

The troubling case of 'Radio Nick'

An account of a private security agent
in environmental and animal rights
campaigns 1995 to 2006

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
Introduction.....	4
Timeline.....	5
Newbury (1996-1997).....	7
CB Radio Network.....	7
Presence on site.....	8
Quartermaster.....	9
Involvement in actions.....	10
Betrayal of the Snelsmore Common tunnels.....	12
Post eviction activity.....	14
Private intelligence targeting of anti-road protestors.....	15
Policing of Newbury.....	16
LMS Occupation (1998).....	17
Greenpeace (1997-2002).....	18
Atlantic Frontier campaign & Rockall (1997).....	18
Genetically Modified (GM) food campaigns.....	19
GenetiX Snowball (1997-1999).....	20
Reclaim the Streets (1997-2000).....	21
Countryside Alliance action (1997).....	21
Oxford Reclaim the Streets (1997).....	21
100 Days to Kyoto (1997-1998).....	22
Other protest activities.....	24
Prague IMF Summit protest (2000).....	24
Earth First! Gatherings (2003, 2005).....	24
HACAN anti-Heathrow expansion protest (2005).....	25
Animal Rights.....	26
Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty.....	27
London Animal Action.....	29
SPEAK Campaigns (2004-2006).....	31
Civil Injunctions.....	33
Verify and Steve McIntyre.....	35
Global Open / Paul Mercer.....	35
Cross-over with undercover police.....	36
Who is Edward Nicholas Gratwick.....	38
Inherited Wealth and losing it.....	38
Occupation.....	39
Personality.....	40
Contact details.....	43
Our investigations.....	44

<u>First investigation.....</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>Second investigation.....</u>	<u>46</u>
<u>Confirmation.....</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>Resources.....</u>	<u>48</u>
<u>Contact us.....</u>	<u>48</u>

Introduction

What follows is not an easy read.

On 10 October 2025, Edward Nicholas Gratwick was found guilty of child sexual offenses at Guildford Crown Court. To many of us, he was best known as 'Radio Nick', an environmental and animal rights campaigner active from 1995 to 2006. Alone, the sickening charges he was found guilty of would have been horrific enough.

Another aspect emerged, however. As part of his defense, he said he was an informer for the police. This was confirmed. Indeed, it was admitted that he had been paid from 1995 to 2003 to infiltrate protest groups.

Gratwick was not a fringe player. He inserted himself into key roles in many groups, disrupting action and reporting back, including on legal battles. This was facilitated by an ex-Thames Valley Police officer, Steve McIntyre, who acted as a middle man with Thames Valley Police, contracting out Gratwick's services. In 1999, McIntyre set up a private intelligence firm, Verify Ltd, for this purpose. After 2003, it appears they stopped being contracted by the police, working solely for private clients.

It is not known when Gratwick's paedophilia started. The charges he was convicted of only cover the last few years. It is unlikely they began then. It has been speculated that Gratwick was a paedophile all along, and the police used that to get a hold over him and turn him.

We do not think that is the picture here. There are two types of informers, those who have been coerced into doing it, and those who are doing it for ideological or personal grounds. The former are the most common, but Gratwick is the latter. We can only speculate on what motivated him, we might never know. What we do know is that he was an agent for hire, who traded his skills to gain entry for money. Perhaps a better way to put it is that he was a private intelligence agent.

Regardless, on the way he did uncountable damage to campaigns and individuals he came into contact with.

This report focuses mainly on Gratwick's activities in the groups that he targeted. We have much more on other aspects of his life and business interests, which were extensive. Here, we only have a cursory look at Verify, but there is a wider network of private security companies that this fits into, which raises its own questions. We have also been able to piece together Gratwick's role in a whole load of other dubious activity. These we will document in a separate report.

Our investigation began in 2014, when we had confirmation Gratwick was an informer. From 2015 to 2017, we interviewed many people from all aspects of his campaigning life. We also discovered the first solid links to the people in Verify. We thank all who took time out to talk to us. In particular, we would like to thank 'Jess', who provided unparalleled insight and background material. We have changed the names of most of our sources to protect their anonymity.

There is without doubt much more to be told about his activity, and we welcome people to get in contact with us.

Finally, we note that private security firms and their agents can't be held to account. The law as it currently stands does not protect the public from their behaviour except indirectly, with laws such as those preventing interception of communications or those protecting the privacy of the home or car. There are more general laws such as the human rights and data protection legislation, but these provide limited recourse.

Whereas undercover police ('spycops') now have legal regulation around their deployments, this is not the same for private intelligence agents. So Gratwick's activities, though ethically and morally wrong, may not have been illegal. This is a major concern. Nevertheless, it was the police who put him into play and ran him as an agent, and they have a duty of safeguarding to answer for.

Timeline

Born 7 September 1957

1992	Loses wealth when the Lloyds syndicate he was involved in collapses.
Early 1990s	Active in the radio station scene in London.
1995	Recruited by police to target Newbury protests.
1995-1996	Newbury bypass campaign where he sets up CB radio system and takes on quartermaster role. Plays key roles in various actions, but also helps sabotage various aspects, including the Snelsmore Common tunnels.
1996	Moves to London, basing himself at Gambier House.
1997-2002	Targeting Greenpeace, involving himself in campaigns around genetically modified food, Atlantic Frontier and Star Wars, providing some technical expertise on communications for actions.
1997	Attends Newbury Reunion.
1997	Oxford Reclaim the Streets.
1997-2000	Targeting Reclaim the Streets and the anti-globalisation movement.
1997-1998	Targets Anti-oil industry groups including 100 Days to Kyoto and UK Oil Overthrow Association, takes part in various actions including at Coryton oil refinery.
1998	Visits LMS Occupation in Oxford on various occasions, prior to its eviction. First known time suspicions voiced about him.
1999	<i>Verify Ltd incorporated.</i>

2002-2006	Targets animal rights groups, particularly London Animal Action and Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty. Focuses on driving minibus for LAA and SHAC demonstrations. Provides advice on legal and financial worlds to SHAC and individual campaigners, also sources megaphones for protests.
2002	Activities cited in True Spies programme, though he is not named.
2003	Ceases to be an informer for police.
2003, 2005	Attends Earth First! summer gatherings.
2003-2005	Intervenes in civil injunctions taken by lawyer Timothy Lawson-Cruttenden on behalf of various companies, including having himself added to some. Points out Global Open to campaigners.
2004-2006	Involves himself in the SPEAK campaign against the Oxford University animal laboratory.
2005	Suspicious develop in animal rights; first linked with Verify.
2006	HACAN Clearskies action.
2006	Negotiated SPEAK march with police. Departs from the activist scene after this.
2014	<i>We learned that undercover Jim Boyling had named Radio Nick as an undercover, triggering an intense period of investigation.</i>
March 2025	Arrested at Stansted airport, on way to commit a child sexual offence. Uses that he was a police informer as part of his defence.
10 October 2025	Found guilty of 38 counts of child sexual offenses at Guildford Crown Court.

Newbury (1996-1997)

Gratwick's first confirmed political activism is the anti-road protest camps against the building of the Newbury Bypass – one of the most high-profile campaigns of its time.¹ The campaign caught the national mood and hundreds flocked to defend the trees and other important bits of natural habitat along the route from being destroyed. The campaign itself lasted from 1994 to 1999, and went through various phases, building on a local campaign that predated these events.

From 1995 to 1996, protestors physically resisted the road's construction by establishing a large number of direct action camps over the nine miles of bypass route. These camps were given their own names, often after local features – such as Kennet, Bagnor and Snelsmore Common. Many had intricate defences including treehouses which played a significant role in preventing eviction and thus construction work. The different camps operated autonomously, though there was also a campaign office which helped coordinate activities.

All this, in turn, was met by a huge police operation, led by its Chief Constable Charles Pollard of Thames Valley Police.

Gratwick arrived on site in January 1996, remaining until at least January 1997. For much of that time he was involved in the communications systems he established, or as quartermaster for the campaign. At the time Gratwick would have been aged 39.



CB Radio Network

Immediately on his arrival, Gratwick proposed a communication system to link the numerous camps along the 9-mile route. This was accepted as a good idea and he took a lead role in sorting out a network of CB radios. 'Harriet' recalled his first day on site:

He turned up at the office with a guy in his early twenties, called 'Titanic'. They sold themselves as CB radio people, saying it would be useful if they installed a system. Titanic drifted off after a couple of weeks, but Nick and others gathered equipment from

¹ The building work was contracted to the construction firm Costain, who would also be later exposed for their role in blacklisting construction workers.

supporters who were also CB people. They did a good job and every camp soon had a radio. The system evolved over the next couple of weeks.

Initially, Gratwick was very focused on the CB system, sourcing equipment and installing it. He arranged for aerials to be placed on the tops of trees and helped co-ordinate their use. He also trained people in the use of the communications system, and set up effective protocols and back-up channels.

His work on the communication system allowed him to gain the trust of the campaign, and was the origin of his nickname 'Radio Nick'. 'Tom Winter' noted that what Gratwick achieved here was quite remarkable: in what was quite a chaotic situation, they had a functioning communications system that worked properly for three months over nine miles and multiple sites, with people, for most part, sticking to the protocols and code. The radio network was an essential part of the tree protests, especially as mobile phones were rare at the time. Over time, it became less useful and functional as the camps on the route of the road were evicted.

When Gratwick arrived in January 1996, protestors were already disrupting clearance and construction work. In particular, they had cars that were out patrolling the route, monitoring construction compounds for convoys of workers or security leaving and following key vehicles. Gratwick put CBs in some of the campaign cars to improve this, so updates and alerts could be passed on quickly – allowing protestors to react and disrupt work. Both Gratwick and Titanic had radios in their own cars. Some activists refused this option as it felt uncomfortable, and also because he was quite pushy about it.

Harriet noted that the radio network was never considered secure as CB works on open channels, so it was accepted it was listened to by police. Nevertheless, she noted, as did others, that Gratwick's work on it put him in a position of trust.

Presence on site

Unlike other protestors he did not sleep in the make-shift camps, but preferred to sleep in his van, generally at the Tothill or Gotan (near Snelsmore) sites which had spaces to park up. Sometimes he stayed with supporters who lived locally.

While many people lived full time at a site and at a particular camp, Nick would come and go, which, given the open environment of the protest, was not considered out of the ordinary. Testing the radios and changing batteries gave him a ready-made excuse to zip around the different sites across the entirety of the route. Combined with his amenable nature he got to know many people taking part in the protest through this.

The CB network's main hub was situated in the campaign office, allowing Gratwick considerable access to this space also. It placed him in the middle of much of what was going on, and as part of a network of people trusted to deal with communication. This included having people's phone

numbers. It was recalled he fitted in with the group there and often joined them when they went for a drink.²

Harriet believes the campaign office would have been a key target, noting that *'after the first day of construction work, which was utter chaos for the contractors, the police must have realised how vital the office was and how important it was to have someone in there'*.

Gatwick remained when the police began systematically evicting the different protest camps along the route, including as quartermaster. However, some thought he was less visible during this time.

Quartermaster

Having gained the trust of key campaigners, Gratwick subsequently took on the role of quartermaster, jointly with another person, putting him in a central role. Together, they replaced the previous quartermaster who had become burnt-out during the building phase. Their responsibilities included distributing wood, tarpaulins and other equipment crucial to the camps and their defences. It was part of this job to know what was needed, have it delivered, and manage the finances for it. Gratwick remained in this position for just under a year, but it was during the direct action phase of the campaign.

He was involved in purchasing a truck for the campaign and went on a good number of missions to pick up equipment and materials. On one such trip into Newbury, he unnerved his passenger by talking about explosives – something they later considered to have been Nick probing.

