form of authority, domination or coercion cannot be proven to be legitimate it should be DISMANTLED.

People are at their very best when they are living free of domination, co-operating and deciding things amongst themselves rather than being ordered around. That's what the word means: 'without rulers' or 'without government'. Government here is meant in the sense of "governing over" and forcing compliance through coercion. Such order is violent order. Anarchy, by contrast, is inherently cooperative – people relating to one another as equals.

Anarchy as a Vision

Imagine living in a world where people were able to come together to create new, free societies, making their desires a reality. Tedious useless work would become redundant and room was made for play and productive activities we can enjoy. Crime could be reduced drastically by a return to living in real communities where people look after each other. With a decline in profit-orientated industrial agriculture and economy, the rivers could run clear and forests grow again.

Industrial civilisation is quite blatantly showing its flaws. A billion people are starving, our soils are dying, the majority of the planet's species are in rapid decline, catastrophic climate change looms and even in the richest parts of the world most people are pissed off with the misery and monotony of everyday life. You have to spend most of your time working your arse off to make profit for someone you probably don't like doing something you don't care about, and then you struggle to pay the



bills while being pressured to buy more consumer crap and unnecessary technology.

The mythical Revolution is not something that will just happen suddenly one day after we've polished some ideology long enough. Revolution is a process of individuals and collectives reclaiming what's been taken from us, rediscovering our power and creativity together. Sometimes gradually, sometimes in huge leaps during times of greater struggle.

Anarchy is also about the small-scale everyday resistance, about individuals ignoring authority and coming together to improve their lives. Everyday, we can experiment with and learn ways of dealing with each other without leaders or domination, with mutual respect, building the world we want now — in our relationships, our interactions and our resistance. In fact, you might just be participating in such a vision here and now!

"We are not in the least afraid of ruins. We are going to inherit the earth. The ruling class might blast and ruin its own world before it leaves the stage of history. We carry a new world here in our hearts. That world is growing this minute."

- Buenaventura Durutti, Spain 1936

Why Vegan Food? Animal Liberation, Ecology & Capitalism

Radical Veganism

Veganism is often defined as the conscious decision to not consume products containing animals (meat, dairy, eggs etc.) or refusing to purchase products produced through animal exploitation (fur, leather, animal tested cosmetics etc.). Veganism is viewed as a lifestyle choice made by individuals intended to benefit the animals, their wallets or their health. When veganism is discussed it is often through purely economic terms with what we do or do not purchase often being the definition of whether or not somebody is considered “vegan”.

This narrow view of veganism as purely a consumer lifestyle choice has created a large demand for “vegan” products. Whole industries have built up around the need for “cruelty-free” goods as capitalists, who would of once been hostile towards the idea of veganism, noticed a gap in the market and sought to make money out of these individuals.

This bright green future promised to us by the vegan capitalists is a lie. By it's very nature capitalism is inherently oppressive and exploits animals (both human and non-human). If we are to ever achieve total liberation it will be necessary to abolish capitalism along with all other forms of oppression and hierarchy.

Together Against All

There is more to being vegan than what you consume. Veganism should be a radical shift in the way we view and treat animals in our society. Humans' perceived dominance over all other species (plant and animal) is what allows exploitation to go unchallenged.

We must recognise the links between capitalism and animal exploitation. Capitalists have an imperative that influences everything

they do: the maximisation of profit and accumulation of capital. This overarching worldview means that animals are objectified and commodified. Economic efficiency is prioritised with the embrace of technologies that can serve this function, for example feed science, farm health technologies (such as antibiotics) and developments in machinery. Animal agriculture was the starting motor of primitive accumulation – primitive accumulation being the embryonic stage of capitalism around the world, the means by which control of the means of production (i.e. the land) is wrested from the ‘producer’ by trailblazing capitalists with hordes of livestock.

Our pattern of animal manipulation and modification is now extending to applications such as agricultural biotechnology, genome sequencing of animals and animal cloning.



We need to see problematic industries (and the damage they cause) such as global finance, arms, energy and agriculture, as well as cultural behaviours such as sexism, racism, homophobia etc as being symptoms of the same problem. Think of capitalism and the current industrial civilisation that perpetuates it as a massive gnarled tree; it's very easy to atomise our grievances into single-issue campaigns that don't share a common strategic goal. One campaign tirelessly hacking at one branch, another campaign tirelessly hacking at another – but the trunk continues to stand strong and continues to sprout new branches.

It's in the interests of those that benefit from the status quo for us to remain separated in our goals, to not see the big picture, to not strive for actions and strategies that understand and strike at the root-causes of our grievances. And beyond fighting, a holistic understanding of the problem allows us to create meaningful, positive spaces free from the contamination of domination, coercion and illegitimate authority that the rest of society is built upon.

