

File No.

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400-97-139

No. 477

Minute Sheet No.

Net SA
See also 2A

- 1 -

SB report re enviro day of action against Stonebroom Open Cast Mine Derbyshire. - C 2620

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1A

- 1 CE clerks please register
- 2 DI [Redacted] and section to see - please append SB(R) references.
- 3 Comp to note
- 4 PA

S012-c
4.11.97

INDEXED
Date 23/3/98 Initials [Redacted]

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SPECIAL
10 MAY 1997
BRANCH RECORDS

[Redacted]

26/11/97

- 63585 ✓
- 62874 ✓
- 58133 ✓
- 64258 ✓
- 63070 ✓
- 42474 ✓
- 42539 ✓
- 35951 ✓
- 42638 ✓
- 62951 ✓
- 38774 ✓
- 58111 ✓
- 35263 ✓
- 58088 ✓
- 42390 ✓
- 35911 ✓
- 60534 ✓
- 66178 ✓
- 65684 ✓
- 35193 ✓
- 41069 ✓
- 62860 ✓
- 62193 ✓

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METROPOLITAN POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Report No	Date information Obtained from Source	Date Source Obtained Information	Typing Date	Source Code	Information Code
B	3.11.97.		4.11.97	B	2

No Downward Dissemination of this Intelligence without Reference to DCI C Squad

INTELLIGENCE

PSYCHO DREAM.

Title: STONEBROOM OPENCAST MINE.

The national day of action against opencast mining, held on Friday 31st October 1997, took the form of an occupation of the Stonebroom opencast mine in Derbyshire.

In stark contrast to recent shambolic environmental protests this was a well planned and meticulously prepared event primarily organised by the veteran squatters rights campaigner [Privacy] together with the even more senior Ernest RODKER, himself a veteran member of the 'Committee of One Hundred' and 'Spies for Peace'. Both men are active organisers of 'The Land is Ours' campaign. They were assisted in this enterprise by a small group of trusted Earth First organisers, and the majority of the rank and file demonstrators also came from an EF background.

As intended, the vast majority of the protesters congregated at the advertised meeting place in Barnsley and were wholly unaware of the actual site targetted for the days activities. Barnsley had been specifically chosen in the belief/hope that police would assume that this was to be a Yorkshire based operation and that they would deploy their resources accordingly.

The organisers expected that the police would monitor, stop, search and generally hinder the progress of the Barnsley contingent and decided to employ subterfuge in order to ensure one group of protesters reached the target unimpeded. Therefore whilst the majority of supporters travelled to Barnsley from the advertised coach point in Hammersmith on the Thursday night, the hard-core activists were assembling in the Finsbury Park area and were not to leave until the early hours of Friday morning when their coach would drive direct to the target. Even these 'hand picked' activists were not given details of the selected target which was known to only a handful of the main organisers.

The above theory worked in practice and the London coach was able to drive straight to the mine without attracting any police attention and were then able to walk onto the site unhindered. The joy of this cunning plan coming to fruition was somewhat undermined (sic) when later in the morning the entire Barnsley contingent arrived without the expected police escort.

As anticipated the local constabulary had indeed stopped, searched and questioned activists as they arrived in Barnsley on the Thursday night (some were actually stopped and searched at the motorway services on the journey north) and again on the Friday morning. However, the Yorkshire police interest ceased when the protesters drove across the county border into neighbouring Derbyshire at which point the police vehicles waved them a cheery farewell and left them to carry on unsupervised.

With no sign of a welcoming delegation from the Derbyshire police the protesters proceeded at their leisure to the mine where they joined forces with the earlier arrivals. At this stage approximately 200 activists were present on the site which had been abandoned by the handful of security guards who were present when the first contingent arrived. Anticipating the imminent arrival of a vast police task force the activists, who had been split up into small groups and allocated their tasks for the day, began occupying various HGV's and other site equipment intending to occupy the site for the day thus preventing any work taking place.

As time went by it became apparent that the Derbyshire Constabulary had not despatched a task force to deal with the invasion, in fact it became apparent that they had not despatched anyone at all. Scarcely believing their good fortune and not wishing to look a gift horse in the mouth, the activists climbed down from the vehicles and began dismantling them instead.

Tyres were spiked, windows smashed, engines sabotaged, generators filled with earth and anything breakable was broken. This casual devastation only ceased when, after two hours work, the activists could find nothing else to destroy. Their mission accomplished, and still no sign of the queen's peacekeepers, our eco-warriors left the site wondering how to fill in the rest of the day.

The vast majority elected to chill out around Stonebroom itself whilst waiting for the coaches to return, but a smaller group of 40 to 50 travelled on to Chesterfield where they occupied the offices of the mining company for four hours until arrested. Those who remained near the site eventually found some policemen to talk to and were regaled with stories of the under strength, undermanned Derbyshire Constabulary who did not have sufficient resources to deal with this type of problem. All of which will be borne in mind for future escapades. At its belated zenith the police response consisted of eight officers.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

For the remainder of the day the activists remaining in Stonebroom remained untroubled by the police until their coaches arrived to ferry them home. They were however stopped on the return trip by Derbyshire police who were concerned that they were heading in the wrong direction and furnished them with the correct directions to aid their journey home.

The following activists were identified as being present.

Privacy

SOURCE COMMENT

HANDLER'S COMMENT

Special Branch References

<u>Source Code</u>	<u>Definition</u>
A	When there is no doubt of the authenticity, trustworthiness and competence of the source; or If information is supplied by an individual who, in the past, has proved to be reliable in all instances
B	A source from whom information in the past has, in the majority of instances, proved to be reliable
C	A source whom in the past has, in the majority of instances, proved unreliable
X	In the case of previously untested sources where there is doubt about the authenticity, trustworthiness or competency.

<u>Information Code</u>	<u>Definition</u>
1	When the information is know to be true without any reservation
2	When the information is known personally to the source but is not known personally to the reporting officer
3	When the information is not known personally to the source but is corroborated by information already recorded
4	When the information is not known personally to the source and it cannot be corroborated in any way