As with the CB network, the quartermaster role allowed him to be everywhere without raising suspicion. It continued to place him in the middle of things, meeting many people. Particularly, it provided a good insight into what was happening where, especially the defences at different camps and when new sites of protest were being established.

Additionally, at one point during his time at Newbury, Nick visited the Fairmile protest camp (part of the A30 anti-road campaign) where he helped with their office.

Being a quartermaster also gave him a role in financial matters. One campaigner noted:

I remember him with wads of cash that he used to give out. Yes, he was a bumbling nerdy type, but he also had a lot of power at Newbury, in terms of deciding expenditure.

Several people recalled that he had access to a pot of cash he named the 'black budget' for covert activities, and that he talked about supplying material for secret actions. One of them said that Nick gave the impression there was *'loads of cash he could give out, with no trace, for dodgy stuff, that wouldn't get recorded'*. In hindsight, this means that people seeking these funds, or equipment for covert actions, were by making themselves known to Gratwick effectively identifying themselves.

² Recollections differ over whether he took drugs on site. Some recalled that he smoked cannabis, but others said they didn't witness this though they were likely to have if he did. It is known that later in life he was a regular smoker of cannabis.

There are different memories of Gratwick's time as quartermaster. Some recalled that *'he was very effective and was well liked and respected. Able to be fair, but didn't take any bullshit either'*. 'Mairi' noted that for all that he was bumbling, he was *'definitely competent or else we would not have enabled him to have the quartermaster job.'*

Others recall that Gratwick was edged out of this role, when it was realised that he promised a lot but often did not deliver. He would make lots of promises, but was not as good as his word. Also, much of the materials he supplied himself were of poor quality and broke quickly.

Involvement in actions

For the most part Gratwick was on the planning and supply side of actions. Various campaigners noted that for all the anti-construction sabotage that was happening, nobody was caught at the time. Many actions were not intercepted by the police. This included early on, when there was a succession of highly disruptive blockades of security guards and vehicles to prevent construction work. These were carried out by a small but open group; though Gratwick is not recalled as having taken part in these blockades. He would have been aware of what was going on though, as he probably sourced equipment for some of these actions.

However, several campaigners know that Gratwick was involved in facilitating covert activities, doing reconnaissance trips using his campervan which had blacked out windows. One such action was prevented by a police presence.

On at least one occasion he took part in a small mass action at a construction compound. People from the camps accessed the site causing chaos, with some targeting machinery and generators. Gratwick drove people there and accompanied others on to the compound. It was also his responsibility to check afterwards how effective the action had been, claiming it was successful as he had seen the machines being taken out.

He has been identified as being part of the further actions.

- Traveling with others to London to do reconnaissance on an office building ahead of a proposed occupation. Nick dressed up for the occasion and went in as part of this.
- As driver and look-out for action on a plant company outside of Newbury.
- An attempt at Kennet Camp to erect a monopole made from a wind-turbine base that would have been very hard to evict if successful. Carried out in the dark using winches that Gratwick had provided, it took longer than anticipated and had to be left half way through, with the intention of returning the next day. However, police subsequently arrived in numbers preventing, and it was clear they had been alerted to the pole's presence.
- The stopping of a construction convoy by campaigners who handcuffed themselves to it, and were subsequently arrested. Gratwick aided the action, both driving and providing the lock-on equipment – he pushed the button of the traffic lights, which stopped the convoy.

- He was also said to have been on the opencast mining action in Michael Heseltine's garden, organized by the No Opencast pressure group (including ex-miners, Miners' Wives, NUM members, and Earth First! activists) which took place in October 1996. As part of this action, campaigners dug up the garden of Michael Heseltine to symbolise the destruction being done for roads.
- On one occasion, Gratwick was with a group who leafleted the neighbours of one of Costain's directors.
- Action at the Costain AGM at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London, on 6 September 1996. About 200 protesters bought shares to attend the meeting *en masse*, some in fancy dress – Gratwick wearing a skeleton outfit with a plastic sword. He helped install an old air raid siren on the canopy over the entrance, which could be heard a long way away and inside the building. As security tried to prevent the protesters from entering, Gratwick successfully challenged this, arguing that as shareholders they were entitled to cast their votes.

Gratwick was involved in another action which was betrayed to the police. The Gotan camp, on Snelmore Common, had discovered an old underground concrete bunker overgrown with trees, previously an Italian prisoner of war site, and by then overgrown with trees. The discovery was kept quiet and a plan was hatched to occupy it, and put a radio station in it, along with supplies and water.

To pull the plan off, they needed access to money and equipment. Gratwick was approached for this and about the radio station aspect. The morning after they spoke to him, the police 'discovered' the bunker and brought a digger to fill it in.

At the time that particular group had already done many secret actions without any problems, without the police finding out.

Gratwick would often talk up ideas, but not follow through himself. One of them was getting together in London to attack the Newbury by-pass on legal grounds, which never materialised. Another was setting up pirate radio stations in ruck-sacks to subvert the mainstream station Capital Radio. Similarly, around 1997, he turned up in the Greenpeace office with a wireless microphone that he had tuned into the transmitting frequency of a local radio station (probably Capital as well). It did not work well – if at all, but it served him as a good story with his new friends.

Likewise, while staying at Gambier House, he managed to capture the video signal from nearby police helicopters and put them on the TV. Other similar gadgets he had was a jammer, which prevented mobile phones nearby from working, and a basher phone.³

³ These were pre-paid mobile phones, which because of a technical loop hole, meant that if they were switched on and off before the credit on them ran out, the credit reset itself.

A number of people recalled Gratwick being involved with the pirate radio station Tree FM. However, someone active in this project stated that he provided an antenna and one reel of cable, but that was it, so it appears he pretended to be more involved than he actually was.

Tom recalled another curious incident. A local supporter of the campaign told Tom that a friend of his, a ham radio amateur, had picked up a broadcast from the 'Kennet Camp'. The transmissions took place at a particular time in the night, and provided information about the campaign, likely to the police. To identify the sender would require some specialist equipment. Tom went to Gratwick, who was not a regular at Kennet, who told him it would be near to impossible to get it, and expensive. He promised to look into it but by delaying it endlessly, he effectively killed off the effort to track down the transmitter.

Betrayal of the Snelsmore Common tunnels

The first Newbury protest site was at Snelsmore Common, an important centre of the campaign where some of the most extensive defences had been established. This included the construction of a tunnel which was considered a key tactic to stopping the project – hard to evict, and hampering the use of heavy machinery on the site. The location was kept secret and someone would stay down the tunnel most nights. In case of



eviction, it could be swiftly occupied and defended. The entrance to the tunnel was hidden in one of the 'benders' (make-shift tents built of tarpaulins and salvaged material) at the site.

Image: one of the tunnels showing the wires for the CB system.

Tunnels were a new tactic at the time, unnerving the police. The 2002 BBC Two series *True Spies* provided details on how Thames Valley Police approached the situation. In the first instance, Special Branch paid a number of people to act as informers. Realising this was not sufficient, they hired an outside agent working for a private firm, an apparently unprecedented step. From *True Spies*:⁴

⁴ For the full transcript of the programme episode, see <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/23941166-exh-3-to-witness-statement-sir-charles-pollard-true-spies-transcript-episode-3/>

Commentary: We can now reveal for the first time that the police recruited a top grade agent to infiltrate the protestors. And controversially he came from a private security company. The police normally keep such firms at arms length.

An unprecedented contract was drawn up between the agent, the private security company and Thames Valley Police.

Sir Charles Pollard, Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police: That meant that we could anticipate what their plans were in doing things, and therefore on many occasions we were able to preempt the situation which would happen.

Commentary: Once he'd infiltrated the green activists, the Newbury agent had to prove his worth.

This person was able to get close enough to the tunnels, which had been identified as a priority matter for the police.

At 3am on 29 February 1996, police surrounded the hidden entrance to the tunnels. A heavy operation involving over 100 officers, including mounted police, and 200 security officers, then sought to clear people from the site, many of the protestors having retreated to defences in the trees.

The *True Spies* programme noted the private intelligence agent role in the taking of the tunnel:

With the contract agreed, the agent's main task was to get as close as possible to the leaders and in particular to let his handlers know of the best time to take the main tunnel that was holding up the contractors' operations. In the dead of night, the agent phoned his handlers, saying that the entrance to the main tunnel was only guarded by two protestors – a man and a woman – in a shelter covering the entrance and a third protestor asleep in the main shaft.

In the early hours of the morning, the man guarding the entrance went off to relieve himself, whereupon he was promptly detained by officers hiding in the bushes. When her companion did not return, the woman went off in search of him. She too was then detained. The police then approached the entrance to the tunnel and made noises. The person in the entrance shaft woke up and emerged to see what was happening. He too was detained and the tunnel was taken.

The running of the agent and the taking of the tunnels was overseen by Chief Superintendent Mervyn Edwards who confirmed that without the informant the eviction could not have been done *Not so successfully, so safely and so quickly.*

This is supported by the recollections of Mark Pointer, who noted that it was a demoralising blow to the campaign, knowing that it could only have been done with inside information..

While nobody knew it was Gratwick at the time, he was clearly one of those in a position to have such information.

The taking of the tunnels was a set-back for the protestors, particularly, given the time and energy that had gone into constructing them. However, other sites along the route had prepared their defences in different ways and resistance to evictions continued over the next few months across the entire route, including Snelsmore.

The story did not quite end there. While watching *True Spies* in 2002, former Special Demonstration Squad undercover officer James Boyling, who had infiltrated Reclaim the Streets, told 'Rosa' that the informer was 'Radio Nick'. (Rosa' was at that time married to Boyling and isolated from her activist friends. She knew he was a police officer, but believed his lie that he was trying to exit that world, having realised that he shared the group's politics and wanted to be with her.)

More than a decade later, this information would reach those investigating, providing the crucial confirmation of Gratwick as an informer.⁵

Post eviction activity

The evictions of the camps in spring 1996 did not end the road protest campaign: people stayed in the area to continue resistance, which included four off-route camps. Gratwick was present through this time, remaining around until at least January 1997. In this time he visited the Camp Brian and the Spiritual Roots sites.

More of the resistance had moved to covert actions, and Gratwick was on hand to help with doing reconnaissance and also moving stuff. At the time the campaign had two vans, and he was one of the few drivers available.

'Reunion Rampage' (1997)

10th and 11th January 1997 saw a pair of major reunion events, which brought over 1000 campaigners back together. The original plan was to have the 'Reunion Rampage' on the 10th, with the 'Reunion Rally' on the 11th. The Rally was being organised by Friends of the Earth as a symbolic event.

Separately, other campaigners planned actions for the 10th January. These did not materialise, however, as pre-prepared holes in the fence were repaired by security overnight and there was a heavy police presence on the day.

The Rally, by contrast, had a reduced police presence, allowing over 300 people to break away and occupy the construction site at Speen and do considerable damage. Later, police were reportedly looking for 50 people in connection with the day's events, which was subsequently tagged as the 'Reunion Rampage'.

Gratwick was present on the day, with people recalling him spending time in the campaign office, and at Donnington Castle car-park helping serve stew, rather than being on the action itself.

⁵ 'Boyling had infiltrated Reclaim the Streets as 'Grumpy Jim' Sutton. For more on how Jim Boyling and Gratwick cross-over see the chapter on cross-overs with undercovers.

Newbury reunions (1998 & 2006)

After January 1997, Gratwick reduced his involvement, spending more time in London, but he made an appearance at the 1998 Reunion event of 10 January. Many campaigners lost contact with him, though a few bumped into him at events such as the Earth First! gatherings.