Nature Domination

In capitalist economies, animals, like nature in general, are merely commodities – resources to be exploited. The domination of nature is the basis of industrial civilisation. The destruction of nature and with it the destruction of the basis of human society are immediate consequences of production relations that do not serve our needs but those of capitalist accumulation. The fact that capitalist appropriation of nature does not follow the principles of sustainability, conservation or care is not the result of 'environmentally unfriendly attitudes' but is the consequence of turning nature into capital.

The animal industry is one of the most ethically and ecologically offensive institutions of industrial society. It's marketing persuades us that eating animal products is healthy and necessary while hiding horror and waste on a scale almost impossible to imagine.

The exploitation of animals is legitimised by a complex ideology which has come to be known as speciesism. This means a way of thinking about animals that results from the supposed necessity of their exploitation. A type of false consciousness about animals is sold to us; that eating and exploiting animals is normal, natural and necessary. The consequence is we believe how we interact with animals is unchangeable.

Animal agriculture is inherently linked to patriarchy. The same patriarchal hierarchies dictate in both the domination of women and other gender oppressed peoples, and in the domination of animals, as to how their bodies are objectified, controlled and exploited. Animals are so pivotal to serving and sustaining capitalism because humans have the power to control and exploit the role of reproductive labour of animals.

Animal Agriculture & Humans

Animal agriculture has been, and still is a tool of colonisation. The animal business steals food from the poorest to provide luxuries to the wealthiest. During the European famine in the 1980s, clapped-out rock stars resuscitated their careers raising money for aid, while more grain was exported from the country for livestock feed than was provided in food aid. Entire continents are routinely starved and plundered to satisfy the trivial addictions of the rich.

The use of animals in agriculture is expanding rapidly, there are three animals used in agriculture per human being, increasing five fold from 1950's. Already 50-60% of the worlds grain is being fed to animals and the ratio is increasing. Why is this an issue? Animals in agriculture can be described as "reverse protein factories" meaning that they will consume more protein and energy than is stored in the products extracted from them. Animals will need energy to move (the little space that is allowed in factory farming conditions), to produce heat, produce things which capitalists haven't yet found a purpose such as joints, hair or feathers and so on. In

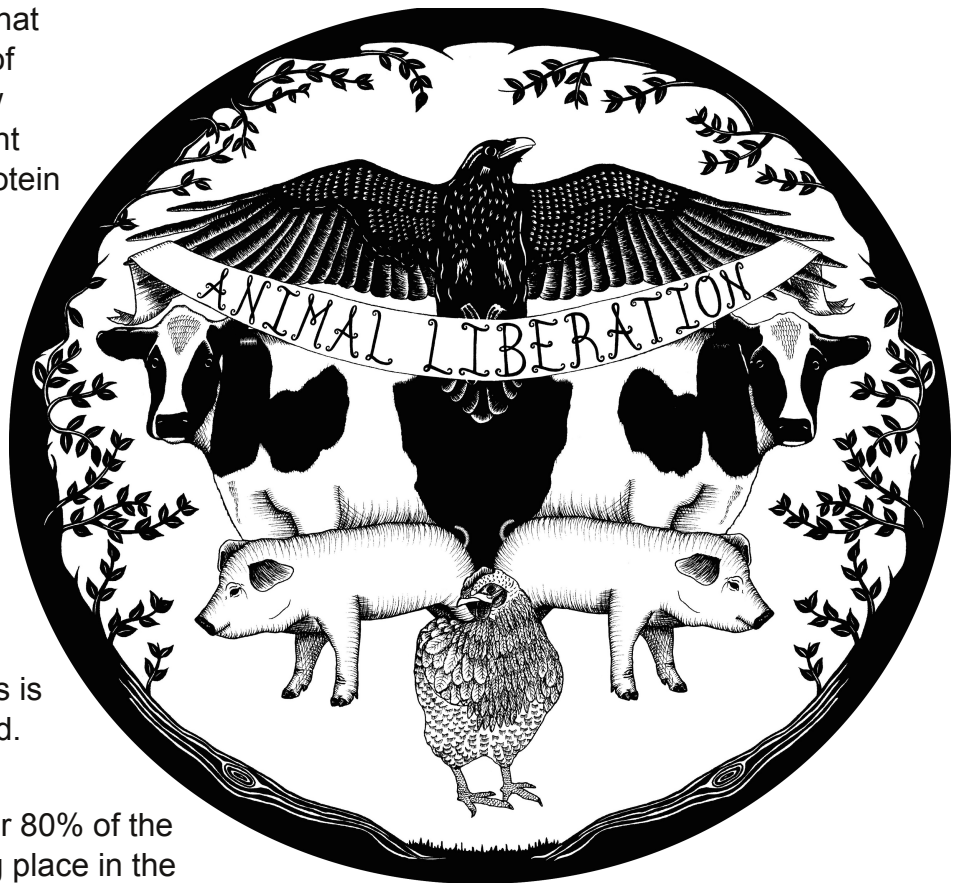
statistical terms this means that as a rule of thumb 10 times of the land area is used to grow feed for a cow than equivalent production of plant-based protein would consume.

