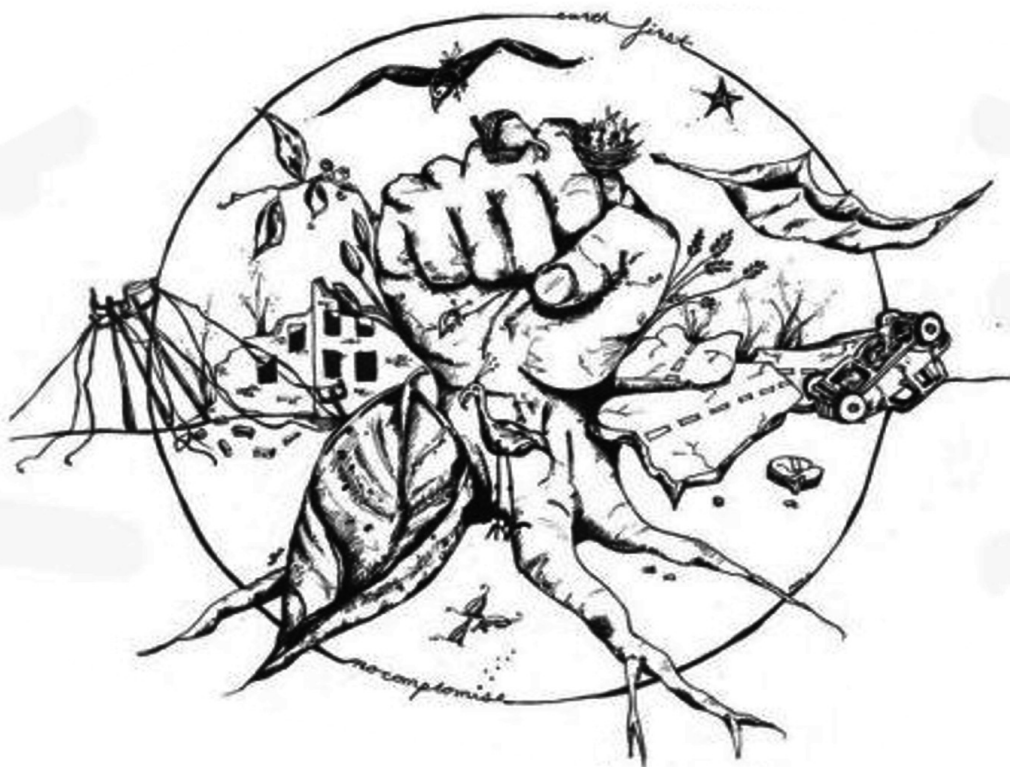


Earth First!

Summer Gathering 2013 Handbook



Large Print version of this handbook available at the Welcome Tent

Welcome to the 2013 Earth First! Summer Gathering for five days of workshops, relaxation, networking, strategising and playing! We hope you'll find lots of stuff in the programme to interest and inspire you to get organised and take action against the destruction of our planet.

During the gathering we're aiming to create a space to share ideas, learning and reflect on experiences. To help build networks to support each others struggles and develop strategies to go forward. As well as have some fun together.

In meetings and workshops we would like to combine respect for autonomy and different ideas with the opportunity for healthy debate, mutual aid and shared learning. Everyone is welcome to participate in sessions - you don't need loads of experience to make a valuable contribution - feel free to have your say and to ask if anything is unclear – this is your gathering.

Site Phone Contact Number: 07580244804

Important information such as local hospital/doctors and travel info can be found at the welcome tent.

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How the Gathering Works

Just arrived?

The welcome tent is a great place to start. You can pay your donation, get meal tickets, sign up for jobs and find out what's going on. If it's your first gathering, we can find someone to show you round the site and explain how things work. If you have any questions or problems meanwhile, don't be afraid to ask anyone.

If you've never been to a Gathering before...we recommend that you go to one of the "Introduction to Earth First! and the summer gathering" sessions where you can find out everything you need to know and meet some people.

This is your gathering: be prepared to help run the camp and contribute to the programme. Once the gathering is up and running we are all crew and responsible together for keeping the Gathering running smoothly. For most stuff that needs to be done, there are already coordinators; they'll be introduced at morning meetings and will be asking for volunteers to help with kitchen, kids space, toilets, rubbish and recycling etc. Most importantly, if you see something that needs doing, feel free to do it yourself if you can (there are tools on site) or inform the relevant work team.

Welcome Tent: The place to go when you arrive, to pay, buy meal tickets, sign up for **jobs**, lost property, lift-sharing, First Aid and if you have any questions. It needs staffing throughout the gathering: there will be a rota in the gate tent so you can put your name down for a shift. The more volunteers we have, the more everyone can enjoy themselves, so please do your bit. We need two people on the gate at all times, four people at night - it's best if groups of friends do the night-shifts. The gate tent has lighting, facilities for making hot drinks, stuff to sit on, a two-way radio, the site mobiles, lists of useful phone numbers, an alarm, bus and train timetables, lift-share board and more besides.

Morning/Evening Assemblies: We will all gather together once a day - please check times and make an effort to be there - this is where timetable changes are announced, co-ordinators introduce themselves, people volunteer themselves for the jobs that keep the site running smoothly and other useful info is shared.

Money: The Gathering is self-financing and is costing more than £2000 to put on. To cover this we'll be asking everyone to contribute £20 – 30 for entry, on a self-assessed sliding scale according to what you can afford. If you can pay more, please do! Expenses include site hire, marquee hire and transportation, water, electricity, publicity, and this booklet. We also give a fixed amount to the Kitchen to help cover their risks, as they have to spend a lot on food in advance.

Food: Meals will be provided by a 'Revolting Veg', a volunteer-based, not-for-profit catering collective based in Brighton. Meal tickets are £6 a day for three meals plus hot and cold drinks during breaks. Please buy tickets from the gate tent when you arrive for all the days you want meals, as ticket sales are used to calculate how much food needs to be cooked for each meal. If you don't buy tickets in advance you may not get fed! All meals are vegan and GMO free. If you have any special dietary requirements please tell the kitchen as soon as possible. You are also welcome to bring cook bring your own cooking equipment and food.