At the time there were no real suspicions regarding Gratwick. He did keep in regular touch with a couple of people, and subsequently attended the wedding of one of them. 'Chris' in particular recalled being in contact with Gratwick until 2000, and that he continued to chat about doing radio based actions.

In January 2006, Gratwick attended the 10 year reunion event for Newbury protestors, but by that stage suspicions had emerged and people did not particularly engage with him.

Image: Gratwick at the 1998 Newbury Reunion



Private intelligence targeting of anti-road protestors

That there was police and private intelligence interest in the Newbury Bypass protest was well established prior to Gratwick's arrival. Harriet noted that before he turned up, several police officers had already been identified at campaign meetings and asked to leave. In hindsight, it felt to her that he arrived already aware that his van and proposal for a CB radio system would be significantly attractive to the campaign.

Building company Costain and the Department of Trade (DTI) employed private investigators mainly through Brays Detective Agency from 1994, while security guards for Newbury were provided by Pinkertons and Reliance Security. For the DTI, Brays monitored protests at several road construction sites, including Twyford Down and the M11. Additionally, the Treasury Solicitors office tasked them to serve legal papers and gather evidence for court cases to gain possession of the land. Information gathered was used by the DTI and Costain to obtain a court injunction against protests served on 30 individual protestors in 1997.

Costain and the DTI admitted – in response to a question from Labour MP Brian Donohoe in 1997 – to have spent £447,000 on private investigators in 1995 alone.

Blacklisting firm The Consulting Association developed its own interest in anti-road and environmental protestors, setting up a dedicated project, called the 'greenlist'. The GMB union has named two Costain managers who were involved in the Consulting Association. A number of people active at Newbury would discover years later that their names had been added to the illegal greenlist.

Another private company spying on the Newbury Road protests was Threat Response International, a small company founded by Evelyn Le Chêne. Her son, Adrian Franks, had been exposed in Europe, infiltrating climate groups in 1998 (based in France his company was called Risk Crisis Analysis). In 2003, Sunday Times journalists obtained access to a large amount of spy reports revealing that Le Chêne had several people infiltrate the Campaign Against Arms Trade and sent regular reports to British Aerospace.

The journalists also heard tape-recorded conversations involving Le Chêne and road protests, claiming that she regularly passed information from her network of agents on to the security company Group 4. This included accommodation addresses, vehicle registration details, National Insurance numbers, unemployment benefit details and income support information. Leaked files reflected this work for Group 4 with detailed reports that showed she forwarded advance warnings about the road protesters' plans to the private security companies involved and to the police. Le Chêne wrote she had at least two people, who did not know each other, infiltrated in the Newbury bypass camp.

Group 4 admitted buying information on protesters. An unnamed spokesman told the Sunday Times in 2003: *'We were getting information about where protesters would be and what times in advance. We would have paid for that information'*.

The role of other informers and infiltrators in other aspects of the evictions have been pointed out by several protestors we interviewed. One recalled an incident at Kennet where a number of steel walkways had been put up in the trees as part of the defences. At one point while many camp occupants were away helping at another site, a group of men wearing black appeared and seized the walkways, removing them. They clearly had knowledge of how many there were and where to look for them. This happened just before Kennet was evicted. (There is reason to believe that this particular betrayal did not come from Gratwick).

Policing of Newbury

The policing of the Newbury by-pass protest was conducted by Thames Valley Police, jointly with Hampshire Constabulary, where the Twyford Down anti-road protest was situated. The police operation was one of the largest of its day, costing £7.5m. At the height of the protests 18 officers were employed on it full time, with up to 400 being deployed for operations. 1,014 people arrested, of which 832 were during the clearances of January – April 1996. A number of people were sent to prison in 1997 for breaking injunctions.

Given the size of the operation, oversight went to the top of Thames Valley Police, with Chief Constable Charles Pollard⁶ and Assistant Chief Constable for Territorial Policing Ian Blair⁷ regularly appearing in the press in relation to it. On the ground, Superintendent Mervyn Edwards was in charge of police operations in relation to the protests.

A number of the senior officers in Thames Valley Police at the time of Newbury would in the 2000s be in charge of policing the animal rights groups which Gratwick had moved on to, particularly Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty and SPEAK Campaigns.

LMS Occupation (1998)

It is unclear to what extent people suspected Gratwick for being a police informer at Newbury. A bigger issue seems to have been his not following through on things. However, it appears that the first suspicions did develop there or soon after.⁸

Gratwick visited the site of the London, Midlands and Scottish (LMS) Station in central Oxford on a number of occasions. As part of the general anti-road building campaigns of the late 1990s, the building was occupied and squatted by protestors in May 1998 in an attempt to prevent its demolition to facilitate a development.

He supplied materials for the squat, including a large cargo net for people to sleep in which they paid him for. One occupant recalled Gratwick telling amazing stories of what others had got up to, holding court to some degree. He came across as a former activist and electronics guru, who was simply traveling around in his van but with no particular passion. Another recalled being told in no uncertain terms that he was a suspected informer.

Someone else recalled being told in no uncertain terms that Gratwick was a suspected informer.

The eviction took three days September 1998 due to tunnels having been built on site, and saw 17 arrests. Policing was led by Cressida Dick, then superintendent in charge of Oxford City.

⁶ Charles Pollard also appeared in the Undercover Policing Inquiry, providing a witness statement in relation to public order policing and its use of intelligence from Special Branch and the undercovers of the Special Demonstration Squad.

⁷ Ian Blair would become Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police from 2005 to 2008.

⁸ These suspicions were not widely shared, and he maintained lines of communications with some individuals he had come to know at Newbury for many years.

Greenpeace (1997-2002)

Gratwick began volunteering with Greenpeace UK around 1997, moving on at some point in 2002 or 2003. He came to them through Newbury connections, as the environmental group had strong links with anti-roads protestors of the time. Gratwick would regularly visit the organisation's London offices and warehouse, closely associating with the actions team. Though not an employee of Greenpeace, he would have had some of his costs covered.

People in the action team recalled Gratwick as being involved in much of what was going on, because of his communication technology skills, being able to provide hardware and advice. Generally, he was not on the ground taking part in actions, but rather he attended meetings or helped behind the scenes. By hanging around the space, he would also have picked up on planned activities besides the ones he was directly involved in.

During the years Nick was involved, Greenpeace was focused on campaigns against the opening up of the Atlantic Frontier for oil exploration, GM crops and Star Wars. These were political hot potatoes, which made the group a target for surveillance for both the government and corporations. Gratwick was also involved in the Stop Esso campaign, a coalition of environmental NGOs including Greenpeace.

Greenpeace campaigners who knew or worked with Gratwick were able to identify a number of situations where actions were disrupted by the police, despite high levels of internal security. This included mass preemptive arrests, which indicated that police had been fed information by someone on the inside.

One potential action he was associated with, was a stunt involving the US presidential plane Airforce One during the lead up to the Iraq War. Gratwick was sitting in on meetings because of his communication skills. This was at a time Greenpeace activists were aware they were under surveillance and being followed. In the end, the action did not take place.

Atlantic Frontier campaign & Rockall (1997)

Greenpeace's Atlantic Frontier campaign took place in the late 1990s and early 2000s, protesting against plans to extend oil exploration on grounds of climate change.

As part of this campaign, Greenpeace carried out one of its most high-profile actions of the time, when in June 1997 three activists occupied Rockall, an uninhabited outcrop in the north Atlantic. They declared the islet independent giving it the name 'Waveland', and called on the government to stop the oil exploration.

Gratwick was instrumental in the communications team for the 42 day occupation, designing the high frequency radio equipment, and being part of the team that installed it on the islet. He spent five weeks with the support team, based at a hut in the Hebridean town of Stornoway, to which those on Rockall radioed in once a day. One of those who occupied the islet recalled that there were only about five or six people who knew about the action, but nevertheless the police

had learned something was up and had put the Greenhouse warehouse, where the action team was based, under surveillance in advance prior to the action.

One of the stories Gratwick told other activists was that he built the communications for a Greenpeace occupation of an (abandoned) oil rig to highlight climate change. It is unclear which event this refers to as Greenpeace occupied several platforms during the campaign including in March 2000 and April 2001.

Genetically Modified (GM) food campaigns

Gratwick demonstrated interest in Greenpeace's work around genetically modified crops, a leading environmental issue of the time. At the time there was considerable pressure on the government from the US and elsewhere to permit GM altered seeds to enter the UK food chain, which was resisted by a vigorous grassroots and NGO campaign.

In February 1997, Greenpeace dumped four tonnes of genetically-modified soya beans outside No.10 Downing Street using a truck plastered with 'Tony don't swallow Bill's seed', a reference to US president Bill Clinton. This caused political anger and upset Tony Blair; one campaigner remembered that from that point the group found their actions being actively disrupted preemptively by police – despite taking considerable security measures

Gratwick was involved in two anti-GM actions, both at Liverpool docks, where GM crops were entering the UK. The first took place on 18 February 1999, and was planned as a two-prong attack, one coming by water to prevent two boats from unloading GM maize and corn. On their way to Liverpool, the vehicles bringing four boats were stopped in the early hours of the morning while at a M56 motorway service station in Cheshire. Thirteen activists were surrounded by 30 police, searched and the boats impounded in a heavy-duty joint operation between Merseyside and Cheshire police. It was clear the police had the names of all involved. A newspaper wrote:

A Merseyside Police spokesman then said unidentified 'sources' had been spying on environmentalists. 'High levels of movement' were noted on Wednesday and a 'joint operation' was launched. Liverpool criminals enjoyed a risk-free day as police helicopters and manpower descended on the docks and mobile units were sent to the motorways to intercept and stop a peaceful protest before it could begin.

However, Gratwick's van, carrying other activists, was not stopped and the group came together in a hotel to alter their plans. As a result they managed to pull off the other part of the action at the Seaforth crane terminal. At 3.40pm, four of the protestors successfully occupied a crane and dropped a banner saying 'Ban Gene Foods', holding it until 7pm. Between six and ten people were arrested as a result, and it is thought that Gratwick may have been one; all charges were later dropped.

He was involved in the similar second action at Liverpool docks; again police were everywhere ahead of the activists, but once again, they were able to change plans to carry out a successful action. Gratwick is also thought to have been aware of an attempt to drop a banner off the Angel

of the North statue. They were forced to call off this action, when activists turned up they found a heavy police presence awaiting them.

GenetiX Snowball (1997-1999)

After Newbury, genetically modified food campaigns had become an increasing focus of the environmental grassroots / direct action movement. Within this, Gratwick was recalled as someone who turned up at events, but *'never seemed hugely engaged with anything in particular'*. As with a few other people, he seemed to just enjoy the social aspect of the scene.

One of the key anti-GM crops grassroots groups of the late 1990s was GenetiX Snowball. It was known for its 'decontamination actions' where teams of protestors pulled up and removed GM crops from trial sites, and for publishing a campaigning guide on the issue.

Around 1997, Gratwick donated a car to GenetiX Snowball, saying it came from a friend who no longer needed it, but wanted it to go to a good cause. He had offered it to Greenpeace, but they had not needed it. Over the next three years, the Opel Nova was used for various actions, both open and closed, mainly around genetically modified crops. In 1999, the group was subject to an injunction taken out by Monsanto, it's unclear if there is a link with Gratwick.

Gratwick's role in crop trashing protests is less recalled with certainty. He was present at the 18 July 1999 'Stop The Crop' national rally at a farm growing GM crops in Watlington, Oxfordshire. During the rally, crops were publicly uprooted, including by the Genetix Snowball group, but he apparently didn't take part in this. However, it is believed he did not have a role in the covertly planned GM crop removal that took place at Lyng in Norfolk in just over a week later, which went to plan, and which was noted for its subsequent high profile court case.

