



Kent Police - Operation Oasis

Compendium of Information relating to the policing of the Camp For Climate Change Protest at Kingsnorth Power Station, Kent in July/August 2008

INTRODUCTION

In the Autumn of 2008, Kent Police planned a policing operation to manage any threats to life and property that could be caused by the arrival of a large number of protestors at Ducks Court Farm, High Halstow, a site within a short distance of Kingsnorth Power Station, a proposed site of a coal-fired power station.

Kent Police have always recognised the significant public interest in the policing of this event. This document contains a compendium of some of the information released into the public domain in responses to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please note that some of this material may differ from information previously released, as more detailed information has become available.

Cost of Policing the Climate Camp

We received a number of requests concerning the cost of this operation immediately following the protest. At that time, the estimated cost stood at £5.9 million pounds, although we had to acknowledge that the final cost would not be known until we had received all invoices relating to the operation, plus also bills for mutual aid from other forces and overtime costs.

The majority of this work has now been completed and we are pleased to say that we had overestimated this figure, the final cost actually standing at under £5.3 million.

The Home Office contributed £3.7 million as their contribution to the total cost, meaning the cost to Kent was approximately £1.4 million.

Please note: These figures do not necessarily take into account ongoing legal costs.

Number of Officers Involved

During the course of Climate Camp, around 1400 officers undertook duties on the operation. However, it must be borne in mind that these officers worked in shifts or worked hours of overtime after normal duties. The actual number of officers available to the operation at any given time is not known but was significantly less than this figure.

Cost of Mutual Aid from other Forces

The operation included 942 officers supplied under mutual aid from other forces as follows.

Metropolitan Police Service 262	Ministry Of Defence Police 21	City of London 35	West Midlands 25	Greater Manchester 51
Essex 69	Cambridgeshire 15	Cleveland 25	Dyfed-Powys 25	Gloucestershire 25
Merseyside 25	Bedfordshire 25	Norfolk 25	North Wales 25	Northamptonshire 25
South Wales 25	South Yorks 25	Staffordshire 7	Suffolk 25	North Yorks 25
Sussex 27	Thames Valley 53	Dorset 25	West Yorks 52	

Mutual aid relates to the full costs of providing staff from other forces, including their overtime.

Mutual aid costs stand at £2,934,331.14

Overtime Costs

Many people were concerned that policing this operation abstracted officers in Kent from their regular duties, and that this would impact upon policing all over Kent. We recognised this potential problem, and so consequently the majority of the policing of this operation, by Kent Police officers and staff, was conducted during overtime hours. For this reason the overtime costs of this operation were relatively high, standing at around £750,000.

Costs of Kent Police Officer overtime £682,290.24

Costs of police staff overtime £68,387.21

Cost of Accommodation

Total cost of accommodation stands at £273,726.45

This figure is reduced from earlier estimates. The majority of this relates to providing accommodation for non-Kent officers but this also includes provision for media and conferencing facilities.

The Use of the Police Helicopter

Kent Police have an arrangement with Essex Police to use their helicopter for air support services. The agreement we have with Essex is based upon us paying for a service over the year, so some costs incurred during Operation Oasis would be absorbed into the annual amount and would not be separable. However, costs above the usual operational requirements amounted to £13,087.78.

The aircraft is a Eurocopter EC135 T2+, a CAA-approved police role-equipped helicopter with two Turbomeca - Arrius engines.

The helicopter was used for 41.35 hours on the Climate camp operation flying 63 flights (take off to landing again), which covered 71 incidents.

Depending upon flying conditions, the helicopter uses an average of 180 litres of Jet A1 Aviation fuel per hour (price - £0.52litre). Since it flew for 41.35 hours the fuel expenditure can be estimated at 7,443 litres of fuel costing £3,870.36. The aircraft was kept at its Kent base in Rochester during the operation to reduce flying time.