There will also be a snack bar.

Kids Kitchen: There is also a kids kitchen, with snacks available all day and child-friendly evening meals. Kids meal tickets will be on sale at the main Gate at £3 per child per day. Families or groups of families are welcome to use the facilities to prepare their own meals, except late afternoon/early evening, when the kitchen will be needed to prepare the main kids evening meal.

Kids Meal times:

Breakfast....DIY from 6.00am, Kids Lunch 12am-1pm, Kids Dinner 5-6pm

Camping: You can be shown camping spaces on arrival at the Welcome Tent. There may be separate camping area such as a quiet camping area, Women and Trans* only camping space, teenagers space so please respect these or if you are looking fr them but don't find them feel free to set them up.

Vehicles: There is plenty of space for live-in vehicles on site. If you've come in a vehicle we ask that you minimise the use of in order to do as little damage as possible to the field. If you want to go to Bexhill please walk or take the bus if possible.

Workshop Spaces: We've got 5 different spaces for workshops, they will be marked on the map at the welcome tent and will have signs outside.

Kids / Youth Space: The kids space will be running during session times. Please collect your children at the end of each session. We will not be providing childcare during lunch breaks, before the first session or after 5pm. Please make sure you introduce your child, and tell us where you will be! We will be providing 3 meals a day at cost price. If your child is likely to be up before 7 am, please speak to a member of the kids space collective, so you can help yourself to breakfast! We will be providing activities every day, as well lots of toys, games and art-work, please see the kids tent for more info on activities. The space is run by volunteers, so please pop over and sign up for a session or two.

Info-space: There will be a space to gather fliers, analysis, information about campaigns etc. Please feel free to add to this and seek it out to take things back to your local area.

Combe Haven Defenders: There will be an info-space for people to find out about the local campaign to stop the destruction of this area, meet local campaigners and find out how to get involved.

Cinema: We will have a projector and hope to set up a space for watching films.

The Bar: Will be selling vegan organic beer, cider and so on each evening. Volunteers will be needed to staff the bar. Please don't drink alcohol before 6pm, and remember to take your bottles and cans (including ring pulls) to the recycling point, however out of your head you might be.

Water: Drinking and washing water for the site comes from the mains. There'll be separate taps for washing your hands and for drinking water and a wash area with bowls and soap. Please use the eco-friendly soaps provided. Waste water will be drained into the ditch surrounding the site, so please keep it chemical free. Please consider how much water you need to use.

Toilets: We have separate toilets for crap and straw bale urinals for wee on site. It helps with any transportation and with the composting process for wee and poo to be kept separate. There will also be one toilet for wheelchair users. Please do not put nappies, pads, tampons, condoms or any other rubbish in the loos or urinals, as these won't compost. Instead put them in the bins provided. If the toilets are full, please empty them or let a member of the toilet crew know. Please cover your poo with sawdust afterwards, to reduce flies and smells. Wash your hands after using the toilets! A number of nasty microbes love our waste, and one oversight can cause untold misery. Some infections, such as E.coli can be fatal.

Fires: Please do not start any extra fire pits and remove any nails, screws or other metal from wood before putting it on the fire. Please don't collect firewood from the hedges and woods because this is prime wildlife habitat.

Accessibility: There is no one size fits all solution to inclusion and there are as many barriers to inclusion as there are people. We have limited resources but hope to make the gathering as accessible as possible.

Accessibility measures already in place include a Step-free toilet, Tent space allocation according to need (i.e. close to toilets or road), Support travelling between workshops, Some proper chairs in workshop and eating areas, large print copy of programme. We can also try to assist with transport

to and from the station and offer human help to put up or take down tents. Please let the gate tent know about any access needs you have and we will do our best to offer any assistance we can.

Waste: 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.

Fag ends: Don't drop them on the ground – they can kill sheep and cows and we only have to pick them up at the end of the gathering. Put them in the Butt bins. This applies to filters and rollies equally.

First Aid: We've got a team of qualified First Aiders on site, who'll be on call. If you need first aid, contact the gate tent who will get a First Aider to you. If you are a First Aider, please register at the gate tent so your skills can be called upon during the gathering if needed. First Aiders on duty will carry a radio so that they are easily contactable.

Mediation: Conflicts and problems sometimes arise at gatherings. A mediation team will be formed at the gathering and may be looking for more people to get involved. The team will be introduced at the daily meetings. If you have a problem you don't feel you can deal with yourself, please raise it with the mediation team in person. There will be more information about this in morning meetings.

Tat-down/clearing up after the gathering.

We need to have cleared the field by Tuesday. Your help can make the whole process quicker and less strenuous. There will be a meeting on Sunday afternoon to plan the tat-down. If you have a vehicle that you can offer for transporting the remains to their final destination, that would be very much appreciated.

About Earth First!

Earth First! is about direct action to halt the destruction of the Earth. We believe we can make a real difference by doing it ourselves rather than relying on leaders, governments or industry. We're a loose network of people, groups and campaigns coming together for ecological direct action and we believe in non-hierarchical organisation. The name Earth First! is a banner anyone who shares a similar philosophy can work under. In the UK people have been taking direct action using the Earth First! name since the early 90s – stopping road building, the quarrying of coal, rock and peat, freeing our fields of genetically modified crops, protesting against climate criminals, fighting corporate power and much, much more. Earth First! is not a cohesive group or campaign, but a convenient banner for people who share similar philosophies to work under. The general principles behind the name are non-hierarchical organisation and the use of direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of Earth and its inhabitants. If you believe action speaks louder than words, then Earth First! is for you. Although the printed Action Update, a publication that shared news of direct action across the UK and beyond is no longer being produced, there is a regularly updated action news-feed at: www.earthfirst.org.uk.

Read about other struggles and share news of your own resistance – together we are stronger!