Reclaim the Streets (1997-2000)

Throughout the late 1990s, Gratwick was connected with the London based anti-globalisation organisation Reclaim the Streets (RtS), before becoming involved in anti-oil industry campaigns. RtS was an early anti-globalisation group active in London from 1995 to 2000, though the idea spread internationally. He was part of its broader network, probably from relatively early on, rather than being part of the core group.

Nick's involvement focused on helping build FM transmitters for pirate radio stations at the various protests RtS was organising.

Gratwick was around for the time the group was working with the striking Liverpool Dockers (1997). That year he told 'Chris', a fellow Newbury protestor, that he was doing something covert for the RtS 'Nevermind the Ballots' event in Trafalgar Square, London. However, he ended up hanging out with Gratwick for two hours instead. Nevermind the Ballots was an occupation of Trafalgar Square done in conjunction with a march by the Liverpool Dockers on 12 April 1997.

Several people interviewed had vague recollections that Radio Nick may have been active or attended the protests at the May 1998 G7 Summit at Birmingham, though others did not recall this. Reclaim the Streets organised the 'Global Street Party' in the city, one of the first large-scale anti-globalisation / counter-summit protests.

In 1999, he attended the June 18 'Carnival Against Capitalism' protest. He took part in an impromptu office occupation, but otherwise just followed the march

In 2001, Gratwick was involved in building portable transmitters for anti-globalisation protestors targeting the Barcelona World Bank summit on poverty, to be held in September that year though eventually cancelled. He also helped with design for a radio system to be used in Colombia to help protect against paramilitaries, though the project never really got off the ground. A campaigner who worked with Gratwick on some of these projects said that he had to be chased and badgered to get things done and keep his promises, instead of being proactive.

Countryside Alliance action (1997)

Gratwick claimed to have been involved in an action at the first protest held by the pro-foxhunting organisation the Countryside Alliance, on 10 July 1997 in Hyde Park, following a march of some 120,000 people. Gratwick had a story that someone – implicating it was himself – had changed the audio cables for a set of speakers at the back of the crowd, so that they listened to reggae instead of the speeches. This story has not yet been independently verified.

Oxford Reclaim the Streets (1997)

Gratwick was involved in the organisation for the large Reclaim the Streets Halloween party which took over Cowley Road in Oxford on 1 November 1997 – part of a day of world-wide

street parties. Driving the Greenpeace solar powered sound-system to the party with a friend, they were intercepted and taken to the local police station – something Nick was apparently very upset about.

A contemporary report of the event noted the seizing of the sound system, writing that the previous Halloween had seen a similar event with around 1000 people and minimal police presence. However, the 1997 event was met by over eighty police, including a mounted unit. Initially the police sought to turn people away and to obstruct the event, including a police charge and seizing the solar sound-system Gratwick was bringing. Negotiations were attempted, with the police offering a back street to hold the protest. However, the crowd was too large and eventually overflowed into the desired venue of Cowley Road, the main artery for the area. Another sound-system turned up and the party went ahead, finishing at 7pm with a litter-pick of the road.

Superintendent Cressida Dick, who led the police operation, defended her decision to withdraw at the time:

It would have led to a lot of conflict, a lot of people being hurt. There would have been damage to property and a lot of very bad publicity. So although people were breaking the law and causing disruption we let it go ahead. It was a decision made for tactical reasons. But there was a principle, too. The quality of this country does depend on the ability of people to speak out. I do think it's important the police remember this.

100 Days to Kyoto (1997-1998)

In the late 1990s Gratwick associated himself with a small group of environmental activists with links to Reclaim the Streets, who began focusing on oil companies.

This group grew out of the '100 Days To Kyoto' coalition, which called for actions against the oil industry. The coalition had emerged from an Earth First! gathering in the lead up to the Kyoto climate summit of December 1997 and was supported by groups such as Reclaim the Streets, Greenpeace, Corporate Watch, Earth First! activists and Friends of the Earth.

A number of meetings for the 100 Days coalition took place at the Finsbury Park squatted library. Though not all recall Gratwick at the meetings, some involved were able to clearly place him as being involved. These meetings were concurrent with the Greenpeace Atlantic Frontier campaign, which focused on some of the same oil companies such as BP and Chevron.

The 100 Days meetings are notable for the ejection of another corporate spy, Paul Mercer. Mercer at that point was attached to the Columbia Solidarity Group, a trade union campaign focusing on extra-judicial killings in Columbia related to BP operations in the country. He would always turn up with a camera taking a lot of photos, which were never published. Mercer was asked to leave as he was found out as having published overviews of activist campaigns helpful for corporations.

UK Oil Overthrow Association

Within the coalition a small affinity group formed which sought to raise awareness of oil related issues, including taking direct action. Informally organised, this offshoot sometimes went under the name 'UK Oil Overthrow Association' (UKOOA), and targeted the likes of BP, Shell and Chevron.

Gratwick's home in London was used for secure meetings and he was involved with some of the planning for various actions. One of those active in the group confirmed that Gratwick, who was known to some of them from Newbury days, had played a significant role in the group, taking on a lot of the practical side of things.

One such action took place on 8 October 1997, when activists targeted an appearance of John Battle, the then Minister for Trade and Industry, at the Dorchester Hotel in Mayfair. They managed to access the hotel to chase him, with one activist dressed as an oil bride, wearing a wedding dress, in an attempt to marry the minister to highlight the way governments were married to corporations. Gratwick was dressed as a vicar carrying a speaker in a briefcase playing 'Here comes the bride'.

Likely the same day, there was occupation of the London headquarters of the US oil multinational Chevron's headquarters. It was, along with Shell, targeted over its activities in Nigeria and playing a leading role in the exploration of the Atlantic Frontier. Gratwick provided 'screaming briefcases' – which were placed in the C&A shop opposite, transmitting industrial drilling sounds and whale song. The action passed off without incident or police turning up.

Another action of the group which he took part in was pouring molasses over the steps to the Department of Trade and Industry, representing oil.

Coryton oil refinery actions

A key target of the group was the BP oil refinery at Coryton in Essex, and Gratwick was involved in the planning of actions relating to it. Two separate attempts were made.

The first was unsuccessful: in this Gratwick was involved in fitting out a trailer so it could be locked-on, to make it more difficult to remove a blockade. The action was prevented by police stopping the activists on the way to carry it out, just as they got on the road. They claimed they spotted something dodgy about the trailer, despite the activists having spent all night making the trailer roadworthy. The second action was successful. In March 1998, Gratwick provided a car (apparently sourced through free-ads) and it was used to blockade the road to the refinery, with two people locking underneath for several hours; seven of UKOOA campaigners present were arrested. Some of those involved had stayed at his flat the night before.

One campaigner with the group recalled Gratwick being present on the day on both occasions at Coryton.

However, he is not recalled as having played a role in subsequent actions such as UKOOA's successful occupation of Shell's London headquarters on 4th January 1999. At the time, Shell was a significant target for environmental protestors acting in solidarity with the Ogoni people – who were resisting the company's projects in Nigeria. Another attempted action was a blockade of the Dartford Bridge, which was met by a large police presence, though it is thought that this was in part due to the involvement of SDS undercover Jim Boyling. This event helped bring an end to the group's activities.

Other protest activities

He is known to have attended the big 2003 Stop the War protest, but only

Prague IMF Summit protest (2000)

September 2000 saw large scale anti-globalisation protests against the IMF / World Bank financial summit in Prague that September.

Prior to the event, Gratwick was involved in a project to take two radio transmitters to the protest. One of those involved in this, 'Alan', who had been with Gratwick at Newbury, turned up at Nick's flat the night before Alan was due to leave for Prague via bus. Alan found Gratwick's behaviour odd, particularly that he was avoiding particular subjects or talking about anything important. Once in the Czech Republic, Alan talked to him on his mobile on a daily basis, as Gratwick was supposedly still in the UK. The radio station project never got off the ground, as though everything else was ready to go, it needed specifics that only Nick knew how to do, effectively scuppering the project.

Another Newbury campaigner who was also in Prague, recalled that Gratwick had turned up, apparently with a group from Manchester. This came as a surprise to some who knew him from the Newbury days as he had not struck them as being political in that sort of way. He travelled on one of the scheduled coaches, which was pulled over at the German / Czech border, with everyone being searched (though this happened to many of the coaches taking people there). At the event he appears to be just hanging around, and was not involved with the group planning the UK block. Unlike others, he did not remain around for the aftermath of the protests.

However, Alan, who was quite active in Prague, had heard no word of Gratwick's presence at the protests.

Earth First! Gatherings (2003, 2005)

Gratwick attended several Earth First! Summer Gatherings, though he did not generally engage with that network's activities. These included:

- 2003, 14-16 August, Ripon, Yorkshire. There people invited him to become involved in a campaign targeting pharmaceutical giant Bayer over its role in genetic modification, but

he showed little interest. NPOIU undercover officer Mark Kennedy made one of his earliest appearances at this gathering.

- 2005, 17-21 August, Derbyshire. Nick drove the London Animal Action minibus to this event. Mark Kennedy and another NPOIU undercover, Lynn Watson, are also known to have been present.

An activist with London Animal Action (LAA) recalled: that Gratwick came back from an Earth First! Gathering, with beard, and took over a particular LAA meeting by talking about all he had learned at the gathering.

Following his departure from animal rights, Gratwick may have attended at least one meeting of the Camp for Climate Action in London, circa 2006-2007, being seen by someone who knew him from his Newbury days. However, he is not otherwise known to have been involved in the group.

HACAN anti-Heathrow expansion protest (2005)

On 19th July 2005, Gratwick facilitated and took part in a night action by campaign group HACAN ClearSkies as part of a campaign against the expansion of Heathrow airport. The action targeted the house of Sir Rod Eddington, then Chief Executive of British Airways, directing a recording of aircraft noise towards his house at 4am. A press release by the group stated: 'the protesters rigged up a sound system and played loud plane noise for 15 minutes at 5am outside Sir Rod's home in the sleepy Berkshire village of Shurlock Row.' Gratwick arranged the technical equipment to make this happen.

Gratwick was central to the action, bringing the expertise to make it happen. He had been introduced to the group by a mutual friend who knew the group were planning the action and needed the assistance. To them, he came across as pleasant and helpful, amenable though nerdy and very into his technical stuff. He did not strike them as a typical direct action protestor in any way.

He set up the equipment in a vehicle and drove it to the village. On getting to the site, he had a loud-hailer placed in a tree overlooking the grounds of Eddington's house. He then parked the car over 300 yards away and triggered the loud-hailer remotely. The action went on for 30 minutes, awakening the surrounding neighbours who were understandably angry. After the half hour of noise was over, the two cars of protestors packed up and left.

In the car on the way back from the action, there was surprise over the complete absence of a police presence, particularly as the neighbours would have certainly phoned them. Up until then, this was the only time HACAN campaigners could recall the police not showing up for the group's activities. Normally, no matter how small or insignificant, if HACAN did something, there would be police attention of some sort. Nor was there any subsequent follow up contact from police over the Eddington action.

Animal Rights

According to the *True Spies* programme:

Commentary: And what of the Newbury agent? His cover was so good and his information so accurate that Special Branch then directed him to infiltrate the animal rights movement.

The programme then went on to reveal that he had been directed to target the animal rights protests at Hillgrove Farm in Whitney, Oxfordshire, which was breeding cats for vivisection. This is not recalled by people who were active in that campaign. His participation in Newbury ended in 1997 and his appearance in animal rights is only first recalled in 2001. In reality, he went to London and focused on environmental and social justice campaigns. As the police have admitted that he was an informer in this person, it must be that he was being paid by them to inform on Reclaim the Streets, Greenpeace, etc. in this period, as discussed above.

