

WAKE UP!! IT'S YER CHOCKS AWAY....

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AS FLY-BY-NIGHT CLIMATE PROTESTERS OCCUPY HEATHROW SITE...



GROUND CONTROL

Climate activists caught the Met's finest flat-footed on Saturday night as they pre-emptively seized land for the climate camp. At 10pm around 150 activists poured onto the site on Sipson Lane near Harlington – just 800m away from BAA's headquarters (see map and directions). Within minutes an intricate tripod structure of scaffold tubes was erected and occupied to prevent a swift eviction.

In the event police didn't arrive in numbers until over an hour later, giving the squatters time to get vital equipment on-site to begin camping. A perimeter was secured with fencing stakes and rope, and primed with Section 6 notices. Soon after, scores of police arrived and blocked Sipson Lane - preventing vehicle access and conducting random stop and searches under Section 44 of the terrorism act.

At about one in the morning, as the camp's police liaison team were attempting to negotiate, one of them was arrested (see crap arrest of the week). A tense stand-off continued until dawn.

GATECRASH-LANDING

On Sunday the situation settled down into a stalemate. Despite repeated requests, the campers refused a permanent police presence on site. Top cop Chief Super Ian Thomas, 'silver commander' on the ground, claimed that as the climate camp was "like a village – it should be patrolled like any other village". The fact that at the time nearly 200 officers were surrounding the site while a helicopter circled overhead should be welcome news to any out-of-town Daily Mail readers concerned about rural crime prevention.

As the planned third runway would obliterate the surrounding area and separate Sipson village from its neighbour Harlington, it's no surprise that locals were supportive of the camp's presence with one man setting up his own 'Sipson RIP' tent at the camp's entrance. Posters supporting the local No Third runway action group (www.notrag.org) are prominent on many local houses (over 700 of which will be destroyed to make way for the facility).

By co-incidence the camp is located next to a Sikh temple – due to be demolished for the new runway - that was also hosting a major gathering. A donation of onion bhajis was gratefully devoured by a suspiciously religion-friendly gate crew.

Police maintained a road-block at both ends of Sipson lane, using it as a bargaining chip in an attempt to gain access to the site. Rather than give in to this blatant blackmail, activists formed human chains to bring tonnes of equipment over the half kilometre on to site. By Sunday afternoon there were hundreds of tents and over a dozen marquees up and equipped.

At 8am on Monday morning, police suddenly invaded the site. About 30 officers accompanied Supt.

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For not acting your age

Over-enthusiastic members of the Met's Tactical Support Group arrested one of the climate camp's police liaison team for having a 'fraudulent' rail card. Not believing he was under 25 (all this activism is terrible for the skin) they bounced his head off the inside of the van and whisked him away to West Drayton nick. Released in the early hours of the morning with no charge the hapless camper made his way back to camp on public transport – no doubt paying the full fare.

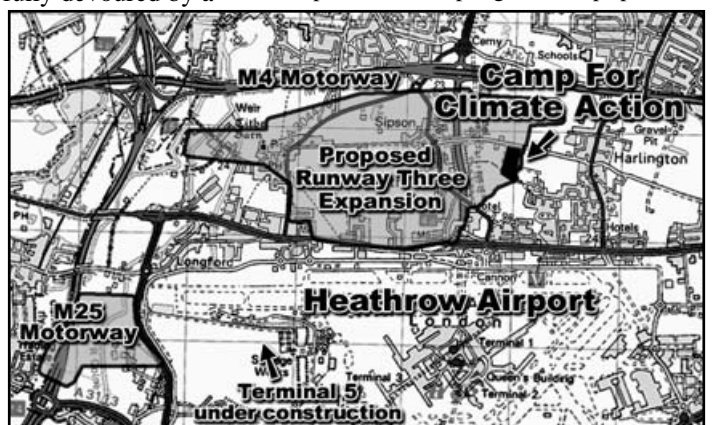
* The Climate Camp is running it's own **Crap Arrest™** competition as well as a more original Stop n' Search game – see www.climatecamp.org.uk/ispy.pdf

Thomas and the F.I.T team on to the camp ground. As the entire site is clearly visible from the road this was nothing more than a power-play by the Met.