Number of Searches Carried Out

In the run up to Operation Oasis, Kent Police received intelligence that made it clear that a minority of the protestors were intent on the commission of offences connected with gaining unlawful entry to a highly dangerous site, thereby putting themselves and others at risk. A considerable number of searches were carried out in order to deny those persons the resources they needed to commit offences, the intention being to prevent the offence and any harm that may arise from it, rather than arrest the person.

Kent Police have a duty to keep records of searches in order to protect the rights of all persons who have been searched, as individuals are entitled to request a copy of the record for legal purposes.

Records of stops and searches are only included on the Kent Police Stop and Search database where the information that can be extracted from the form completed by the officer is of sufficient quality and completeness. Further, if the person who was stopped and searched exercised their right to decline to provide their details, there would be no purpose in recording the search details on the database. This was the case with a high proportion of searches conducted under Operation Oasis.

Kent Police have recently undertaken a detailed assessment of these forms and can report the following.

In total 8,218 searches were carried out.

1,745 records of these searches were added to the Kent Police Stop and Search database.

The remainder of the forms did not have sufficient detail for inclusion on the system. This is due to the stopped person exercising their right to decline their details.

3,550 searches were carried out under PACE S1, of these only 842 provided their details

Items Confiscated

A detailed list of items seized can be viewed on the Kent Police website at the following link. A full list of the items seized at the camp is included at Appendix 2.

Kent Police recognise that the majority of protestors at the camp were law-abiding members of the public exercising their rights to protest. However, a significant body of intelligence existed which contributed to a reasonable belief that some protestors were intent on committing offences. This included statements made on the camp for climate change website and in the wider media. This intelligence was borne out by many of the items seized above and when many of the protestors made concerted attempts to breach the fence of the Power Station.

[Climate Camp - protesters attempt to break into the grounds of the power station](#) (wmv)

Some of these items were seized because of their obvious potential to be used in acts of violence, e.g knives etc. Others, including tyres, barrels, inflatable dinghies, inner tubes etc, were seized to prevent them being used in the planned waterborne protest which had been prohibited by the harbour master.

Over 120 people had to be rescued from dangerous waters in the river Medway during the illegal protest flotilla.

Other items had a potential for use in either attempting to illegally gain access to the site (wire and bolt cutters, shovels and forks, grappling hooks) or alternatively had a potential to be used in lock-on protests (chains and padlocks, bicycle D locks in large quantities). Still other items could be used during illegal protest activity to conceal identity (balaclavas, face masks) or to obscure other activities (smoke grenades).

It must be borne in mind that many of these items were seized for their potential to be used illegally, rather than because they were being used to break the law at the time they were seized. Once an article has been seized, it usually follows that no crime can be committed with that article. Kent Police's policy during the policing of this event was to seize items that may be used in the commission of an offence and thus prevent the offence - it being preferable to prevent the offence than to arrest the person. Once the suspect items had been confiscated, the protestors were able to continue exercising their rights to lawfully protest. Considerable efforts have been made to make it possible for items to be returned to their owners. However, since in many cases the owners declined to provide their details it may not be possible in all instances to achieve this.

Arrests

There were 100 arrests of 99 persons (one person was arrested twice.) 46 people were charged, 22 were cautioned and three were bound over. One person was remanded for breach of bail. The list of offences and the dates, and the numbers of people detained for them, is included in the table at Appendix 1.

Complaints

Following the policing of the Climate Camp protest at Kingsnorth Power Station the following complaints were received by Kent Police.

47 complaints regarding the Direction and Control of the policing of the protest were recorded under Section 14 of the Police Reform Act 2002.
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31 Complaints regarding the conduct of officers policing the protest were recorded under Section 12 of the Police Reform Act 2002.
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Of these, 29 complaints have been recorded and investigated by Kent Police, 1 complaint has been recorded and investigated by West Yorkshire Police and 1 complaint has been recorded and investigated by Thames Valley police.