Gratwick's interest in animal rights came as a bit of a surprise to some who knew him at Newbury, as he had shown no interest in the subject during his involvement in the road protest movement, and was not even vegetarian. When one of former Newbury colleagues asked him in 2003 about his change in protest activity, he responded saying '*it was a good way of fucking over the companies*'. The colleague felt the answer was somewhat spurious and lacking politics to the point it didn't make sense.

While those animal rights also noted that he did not seem to know much about the beliefs behind the issues. To animal rights activists, he talked up his time at Newbury a lot, though much less his work with other environmental groups.

Gratwick initially became involved in Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), and then London Animal Action (LAA) – the main vehicle for his engagement. For the most part, Nick's interest was focused on national grass-roots anti-vivisection campaigns, but also SPEAK which focused on animal laboratories being built by Cambridge University and subsequently Oxford University.

Lynn Sawyer recalled first meeting him around 2001 at the UK Animal Rights Gathering in Kent where he seemed to know very few people. Another activist said in relation to London Animal Action, that he was 'suddenly just there'.



Some in LAA did think he was suspicious and there were concerns that he was not who he said he was. At the time there was little to substantiate this view and it was not a view shared by everyone. Others simply did not like him, and found him odd. A particular recollection of him, echoed by several others, was that he talked a lot though rarely asked questions. In particular, he talked up his time at Newbury a lot, though much less his work with other environmental groups.

Gratwick is not known to have engaged in illegal activities in relation to animal rights, though he would discuss fly-posting. Generally in meetings, he did not actively participate. Likewise, while on protests he rarely took an active role (other than driving), tending to stand on the sidelines. However, he was generally ready to offer advice, especially of the legal kind.

He claimed to be very well versed in the law. He particularly liked to be seen to be outwitting police, judges and solicitors on points of law. In one particular incident he claimed to have threatened a police officer with a citizen's arrest for tailgating the London Animal Action minibus while he was driving it. This incident is recalled as happening on a 'mobile demonstration', involving several minibuses of protestors in convoy, travelling between targets. However, nobody we spoke to witnessed the incident directly, only recalling that he spoke of it.

Much of Gratwick's activity revolved around driving to protests, however he helped out in other ways. He would provide the PA systems for SHAC and SPEAK rallies, often setting them up, and if there were no stands he would hold up the speakers. He supplied megaphones to campaigns including SHAC – it was not clear where they came from, but they were poor quality and broke quickly. Complaints that he had not done as promised or messed up things he had volunteered to do were not uncommon.

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty

Nick's initial contact with the animal rights scene seems to have come through Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC). He sold himself as a financial expert at a time when SHAC was focusing on those companies providing finance and related services to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). He became friendly with leading members, and is said to have done work on SHAC's computers.

At the time he was living at Brangwyn Crescent in Colliers Wood, which he used to store equipment and leaflets. He turned vegan, making soya milk his new necessity. People who knew him at Newbury were somewhat bemused and confused by this change of approach, as he had not shown the slightest interest in animal rights prior to this.

Gratwick often organised and drove the LAA minibus for weekly demonstrations at HLS, both at its main site near the A14 in Cambridgeshire and elsewhere. Taking between 2 and 15 people, it was something he was recalled as '*eager about doing*'. Other driving activities included taking protestors to HLS related 'home demos', including in Cambridgeshire. Home demos were protests outside the residences of workers or directors of targeted companies (made illegal in July 2005). In one of the civil injunctions against protestors, it was noted the London Animal

Action minibus had been seen 83 times at the HLS sites alone: on many of these occasions the driver was Gratwick. At the time the minibus was subject to police attention, though this was expected given the size of the policing response to anti-vivisection protests in general.

He may have gone on one European protest tour with SHAC, but this has not been confirmed.

There were a number of events that gave rise to suspicions.

In one event, Gratwick drove one of two minibuses taking campaigners on a SHAC demonstration. Taking a break after several hours driving, three police vans and a car suddenly appeared and surrounded them. Hemmed in by the police presence, they were forced to abandon the protests and return to London, with the police in tow. Gratwick surprised the others by claiming they had been tailed all along, and that their bus had been the decoy in any case. That was news to the others and irritated them considerably.

On the way back to London the police vehicles disappeared. The minibus stopped in Wimbledon, and a few women located a pub to go to the toilet. When they came out, they found a Forward Intelligence Team waiting for them. Once again, this caused concern as there was no way of knowing where the five women had gone, especially as the minibus had not been parked near the pub.

Another time, while at one of the national animal rights gatherings in Kent, Gratwick was spotted talking to police who were monitoring the event.⁹

The megaphones he supplied to animal rights groups were cheap and of very poor quality, quickly breaking. Eventually this helped sour relationships with SHAC and they broke off contact with him.

At one point he was collecting the SHAC mail from BM Monomarks on Old Street in London. However, the use of the service was shut down under pressure from the National Crime Squad, and he was refunded the money for its use. (It was this incident that led to Lynn Sawyer lending her address as a mailbox for SHAC, resulting in her being added to the civil injunctions.) In 2025, while in court, Gratwick claimed being able to collect the mail had been a major success as it gave access to mass intelligence. And that he and his handlers had been unhappy about the National Crime Squad's intervention..

Gratwick was operational concurrent with another corporate infiltrator, Adrian Radford (a.k.a. 'Ian Farmer'), who infiltrated SHAC from 2004 to 2007. It is notable how his trajectory mirrored Gratwick's.

Employed by a private intelligence company, Radford worked on behalf of 'GHC', which represented a group of Japanese pharmaceuticals.¹⁰ Once established in the role and having met leading SHAC individuals, Radford offered his services to the police as well.

⁹ NPOIU undercover Ritchie Clark was probably also in attendance as he attended most if not all of these gatherings.

¹⁰ It is not known if these included the companies which formed part of the group of Japanese companies which sought injunctions in 2003 there were no other candidates of significance from the time.

London Animal Action

Gratwick was introduced to London Animal Action through the SHAC demonstrations in the City of London. Once in LAA, much of his subsequent involvement in animal rights was generally conducted under the aegis of that group. At the time LAA was a target of the SDS undercover known as Dave 'Shorts' Evans.

None of those interviewed recalled Gratwick attending the anti-fur protests doing stalls or leafleting, which were a significant part of LAA's activities. Rather, he focused on anti-vivisection campaigns. For the most part, he is recalled as a driver for minibuses to SHAC and SPEAK protests. As very few activists in London could drive, it was easy for him to volunteer. And he did much more driving than others. As one person noted: *'He was always available; he never seemed to have to go to work.'*

Gratwick had no official position in London Animal Action, but he regularly came to meetings, attending most of its internal planning meetings, as well as LAA's public meetings after they moved from Clerkenwell to a community centre. As such, he was in a strong position to know much of what the organisation was up to and to identify the main people involved.

At meetings, Gratwick always had something to say, usually offering some kind of insight or expertise about complex or technical matters, which many found boring.

In hindsight, now we know about Gratwick's convictions, a curious moment took place around 2002 or 2003. A LAA campaigner was bringing their young child to protests. At a meeting it was pointed out that such was not appropriate, including because there was no child seat in the minibus. People would have preferred that the child did not come. However, Gratwick of his own accord, promptly purchased one for the LAA van and fitted it.

At the time Gratwick was staying at Gambier House, a high-rise block of flats near Old Street roundabout in London. When the venue for LAA's planning meetings became unavailable, he offered the use of a communal room in the tower block at Gambier. He went on at length about how good the room was and easy to find. However, after one meeting there, the group decided it was too difficult to find and impractical as only he had the key. An LAA campaigner noted:

This was typical Nick. He always seemed to want to help but he had a reputation in LAA as a bit of a bungler. He doesn't seem to have assumed as important a role in the group as he did in SHAC and SPEAK. That said he was trusted to drive a lot.

LAA bank account frozen (2005)

London Animal Action had supported SHAC's protests against Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) since the launch of the campaign in November 1999. As such, in March 2003, LAA was named on an injunction taken out by Huntingdon Life Science's lawyer Lawson-Crutenden under the Protection from Harassment Act. Though LAA had not contested the injunction at the time, in June 2004 costs were awarded against the group among others.

Around the same time, the LAA minibus had come to the end of its life and funds were raised to purchase a replacement through a public campaign, including a 'vanometer' graphic on their website. In January 2005, the same HLS lawyer, invoked a cost order against LAA to freeze its bank account.

It is unclear who betrayed the bank account details, but the seizure came only when there was a substantial amount in the account due to the fund-raising efforts – and Gratwick would have known that. He may have played a role given his links with Lawson-Cruttenden, but there is another possibility. It may have been the then LAA treasurer, Veronica Kathleen King. In 2005 was subsequently discovered that she ran an intelligence company, KK Investigations, which in turn also had links to Lawson-Cruttenden, and she left the group after being challenged about this. King and Gratwick attended LAA at meetings at the same time, and others in the group recalled King complaining about Gratwick, saying he annoyed her as he kept going on about things.

LAA minibus purchase (2005)

When the LAA bank account was frozen, Gratwick persuaded Lynn Sawyer, then an activist with SHAC, to make money available for the purchase of a new minibus. He knew she had recently re-mortgaged her house on his advice (see below). Shortly after that, she also received compensation money from the police for a serious injury: she was badly hurt after having been toppled from a tripod by an off-duty officer. Sawyer agreed, as the intention was to pay the money back through fund-raising.

At the time, the LAA minibus was the sole responsibility of 'Damien', an activist with London Animal Action who had been given the freedom to do what was needed to keep it on the road. The group had also tasked him with finding a new minibus. He was quite friendly with Gratwick at the time, but stated: *'Nick elbowed his way in, and had mad, impractical ideas such as getting a camper-van. He was like a kid about it'.*

Shortly after Damien mentioned an auction place in Swansea to source a new vehicle, he was surprised to get a phone-call from Gratwick, who had been to the auction on his own, and at that moment was on the M4 motorway driving a newly purchased minibus back to London. He had spent £7,000 buying it, which angered others in LAA as he had not been given permission, Damien said had not been consulted.

With the changing nature of animal rights demonstrations due to new legislation, the vehicle was never used in the end, and it remained on Damien's driveway for between six to twelve months. A large, white LDV minibus, it lost value following the collapse of that company in December 2005. Eventually, the minibus was resold at a £2,000 loss, costing Gratwick and Lynn Sawyer £1,000 each. Gratwick claimed he had sold a property in Huddersfield to pay back the money Lynn Sawyer had lent him for the purchase.

On top of the loss of the bank account, the whole event left a bad taste and brought to an end his involvement in LAA and related London based circles.

