



Trident Ploughshares International Disarmament Camp



26th August – 7th September 2013

Aldermaston – Burghfield

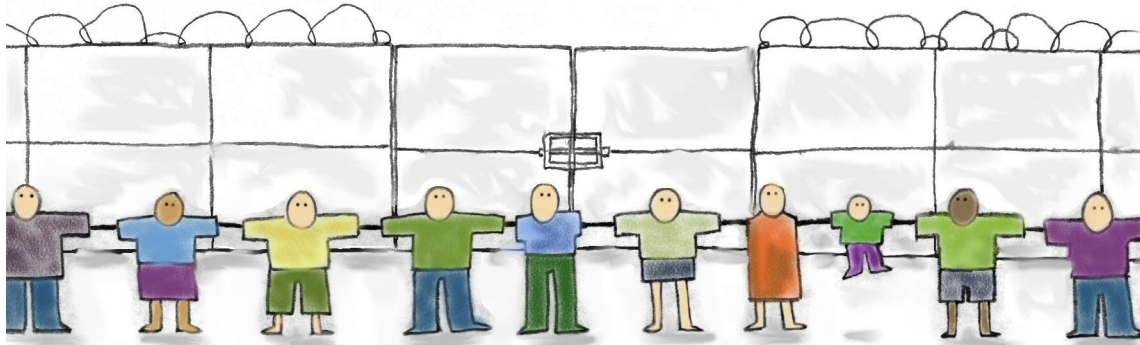


Briefing Pack

containing information about the camp that you might find helpful as well as a few guidelines which will make everyone's stay more fun and hassle-free.

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Welcome to the Trident Ploughshares Camp

The Disarmament Camp is being held at Burghfield (Berkshire, UK) and is part of Trident Ploughshares support for the Action AWE Campaign (<http://actionawe.org/>). It takes place at a crucial time when the UK's Coalition Government is planning to replace the Trident nuclear weapons system. Illegal, immoral, and estimated to cost up to £100 billion over its lifetime, the planned replacement will drain money from much needed public services and will breach the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

These two weeks provide an opportunity for peaceful responsible people to carry out lots of direct disarmament work at the Aldermaston and Burghfield Atomic Weapons Establishments. Aldermaston and Burghfield are only 7 miles apart and are where the nuclear warheads are manufactured and assembled. Detailed information on these two nuclear bases can be found at <http://actionawe.org/topics/uk-nuclear-weapons/atomic-weapons-establishment/>

The camp is open to anti-nuclear activists from all over the UK and further afield in Europe. Activists will be joining the camp for as long as they wish though most will be arriving in time for the Big Blockade on September 2nd.

The camp provides a supportive environment where we can strengthen our ability to work well together, learn new skills, bring people into the campaign, renew our friendships, visions and commitment, and for good fun. There are lots of disarmament opportunities at these bases, even during the camp when the Ministry of Defence police know we are around.

You do not have to be a member of Trident Ploughshares to attend the camp. So long as you are willing to abide by our non-violent guidelines you will be very welcome.

Nonviolence Guidelines



Our guidelines are to ensure respect and care for everyone involved, including those whose views and actions we may not agree with. Therefore we:

- Refuse to harm, damage or degrade people
- Refuse to carry any weapon or use physical or verbal abuse against others
- Recognise that no one has a monopoly on truth: everyone is capable of change, and communication and dialogue are important for understanding others' positions and concerns
- Connect with the fundamental humanity and good in everyone, whatever side of the issue they are on
- Take full responsibility to be aware and accountable for ourselves and our actions, which is best ensured by avoiding alcohol and drugs (other than for medical needs)
- Seek to prevent and avoid harm to everyone involved, including ourselves
- Provide each other with support to ensure that our behaviour is as nonviolent and careful as possible.

Venue

The exact placement of the camp will not be decided until the day we set up the camp but will be in the vicinity of Burghfield. For a map of Burghfield please see <http://actionawe.org/awe-burghfield-maps-gates/> For more information nearer the time you can contact TPcamp@actionawe.org or phone 0845 45 88 362 or you can go to the main gate of AWE Burghfield where there are likely to be constant vigils. If the police are preventing people from getting to the main gate then the vigil is likely to be by the police block!