Veganism & Ecology

- 1 calorie of animal protein requires 11x as of fossil fuel as 1 calorie of plant protein
- Raising animals for food accounts for 10% of global water usage
- A third of Earth's land- mass is used to raise animals for food.
- Cattle ranching accounts for 80% of the deforestation currently taking place in the Amazon
- The animals-for-food industry is responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than the entire global transport sector

Climate change: With rising temperatures, rising sea levels, melting icecaps and glaciers, shifting ocean currents and weather patterns, climate change is the most serious challenge facing the planet. The livestock sector is a major player, responsible for 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions measured in CO₂ equivalent.... Livestock are also responsible for almost two-thirds (64 percent) of anthropogenic ammonia emissions, which contribute significantly to acid rain and acidification of ecosystems.

Water: The livestock sector is a key player in increasing water use, accounting for over 8 percent of global human water use, mostly for the irrigation of feedcrops. It is the largest sectoral source of water pollution, contributing to eutrophication, "dead" zones in coastal areas, degradation of coral reefs, human health problems, emergence of antibiotic resistance and many others. The major



sources of pollution are from animal wastes, antibiotics and hormones, chemicals from tanneries, fertilizers and pesticides used for feedcrops, and sediments from eroded pastures.

Biodiversity: Animal agriculture is the leading player in the reduction of biodiversity, since it is the major driver of deforestation, as well as one of the leading drivers of land degradation, pollution, climate change, overfishing, sedimentation of coastal areas and facilitation of invasions by alien species.

Beyond Veganism: Towards an Anarchist Agroecology

There are alternatives to global industrial and animal agriculture. Small scale food producers, working with nature, orientated towards real-needs production (not serving capitalism) are feeding communities all over the world. Agroecology is the science and practice of worldwide movement of peasants and land-based people.



the consumer-producer relationship and seeks to build models that de-monetise the food system.

However it is not a question of waiting for a revolution or one day achieving an anarchist society. The work starts now and builds on generations of those displaced from the land through capitalist coercion protected by the state.

How we produce and distribute food is a fundamental issue that anarchists cannot ignore. Agroecological practices are those that support us to live in a more socially just and ecologically sound relationship with the land.

We reject and actively resist the industrial and capitalist agricultural models of monocultures, pesticides and fossil fuel based fertilisers, genetic engineering, factory farming, plantation slavery and more. Our

Working towards an anarchist agroecology is a commitment to creating not only a different food system, but a different way of life that transforms social, ecological, economic and inter-species relations. Agroecology in practice underpins the actuality of achieving individual and collective autonomy and freedom from oppression.

Being able to live as human beings in relationship with the land requires resistance to, and dismantlement of, capitalism and the state. Anarchists recognise that lobbying is futile, while the state's function is to protect the propertied, owning and capitalist class. Anarchist agroecological thinking rejects

commitment is to the freedom not only of ourselves, but also of the seeds, plants and animals, from corporate control.

An anarchist agroecological worldview recognises the historical repercussions of agriculture and its role in creating patriarchal, racist, colonialist and class-stratified societies and civilisations. It therefore engenders a commitment to rewilding, confronting domestication and creating alternative models of living with inspiration from horticultural and gatherer/hunter societies. Anarchist agroecology means de-colonisation. It means solidarity with Indigenous Nations resisting assimilation and ecological genocide

via capitalist developments, such as fracking.

An anarchist agroecology confronts the last 10,000 years of patriarchal agriculture. It seeks to compost gender and queer how food is produced and consumed. The colour of the food system is not ignored, racism in our own movements as well as those systems that oppress our communities, is actively confronted.

How and why knowledge is produced and shared matters. An anarchist agroecological worldview integrates both indigenous and peasant-based knowledge of cultivation, with observation, action research and grassroots science (not controlled or dominated by universities or industry). Knowledge is shared through popular education models, such as grower to grower (campesino o campesino) networks, field and farm schools, open source journals and more.