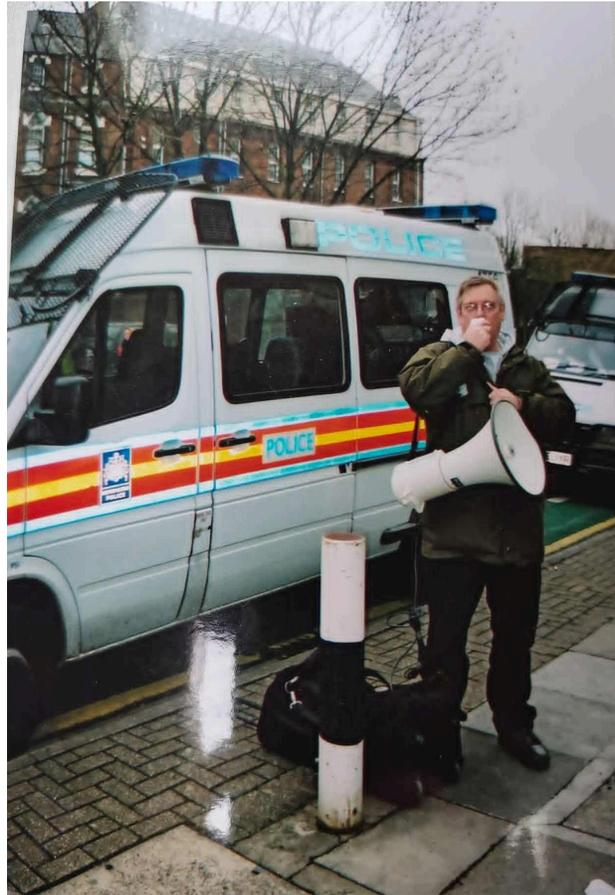
SPEAK Campaigns (2004-2006)

Gratwick showed considerable interest in the campaign against the animal laboratory being built by Oxford University, the focus of a strong grassroots anti-vivisection movement, spear-headed by SPEAK Campaigns from March 2004. This campaign had developed out of Stop Primate Experiments in Cambridge (SPEAC), which in 2003 had successfully stopped Cambridge University's plans to build a new primate laboratory.

Gratwick would regularly attend the group's weekly Thursday protests at the site of the Oxford laboratory, often driving the London Animal Action minibus. Particular events he attended are the 'Freedom March & Rally' of 23rd July 2005, while one of the last sightings of him was at a SPEAK national demonstration in early 2006.

Nick became very involved in SPEAK, befriending leading individuals, and attending its social events and campaign meetings – sometimes driving others to them. He was never particularly prominent at the protests,

though he did sell megaphones to campaigners on occasion. He would have been known to the NPOIU undercover Ritchie Clark who was active in both SPEAK and SHAC.¹¹



Negotiation with police for a march in Oxford

Gratwick was personally involved in negotiating with the police about a sizable SPEAK march in Oxford. At the time there was significant police oppression, with Thames Valley Police's Operation Rumble heavily targeting leading activists. With others reluctant to come forward as a result, his offer to negotiate was accepted.

He attended the initial meeting with the police on his own. He returned having given into all the police's demands, including conditions not acceptable to the campaigners – such as sticking to side streets, which would have effectively hidden the protest.

¹¹ It is believed that Gratwick had departed from the scene by the time other NPOIU undercovers took over from Ritchie Clark – Gary John Rayner and his supposed partner Abigail.

A second meeting with the police was arranged and someone else accompanied Gratwick to insist on rowing back on the concessions made. Gratwick clearly resented the presence of the other campaigner, and, unusually for him, lost his temper, snapping at him.

This particular event has not been fully pinpointed but is believed to be the 'Mass Protest' of 22nd April 2006, organised as part of the annual World Day for Animals in Laboratories. Gratwick repeatedly claimed he could get public liability insurance for it for this protest, something he never did, while constantly stalling for more time.

Following these events, he disappeared from the Oxford campaign.

Suspicious in Oxford

As elsewhere, Nick was seen as somewhat odd in Oxford. However, others did not trust him and suspicions developed through the end of 2004. Many of the suspicions were kept quiet at the time for lack of further evidence. 'Liza', who was suspicious of him from early on, witnessed two particular incidents:

- At one point during an occupation of a university building in Oxford, he was seen pointing out people in windows, which led police to their location.
- At another protest in Oxford, when activists were being searched by police, one officer commented to another regarding Nick: '*He's alright*' – resulting in him avoiding being searched.

In March 2004, two London-based protestors got into one of the Oxford University buildings and were accused of causing £40,000 of damage due to flooding. Liza noted the pair had traveled to Oxford in the LAA minibus driven by Gratwick, and after leaving the building again used the minibus to avoid being stopped by the police. The pair were subsequently identified and arrested; and while at the police station, one of them was asked to become an informer. Later, Gratwick attended court with them and wrote a letter on their behalf to the judge. The two were convicted and although they were only given community service, they both subsequently stopped coming on protests.

In another incident, Lynn Sawyer recalled going for a drink in Oxford with him after a SPEAK demonstration. Gratwick introduced a third person, who subsequently turned out to have been an undercover journalist and reported on Lynn in the press. She now believes that the introduction was deliberate and that he had been tasked with effecting it. She also noted that Gratwick was not above pointing the finger of suspicion against others, including claiming that her friend and fellow activist Max Gastone was an undercover.

In June 2010, one of the co-founders of SPEAK was in court. Those accompanying him were surprised to bump into Gratwick, who said he was there giving evidence in a family court hearing, accompanying a female friend. He seemed uncomfortable at the chance meeting and did not hang out with them. This lack of solidarity was considered curious at the time, as Gratwick had been friendly with the person on trial, and would have known the charges held

heavy implications. By that stage the suspicions about Gratwick were well-known, though not universally believed; so the encounter was just thought to be 'a bit weird'.

Civil Injunctions

In 2003, a number of companies involved with Huntingdon Life Sciences took out civil injunctions under the Protection from Harassment Act. Pioneered by solicitor-advocate Timothy Lawson-Cruttenden, over the next decade many of these were issued against animal rights activists and subsequently against environmental and anti-militarism campaigns. After HLS's own injunction, the next one sought was a group action by five Japanese pharmaceuticals with UK premises. The injunctions named a number of animal rights activists, including some associated with London Animal Action.

Gratwick made it clear he was very interested in legal strategies. One person recalled that he 'lit up' at the opportunity to quote public order matters in detail, saying he claimed to have worked as a paralegal at some point. His role in legal issues is a repeating theme throughout his life

He involved himself in a number of the early hearings for the injunctions. Initially, he simply turned up as someone from London Animal Action, and inserted himself into discussions held by the defendants. This then turned into active participation. Notably, he successfully applied to be joined to the litigation taken by Eisai Ltd as a named defendant, saying he wanted to fight for the right to protest on human rights grounds. This was unusual as generally people sought to be removed from injunctions due to the punitive financial implications. On top of that, the points Gratwick wanted to fight on were already being made by other representatives. At the end of a hearing in October 2003, Eisai discontinued the proceedings against him, though the injunction was eventually granted against all protestors, in 2010.

In April 2004, Gratwick spoke as an interested party in a hearing related to the Huntingdon Life Sciences injunction, arguing that the terms dealing with 'parties unknown' were too wide, and should be restricted to named individuals.

Max Gastone, then leading on the defence against the injunctions, recalls Nick's participation:

He would turn up at court when most other people were rightfully running a mile because of the potential penalties. Being present and engaged, he was able to justify looking at the copious bundles of material being passed to us by Lawson-Cruttenden. I remember him sitting behind me in the Royal Courts of Justice, constantly commenting on the evidence. Worryingly, he would have been aware of our strategy and our positions in the negotiations with the companies taking out the injunctions.

Gratwick would also openly admit to one London animal rights activist that he met Timothy Lawson-Cruttenden in the pub. He made it seem like he was being clever, befriending the lawyer in order to soften him, that he was forming a channel of dialogue. This was at the time of the injunction going through.

It was while sifting through one of the evidence bundles that Gratwick came across an email alert from Global Open, and went on at length about the firm to others. Gastone remembers:

At the time there were bigger issues to be dealt with, so I gave it little thought, other than to wonder why the company was so important to him. We had not heard of it at that time.

Lynn Sawyer & the HLS injunction

Nick played a key role in a significant event related to the Huntingdon Life Sciences injunction.

For several years Lynn Sawyer, a long-standing animal rights activist, had allowed her house in Evesham to be the formal registered address of Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), though its main base was elsewhere. This, among other factors, led to Lynn being named on the injunction taken out by Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). One of the tactics of HLS and its lawyer, Timothy Lawson-Cruttenden, was seeking cost orders against them, in once case forcing the bankruptcy of Gastone for defending the injunctions, even though proceedings had yet not come to an end.

In light of being named on the injunction, Huntingdon Life Sciences obtained a costs order against Lynn in October 2004. She owned her home and a charge was placed on it without her consent. Thus, though the final injunction had not yet been granted, there was a danger that if the costs order was invoked it would make her homeless.

Gratwick inserted himself into the situation, offering himself as a financial advisor to Lynn. He also introduced her to a lawyer he knew, Barry Pamplin, who advised her to surrender to HLS and accept the costs order. She rejected that advice as it would have been claimed as a victory by Huntingdon Life Sciences and left her indebted for life. At a 2005 interim hearing for this matter, Gratwick represented Lynn in court. In the end, to have the charge lifted, Lynn agreed to submit to the injunction, giving an undertaking not to breach it, and pay £2,500 in court costs.

Left in debt, Lynn permitted Gratwick to re-mortgage the house on her behalf. This salvaged the situation in the short term, though over the longer term it wrecked her financially. He presented her with schemes to reinvest the money from the re-mortgaging – including in the Bulgarian property market where he apparently had investments himself. These she rejected.

Oxford University Injunction

As with other companies targeted by animal rights protestors, Oxford University sought its own injunction under the Protection from Harassment Act. As previously, Gratwick sought an active role and in spring 2006 spoke before Lord Justice Holland as an interested party. His intervention focused on the legality of restraint and the case of *Burris v Azadani*. It was something Max Gastone, a co-defendants, described as being an insignificant point covering ground already argued before LJ Holland in the Huntingdon Life Sciences injunction:

It felt like he wanted to be seen as someone who knew about the law, but we were concerned it would irritate the judge more than anything.

Verify and Steve McIntyre

Gratwick was employed by a company called Verify Ltd, based out of Reading, part of a network of private intelligence and security companies. It was set up and run by a former Metropolitan Police officer, Steven Alexander McIntyre, working with other former Thames Valley Police (TVP) officers. It appears that McIntyre and Gratwick had a close professional and possibly personal connection lasting approximately 35 years up until Gratwick's arrest. The exact nature of their collaborative work remains ambiguous, but persisted through various companies and projects.

For the work on the Newbury protest, McIntyre facilitated the contact between TVP and Gratwick, arranging the contract between his company and the police, which was used to pay for the informer. Additionally, Gratwick was overseen by two handlers from within TVP's Special Branch, and apparently he held 'Enhanced Developed Vetting' (DV) clearance.

Gratwick's work for the police came up as part of the court case against him as a paedophile in October 2025; during evidence he referred to Steve by his first name, as his handler who oversaw his activities throughout their association.

Little is publicly available on the activities of Verify and the companies around it. In 2003 and 2004, its website listed 'corporate investigations, asset and people tracking, covert surveillance and litigation support' as the main areas it engaged in. No clients were specified, although that is not unusual in this sector. Rather, it listed industries serviced, which covered everything from banking, legal, auditor to pharmaceuticals to high net worth individuals on a global level – Eastern Europe, former Soviet states and the USA.

Verify was dissolved in 2012, though records indicate there were successor companies.

Global Open / Paul Mercer

Paul Mercer is a private security infiltrator who targeted a variety of campaigns during the 1990s and 2000s. Though it is not clear if Mercer and Gratwick had direct contact, there are a number of curious links between them.

Like Gratwick, Mercer had focused on environmental campaigns, including being part of the M11 anti-roads protest of the 1990s and Earth First! Network, also attaching himself to national campaigns. (Later, being based in Nottingham, he targeted local groups in the 2002 to 2007 period; here he would have overlapped with two spycops active there: Rod Richardson and Mark Kennedy – the latter would go on to work for Global Open.)

In 2004, Mercer was approached by Rod Leeming of Global Open on behalf of BAe Systems, and asked to collect intelligence on the Campaign Against the Arms Trade. Rod Leeming was a former Metropolitan Police Special Branch officer, who had headed the Animal Rights National Index until 1999. Mercer spied on the group for two years using his company 'Ligne Deux' to get paid.; In 2007, he was exposed and CAAT took a case against him.