A bit of history

Earth First! is a worldwide movement that originated in the USA in 1979. Inspired by Rachel Carson's Silent Spring, Aldo Leopold's land ethics and Edward Abbey's The Monkey Wrench Gang a group of environmental activists pledged "No Compromise in defence of Mother Earth!" and started to take action against wilderness destruction. From there it spread quickly around the world and morphed to suit local conditions and priorities. There are or have been Earth First! groups in the US, UK, Canada, Australia, Netherlands, Belgium, Philippines, Czech Republic, India, Mexico, France, Germany, New Zealand, Poland, Nigeria, Slovakia, Ireland, Italy and Spain. In the UK people have been taking direct action using the Earth First! name since 1991 – stopping road building, the quarrying of rock, coal and peat, freeing our fields from genetically modified crops, fighting corporate power and fighting numerous smaller, local campaigns.

Earth First! Summer Gatherings have been held since 1992. Since the first one near a hill-fort in Sussex, many people under this banner have come together at gatherings to discuss, share skills, organise direct action and socialise. For the first few years around 70 people came; nowadays it's about 350. The gathering moves to a different part of the UK each year and each year a different bunch of people get involved in organising it.

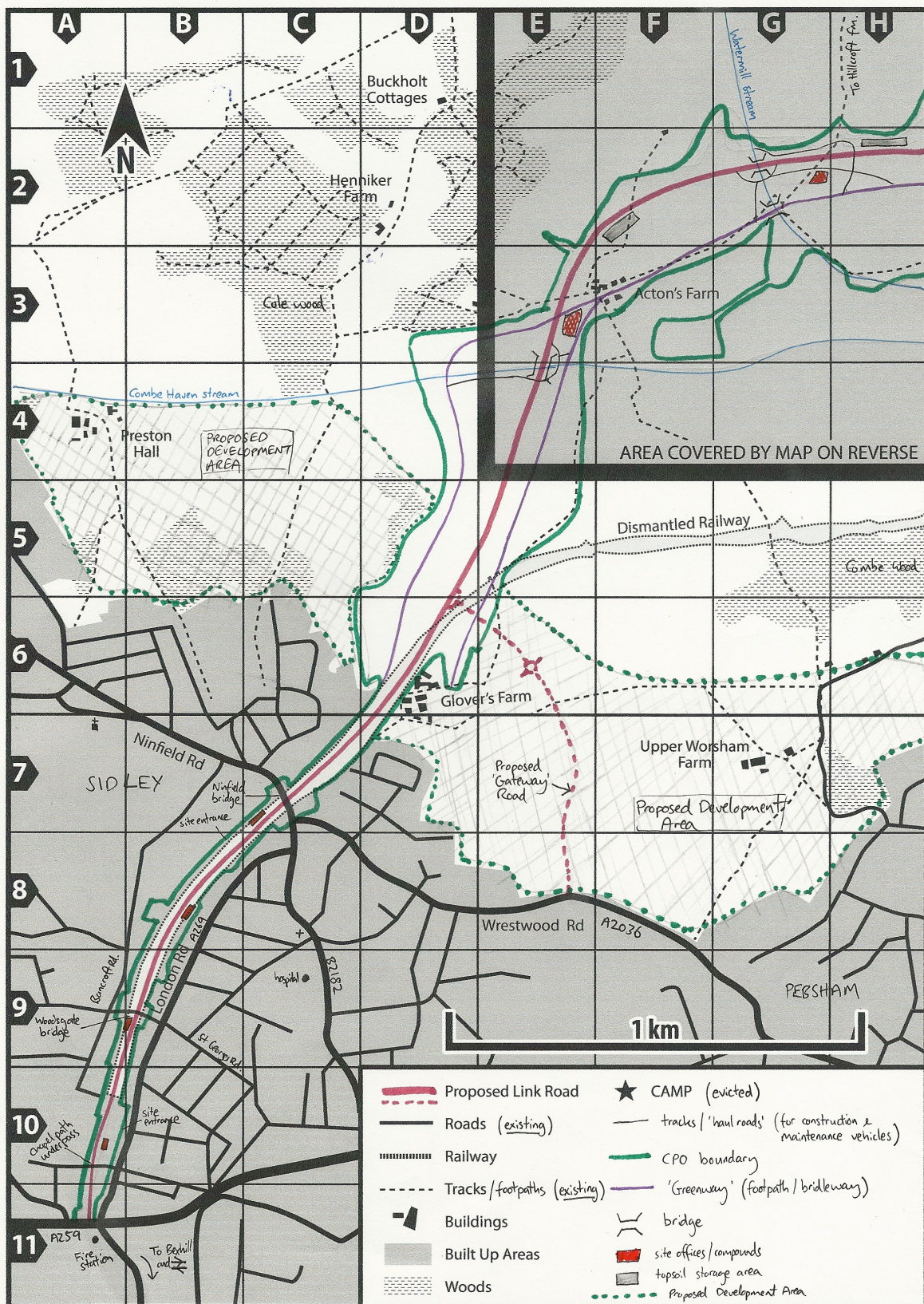
Why have the Earth first! Summer gathering in Combe Haven valley?

At this year's EF! Winter gathering or 'Moot' in Lancashire in February it soon became very obvious that many local campaigns were springing up in little pockets of the UK. These campaigns were being lead not by hardened activist anarchists but even scarier 'regular law abiding citizens' were running passionate campaigns; fracking, Shale Gas and 200 New roads schemes have got the communities raging!

The Combe Haven Defenders are one such group. Local to Hastings, they have run an awe inspiring campaign from direct action in the trees to political theatre outside George Osborne's house. The Crowhurst Local Parish council went from wanting the road to not only voting unanimously against it but for supporting direct action in the trees. We have come here to support this group, to show people what is happening here and share our skills in halting destruction of Mother Earth!

Why Combe Haven...This peaceful field you are camping in is earmarked for 'industrial estate', two fields over is a 13million pound road to nowhere, the first and the worst of the government's 30bn New Roads programme . Either side of this link road is planned 8000 houses and 8 industrial parks; the real reason for the road, devastating a valley which contains: a site of special scientific interest (SSSI); the largest reed bed in East Sussex; badgers; uncommon species of dragonflies; dormice; bats; barn owls; great crested newts and other reptiles; water meadows; and areas of ancient woodland. Dormice, bats and great crested newts are European Protected Species.