From the outset the demand was for a permanent police presence on site. Taking advantage of their temporary superiority of numbers, the police made no concessions, with Thomas insisting that the road block would be maintained and that even medical supplies would have to be brought in by hand. In accordance with police plans, four officers are now permanently on site.

One camper told SchNEWS, "The plan seems to be to force us to divert energy into moving stuff rather developing strategies to combat climate chaos. They've abandoned all pretence of being piggy-in-the-middle - this is obvious political policing. We're here and the camp will go on regardless... Come and join in and take action against climate chaos now!"

For programme of workshops/talks at the camp see <http://climatecamp.org.uk/wshops.pdf>



PERMISSION TO LAND

Site entry on Sipson Lane, between the villages of Sipson and Harlington, north of Heathrow (don't go to Staines, it's the wrong side of Heathrow for the camp).

To get there by public transport: Catch train to 'Hayes and Harlington' station. From there bus 90, 140 or H98 heading south, getting off at the corner of Harlington High Street and walk west along Sipson Lane about 600 metres. Or go one station further on to West Drayton and take the 222 bus to the Western (Sipson) end of Sipson Lane.

For more info call 0207 3779088, a hotline running from 10am-6pm each day.

INFORMATION FOR ACTION



JET-SET AND MATCH

“It’s not that surprising that Plane Stupid received an injunction, we’re a direct action group. But BAA wanted to injunct 5 million people under the PHA (Protection from Harassment Act) turning them into criminals. It’s been a disaster for them, in fact solicitor Timothy Lawson Cruttenden (TLC - injunction specialist – see SchNEWS 581) is the best thing that’s happened to anti-aviation climate campaigning – if he wanted to come down to the climate camp I’m sure he’d be given a tent and a hero’s welcome!” Plane Stupid spokesman.

Part II of the climate camp injunction saga (see SchNEWS 598), and BAA are retreating from the court room choking on their own emissions. Led up the garden path by TLC and the Metropolitan Police, the owners of Heathrow tried to secure the “mother of all injunctions” against anyone and everyone even thinking about heading up to the climate camp. The only problem with this legal juggernaut was the total lack of evidence.

In the end BAA ended up with an injunction under civil law, which only backs up existing bye-laws. Basically the injunction (which the judge refused to issue under the PHA act) forbids trespass on property actually belonging to Heathrow airport.

LEGAL INFO

IMPORTANT: The climate camp itself is NOT affected by the injunction – the police have no extra powers at the site.

Filming: Police video teams and stills photographers are in attendance. Legally they are allowed to film you but there are no rules about turning away or hurrying past! Under certain circumstances, following a direction from a senior officer, police have powers to remove face coverings. Feel free to film them back.

Stop & Search – There are many pretexts for stop and searches but ultimately it is an offence to refuse. However they can only remove your outer clothing and you never have to give your name and address. (Unless you are driving a vehicle).

Any problems? - Contact the legal team on site. 07510 458006 or Bindmans solicitors on 0207 8334433

Don’t bring: Dogs, drugs, weapons, pennywhistles etc

Nothing Toulouse

Undeterred by being the only group affected by the injunction the Plane Stupid crew have taken their objections to the aviation industry to the Airbus ‘superjumbo’ factory in Broughton, North Wales instead.

Activists boarded and occupied a barge carrying a wing of an A380 airbus – the world’s largest passenger jet. It was heading out of the factory (presumably using canals and not opportunistically heading across flood plains) bound for the port of Mostyn and, ultimately, the Airbus factory in Toulouse, France where the beasts are assembled. While they hoped to remain on the barge “until ministers came up with a ‘safe’ aviation policy” it’s doubtful that was going to happen before the barge in question became an ark, and it wasn’t long before the six protesters were removed by security and moved on by police.