Mercer's involvement with Global Open came at the time when the company is said to have been in a 'turf-war' over animal rights intelligence with Verify, who Radio Nick worked for (see below).

Cross-over with undercover police

The story of Gratwick crosses over in several places with that of undercover policing. Notably, in the 2002 *True Spies* series he is the individual referred to by Sir Charles Pollard, as the police informer who betrayed the tunnels at the Newbury anti-road protest, and who later went on to infiltrate animal rights.

Gratwick's identity as an informer was known to Jim Boyling, who he met through Reclaim the Streets. It is highly likely that Gratwick would have been informing on Reclaim the Streets at the same time that several undercovers were also reporting on it, including HN3 'Jason Bishop' and HN77 'Jackie Anderson'.

Planning meetings for actions against the 1999 DSEi arms fair took place at the Gambier House flat around this time, which indicates Gratwick had some involvement in this campaign. As such, he may have overlapped with the SDS undercover officer known as HN3 'Jason Bishop'.

Active in the animal rights movement from around 2001 to 2007, focusing on London Animal Action (LAA) and Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), Gratwick would have encountered other undercovers such as EN35 'Ritchie Clarke' and HN60 'Dave Evans' who targeted the same groups.

He also attended Earth First! gatherings in this period, which other undercovers such as Mark Kennedy would have attended. Gratwick is the individual who identified Global Open as a company of interest to campaigners in the mid 2000s. This was some years before Mark Kennedy was employed by that firm.

Jim Boyling

From 1995 to 2000, Special Demonstration Squad undercover officer Jim Boyling infiltrated Reclaim the Streets. By 1997, the officer was close to some of those involved in the oil protests, including helping one of them move house.

In early 1999, *The Mirror* obtained a Special Branch report on Reclaim the Streets, and quoted from it:

Increasingly the environmentalists represent an impenetrable problem for conventional intelligence gathering. The need for an enhancement in covert proactive intelligence by police is clear. Its anticipated future protests will take the form of nuisance invasions of offices and installations such as those recently experienced by Shell, BP and Chevron as well as 'home visits' to company directors, a tactic copied from animal rights activists.

Boyling is a likely source (if indirect) for this material. The reference to 'Shell, BP and Chevron' also mirrors multiple press reports around the 1999 arrest of an activist, who had been involved with the 'UK Oil Overthrow Association' group, indicating that Special Branch were briefing the press on the matter.

In 2002, Boyling was able to specifically identify Gratwick as the Newbury agent named in *True Spies*, as explained above. It is likely that the circle of Reclaim the Streets and anti-oil environmental protestors provided a key point of contact between the undercover officer and the private spy. Another point of contact may have been protests against genetically modified crops, which both men had infiltrated.

Who is Edward Nicholas Gratwick

Edward Nicholas Gratwick born in Evesham on 7 September 1957. His parents were optometrists and opticians, running a successful business. Privately educated, he grew up in Portugal, including during the military coup of 1975. He also said his parents lived there, while otherwise he never mentioned his family.

Gratwick claimed his grandmother was a spy, and recounted having been approached by MI5 at age 16, though he allegedly failed the recruitment test due to language-related difficulties.

Inherited Wealth and losing it

Gratwick appeared to be well off in comparison to other activists, and always seemed to have money. However, generally, he was tight with money and frugal, sacrificing quality for quantity.

He inherited money from his parents, which he invested in an Lloyds Insurance syndicate. How true this was is uncertain. What we do know is that Gratwick was an investor, who lost his wealth when Lloyds suffered catastrophic losses in 1992. As one of those underwriting the firm, the assets he had pledged were now needed to cover the company's costs. Gratwick appeared in the media as one of those campaigning for recompense, saying he had lost £200,000 and that the inheritance from his parents had been lost. In 1994, he was made bankrupt, being described as an unemployed electrician and former insurance broker.

Gratwick claimed he had run his own insurance company, boasting that he was one of the first using a computer, which gave him the cutting edge and made him successful. He talked about this throughout his time at Newbury, Greenpeace and in animal rights. His experiences, Gratwick said, explained his bitterness towards corporations, the reason for his involvement in campaigning.

The story that he still owed money from that era, he used as a reason to avoid things, implicating he was still effectively in hiding, to give himself credibility. Gratwick's history also justified his interest in legal matters. As one campaigner put it:

He clearly knew a lot about the 'system', how companies worked; how they were structured, company legislation, rights and responsibilities, setting up a board, shareholding and so on. He was able to talk a lot of corporate speak and spoke of corporate research, affiliations, using public databases to find directors names and



targeting company directors homes, purchasing shares for voting rights and of campaigning in that respect.

The Costain action mentioned above was one such example of this. He also offered his knowledge of the financial industry as a way to get close to people in Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty, which was focusing on various financial firms providing support for Huntingdon Life Sciences at the time.

Occupation

Undercover officers working for the Metropolitan police Special Branch had a cover story that included an employer they allegedly worked for, to explain their time away from activism. The occupation of Gratwick is more difficult to describe. When he went bankrupt in 1986, the newspaper announcement said he was an unemployed electrician, director of a company and formerly trading as an insurance broker. Company documents from 2016 list his occupation as engineer.

Gratwick clearly had an interest and expertise in electrical and mechanical engineering, and radios in particular. Through the years, Nick told different stories about his occupation.

At Newbury he said he was a freelancer, possibly doing computer related stuff. He also said that he used to have a regular job as a truck driver but was off sick due to a knee or leg injury. He used to work for the Department of Trade and Industry, triangulating pirate radio signals, which would allow the police to locate pirate radios and close them down. May have been how he had learned about radio equipment.

At London Animal Action, he said he was a private contractor who had installed (radio) communications systems in prisons and hospitals – casually mentioning he had just spent a day in a maximum security prison. He told one person a story of burning his legs with microwaves while working with them.

Gratwick told Greenpeace campaigners that had been a paraglider pilot, and that earlier in life he had somehow caused a problem at an airport due to his flying antics; rumour was he had crashed the glider. He claimed to have his seaman and pilot licences; retaking his pilots licence to fly drones as part of a business venture, he said he was good at the theory, but not a good drone operative.

The only job that has been confirmed, is that he was a part time broadcast technician in City University's journalism department at Northampton Square, in the late 1990s and early 2000s, where he subcontracted a campaigner.

And of course, Gratwick was a paid informer. It is not known how much Gratwick profited from his informing on campaigners. He was not poor, being able to purchase properties, in Oxfordshire and seemingly also Yorkshire.

He invested in a few ventures over time including woodland management, fencing, drone operating, radio broadcasting equipment and the like. However, he never threw himself behind any of these projects enough for them to be successful, financially or otherwise.

Investigations into his activities after he ceased to target campaign groups indicate that Gratwick worked on the technical side of radio broadcasting.

Radio broadcasting & technology

Prior to his activities in environmental groups, Gratwick claimed to have been involved in setting up pirate radio stations in London, recalling erecting rigs at hilly places in London such as Crystal Palace and Behulah Hill. Some of the people he got to know there went on to establish businesses in supplying radio transmitters and related equipment – connections he used later on in his role infiltrating activist groups.

Gratwick was good at electrics and radio when he wanted to. He wasn't always slow or incompetent, as the examples detailed above show: his role in establishing the Newbury campaign's CB infrastructure, doing the wiring on a protestor's boat, and in his work for Greenpeace, Reclaim the Streets and the HACAN action. Each year, he attended the annual convention of the Ahmadiyya Muslims (the Jalsa Salana UK) in Hampshire, for whom he would set up the radio broadcasting equipment rig for their livestream.

Vehicles

When Gratwick turned up at Newbury, he had a car which he apparently slept in while at the protest. In summer 1996, after the evictions of the road protest camps, he switched to camper-van (VW Combi) which he became well-known for, both at Newbury and while he was involved in the animal rights movement. Later he owned a new blue Ford KA, a model that had only just come out and which he used to give animal rights activists lifts. This feels a bit weird, as it was a very small model, with hardly any space in the rear seats.

While with Greenpeace, he drove a black Ford Transit, which he used for transport campaigners to various actions, including the anti-GM protest at Liverpool docks.

Personality

Eccentric: Helpful and friendly

For most people in Newbury, Gratwick was considered an affable enough character. Almost everyone emphasized his helpfulness and friendliness, and some noted he had been fondly thought of. 'Mairi', a protestor who lived on site, remembered him as someone of a sitcom: *He was a bumbling, over-weight, older bloke; a geeky type, slightly socially awkward but not difficult to be around.*

'Steff' echoed many interviewed when she said:

Nick was eccentric but likable and kind. He was hanging around with younger people for the most part and there were few people in later age ranges. That he knew how to get stuff and how things worked was very useful.

Craig Logan, however, said that he was eccentric only in that he did not seem to have the same background as many on site. He described him as 'not pompous and having a level sense of humour'.

Campaigner 'Tom Winter' noted that Gratwick's politics didn't quite fit, but the protest had attracted many quirky people, so in context, he did not stand out. Though Gratwick came across as an outsider, he was still seen as part of the team.

In Greenpeace, Gratwick was mostly seen as a fragile person that people seemed sorry for, eliciting sympathy as he came over as a bumbling nerd. He frequented the warehouse space establishing friendships with core people, such as the warehouse manager and the investigations team, swiftly rubbing shoulders with management figures. To gain access and influence he was offering his skills, and attending social events. One such event was a Bollywood themed party where he turned up wearing a teatowel over his head – his idea of dressing for the occasion.

Sleezy, needed to be pushed

Gratwick came across as practical and able to deal with the chaos around him, as someone who had been in the military at some point. Some of those who worked with him on various projects, however, recalled that Gratwick had to be chased and badgered to get things done and keep his promises. On reflection this may have been his modus operandi, though it wasn't clear at the time that he was messing things up, rather than just being very busy.

At Newbury, he eventually developed a reputation as a bit of a 'bullshitter' who talked big but didn't deliver. As a result several people eventually fell out with him, but also partly because he could be a moaner who got people's backs up.

Some at Greenpeace saw him as '*an unreal character who didn't seem like a real activist at the time; a bullshitter who over-promised but never really delivered*', and that police disruption of actions meant that Gratwick's worth as an activist was never really tested.

In animal rights he was seen as a bit of a bungler, when things did not work; at one point while driving for London Animal Action he had a sat-nav, this being a time before they were widely used, and it ended up directing them into a field.

Gratwick's living spaces were chaotically disorganised, he was very hands off when it came to tidiness and cleanliness around the house. He left unchecked piles of stuff, mainly rubbish, wrappers, empty boxes everywhere. He would chat and sit around all the time, smoking cannabis and then sleeping rather than do any physical work like cleaning.

Pushy and talking too much

In animal rights, Gratwick was known as someone who talked a lot, often droning on about this work. He never stopped to listen to others. When he would come up with ideas, some a bit mad, he would go on about them at length, always being over-enthusiastic, child-like even.

Nick boasted about always having the latest gadgets, and indeed he had the most up-to-date phones and cameras. As a result, he came across as a bit of a geek and a 'know-all', particularly when it came to tech related stuff. This combined with a social awkwardness that meant some people found him boring and hard to handle. He would take great pleasure in discussing which boots, belts, radios, equipment etc the police were wearing or using. To kill time he would go on about random nerdy stuff such as the technicalities of the radiators inside police vans.

It would sometimes appear that he rang people because he was lonely or bored, and it would be difficult to finish phone-calls with him as he could talk for over an hour.

'Damien', an activist with London Animal Action (LAA) said:

If you were infiltrating animal rights you would not expect him to turn up like Radio Nick. He would take over meetings by just talking about his ideas and what he thought LAA should be doing. [...] It was like he was being an agent provocateur. He was not hiding.