Visit the Combe Haven Defenders info-tent to meet up with local campaigners, get more information and get involved!



see www.combehavendefenders.wordpress.com for links to detailed construction maps

CHD RM 1.

The Programme

If you'd like to put on a spontaneous workshop or discussion please do – either speak to the workshop co-ordinator or announce it at the daily meeting to book a slot and to tell everyone about it. Empty white boxes show when there are spaces available, though hopefully there will be other spaces or good enough weather for more sessions whenever. There are some sessions that we wanted to avoid clashes with to allow as many people to come as possible, please try to avoid scheduling other events at these times.

Inevitably there will be changes in the timetable: these will be announced in the daily meetings. You can also check on the notice-board in the main marquee before each session to find out if the session you want to go to is running and where it is being held.

There will also be:

An Ongoing Giant artwork... "The new Battle of Hastings",

Rag Weaving: Drop in sessions for adults and kids on Friday and Saturday

And a further programme of kids and youth activities emerging through the gathering.

Wednesday

07.00	Chi Gong Skill-share – meeting place will be displayed in main marquee				
08.00-09.30	Breakfast				
	Main marquee	Space 1	Space 2	Space 3	Space 4
09.45					
11.30	Intro to Earth First! UK and the summer gathering.	Know Your Rights	Tree Climbing		
13.00	Lunch				
14.00	Intro to Earth First! UK and the summer gathering.				
15.00	Break				
15.15	Resilience to Repression	Walk in the Valley with Combe Haven Defenders			
17.15	Break				
17.30	Evening Meeting				
19.00	Evening Meal				
20.30	Films in the main tent				
23.00	Quiet Please				

Thursday

07.00	Chi Gong Skill-share – meeting place will be displayed in main marquee				
00.08-09.00	Breakfast				
09.00	Morning Assembly				
	Main marquee	Space 1	Space 2	Space 3	Space 4
09.45	An Activist Childhood	Prison Abolition and Interconnected Struggles	Derrick Jensen's Endgame Principles	Combe Haven Defenders Info Talk	
11.45	Break				
12.00	Email Encryption	History of the Luddites	Challenging Schedule 7	Hunt Saboteurs	Tree Climbing (location will be announced on site)
13.00	Lunch				
14.30	The Population Factor	Food foraging	Arad – Supplying water meters to Sussex while bleeding Palestine	Rosspart: A 13 Year Old Symbol of Resistance	Combe Haven Defenders - Walk
16.00	Break				
16.30	Women and Trans* Self Defence	Resisting Extreme Energy in the UK	Plant I.D	Hambach Forest Info-Talk	Tree Climbing
19.00	Evening Meal				
20.00	Pub Quiz in the bar			20.30: Bat and Moth Walk	
23.00	Quiet Please				

Friday

07.00	Chi Gong Skill-share – meeting place will be displayed in main marquee				
08.00-09.00	Breakfast				
9.00	Morning Meeting				
	Main Marquee	Space 1	Space 2	Space 3	Space 4
09.45	Organising Earth First!				
11.30	Break				
12.00	Running Participatory Workshops	Current Politics of Technology Issues	Field Plumbing		
13.00	Lunch				
14.00	Do your actions without them stopping you...part 1	Unconventional Fossil Fuels	The Pleasures and Problems of being an Activist and a Parent	Local Walk - Combe Haven Defenders	
16.00	Break				
16.15	Working with Conflict	Stop New Nuclear	Transport 200 No New Roads		
17.45	Break				
19.00	Evening Meal				
20.00	<i>Open Mic Night</i>			8.30: Do your actions without them stopping you...part 2.	
00.00	Quiet Please				

Saturday

07.00	Chi Gong Skill-share – meeting place will be displayed in main marquee				
08.00-09.00	Breakfast				
9.00	Morning Meeting				
	Main marquee	Space 1	Space 2	Space 3	Space 4
10.00	GM Update – The latest rounds in capitalism Vs Life	Facilitating Consensus Meetings (better)	Herbal 1 st Aid	Managing Democracy	Activist Trauma
11.30	Break				
11.45	Regional Networking				
13.00	Lunch				
14.30	Granarchy	Direct Action and Machismo	Tree and Hedgerow ID	Resisting Extreme Energy in the UK	Walk in the Valley with Combe Haven Defenders Calling in on the Crowhurst Village Fete.
16.30	Break				
16.45	Diversity and Oppression	Activist Self defence	Local Campaign Talk with Combe Haven Defenders	Tripod – putting up and climbing	What's wrong with Biofuels
19.00	Evening Meal				
20.30	Music from Fletch and Marie, up and coming singer songwriters from Sidley. And possibly a Ceilidh			19.30: Crowhurst Village Fete Barn Dance	
00.00	Quiet Please				

Sunday

07.00	Chi Gong Skill-share – meeting place will be displayed in main marquee				
08.00-09.00	Breakfast				
09.00	Morning Meeting				
	Main marquee	Space 1	Space 2	Space 3	Space 4
09.45	Sustaining Resistance, Empowering Renewal	KAPOW! Capitalist Climate Crisis Collision - Reclaim the Power	Destress Fellow Activists		
11.45	Break				
12.00	Resisting the new Racism - Anti Fascism in the UK	Wildlife Watch in the area threatened by new road developments	Tackling misogyny (and other forms of bigotry) in activist communities.	Walk in the Valley with Combe Haven Defenders	The Black Fish – working for the oceans
13.00	Lunch				
14.30	Gathering Feedback session				
16.30	Break				
17.00	Tat Down Meeting				
18.00	Evening Meal				
20.00					
00.00	Quiet Please				

Making workshops and meetings work

We are keen that all slots on the timetable are run as well as possible. Here are some tips for everyone to try out. Firstly remember that everyone is responsible for the dynamics of the meeting. We all need to be aware of how we interact with others and how to avoid informal hierarchies, such as deferring to those who have more experience.