The concept of property is rejected, with working class appropriation encouraged, via land squats, occupations and more. In the long term process of social change, there is a commitment to the re-collectivisation of land 'ownership' and the creation of space for diverse patterns to be explored, suited to each community and bioregion. The re-appropriation of land will ignite huge state repression, as such anarchist agroecologists must cultivate resilience to repression, build models of solidarity globally, and recognise the futility and dogma of nonviolent ideologies. The state and owning classes will not allow the means of their economic production to be withdrawn without a fight.

An anarchist agroecology recognises that humans do not have dominion of animals or nature and that animals do not deserve to be commodified, exploited, abused or enslaved, any more than their human counterparts. The generation of radical solidarity across species is the consequence of embracing an anarchist agroecology, which recognises speciesism as harmful and an ongoing barrier to liberty, as any other form of oppression.

Achieving an anarchist agroecology will take coalition building, community organising, active attacks on the state and capitalist food system, learning and re-learning practices and tools to feed ourselves and restore landbases, and more. We will bring about huge changes through breaking bread and breaking sweat together.

In summary, working towards an anarchist agroecology differs from other worldviews and strategies around changing our food system. The main premises are that the state is not our friend, but our enemy. That animals are not ours to 'farm', enslave, control, cage, slaughter, or accumulate wealth from. That multiple forms of oppression intersect and demand an analysis and practice that recognises the totality of different forms of domination. It recognises that anarchism cannot be achieved without models of food production that support humans to live in liberated relationships with each other, animals or the land.



Freedom for all that Lives

Why Take Direct Action?

It's empowering

Direct action means getting on with sorting something out yourself, rather than asking someone else to fix it for you. There's no better way to take back control of your own life or to make change in the wider world. For many people it's not just an effective campaign tactic, it is also the philosophy that underpins how they live. For example, you might not only obstruct building work on the new supermarket in your town, you might also start up community allotments so you don't have to depend on those supermarkets for your basic needs.

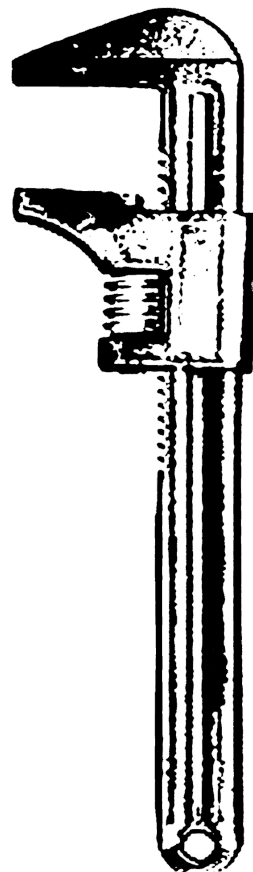
It works

The use of direct action in ecological and social justice campaigns in Britain has had many successes. In the 90s actions and land occupations cut the government road building programme by 80%, some 500 schemes were cancelled. In the late 90s and early 00s people pulling up genetically modified crops stopped the commercialisation of GM in its tracks, and helped remove GM products from shop shelves despite pressure from the worlds most powerful seed and chemical companies.

Why direct action?

When was the last time you felt you made a difference at the ballot box? Or by writing a letter to your MP? Over a million people marched against war in Iraq, and still the government didn't listen. This isn't a reason for us to give up hope. It's a reason to raise our game. Direct action is common sense. If you see someone being mugged in the street you don't set up a petition to ask the mugger to leave.

We live in a world that assumes we need leaders and laws to keep us in check; that we're incapable of making hard decisions and implementing them without being told how. Direct action is a way of challenging these



no
compromise
in
defence
of
the
earth

**Earth
First!**

myths, and challenging the people who think that money and status buy them the right to do what they like to the rest of us. It means refusing to accept the power those people hold, and taking responsibility yourself for the things that you know need to change, not pressurising existing power-holders to make better decisions on your behalf.

What about the consequences?

It is natural to be concerned about the consequences of taking action. The authorities rely on it! They provide other avenues for our frustration and desire for change that aren't 'illegal'. If enough of us buy the right stuff or vote for someone different at the next election it'll all be OK. Yeah right! If you believe that these approaches will create real change, you'd better be able to hold your breath for a very long time. Do we have that long?

Direct action doesn't have to involve breaking the law. However, if you want to challenge powerful vested interests, such as corporations and governments, then you can be sure there

will be laws in place to protect them. If we are going to be effective then some people will have to break these laws.

The law says war and exploitation of people and planet are fine, but dissent through peaceful protest is not. The law is an ass.

Many of the world's most celebrated people are 'criminals'. Gandhi had a record as long as your arm. Martin Luther King, the Suffragettes, Aung Sang Suu Kyi, the Dalai Lama, Nelson Mandela – all of them are well known individuals representing the thousands who made their struggle work. People just like you and me.