Central to Gratwick's persona was his apparent interest in legal and financial matters. He often presented as knowledgeable about various different aspects of the law, peoples rights and corporations, certainly more than many of the people around him. He liked to talk up how he outwitted police by quoting the law at them.

Gratwick was often seen chatting to police at protests and actions. He would say he did this as a way of getting information out of them. He would boast about quoting the fine points of law and police code at them, and knowing more than they did – even outwitting them. Generally, though, people were uncomfortable that he was doing this.

While he regularly spoke about doing legal based campaigns, as he did at Newbury, reportedly he never followed through.

Gratwick was not just giving lay advice in passing, often it extended to pushy interference in other people's legal matters, arrests, and the civil injunctions. He presented himself as someone well-versed in the law, and in some cases represented people in legal cases. At Newbury, Gratwick helped someone make a claim in relation to a motorbike. Another time, he helped someone else win a small case of disrepair against Islington council – with him acting as a McKenzie friend.

The pushing was not restricted to campaigners, it happened throughout his activities, including with acquaintances. As a result, he ended up becoming tangled in various legal issues, rarely with a good outcome for the people involved.

Relationships and attitude towards women

Gratwick had a casual relationship with a Newbury campaigner who lived locally. She would provide meals and let activists use her house to wash. He would stay at her place now and then, or the two would meet up in hotels. She is now deceased.

The opinions about his behaviour differ greatly between people and over time.

Harriet at Newbury remembers that *he was apt to say things that were really inappropriate (sexually and otherwise), which made him seem an odd fit, made me a bit wary of him and seemed like he was punching all sorts of boundaries.*

In London, he wasn't known to be predatory towards women. Many young female friends from his time at Gambier house felt comfortable and safe in his presence, one even sought assistance with an abusive boyfriend who waved a meat cleaver at her.

Some animal rights activists a few years later considered him pervy, being overly friendly and focused on women.

Politics

Gratwick's interest in radio was entirely on the technical side with no evidence of him contributing to the actual broadcast.

He encouraged people to use technology. For instance, pushing Skype before it became a well-known tool, and later was strongly advising animal rights activists to move away from home computers to cloud services – then in its infancy.

Weirdly enough, Gratwick would not talk a lot about animal rights. His transition to this field of action found him suddenly turning vegan, almost overnight replacing milk for soya and avoiding animal products. Even in his home he practiced veganism but just as a diet, never as a lifestyle out of conviction. After he left the animal rights scene, he ceased to be vegan.

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Our investigations

In Gratwick's early years in activism as described in this report, there were some suspicions, but without sufficient material to justify them, they were not followed up. Or simply not believed because he was doing useful work for groups he was involved in. It was only in hindsight as the bigger picture emerged that memories of him fell into place.

First investigation

The first investigation into Gratwick started in the early to mid 2000s, as he was involved in the high-profile campaign against the animal laboratory being built by Oxford University. The campaign was organised by SPEAK, as explained above, with additional interventions by the Animal Liberation Front.

Apart from actions on the street like demonstrations and pickets, the battle was increasingly fought on the legal front with civil injunctions. Early on Gratwick inserted himself into the cases, at one point in 2003 becoming a named defendant in the one by Eisai Ltd, a Japanese pharmaceutical company who were clients of Huntingdon Life Sciences.¹² Through this, he had access to those defending the injunctions and sight of the evidence. He would intervene in a hearing at the Huntingdon Life Sciences injunction in 2004, where he addressed the judge as an interested party, supposedly speaking as a law-abiding protestor whose interests he was seeking to protect.¹³

Becoming a named defendant did not sit right with one of the protestors, Max Gastone. Living in Oxford, he worked with SPEAK and also Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), including as a legal representative (as litigant-in-person) for the latter in civil injunction cases. Though initially welcome of what appeared to be help, Gastone became increasingly wary of including Gratwick, in discussions as suspicions grew. Not least, because he found Gratwick distracting in the demanding court cases, his legal knowledge being overstated.

A few issues in particular stood out.

Becoming a named defendant was quite a risk, as costs orders could be ordered against you once the injunction was granted, as Lynn Sawyer discovered. People generally sought not to be named rather than be added.

Gratwick had a specific interest in Global Open, an otherwise unknown company. During a hearing in one of the civil injunction cases, he went through the evidence bundles provided by the claimants and singled out an email mentioning the company. Lynn Sawyer, a SHAC activist caught up in the injunctions, also recalled him referring to Global Open. He made a fuss, saying that campaigners should investigate them further. However, at the time the group did not have the capacity to prioritise looking at it.

¹² Eisai Ltd later removed him as a defendant in October 2003 following an interim hearing.

¹³ He would repeat this in 2006 during a hearing in the Oxford University injunctions.

In this same period, Gratwick was bragging about drinking with Timothy Lawson-Cruttenden, the main lawyer bringing the injunctions for the pharmaceutical companies. He justified this as a strategy to soften the lawyer's stance and set up a channel of dialogue.

Gastone considered this problematic. Firstly, such a strategy had not been agreed by the campaigners, and secondly there was a danger that Gratwick would give information without realising it. Apart from that, he thought it unlikely it would work with Lawson-Cruttenden, not least because the lawyer had stated in court that he had been personally targeted by animal rights activists.

Some time late 2004 / early 2005, Gastone received two phone calls on the same day. The first was from someone claiming to be a journalist with the *Evening Standard* newspaper. They wanted to run a story on Global Open, acting on a tip from a confidential source that the company was selling information gained through unauthorized access to the police national computer. They stated that Global Open was being run by Rod Leeming, the ex-head of the Animal Rights National Index, and asked if Gastone could locate Global Open's website – it was a strange request, as either the company had one or it didn't.

Twenty minutes later Gastone was called by Gratwick, and what followed was practically a repetition of the conversation before. Clearly Gratwick was the source cited by the newspaper, not least because he had asked Gastone about locating Global Open's website previously, and was now pushed for it again.

Gastone became concerned he was being set up somehow and that Gratwick was not who he claimed to be, as his contact with the *Evening Standard* was something new and unexplained. He spoke about it with close associates. However, it was not clear how to proceed until an animal rights colleague came forward with information from a well-placed contact within the security industry. They said that Gratwick was an infiltrator, who had previously worked with the police and now for Verify Ltd, another company gathering and selling intelligence. This was the first time the activists had heard of Verify's existence. According to this source, Global Open and Verify were having a 'turf-war' over spying on animal rights, a lucrative business given the many corporations being targeted, particularly pharmaceuticals.

Gastone was able to identify Verify as a private security firm based in Reading, but could not independently prove the link with Gratwick; the source who provided the details of the allegations was unwilling to come forward.

The last option seemed to be confronting him directly. However, unfortunately, word reached him that he was under suspicion and the confrontation had to be called off.

The results of this first investigation were enough for some of the groups he had been involved with, but not for all. In Spring 2005, SHAC refused to continue working with Gratwick, by now referring to him as 'Dodgy Nick'. At the time, Gratwick spoke to Lynn Sawyer who recalled:

He did not put up much of a fight. Just went. He complained about the ingratitude of SHAC, saying he had bought them plane tickets and given them stuff, and said it would have been fine if they had put him under surveillance.

Gratwick was ostracised by various other groups as well. Damien, one of the last London based activists to be in contact with him, recalled talking to him in June 2005. At the time Nick stated how hurt he was, asking why he was being picked on; all he was trying to do was make demonstrations work. He disappeared from the London scene after this.

Nevertheless, the results of the Oxford investigation were not universally accepted, and people in SPEAK continued to work with him into 2006. That ended after he was criticized for his negotiation with the police for the march in Oxford.

Further evidence came in 2007. In February, Oxford University switched to the large legal firm Simmons & Simmons, which led to the disclosure of further material. Among which was a document that clearly came from a private security firm, though its origins were redacted. It contained profiles on various prominent animal rights campaigners in SPEAK, SHAC and elsewhere. Gastone was one of those named:

Another thing that jumped out was a statement that I was learning accountancy in order to bring down Huntingdon Life Sciences. A throw-away comment that I had only made once, in jest, to Nick – in a conversation between just the two of us, during an Earth First! Summer Gathering, either in 2004 or 2005.

The fact that this information should come up in a private intelligence report, sealed suspicions. But due to the lack of definitive confirmation on key details, activists did not publicly release the information. People who had dealt with Gratwick were informed of what had been learned. Again, not everyone accepted the findings, resulting in disagreements over their validity

The matter went quiet after this, as Gratwick disappeared and was no longer involved in activism. It would take until the exposure of NPOIU undercover Mark Kennedy in 2010, for the investigation to resume gradually.

Second investigation

In 2015, Gastone was passed a piece of information which came to him indirectly from 'Rosa', the woman deceived and betrayed by the Special Demonstration Squad undercover Jim Boyling. She said Boyling had identified 'Radio Nick' as an informant to the police at Newbury in *True Spies*. She didn't recognise the name, but had remembered it. This gave renewed impetus to the investigation,

As a result, over the next couple of years, numerous interviews were conducted with people who had been in groups with Gratwick. It is these interviews which form the basis for much of this report.

However, the crucial link with Verify Ltd remained hearsay. This changed in September 2016, when paperwork emerged that demonstrated direct links. The private security firm Verify Ltd had been based at 6 Malthouse Lane, Reading, a property owned by private investigator Steven Alexander McIntyre. He ran the company with his wife Julie McIntyre. The directors Verify had found a network of companies, all with the same names on the board, happening just when Gratwick was active with SPEAK Campaigns in the early and mid 2000s.

A decade later, in 2016, two companies were founded listing Edward Nicholas Gratwick as a director. The first, Panaric Ltd, was registered to 6 Malthouse Lane, and the other director and sole shareholder was Jamie McIntyre, the son of the founders of Verify. The other company was Lansara Ltd, of which Gratwick was the sole shareholder; the address given was Knox & Eames, while his co-director was Julie McIntyre.

These directorships finally proved that Gratwick was connected to Verify Ltd, and confirmed what had been stated by the confidential source in 2005. These three sets of independent material listed here corroborated each other.

Confirmation

The breakthrough moment came in October 2025, when Gratwick publicly confessed to having worked with the police. On trial for child abuse and paedophilia, he maintained as part of his defence that he had become used to infiltrating groups for the police (environmental and animal rights, but also those linked to al Qaeda). In his reaching out to other paedophiles, Gratwick was simply following this pattern. While on trial, he claimed he had been planning to hand over the information he had collected.

A statement of agreed facts from the police confirmed that Gratwick had been an informer to them, targeting the environmental and animal rights movements from 1995 to 2003. On 10 October 2025, Edward Nicholas Gratwick was found guilty of 38 child sexual offenses at Guilford Crown Court.

Resources

Without doubt, it could be very distressing for people to know someone so close to them has been spying on them, and now turns out to be involved in extreme paedophilia. The Survivors Network has a [list of useful resources](#) for those struggling with this.

Please take care of each other; these things can be triggering, and reactions vary. You do not always know what someone's background is, and what causes them to respond in unexpected ways.

If you think you are under surveillance, check out Netpol's [Guide to Police Surveillance](#) and [Liberty's advice](#) on your rights and recourses you may have. Unfortunately, there are few resources.

About us

If you have questions or need more information, please contact the Undercover Research Group at contact@undercoverresearch.net. We have attempted to double check material in this report as much as possible, but much of it is based on recollections of events between twenty and thirty years ago, so misrecollections and errors are inevitable. If we have got something wrong, please let us know.

For more information on the URG please visit spycopsresearch.info. For more on undercover policing in general, see spycops.info and spycops.co.uk.