65 Complaints were received but not recorded by Kent Police under Section 12 or Section 14 of the Police Reform Act 2002
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Complaints against the police fall into the three groups above. Those complaints that concern the conduct of specific officers are investigated under section 12 of the Police Reform Act 2002, to establish whether disciplinary action is necessary.

Where the complaint concerns the general policing operation, such as for example, complaints concerning the noise from sirens and the police helicopter received from local residents, these will be recorded under section 14 of the Act and fed back to the operational commanders for their consideration as to how such problems may be avoided or better managed in future operations.

However, in most circumstances such complaints will only be recorded under the Act where the complainant has been affected at first hand by the matter, in this case, for example, a protestor who was present or a local resident. Persons who have made contact with the Police to voice their objections at something they have heard about or seen in the media or from another source will not usually have their complaints recorded and dealt with under the Police Reform Act.

However, this does not mean that such contacts are ignored. Kent Police are committed to improving our service to Kent residents and visitors and this means taking notice when the public make contact with us to express their opinions about how we are performing.

Section 12 Complaints against Officers

Of the 29 complaints under Section 12 investigated by Kent Police:

10 have already been dealt with under the Local Resolution procedure.

6 of these complaints related to officers from Kent, the remaining 4 concerned officers from other Forces. All of the complaints related to matters concerning 'Stop & Search' Procedures, Incivility or Traffic Irregularities.

2 more of the recorded complaints have now been withdrawn with the consent of the complainants. The first related to a traffic irregularity where a police van pulled out in front of the complainant and the second related to the complainant witnessing a protester tripping up after contravening a police cordon during a demonstration march.

1 complaint has been filed No Further Action after the anonymous complainant refused to cooperate with the Case Investigator after alleging she had been assaulted whilst being searched.

At this time (April 2009) none of these complaints have been substantiated. However, investigations on 16 complaints are still ongoing, 4 of which relate to Kent Police officers.

After the Climate Camp

In March 2009 the Chief Constable decided to make a voluntary referral of the policing of the Climate Camp demonstration at Kingsnorth last summer to the IPCC ([Independent Police Complaints Commission](#)).

They decided that in the first instance, any issues arising from the operation should be dealt with by Kent Police's Professional Standards Department, and those of other forces involved in the operation.

In addition the Chief Constable requested that the [National Police Improvement Agency](#) carry out a review of the policing of Climate Camp.

The NPIA conducted a debriefing exercise, where officers involved in the operation were given the opportunity to identify what elements of the operation went well or not so well from their viewpoint.

However, Chief Constable Mike Fuller felt that a more objective review was needed, which would examine the policing operation at a strategic level, and asked that a further review be undertaken.

This review was conducted by a senior officer from South Yorkshire Police, ACC Andy Holt, who has considerable experience in public order policing support from the NPIA, and considered the overall strategy and tactics used in the operation.

Although the first document, the Structured Debrief report, was superceded by the Strategic Review, both documents are now available to view on the Kent Police Website.

Chief Constable Mike Fuller said:

'I commissioned a full strategic review following the initial Climate Camp debrief report by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). The report was commissioned through the NPIA and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), and conducted by Assistant Chief Constable Andy Holt, South Yorkshire Police. The final document was passed to me on 14 July 2009.

'I have been keen throughout this process to ensure that any learning from the Kent operation also assists with the current debate around the policing of protests and I have shared our experiences with Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary (HMCIC), Mr Denis O'Connor, for part of his wider review of this area of policing activity.

'I am pleased to note that the review highlighted numerous areas of good practice. These included our approach to community engagement, the information pack for visiting forces, traffic management, knowledge and understanding of the sites we were dealing with, intelligence updates, and advance planning and in-force exercise to test our resourcing and contingencies.

'I also recognise the report identifies several areas for learning. While many of the recommendations made to us have already been adopted in the intervening twelve months, there is still work to be done either within Kent or in conjunction with other forces or agencies. On that basis I have asked Assistant Chief Constable Andy Adams, who is relatively new to the force, to lead on ensuring all recommendations are properly addressed. This process will be overseen by the Kent Police Authority.