Prepare for a workshop by thinking about what you want from it – it will help everyone get the most of it. While some jargon and abbreviations are inevitable they can be alienating; try to explain them early on or ask for clarification if you need it.

Be constructively critical. Instead of saying "That's a stupid idea", explain why you disagree, and if possible suggest an alternative. And avoid phrases like 'most people', 'everyone thinks' and 'obviously' as they can be a manipulative way of trying to win an argument.

Not everyone is comfortable speaking in all meetings, and if you don't want to, that's fine. But try not to let meetings become dominated by a few. We know it's hard but try to be aware of how much you are talking in a meeting and make sure you leave space for other people.

If there is silence in a meeting, don't feel it has to be filled straight away. Some people may think quicker than others or have already thought about the subject so will seem to have lots more to say, but is important to leave thinking time in a meeting.

If your meeting seems to be turning into a boring back-and-forth between a few people, try moving to a new topic, have a go-round (where everyone contributes briefly in turn), or break down into smaller groups.

Use hand signals (like silent clapping) only if they've been explained and people are okay with them.

Most meetings will have a facilitator or two to help make the meeting run smoothly and ensuring that everyone who wants to participate does so. Facilitation is not just about noting who is to speak next in the 'order of hands'. It means ensuring some continuity in discussion, and making sure people don't hog meetings. The job is best done by someone who doesn't have very strong opinions about the topic being discussed. Volunteer facilitators are needed and there's a workshop where you can learn how to do it. Please let the gate tent know if you'd like to try your hand at facilitating a workshop.

Workshop/Session Guide

**any repeated sessions are only fully listed here in the first slot they appear on the programme.*

**some sessions may have restrictions on who may attend, please respect these restrictions.*

**Some workshops explicitly welcome children, many others will also be suitable for children or facilitators may be up for offering a kids Q&A at the end of the session – sorry that these have not been programmed in advance but we hope they can happen at the gathering.*

Wednesday:

7am:

Early Morning Chi Gong Skillshare (every day at 7am)

We'll learn a bagua based chi gong set with martial, meditative and health applications.

11.30:

Intro to Earth First! UK and the Summer Gathering. Kids Welcome.

If this is your first time along to the gathering, come along to this session to find out how the gathering runs, ask any questions and meet some people.

Know Your Rights (Green and Black Cross Legal) Kids welcome.

Good introduction for those new to activism/ refresher for those not so new. Covers stop and search, blockading, marches, affinity group action scenarios etc. Welcome to drop in and out of this workshop.

Tree Climbing

There will be a number of climbing sessions throughout the gathering. Come along to the morning assemblies to find out more about these sessions to help you get up trees, and most importantly, get back down again! From one to one beginners sessions to advanced climbing skillshares.

2pm:

Intro to Earth First! UK and the Summer Gathering

Resilience to Repression

This workshop aims to explore both recent examples, and potential future patterns, of state and corporate repression, with a view to exploring how we can practically design our lives, groups, networks and movements to be more resilient to inevitable attempts to stop us organising for social change.

Walks in the Valley – approx. 2 hours) (there will be one guided walk with Combe Haven Defenders each day)

Combe Haven valley is a pretty medium-sized valley between Bexhill and Hastings that is home to badgers, newts and many species of birds. Undisturbed for many years; preparatory Work has now started on the Bexhill to Hastings link road. Join an experienced guide for a slow walk to the centre of the valley (using legal public footpaths), pointing out areas of interest on the way. Some hills and

muddy areas depending on the weather.

Thursday:

9.45:

An Activist Childhood

This time the focus is on our children. How can we bring up children in today's consumerist society to resist the pressures of conformity. Do we isolate them, do we act like fundamentalists, do we indoctrinate, do we let the child lead the way? This discussion looks at ways that we can help the generations that follow us grow with minds open, and how we can help them find answers. There will also be a report back from the first ever John Conner Camp which took place in late July...a space for children to interact with each other, with adults and most importantly, with the world around them.

Prison Abolition and Interconnected Struggle

What makes you feel safe? Is it the police or a home, enough food to eat and a supportive community? This workshop looks at how different struggles for social and ecological justice can play a role in abolishing the prison industrial complex; the overlapping interests of government and industry that use surveillance, policing and imprisonment as solutions to economic, social and political problems. Only by linking up, interweaving and connecting struggles on all levels and in all areas of our lives can we face up to such a wide-reaching system of oppression.

Derrick Jensen's Endgame Principles

Civilisation, especially industrial civilisation, is not compatible with life on earth. Civilisation is a culture of extraction, entitlement and maximum harm. It is changing the climate, killing the top soil, vacuuming the oceans, polluting the rivers, drawing down the water aquifers, and deforesting the land. It causes the enslavement, immiseration and/or annihilation of the majority of humans and non humans. 200 species a day are going extinct. Unless it's stopped, Industrial civilisation will kill everything on the planet.

These are some of the hard-hitting conclusions of the prolific environmental philosopher, Derrick Jensen, as laid out in his two volume book "End Game". We will be examining some of the 20 premises of End Game, which are central to all his work. We will be handing out copies of the premises in the workshop so no previous knowledge of Jensen is required.

Local Campaign Talk with Combe Haven Defenders

In this talk we explore how the local campaign against the Bexhill to Hastings link road has developed, and hear about some of the experiences of the campaigners. Including: how Operation Disclosure at the Department of Transport in London helped secure the release of a secret document, taking a tree to East Sussex county hall in Lewes, and building a dual carriageway in George Osborne's front garden.

12.00:

Email encryption

Learn how to communicate securely over the internet using PGP encrypted email. Bring a laptop with Mozilla Thunderbird installed and leave the session with a fully working set-up or just come and see how its done. Discuss the importance of encryption and its appropriateness in different situations. This is a workshop for people who use the internet as an organising platform and are concerned about electronic surveillance but are baffled by technobabble.

History of the Luddites

Challenging Schedule 7

Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 is a police snooping tool being used to question activists under the threat of arrest. This workshop will be a chance to discuss strategies of how to challenge police use of Schedule 7.

Hunt Saboteurs

A look at the badger cull and the dairy industry, with a bit about other attempts to eradicate wildlife species and how they are being resisted.

