

Tale of undercover eco-warrior PC could hit the big screen

Film-makers have reportedly approached the group of activists whom Mark Kennedy spent seven years infiltrating



📷 I, spy ... it is not known yet if PC Mark Kennedy will be involved in any film about his undercover operation.
Photograph: Guardian

Ben Child

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It's a staple of countless Hollywood films, from *Point Break* to *Avatar*, the tale of the undercover mole "gone native". Now Britain is to get its own equivalent based on the real-life story of a [Met police officer who spent seven years posing as an eco-warrior](#) to infiltrate a group of activists.

PC Mark Kennedy's tale emerged this week during the £1m trial of six men and women accused of trying to shut down the Ratcliffe-on-Soar coal-fired power station in Nottinghamshire in 2009. During the course of the hearing, defence lawyers applied for details of Mr Kennedy's involvement and the trial collapsed. Legal documents suggest the officer may have crossed the line from infiltrator to agent provocateur, actively encouraging the protesters in helping to plan and carry out their break-in.

Posing as "Mark Stone", Kennedy went undercover in 2003 and by the time of the Ratcliffe incident cut a fine anti-establishment figure, with long hair and facial stubble. He became a familiar face at protests, and was seen as a useful member of the cause, with his own van and a knack for climbing trees and cranes.

Somewhere along the line Kennedy's loyalties appear to have switched. Although he may have tipped off the police about the attempted break-in, he has since left the force and is said to have offered to testify in defence of his former comrades. In a recording of a telephone conversation with one of them obtained by the BBC's *Newsnight*, Kennedy criticises police tactics and claims to hate himself for his actions against his former friends.

Members of the group say film-makers interested in turning the story into a screenplay, have since approached them, although it is not yet known if Kennedy will be involved. A source told the *Telegraph* that UK company Century Films was among those who had been in touch, adding: "It has been extraordinarily bizarre for everyone - and then to be the possible focus of a film." A publisher is also said to be trying to contact Kennedy with the aim of offering him a book deal.

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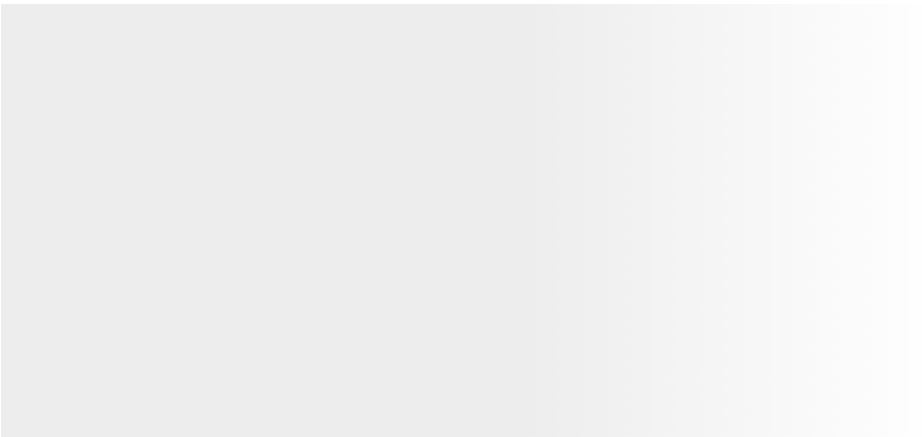
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