It is difficult to second guess precisely the legal, economic and social consequences of taking part in an action. One thing we can be sure of is that they pale into insignificance compared to the consequences of no one taking action at all. There are groups (see the resources section at the back) who offer advice, support and ideas about likely personal outcomes of different actions depending on your circumstances.

Always find out your legal rights before taking action. Knowledge is power, don't let the authorities get one over on you because you didn't do your homework.

Different approaches to DA

From the outside, direct action might seem like quite a minority interest activity. On the inside, it involves a melting pot of people with strongly held, and differing ideas about what is ethical and effective. This section provides a taster for some of these ideas, and provides a bit of a jargon buster for some of the words that are used differently in an activist context.

Violence

For some the decision to use nonviolent methods is a matter of believing that if you want to build an ecological, peaceful and co-operative future you do it here and now using ecological, peaceful and co-operative tools.

Others might have a more tactical approach to the choice of nonviolence. The state and corporations are willing and able to use more violence than we can, so it may be unwise to engage with them in a game they will almost certainly win.

People taking direct action have many different definitions of "violence" and "nonviolence". For instance, is breaking into a factory making weapons of mass destruction and smashing it up as much as possible violent or non-violent? It is important you can talk about your thoughts on violence and nonviolence so you can find a group to take action with that suits your beliefs.

Accountable / unaccountable actions

In an accountable action you plan to face the legal consequences – the word 'accountable' refers to the fact that this gives you the chance to justify what you did, to the courts, the media and your friends. For some actions this is unavoidable: if you are planning to use your body in a human blockade and the police arrest you on the spot then you have very few chances to claim it wasn't you wot dunnit! For some people being accountable is an ethical choice and even where it might be possible to 'get away with it' they choose not to.

An unaccountable, or covert action is one where you do something illegal but plan not to get caught. For some people this can be a more sustainable way of working – it means you are free to carry on as an activist without all the time, money, and stress involved in court cases. This isn't always the easy option though – you can get arrested without having 'planned' to, and keeping secrets can involve time, stress and money too.

Open and closed groups and actions

If a group or action is open then anyone can join and it is widely publicised. This makes it much easier to involve new people, but harder to avoid unwanted police attention.

If an action or group is closed then the inverse is true – new people can't join in and often

don't find out about it either. This can make it possible to do things without the target finding out first, but in the long term doesn't provide entry points for new people.

For many people open and closed is a sliding scale depending on the level of risk involved and what the aims of the action are. Equally, many people choose to be involved in more and less accountable actions depending on the situation.

Activist security

'Security' in this context, means taking preventative measures so you can do your actions without your target finding out you are coming, and in some cases, without anyone ever knowing who did it. For some people, it also involves making it harder for intelligence gatherers to collect information about their day to day life – who their friends are and where they travel to regularly, for instance. Avoiding this kind of long term profiling can make it much easier to pull off secret actions in the future.

Some security measures can take a lot of time and effort, and may not be necessary depending on your situation. Also, be aware that if security is badly handled then the atmosphere of secrecy can lead to some people feeling excluded while others get kicks out of being part of the in crowd – in other words it can contribute to informal hierarchies within your group. On the other hand, paying good attention to security can be what makes your action happen, and / or save you all the time and energy involved in court cases.

The decisions each individual takes about security impact on everyone else they work with – there's no point one person being consistently and painstakingly careful if no-one else is. The important thing, therefore, is that people share the information they have about security with the rest of their group, and that members then come to collective decisions about the security measures they think are necessary in the long term and for each action.

About the Illustrations

This Earth First! Programme has been brought to life by illustrations from Radical Artists all over the world.

Some images are anonymous. However we would like to credit those that are known.

Including:

The Beehive Design Collective is a wildly motivated, all-volunteer, activist arts collective dedicated to "cross-pollinating the grassroots" by creating collaborative, anti-copyright images for use as educational and organizing tools. We work as word-to-image translators of complex global stories, shared with us through conversations with affected communities. beehivecollective.org

Never Alone is an annual collaborative art exhibition for June 11 International Day of Solidarity with Marius Mason, Eric McDavid and all Eco-prisoners www.facebook.com/neveraloneart june11.org

Katharina Rot is a vegan artist and illustrator based in Hamburg, Germany. She has produced beautiful work for animal liberation campaigns and struggles. (See below) katharina-rot.de facebook.com/katharinarotillustration



Site Practicalities

Everyone is crew! What this means is that for the Gathering to run well, we need everyone who can to get involved. For each area of responsibility, there'll be a co-ordinator and a working group – come to the morning meeting at 9am to find out who needs extra hands.