2.30:

The Population Factor

Interrelationships between human population and consumerism, wilderness, reproductive freedom, class struggle, feminism and health. Talk followed by discussion

Food Foraging

Arad – Supplying water meters to Sussex while bleeding Palestine

Arad, an Israeli water company that provides services to Israeli settlements and to the Israeli national water company that denies Palestinian communities access to water has a contract with Southern Water to provide water meters to Sussex. Come and find out about the local campaign to stop the contract.

4.30:

Women and Trans* Self Defence

A practical workshop to introduce some basic and simple techniques of verbal and physical self-defence to improve confidence and assertiveness in dealing with confrontations.

Women and Trans only*

Resisting Extreme Energy in the UK (First of two sessions)

Fracking is just a symptom of a much wider problem. As easier to extract energy resources are exhausted by the unsustainable energy consumption of the present system, we are resorting to ever more extreme methods of energy extraction. As existing energy resources deplete the default response has been to just been to try harder. Dig or drill deeper, go after lower quality resources or move on to more remote locations. This increasing effort has consequences: increasing pollution, more dangerous working conditions, greater greenhouse gas emissions and more land use. Why is this happening? What strategies for effective resistance are available to us? What can we learn from those resisting these new forms of extraction elsewhere?

Plant Identification

Join us for a walk around the site to learn some techniques for identifying plants and to see what we can find in the local area.

Hambacher Forst – Info-session on the struggle

Find out more about the struggle against coal mining in west Germany. The latest news from the forest protest camp and upcoming events in the area including

Climate Camp – 23rd Aug -1st Sep: www.klimacamp.ausgeco2hlt.de

ReclaimTheFields! - 28th Aug-6th Sep. www.reclaimthefields.org

Action days within 30th Aug-2nd Sep.

www.hambachforest.blogspot.de

Evening:

Bat and Moth Walk

Join us for a dusk walk in search of bats with the use of bat detectors. We will also be able to use a moth trap to learn how to identify different species in the area.

Friday:

9.45:

Organising Earth First!

Each year a new collective is formed to organise the following years Summer Gathering and often a shorter winter meet-up, the EF! Winter Moot. We wanted to give plenty of time at this gathering to discuss future gatherings, whether we want them, and how we want to organise them. Whether you are new or have been involved a long time, have energy for organising or not, please come along to have your input into future Earth First gatherings and events. A further session may be scheduled if more time is needed.

12:

Running Participatory Workshops

Have you got skills or information you'd like to share? Do you want to support people to learn from each other and share their experience? A workshop to develop skills and confidence to facilitate fun, participatory and dynamic workshops.

Current Politics of Technology Issues

Field Plumbing

A practical workshop looking at the plumbing on site and showing you some simple ways to set up plumbing on camps and gatherings.

2.00:

Do your actions without them stopping you

Secrecy or surprise can be a vital element in lots of actions. A skillshare in planning, reccying and carrying out actions without anyone finding out (before you are ready.) Nighttime practice session for people who went to the day time skillshare. All levels of experience welcome.

Unconventional Fossil Fuels

The endless pursuit of economic growth, coupled with the decline in conventional energy sources, is driving ever more extreme forms of energy extraction around the world, with ecologically and socially devastating consequences. This workshop, provided by Corporate Watch and the UK Tar Sands Network will give an overview of the types of unconventional fossil fuels, where, how and why they are extracted and what this means for the planet's ecosystems and peoples. This will be followed by a discussion on how to take part in the growing global resistance against these extreme energy sources.

The Pleasures and Problems of being an Activist and a Parent

Once the decision has been made to become a parent (not an easy one considering the population problem and spread of resources) what happens then. How can caring for a child and being an activist fit together. Do things have to be "given up until they're older" how can an ethical life be lived when most "ethically produced" stuff for kids is designed for people with mega incomes. What works for you, what do you wish you could do, or do better,. Share experiences, laughs, disappointments, frustrations, joys. Tell it like it is!

Local Walk with Combe Haven Defenders

4.15:

Working With Conflict

Every group and relationship experiences conflict, whether we're trying to bring about an anarchist revolution or play dominoes on the street. It's simply part of being human. This workshop is an introduction to understanding and working effectively with disagreement and conflict in our groups.

Stop New Nuclear

Nuclear emergency, the government has just announced a spend of £10 billion for Hinkley, never mind the rest of their planned New Nuclear fleet...with the infrastructure spend specifically taking money away from the more needy via more cuts. The same tactic as they are using for the funding of the rest of their extreme forms of energy - a.k.a 'business as usual' come along and be a part of creating the resistance and the decentralised alternatives we so desperately need.

Transport 200 No New Roads

'Roads to Nowhere' a national campaign group from 'Better Transport' against the 772 miles of destructive new roads proposed for the UK. A work shop offering the whole picture and campaign updates from across England and Wales. Come along and see about what Roads to Nowhere can offer in terms of info and campaigning resources.

Rossport: a 13 year old symbol of resistance

"The first media reported direct actions of the 'Rossport Struggle' struggle against Shell took place 8 years ago when 6 locals were injunctioned and then 5 of them jailed for refusing to allow Shell onto their lands. During the week of action in June of this year, the media reported £150,000 worth of damage to Shell's property. Shell's project is 13 years late and more than three times over the initial cost estimate...What has maintained the struggle at an intense level is solidarity. The solidarity of those who travelled from all over Ireland to stand with the community. And the solidarity of those who came from further afield, in particular the UK...Rossport has become a byword for determined resistance across Europe and beyond. Many brought lessons from elsewhere to this resistance and many have returned with lessons from this resistance to other struggles." (Andrew Flood, Workers Solidarity Movement, Ireland)

Join us for a discussion to identify the values and attitudes that have made Rossport such an inspiring symbol of resistance for people in Ireland, the UK and beyond. Open to all.

Saturday

10.00:

GM Update – the latest rounds in Capitalism vs Life

With GM wheat trials ongoing and the Tories recent stridently pro GM announcements this is a

chance to get an overview of what activists have learnt in the last year, share some strategy, sort our Food Sovereignty from our Food Security, and generally work out how we keep their hands off our seeds.