'We have to remember that from the outset, Climate Camp was an illegal mass trespass, at short notice and without the co-operation of protest organisers. The publicly declared aim of some protesters was to break into Kingsnorth Power Station, an action which could have had the consequence of disrupting power supplies to a great number of people in Kent. Despite this, Kent Police facilitated the protest over nearly a fortnight, with the help of other forces from all over the country.

'The police operation itself was very successful in preventing criminality and harm while at the same time, enabling a protest around an issue of genuine public concern to go ahead. It was a largely peaceful protest with no significant incursion to the site and no interruption to power supply. There were no serious injuries to protesters, police or the public.

'In March 2009, to try and establish the overarching public feeling around the way Climate Camp had been policed, we conducted an independent telephone survey with members of the public. Respondents were chosen at random from households in the Hoo Peninsula. 75 per cent of the respondents felt that Kent Police handled the event effectively and the majority of respondents (84 per cent) reported having confidence in Kent Police to deal with these type of events.

'While we feel that these results and the report given to us by South Yorkshire contain some very positive elements, we know there is an opportunity to learn. We, and all other forces are keen to gain from this report to improve the way all large-scale events are policed in the future. We believe the review will help mould the way these types of events are dealt with nationally.

'Recently, Kent Police has been very successful in the policing of high profile and large-scale events. For example, our plans for the Armed Services day at Chatham were commended and the event ran without incident, while a recent protest at Kingsnorth (on 4 July) passed off without any problems and involved full and ongoing communication with the organisers in order to achieve the balance between the right to protest and that of upholding the law.

'We are still awaiting for a date for the Judicial Review into three individuals' stop and searches during the Climate Camp event and it would therefore be inappropriate for me to comment on this aspect of the reports findings at this time.'

Appendix 1 - Charges

Date Of Arrest	Offence	Disposal
31/07/08	Obstruction	Charge
31/07/08	Obstruction	Charge
03/08/08	Obstruction	Caution
03/08/08	Possession Of Cannabis	Caution
03/08/08	Possession Of Bladed Article	Charge
04/08/08	Obstruction	Charge
04/08/08	Obstruction	Charge
04/08/08	Obstruction	Charge
04/08/08	Obstruction	Charge
04/08/08	Obstruction	Charge
04/08/08	No Insurance	Charge
04/08/08	Breach Of Peace	Bound Over
04/08/08	Breach Of Bail	Remanded in custody
05/08/08	Criminal Damage	Refused Charge
05/08/08	Criminal Damage	Refused Charge
06/08/08	Drugs / Bladed Articles	1x Charge, 1x Caution
06/08/08	Obstruction	Charge
06/08/08	Obstruction	Charge
06/08/08	Obstruction	Charge
06/08/08	Assault On Police	Charge
06/08/08	Criminal Damage	2x Charge (C/Damage + Drunk & Disorderly)
06/08/08	Possession Of Bladed Article	Refused Charge
06/08/08	Conspiracy to commit C/Damage	Refused Charge
06/08/08	Conspiracy to commit C/Damage	Refused Charge
07/08/08	Theft	Bailed 34/5 (Released without charge)
07/08/08	Possession Of Controlled Drug	Bailed 34/5 (Released without charge)
07/08/08	Obstruction	Charge
07/08/08	Going Equipped	Refused Charge
07/08/08	Possession Of Controlled Drug	Refused Charge
07/08/08	Possession Of Controlled Drug	Bailed 37/7 (Released without charge)
07/08/08	Obstruction	Bailed 37/7 (Released without charge)
07/08/08	Breach Of The Peace	Bound Over
07/08/08	Breach Of The Peace	Bound Over
07/08/08	Going Equipped for theft	Refused Charge
07/08/08	Possession Of Cannabis	Caution
07/08/08	Going Equipped for theft	Bailed 37/7 ((Released without charge)
07/08/08	Unlawful Possession Of Class A Drugs	Caution
08/08/08	Unlawful Possession Of Class A Drugs	Refused Charge
08/08/08	Possession Of 2x Bladed Articles	Charge
08/08/08	Possession Of Cannabis	Caution
08/08/08	Possession Of Cannabis	Caution
08/08/08	Theft Of Vehicle	Bailed 34/5 (Released without charge)
08/08/08	Handling Stolen Goods	Bailed 34/5 (Released without charge)
08/08/08	Theft Of Vehicle	Bailed 34/5 (Released without charge)
08/08/08	Obstruction	Charge
08/08/08	Obstruction	Charge
08/08/08	Obstruction	Charge
08/08/08	Possession Of Articles To Commit Damage	Refused Charge
08/08/08	Obstruction	Charge
08/08/08	Possession Of Class A Drugs	Refused Charge
08/08/08	Drink Drive	Charge

