

## Witness Statement

Continuation of Statement of **MARK**

We left the area, a short distance away and the two girls realised that they had left the telephoto stills camera somewhere. It apparently contained photographs of strategic points of Ratcliffe power station. They were very worried. I got them to retrace their steps verbally. It transpired that one of the girls had taken it in to the toilet in the village hall. We returned to the hall and the camera was retrieved. I drove the five of us back to Nottingham where we went our separate ways.

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009 I was contacted by | | who asked me if I was available to carry out a further reconnaissance with him on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009. I said that I was not available until the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2009 to which he agreed.

I met | at the Sumac Centre on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2009; he was attending a Climate Camp meeting which was being held there. I told | that I had just returned from Scotland and was driving abroad Monday evening and would not now be available to drive him on the reconnaissance. He was disappointed but a third party later explained to him the amount of driving I had and was about to do and the prospect of a reconnaissance at 3am Monday morning was a bit too much to ask. | apologised to me.

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2009 I met | at the Witherspoon's pub in Leeds railway station. I have known | for six years and have been involved in a number of climbing actions with him. We had spoken briefly on the phone earlier in the previous week to arrange the meeting. I arrived first and | joined me at a little after 5pm we sat outside of the Witherspoon's at a table. From a small back pack | took a blue cardboard A4 docket. He started to explain the Ratcliffe action. He asked if I would be prepared to be the main climber on the action. He showed me Google Earth photographs of the chimney stack at Ratcliffe power station. He explained that one of the intentions was to climb the chimney and then suspend what is known as a bat tent (a climbing shelter used when scaling vertical multi pitch cliffs or mountains) inside one of the four cylinders inside the chimney. I would then be able to take pictures of the event and myself wearing a gas mask and send them around the world. It was the intention he said, to stay up there for at least three days. I queried the method saying how it could be possible to achieve the climb and suspend the tent if the chimney was producing gasses. I explained the corrosive nature of the environment and how that would affect the sheath of the ropes and equipment used. He explained that other teams would attempt to get the power station to shut down through their actions of attempting to stop the conveyor belts that deliver the coal to the furnaces by putting themselves in positions which would due to health and safety issues force the Power Station to have to shut down, thus making it then possible to climb the chimney and suspend the tent. Once inside the tent the power station would then not be able to restart because of the people encamped at the top of the chimney. He said I would be broadcast around the world and jokingly said I would be a hero. He said he could not do it because of his bail conditions and the likelihood of being remanded in custody. He said if we pull it off it will be amazing.

I told | that I would take on a driving job and give consideration to the climbing aspect of the action. I said that I would certainly advise regarding safety to the climbing actions and the type of equipment required making this style of action as safe as possible.

| explained that the intention was to gain entry in the early hours of the morning. | said that about hundred and fifty people would hopefully be on the action and a fleet of 7 and half ton lorries and mini busses would transport people on to the site through the back gate. I agreed to hire and drive one of the trucks which | said would have about fifty people inside together with equipment and I would need it for the weekend of the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

| left to catch a train to London at about 6pm.

Signature: Mark

Signature Witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_