Facilitating Consensus Meeting (better)

Consensus decision making has the potential to be one of the most empowering and co-operative ways for a group to work together. However, it doesn't always work out like that! Practice and share skills to facilitate a group to make decisions more inclusively and effectively.

Herbal First Aid

Discussing indigenous herbs, their folklore and practical uses; and big pharma's attempts to discredit and control it.

Managing Democracy, Managing Dissent: How democracy is made safe for capitalism

Democracy was once considered a dangerous idea threatening to ruling elites. Fast forward to today and democracy is a key method by which the inequality and injustices of capitalism are legitimated and popular consent engineered. This workshop, exploring ideas from Corporate Watch's new book 'Managing Democracy, Managing Dissent', will explore how liberal democracy serves to organise consent, manage dissent, legitimate repression and ultimately protect the capitalist system from revolt. This will include examination of its historical development, as well as more modern techniques such as propaganda, corporate control of the media, co-option of political groups and movements and the legitimisation of violent repression.

Activist mental health, trauma and building our own support structures

A safe space to discuss common issues surrounding activist mental health such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and burnout. The workshop will also look at what Counselling for Social Change is doing to try and support people, and how we can promote and encourage sustainable activism.

11.45:

Regional Networking Session

This is a session to meet up with people who live in your local area, find local groups and other people with shared interests in your area. It may also be a good opportunity for networking between regions or groups. Come along and make it what you want it to be!

2.30:

Granarchy, Maintaining a positive outlook in a youth driven movement

Recently a friend who had just become a Grandparent was congratulated on achieving "Granarchy". That set off a train of thought that led to this workshop/discussion. Activism could be said to be for the young and fit, indeed many of the people you see out on the streets, up chimneys, inside barbed-wire fences, climbing up diggers, are indeed young. And yet there is a steady core of people at the other end of the age spectrum who still consider themselves activists. What is it like for us "more experienced" activists, do we still have a role to play? Are we too set in our ways or do we have experiences we could share with people younger than ourselves...and what is GOOD about being an elder ?

Direct Action and Machismo

A chance to share and reflect upon our experiences of machismo in direct action groups and to

explore possible solutions both personally and culturally.

What's wrong with Biofuels?:

Energy from biofuels is sold as green and renewable, but in reality, this is far from the truth. The pursuit of both solid and liquid biofuels results in devastating environmental consequences both locally and globally. The workshop will outline the current state of biofuel energy in the UK, and explore opportunities to challenge the industry.

Trees and Hedgerow Plant Identification

A workshop on Trees their biology, uses, threats (climate change, development and protection). Then a short walk around the site.

Resisting Extreme Energy in the UK

Walk in the Valley with Combe Haven Defenders calling in on the Crowhurst Village Fete.

4.45:

Diversity and Oppression

Power and privilege play out continuously in our group dynamics. This workshop will explore how we use our rank and power and how this can exclude others from our movements and wider society.

Activist basic self-defence

(2 hours) No kids.

Simplified techniques to slip out of Their grabs that don't rely on strength, applied to common activist scenarios. All genders welcome, there'll be no punching and kicking bags and machoism will *not* be encouraged. Bring your plastic water-bottles if you want to learn some baton defence at the end. For your safety please arrive on time.

Local Campaign Talk with Combe Haven Defenders

Tripod – putting up and climbing

A tripod is a three-legged structure that can be climbed and occupied to form a blockade. Come along to see how they are made, safely put up and climbed.

Sunday

9.45:

Sustaining Resistance, Empowering Renewal

A workshop to explore how we can find sources of personal support to help us stay inspired, nourished and creative for the long haul and identifying how we can challenge damaging cultures of overwork and burnout in our activist groups.

'KAPOW! Capitalist Climate Crisis Collision - Reclaim the Power'

No Dash for Gas on the Reclaim the Power action camp and a future beyond fossil fuels and capitalism.

Destress fellow activists

Learn easy Indian Head Massage techniques through practical demonstration; you'll have an (optional) opportunity to partner up and practice as we go along. Massage will only be shoulders and up, can be done over clothes, sitting upright and involves no oils - perfect out in the field when it's most needed. Wash hands with soap just before coming and it may not be possible to join after timetabled start time, so please be on time.

12.00:

Resisting the new racism - Anti fascism in the UK**Wildlife Watch in the area threatened by new road developments (for kids and adults)****Walk in the Valley with Combe Haven Defenders****Tackling Misogyny in Activism**

The Brighton Feminist Collective are an intersectional activist group with a couple of large marches, several small protests and one memorable flash mob under their belts. However, they've found that a lot of hard work also has to go into tackling misogyny and other forms of bigotry within activist groups. They invite you to a discussion on why misogyny is present in certain activist movements, why it's important to tackle, and how we can work towards eradicating it.

The Black Fish – Working for the Oceans

Find out about the international marine conservation organisation on a mission to change attitudes towards our precious oceans and to work on protecting the unique life within them. By investigating, educating and taking non-violent direct action, The Black Fish campaign to end illegal and destructive fishing practices and safeguard a future for the plentiful species in our seas. Come along for information about their campaigns and how you can get involved and support the struggles for our seas.

2.30:

Gathering Feedback Session

A chance to input how you found the gathering. What did and didn't work for you, do you have suggestions for future gatherings? All welcome!

5.00: Tat Down Meeting

All welcome – come and see what needs doing, and how you can help take down the camp.

Policies

Gathering policies

NO CAMERAS, NO COPS, NO JOURNALISTS

To respect the wishes of those who for whatever reason do not wish to be photographed and for everyone's security the use of cameras on site is not permitted. Also as an activist gathering we sometimes attract attention from the cops and the press. They are not welcome on site other than the pre-arranged visit mentioned above. So if police or journalists arrive don't let them enter, and tell people they're around. If they're already on site, make sure someone in the gate tent knows.

PHONES: Please do not bring your mobile phone into meeting spaces or workshops. If you bring them, please keep them in your tents.