OPERATION OASIS - SEIZED PROPERTY LIST
Description of property
13 X '200' litre barrels
12 X'18.5' litre water containers
1 '19' litre water bottle
4 X water bottles of various sizes
10 X inflatable dinghys
33 X car tyres
numerous large / small / bike inner tubes
plastic bag containing tyre valves
adhesives & patches
2 X '3ft' plastic tubes
5 X high output air pumps
1 foot pump
2 X airpumps
1 sail
4 X inflatable cushions
8 X inflatable canoes
inflatable mattress
30 X canoe paddles, incl double / single / T-bar types of bladed paddles
13 X wooden 'homemade' paddles
46 X lifejackets
harnesses
4 X wet suits - (1 returned)
dry wader boots
2 X life belts
various wooden pallets nailed together forming 5 Raft bases
8 x wooden pallet of various sizes
various sizes and lengths of wood / timber / plywood
51 x lengths of wood with yellow plastic end attachments (returned)
large quantity of 'branch' wood (returned)
31 x pieces of red coloured wood (returned)
16 x saws of varying size (4 ret)
2 x lengths of waste pipe
quantity of black foam pipe lagging
a variety of bungee cords (some ret) and various straps
4 x various sizes of hosepipe, some with connectors
5 x various sizes of netting (1 returned)
2 x plastic buckets
3 war on terror board games (returned)
1 bandana
1 plastic character face mask with wig.
2 X wigs
2 X face masks
1 beige nose
black face covering - emblazoned with 'recognised enemy of the state'
1 balaclava
1 clown outfit
unknown animal head costume
3 X cycle helmets
large assortment of coloured hard hats (some returned)
3 X hoods
2 X hats
assortment of scarves
various overalls / coveralls (all ret) incl: painting, hooded, disposable, white
3 x pairs bolt croppers (1 returned)

cable cutters
10 x sets of wire rope cutters (returned)
tin spips
2 x pairs wire cutters
several pairs of pliers (1 returned)
molegrips
4 x hacksaws (1 ret), 9 hacksaw blades
Prof cut large metal saw.
electric cable tester
5 x parachutes
10 x hand held radio's (returned)
4 x smoke bombs
road map with phone number
bag containing a model of the power station, aerial photo and CD (returned)
2 maps of power station. (returned)
1 map
2 x lengths of fencing mesh
14 x 'one' tonne scissor jacks (all returned)
4 x spades (returned)
3 x sledgehammers (2 returned)
2 x D rings for towing (very heavy duty)
metal tow pin
4 x climbing Karabinas
various holdalls and rucksacks (2 returned), 2 x containing rock climbing kit
3 x climbing harnesses
17 x buckles
several lengths of webbing with ratchets
large assortment of ropes
1 scaffold jack (returned)
1 car jack
6 rolls of normal duct tape
3 rolls of duct tape sprayed with silver paint
8 rolls of black duct tape
3 rolls of grey duct tape
1 roll of white duct tape (returned)
17 rolls of gaffa tape
1 roll of white gaffer tape
4 rolls of silver gaffa tape
numerous coloured spray paint cans (some returned)
spray paint adapter
various sized paint brushes (some returned)
vessels of paint primer
vessels of acrylic paint
various vessels of paint (some returned)
tin of metal paint
tube of putty
pot of ink
various containers / tubes of glues and adhesives incl: superglue, araldite resin, evostick, bostic, 'no more nails', spray adhesives (some returned)
assortment of coloured marker pens (some returned)
pencils, crayons and chalk (some returned)
various lengths of chains incl: steel-o-chain, coil, bike, some cut/broken (some returned)
In excess of 53 x D-locks (some returned)
38 x bike locks - (some returned)
6 x combination locks
small number coil locks
small number loop locks
small number steel locks