Registration

It would be useful for those providing food and setting up the camp if you could register well before the camp starts. You can do this at www.tridentploughshares.org/burghfieldreg

Please also check in or register for the first time at the information table when you get to the camp. This is for your safety. To give you updates and it also helps us to keep in touch with people after the camp if we need to. We ask you to sign up for one of the daily non-violence workshops if you haven't done one previously. We also ask you to sign a simple nonviolence pledge which also commits you not to use alcohol or drugs while you are at the camp.

Camping/Accommodation

We expect most people to be camping, and you will therefore need your own tent (make sure it is waterproof) and bedding (enough to keep you warm). The camp will have compost toilets and basic washing facilities.

If you would like to join in the camp activities and do your bit to disarm Trident, but are unable to camp, please **contact us straight away so we can try and find you something suitable**. There are local people who have kindly offered their homes to provide beds and we have also booked some rooms at a nearby venue.

What else to bring

- a **torch** to get you around the site (and maybe elsewhere!) after dark
- **clothes for adverse weather conditions** – be prepared for cold weather and rain waterproof coats and trousers are recommended
- **suitable footwear** for wet, muddy ground, tough walking boots may be a good idea
- **your own mug, plate, bowl and cutlery** (the camp will have supplies of these but we may run out!)
- anything else you may want for your comfort or enjoyment - musical instruments, art materials, snacks, folding chair



What not to bring

- **Dogs**. Sorry, but we can't let them in. Any dogs will be turned away, so save yourself the hassle and make alternative arrangements. Exceptions will be made for assistant dogs only.
- **Alcohol and illegal drugs**. These are not allowed on site, and if you consume them off-site, we would ask you to ensure that you are clear of their effects before returning. Exceptions will of course be made for medical use.
- **Anything that could rationally be construed as a weapon**. Camping knives

are the usual problem which seem perfectly sensible for taking camping but are seen differently by the police. All lock knives are illegal to carry but a knife with a folding blade 3 inches long (7.62 cm) or less, eg a Swiss Army knife, is permitted.

Children and young people

This is an action camp and there are no special arrangements for looking after small children. If you are coming with children, please look after them constantly or arrange for someone else to. If you do not have children, please still be vigilant to any dangers children may get themselves into.

Trident Ploughshares has a policy that anyone who is under 16 has someone at the camp who acts as a responsible adult for them. If you are under 16 we ask that your parents make this arrangement with someone, preferably someone you know who is also coming to the camp, and that you bring a letter from your parents authorising that person to be responsible.

If you are under 16 and considering taking part in an action that might lead to your arrest, you need a letter authorising your responsible adult to collect you from custody. Adults are asked not to take under-16s on actions unless this condition is met. The police might still insist on parents coming.



Police presence

Because this is an openly advertised direct action camp, it is **very likely** that there will be a lot of police officers from both the Ministry of Defence (MOD) police and the Thames Valley Police (TVP) around both the camp-site and the bases – some in uniform and some not!

We will have several people dedicated to the task of police liaison and we will be issuing a legal briefing to everyone who arrives at the camp. However, the police may well be looking for reasons to obstruct us, so try to avoid needlessly becoming the focus of extra police attention by considering the following:

- **Literature you bring** – is there anything incriminating that would be best left at home?
- **Your mobile phone** – if you have one on you when you are arrested, it will be taken off you (whilst in custody), and the police may copy its contents (although they shouldn't unless it is relevant to the case).
- **If you bring a vehicle**, please ensure that it is legal, and drive in accordance with the law. Vehicles with no insurance or MOT are likely to be impounded quickly, and it is very expensive to get them back. Don't take money for lifts in public view, as the police may call this an illegal taxi service.
- See also the above list of '**what not to bring**'.

Food

There will be a communal kitchen, where main meals will be cooked (vegan). At other times feel free to make hot drinks and snacks here. Also volunteer to help with chopping veg, washing up, fetching water, etc. Please put donations for food in the collecting bucket in the kitchen area. We suggest £3 per person per day.