A note on security: This gathering is advertised openly and so it cannot be presumed to be a secure space any more than other public places so please think about this and keep yourself safe.

Smoking: All indoor spaces are non-smoking. Outdoors, please be aware of other people around you who may not want to breathe in your smoke especially at meal times, and make sure you place butts in the bins. Be aware also of the risk of fire: don't smoke by the straw bales used for seating.

Noise: Please be aware that other people and wildlife may be more sensitive to noise than you. To help people sleep and to keep the neighbours happy, there will be the following noise curfews: Thurs: 11pm, Friday: 12am, Saturday 12/1am pending discussions with the neighbours. This applies both to amplified and acoustic music. Please try to be quiet when returning to your tent at night and early in the morning and don't use the camping fields as a place to party.

Dogs: We have asked that all dogs are pre-registered and that you register your arrival at the welcome tent and take time to read the following code of conduct.

Code of conduct for Canines and their human carers:

Dogs on lead at all times on sites

Dogs to be walked off site at least 2x daily

Owners to scoop up poop (and we'd appreciate it if they scooped any they see lying around unscooped - but that's not a must!)

Dogs to be kept out of food preparation areas and kids spaces (unless by previous arrangement)

More than one infringement will result in a request for the dog to be removed from site.

There will be a Dog warden on site.

Sorry to have to be so strict, but for the safety of all attending the gathering, including children and dogs, and for the safety of the animals, domestic, farm and wild that live in the vicinity, we have

decided that this is the only way that we can have dogs on the gathering site.

Safer Spaces Policy:

We would like all attendees of the gathering to read the following safer spaces agreement. There is no formal process detailed here for implementing this policy as yet. A mediation team will be formed on site for during the gathering and there will be announcements during morning assemblies about how to find support in dealing with any conflicts that may arise.

What is a safer space?

It is a space that is critical of the power structures that affect our everyday lives, and where power dynamics, backgrounds, and the effects of our behaviour on others are prioritized. It's a space that strives to respect and understand survivors' specific needs. Everyone who enters a safer space has a responsibility to uphold the values of the space.

We say 'safer' realizing that not everyone experiences spaces in the same way as others, so any one set of guidelines established to create safety may not meet the requirements of everyone and there may be complications or lapses in fulfilling those guidelines in practice.

Why are 'safer' spaces valuable?

If we profess to be concerned about issues of race, gender and sexuality, etc, we need to live our lives in way that pro-actively seeks to subvert oppression. We need to work towards acting in ways that are respectful, & build communities of trust & support. We need to recognize that assault and abuse are also perpetrated by people who we know and love and share similar anti-oppression ideologies with. We need to develop ways to address this amongst ourselves in a way that promotes transformation without involving the [police] state or criminal [in]justice system.

How can we create a safer space..?

We define the following as abusive behaviours which are not tolerated in our spaces:

Physical abuse

1. Violence and threat of violence (unless in self defence)
2. Use of force and threat of force (unless minimal to protect users of the space and the space itself)
3. Rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment

Verbal abuse

1. Personal insult (insults or aggression towards an individual)
2. Oppressive language (insults or generalisations about a group of people)
3. Verbal Harassment, sexual or otherwise (repeated uninvited personal comments or requests)
4. Verbal abuse in writing (all of the above in written form)

We also ask everyone to have an awareness that..

- Feeling confidence in a skill is a privilege, so make space for others to learn what you already know, and share your knowledge with others in a way that is empowering.
 - There are a range of different identities (gender, race, class) that people may identify as, so avoid making sweeping generalisations or assumptions about people.
 - No Means no – nobody should feel pressurised to join in or do anything they do not want to do.
 - Anyone could be a survivor of a particular form of oppression, so treat others with care and consideration.
- Identify..
- Your own privilege(s) and actively challenge them..
 - **Lets take collective responsibility to challenge and work against oppression.**

Upcoming Events and Useful Links:

Reclaim the Power Action Camp: 16th-21st August

We are facing a climate crisis, economic crisis and social crisis.
We want a clean and fair future where people come before profit.

Come to share your ideas. Create, imagine, resist!

Join us to Reclaim the Power!

West Burton Gas fired power station, Nr Retford, Notts.

See:

<http://www.nodashforgas.org.uk/>

Anarchist Bookfair

Books, Pamphlets, Magazines, Meetings, Films, Discussions

with Crèche & older kids space, food and so much more

Saturday 19th October 2013

Queen Mary University of London

10am-7pm

Mile End road, London E1 4NS

www.anarchistbookfair.org.uk // mail@anarchistbookfair.org.uk

Links:

Earth First: www.earthfirst.org.uk

earthfirstsummergathering@riseup.net

<http://efgathering.weebly.com/>

Combe Haven Defenders: <http://combehavendefenders.wordpress.com/>

La ZAD: zad.nadir.org

Coal Action Network: coalaction.org.uk

Corporate Watch: www.corporatewatch.org

Seeds for Change: www.seedsforchange.org.uk

Rossport Solidarity Camp: www.rossportsolidaritycamp.org

Hambach Forest: <http://hambachforest.blogspot.de/>

Coal Action Scotland: coalactionscotland.org.uk

Frack Off: Frack-off.org.uk

Faslane Peace Camp: faslanepeacecamp.wordpress.com

Stop New Nuclear: stopnewnuclear.org.uk

Counselling for Social Change: counsellingforsocialchange.org.uk

Brighton Antifascist Network: brightonantifascists.wordpress.com

Brighton Feminist Collective: <http://www.brightonfeministcollective.org.uk/>

The Black Fish : <http://www.theblackfish.org.uk/>

How was it for you?

We'd like to know how you enjoyed the gathering, the things that were great and the stuff that was not and how we can make it even better next year. There will be a space for gathering your feedback in the welcome tent or email earthfirstsummergathering@riseup.net with any comments or suggestions.

Summer Gathering 2014?

If you liked this one, maybe you're up for getting involved in organising the next one, or helping out with the Earth First Winter Moot or the website. Come along to the session programmed in to discuss organising future Earth First gatherings or leave your details at the welcome tent.

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