Gate Tent

The gate is the place to go when you arrive, to pay, for queries, for meal tickets, transport information, for lost and found property, First Aid, and much more. Important information such as local hospital/doctors can also be found at the gate tent. The gate tent needs to be staffed throughout the gathering. Please volunteer for a shift if you can.

Money

We ask that everybody attending the gathering makes a donation between £15-50, according to what you can afford. Unfortunately there are significant costs that need to be covered, including site hire, plumbing, structures, transport etc.

Food

The EF! Cooks are providing vegan meals for £7 per day. Kids 12 and under £3 per day. Please purchase your meal ticket from the gate tent as far in advance as possible so that they know how many people to cook for. Meals should be ready at 8am for breakfast, 1pm for lunch and 7pm for dinner. Volunteers are always needed for washing up, chopping and serving. Please listen for announcements at the morning meeting, or ask directly at the kitchen tent .

Water

Water is being brought onto the site in 'bowsers' (tankers), having been filled up at the farmyard down the road. Transporting the water is time consuming so please don't waste it. Don't leave taps running, and fix leaks or find someone else to fix them. Drinking water

will be piped from the bowsers in blue piping. Drinking water will be available from the water points (see the site plan).

Washing up

To reduce the risk of infections spreading around the site, we ask that people do 'batch' washing up rather than everyone washing their own plates. Please volunteer for a stint of washing up during the gathering (unless you are ill) – ask if anyone currently washing up wants to leave, and make sure that you have washed your hands carefully before you start!

Toilets

We have toilets on site, including one for wheelchair users. If there are any problems with the toilets or the handwashing needs replenishing, please sort it out yourself or let a member of the toilet crew know. And please wash your hands!

Rubbish and Recycling

Recycling bins are provided; please use the correct ones. Clear up after yourself, including bottle tops, fag ends etc. Keeping the site clean and tidy and using the recycling facilities is our collective responsibility – don't assume someone else will clear up after you and if you see something that needs doing, well, you get the idea...

Camping

Camping space is split into 4 areas:

Accessible Camping for people in tents with mobility restrictions, so it's close to toilets and workshops, Family Camping near the top of the field for easy access but away from evening noise, Quiet Camping early to bed so away from Bar, main marquee and family camping and Late Camping is for people not minding the late noise because they were the ones making it.

Power & Lighting

Power is all off grid and so limited, there will be a cinema and evening lighting. There may be phone charging on site but we ask you to leave your phones in tents.

Power-down and noise

Please be aware not to disturb workshops during the day, so keep noise down. Power down – no amplified music or loud noise – will be at 11pm on Wednesday and Thursday, 11:30pm on Friday and 1am on Saturday and Sunday. Please keep noise to a minimum after that, to help keep us all a happy well-slept community!

Accessibility

Accessibility camping is behind the work shop spaces and will have an accessible toilet. We are hoping for access boards and please ask at the gate if you have any specific needs.

First Aid

We have a first aid point at the gate tent – they will be able to contact a first aider for you. For site safety please let someone know if you get sick or have diarrhoea. If you are a first aider please register at the gate tent so that your skills can be called upon during the gathering if needed.

Fire Safety

We have one fire pit on site. For safety reasons we ask that no other fires are lit on site at all.

Smoking

No smoking in any covered spaces please. Take care not to set bales of hay on fire, and dispose of any butts in landfill bins.

Dogs

Please contact us in advance if you want to bring a dog, as there are limited places for dogs. Dogs must be on leads at all times on site and all mess cleaned up immediately.

People bringing dogs will take responsibility together for ensuring that this all works smoothly, nimbly aided by a trusty co-ordinator.

Vehicles

There is limited space for live-in vehicles. If you need to bring yours with you, please contact us first so that we can ensure there is space for you. Please don't go in and out of the site with your vehicle unless a necessity.

...

Safety PIN

Sometimes at gatherings and camps behaviours can happen that either make people feel unsafe or disrupt the flow of the event. We are the team that is there to help as needed, when this arises.

Please come to us if something happens (or you notice it's about to) rather than the EF!SG Collective and to avoid potential lynch mob scenarios! We'll meet briefly every day to discuss any issues that have arisen in confidence, and to figure out how we'll organise ourselves in terms of how we can be called upon and who'll be on call when. You'll be able to see who at least one of us is during the morning meeting.

Why the name?

Well, safety because we want to help this gathering be focussed on learning skills, getting inspired and forming groups and networks and we can't do any of that if we feel unsafe. PIN? Please send us suggestions for what this acronym might stand for on the back of a postcard! (Tranquility or Mediation don't quite describe our role)

Can you tell us a bit more about your role?

Why certainly. We have two roles, both of which can involve de-escalation:

1. Mediating between people and the smooth

running of the gathering. For example, people have arguments, and that's fine. However, if they decided to have it just outside a workshop and that workshop got disrupted, that's we we might come in.