Costs

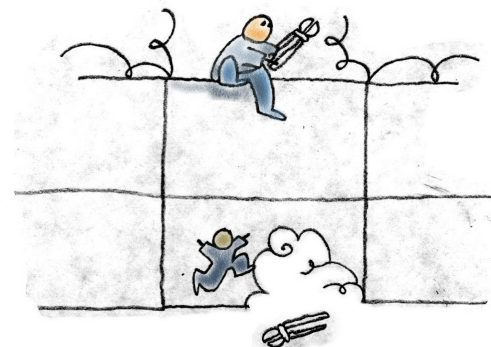
We don't ask a fee for camping but we are asking people to make donations, as they are able, to cover the costs of the camp as a whole (this is for phones, power, transport etc.) As a guide we are suggesting £25 a week (this is separate and on top of the food donations of £3 per day). If you wish you can pay this on arrival at the Information and Registration Desk.

Camp Organisation

We expect all campers either to be in an established affinity group, to link up with one for the camp or to form an ad-hoc camp affinity group with others. Decision-making for the camp will be through spokes-councils attended by one or two representatives from each affinity group. It is up to each affinity group to sort out how they meet to prime their rep(s) and get feedback. There will be work-shops to introduce people to using spokes-councils effectively and how to facilitate them. There will also be a daily morning session for connecting with each other.

Task Groups

We ask each person to be part of a Task Group so that the disarmament and support work gets done effectively and everyone plays a part. We will have task groups for cooking, camp maintenance, facilitating meetings, legal support, police liaison, media, registration and information, transport etc. You could be thinking now about which one you might be part of – and if you have ideas about that get in touch with us (see below for contacts).



Workshops

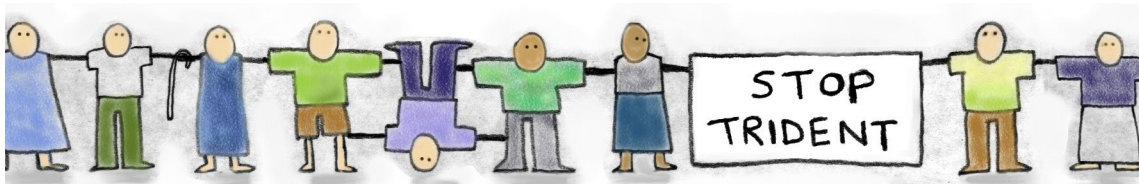
There will be daily non-violence workshops, and a variety of other workshops/skill-shares related to the campaign and direct action. Details of each days workshops will be displayed at the information table. If you want to offer one let us know.

Communications

We will have the use of a couple of rooms in Reading which will handle the media and legal support work and where we can do other basic office work. But we also hope to have a mobile press system. We may be able to help you to write up and send e-mail stories to the press in your local area or country (bring the contact details with you!) but we prefer you to be as self-reliant as possible.

Transport

There are trains and buses to Reading and onwards to Burghfield see <http://actionawe.org/public-transport-brochures> There will be a mini-bus available at the camp some of the time to help transport people but it might be best to bring your own bicycles and vehicles. Again ring for more details.



The Big Blockade 2013 Monday 2nd September – Burghfield

Starting at 7.30 am on Monday 2nd September, by peacefully putting our bodies in the way, we will block all the entrances to the bases at Burghfield. We are also encouraging other creatively disruptive actions at both Aldermaston and Burghfield. Please encourage as many of your friends and relatives to join this event. There will be floor space available in Reading but we need you to book this.

Actions

All kinds of actions and events are encouraged and we hope people and affinity groups will come prepared to take the initiative. Bring banners, equipment, plans and energy with you. Legal Briefings can be found at <http://actionawe.org/legal-briefing/>

Below are some ideas to get you thinking. There are many other creative actions possible. Just remember – Keep it Safe - Keep it Nonviolent. **Good luck!**

- Blockading with or without lock-ons
 - Cutting/decorating fences
 - Entering the bases
 - Painting the gates/fences/roads
- Street theatre/leafleting in local towns and villages

Contacts

E-mail: TPcamp@actionawe.org
Phone: 0845 45 88 362
www.tridentploughshares.org