Just before taking flight, their spokesperson said: “This is the end of today’s protest, but you might find action being taken in other parts of the country this week...”

It may yet turn out that Police will wish they’d just been allowed to attend the Heathrow camp after all - it would have been so much easier to keep their eyes on them... www.planestupid.com

Inside SchNEWS

A protester has been given a 28-day sentence for refusing to pay a £750 fine, after arrest at Prestwick Airport, Scotland, where Israeli war planes were re-arming and transferring US weaponry during the bombing of Lebanon last summer (see SchNEWS 555). **Marcus Armstrong** was part of a group of eight Trident Ploughshares activists arrested and charged with trespass at the airbase on August 6th 2006 during a night-time weapons inspection at the base, looking for US weapons of mass you-know-what. After seven protesters were acquitted last week at Ayr Sheriff Court, Marcus was found guilty. His argument was that the Israelis were breaking international law, and that the bombing was war crimes targeting civilians – but Sheriff Montgomery claimed Marcus didn’t have firm evidence that the UK Govt knew war crimes were going on at the base, and therefore there was no excuse for the action. When he refused to pay the fine, a four-week sentence was handed down.

* See www.tridentploughshares.org and write to Marcus Armstrong, HMP Kilmarnock Bowhouse, Kilmarnock, KA1 5AA. (tel 01563 548800)

* Last week in Scotland, at **Glasgow Airport**, an aircraft regularly used for rendition flights stopped off on unknown business, before going back to the US. This plane was once owned by Braxton Management – a CIA shelf company – and is now owned by another front company. This plane is also a regular at Shannon Airport, Ireland. See www.sacc.org.uk

PARTY & PROTEST

AUGUST - ** 27-30 - Smash EDO Summer Action Camp - Direct Action against the War machine. The Protest Camp will be a chance to work together to close down the arms factory in Brighton. We will have workshops on effective campaigning, actions against EDO MBM and lots of fun together. Come and join us! Call 07875708873 www.smashedo.org.uk ** **31 – Critical Mass** - The pedal powered direct action where cyclists retake the road en-masse. These events are held in cities around the world, including several British cities, usually on the last Friday of the month at 5.30pm at a regular meeting point. For British dates check www.schnews.org.uk/pap/guide.htm#crit-mass ** **SEPTEMBER ** 11 - Disarm DSEi** - a day of actions against the Defence Systems & Equipment International (DSEi), the arms sales expo held every other year at East London’s ExCel Centre. www.dsei.org ** **19-24 - Gatwick area No Borders Camp**. This will be a space to share information, skills, knowledge and experiences, and to plan actions together against the system of border controls. Place: Gatwick area. <http://noborders.org.uk>

* For full listings updated weekly see www.schnews.org.uk/pap

...and finally...

Good news and bad news for those fighting road developments in Poland. Work in Rospuda valley to put tarmac though a primeval forest and heritage site (see SchNEWS 578) has been stopped for a European tribunal to consider the case, and the camp is taking a well earned break (just in case you were planning to go there on holiday).

And what is everybody’s nightmare scenario upon returning home after a such a breakaway...? Been burgled? Squatted? Flooded? Kids had a wild party and scratched an antique table and then failed to find a furniture polisher in the Yellow Pages? No, none of the above for Alicja Ziemowit, one resident of Lodz, Poland, who arrived back home to discover that the local council had built a new road complete with traffic island in her back garden.

When she complained she was told that a change in the law meant that local council officials could now use private land for road building without consent or compensation. A council spokesman said, “I don’t know why she is complaining, it is not a busy road, and she can still get to the back of her garden quite easily.” She will surely enjoy relaxing on the hard shoulder and could now perhaps open a roadside stall to sell cappuccinos to workers at the new computer factory down the road.

Lodz council added, humourlessly, “She still owns the land, it just has a road on it now.”

It seems that politicians and the people are, as ever, Poles apart.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all travellers going through Heathrow - you run the risk of losing yer ideological baggage... Honest!

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