2. Supporting people on the receiving end of offensive or discriminatory behaviour that makes them feel unsafe and where necessary excluding someone from the gathering site. We would work in tandem with the crew from the wellbeing space here. Whilst understanding the challenges of staying sane and balanced in a world hurtling in the opposite direction, we have to recognise our limitations and those of this temporary community we're all part of, and put the aims of this Gathering first.

Though working with other teams and keeping the Gathering Collective updated, we will keep all detail of incidents and who's involved strictly confidential to the Safety PIN.

Can I get involved?

Yes please. You don't have to be formally trained in mediation or conflict resolution skills, though we welcome people who are. What we're looking for is people who can keep a cool head and are able to intervene constructively in a situation when needed.

There is an introduction to site mediation/ tranquility in the Well-being space on Wednesday, after the morning meeting. This will also be the first opportunity to get involved and we'll share skills and work together to support each other.



About the Spaces

Info-space

A sheltered space in the Welcome Tent for putting all your inspiring leaflets, with info to share and actions to get involved in. In the past, people have written rants about what they see as the key current issues in our movement(s) and brought them along with enough copies to share – do feel free to do so if you've a burning issue on your mind, and there'll be space for these too. Any pamphlets, how to guides and similar welcome too.

Well-being space

A safe and quiet place to get a bit of space from the busy energy of the gathering, an opportunity to rest and reflect and, if needed, have a confidential conversation about some of the emotional challenges of your activism. The wellbeing space is place focused on being rather than doing... for a short while at least!

Therapies

A few massage practitioners may also operate from the Well-being space on a magic hat basis.

EF! Cooks Collective

We are trying something new this year with the catering. In keeping with the ethos of everyone's crew, we have formed a cooking collective made of people who know how to cook for large numbers using the big pans and burners. Our movements need more people to learn cooking so each meal will require an amount of volunteers and in return you will learn the details of the meal from planning to quantities.

Cafe

Veggies of Nottingham will be running a vegan tuck shop & cafe everyday offering all manner of hot drinks and fresh deliciousness including daily home-made cakes.

Kids Space

Kids space is operated by volunteers and ask you to register your child, we have a new system of a wrist band with info on; their name, yours and any allergies. Kids food will be provided with vegan lunch and dinner for a £3 donation.

Creative Resistance: Art Space

The creative resistance space is where you can make visual material for actions and protests (like banners, masks, posters, stencils, prints etc.), to make protests more colourful, creative and clear during the drop-in times. You are of course welcome to make protest props and visual stuff for your projects. There are other activities happening there too – see timetable for details.

Tripods

Alongside scheduled tripod building and erecting workshops, two pods will be there all day every day to be climbed and explored.

Climbing Space

Climbing workshops and drop-in sessions will be running throughout the gathering from these trees. All kit provided! No experience necessary. See programme timetable for details.

Library

The cafe of our local health food shop 'Sound Bites', 'Yaffle cafe' have loaned some of their political library, which will be in the bar space. Please treat with care and you are welcome to take a book to your tent if you write it down.

Bar

We will have 3 Vegan Ales from Bourough Brewery, local ciders and The Old Tree brewery providing fermented soft drinks and elder flower champagne. The bar will be from 7:30-11pm on Thursday and 7:30-12pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. There should be



no drinking on site before 7pm.

Entertainment

A variety of entertainment is scheduled after 8pm (see timetable), most in the main marquee, bar or around the fire pit. Power down will be at 11pm on Wednesday and Thursday, 11:30pm on Friday and 1am on Saturday and Sunday. Please keep noise to a minimum after that.