1 of each, barrel, crook locks
2 x steering wheel locks
cable loops
various padlocks incl: key, combination, anchor, (some returned)
bluetac
various types of tape, including gaffer, duct (some returned)
1 wooden walking stick
5 x round wooden shields with blue rope handles
1 spear
3 x capped needles
large kilt pin
bamboo sticks in a bundle
assortment of wooden fence posts / stakes
stakes with blue and black plastic end attachments (returned)
assortment / bundles of metal stakes of varying length (many returned)
1 copper pipe
razor blades
3 x yellow playing darts (returned)
4 x ice axes, 2 x ice picks and 3 x pick axes (2 returned)
27 x grappling hooks (26 returned)
2 x small axes (1 returned)
staple gun (returned)
black plastic imitation rifle
2 metal rods (1 returned)
black metal handle
1 wooden handle with metal handle
2 red petrol cans
bomb' bag
2 boxes of display fireworks
2 golf balls
1 golf club (returned)
tweezers
glass containers, jars, bottles (some returned)
10 pairs of scissors
assortment of knives, incl the types of: Swiss Army, metal / wooden and plastic folding, wooden handled, pen, kitchen, craft, flick, lock, skinning, steak, paring, leatherman.
2 forks
variety of hammers (4 ret) incl, clubb, wooden handled, floral, claw, mallett
various power / hand drills and drill bits
assortment of screwdrivers (3 returned)
selection of spanners / wrenchs inc, adjustable, fixed, bike (1 returned)
numerous multitools
1 chisel
nails (some returned)
metal comb
assortment of clips, inc jubilee, metal
various wires / cables incl: welding, plastic coated, coiled, solder
jointed metal bike rack - damaged
2 x electrical leads (small)
various yellow studs/rivets
handcuff key
bolts with washers
solder and assortments of metal wire
nuts & bolts
tin container
small screws and safety pins
2 x blue metal wheel braces
1 metal object

2 flashlights & 1 dragon lamp
1 book titled 'Wholey Irrisponsible Experiments'
assortment of leaflets / flyers/ newsletters / booklets / envelopes
Anarchist literature booklet
Camp for climate handbook
various banners
bag containing several flags
small number of badges
cardboard artifacts
congestion card
Swiss Card (Quattro Black)
1 climate change card
1 number stamp
bag of balloons and party poppers
assortment of strings / twine / ribbons / cords, excl: ropes and cables
numerous washing lines
assortment of plastic bags / bin liners/ cloth (returned)
hessian sacking
various sizes / rolls of carpet / cloths
blankets / rugs
large number of ground mats
various tarpaulines
14 X white plastic table tops
large number of plastic rings
midi block brush
2 pairs of nail clippers
metholated spirits
white tub containing soap, Potassium Hydroxide flakes and Methonol
dealer' bag containing traces of white powder
Paracetamol tablets in box
Diazepam tablets 5mg
Cannabis grinder
reflective trailer marker
sinometer
solar power power leads
hammock
2 X stick candles
camera - (found property)
50m extension lead
ladies mountain bike
1 box containing 17 plastic fog horns (returned)
package of green matter (returned)
empty can
empty bottle
vault lock
1 pair of blue ear defenders (returned)
assortment of gloves incl: latex, plastic, heavy duty gripper (returned)