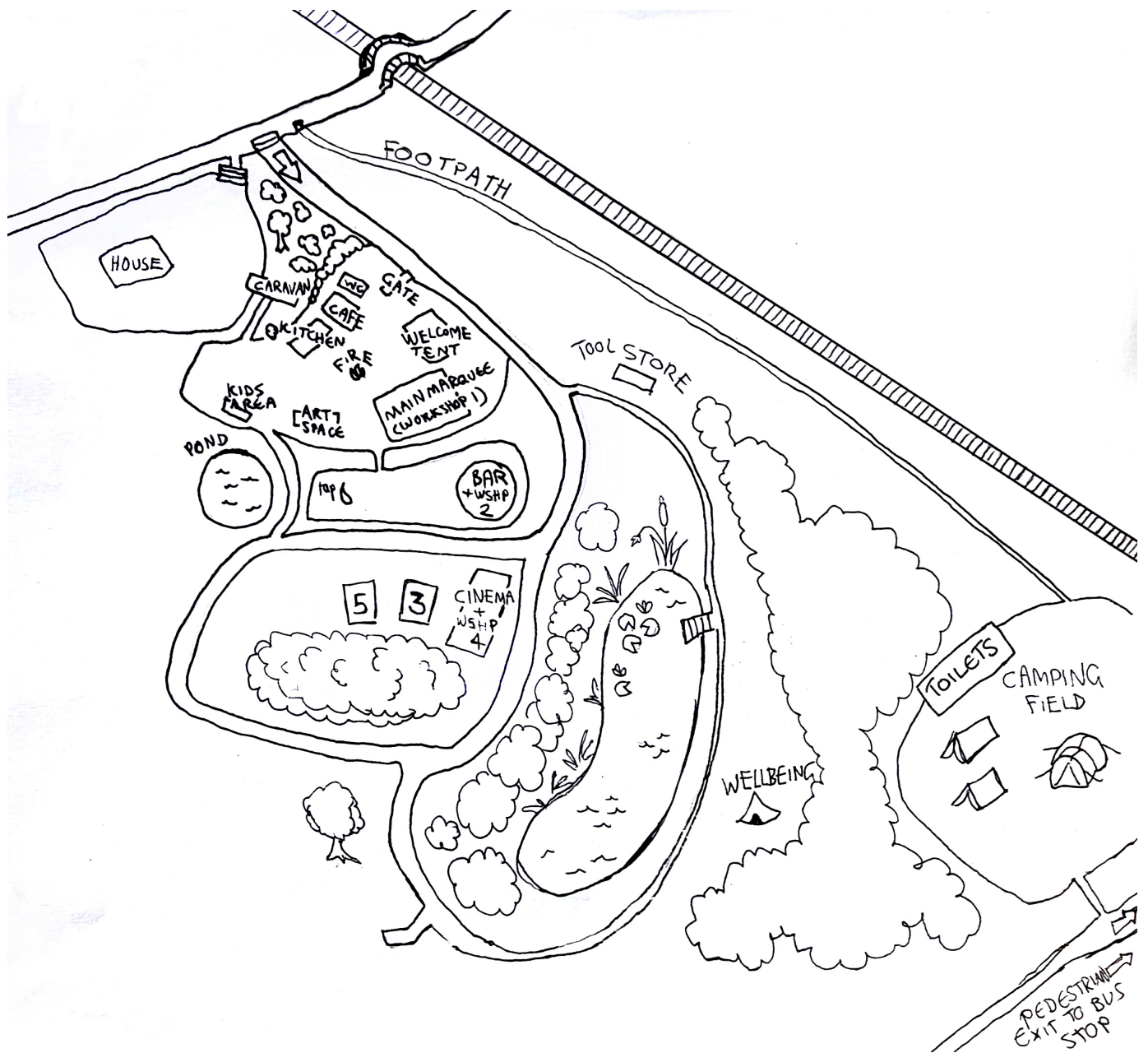
Bookshop

The bookshop with a wide variety of radical literature for sale, can be found in the cafe opposite the kitchen.

Cinema

Radical evening cinema space showing a wide variety of full length and short films. See board outside for details of films being shown. Films ranging from political information to poignant escapist entertainment! Sorry no popcorn!jjj

Site Map



Newbury Reunion

20 years ago a road protest hit the headlines and galvanised the passion in hundreds of people to fight to save their country side, it was pinnacle in stopping further devastating motor way projects in the 90's.

The Earth first! Gathering this year is inviting people, some of whom are no longer involved to come share their inspiring stories of total ridiculous to the sublime of daring do's to the people they have helped to inspire, and in return you can tell yours.

There will be book reading fro jim hindle from 9 Miles his second book of Newbury and there will be scheduled fire side tales. So come along and let's make our own history and keep our folk lore alive.



Prisoner Support

There is a dedicated prisoner support space in the Welcome Tent. It has materials for letter writing, making cards and banners, so we can connect with our comrades behind bars.

There is info and literature about prisons and prisoners. In the words of Earth First! in the US:

“Prisoner support is integral to radical movements because resistance breeds repression. We know that any successful movement that is making real gains will be met with repression and people will face jail time as a result of their contribution to a better world. Not only do people within the movement have an imperative to support people facing incarceration as a result for their beliefs and/or actions, but people who accept support from the movement while they are incarcerated have an imperative to respect individuals within and the movement as a whole by not cooperating or testifying against co-defendants. Police and federal agents will at least threaten to treat you worse if you do not cooperate. Prepare for this by knowing one’s rights and common tactics of the police to break solidarity within the movement. Keeping people feeling strong and connected will greatly help them to stand up for themselves, their rights and their ideologies, staying silent in the face of courts, interrogators and grand juries.”



