

Activist: 'We trusted Mark - and he betrayed us'

A environmental protester, who knew PC Kennedy as Mark Stone, reflects on the role he played



Undercover officer Mark Kennedy.

Bradley Day

Mon 10 Jan 2011 20.44 GMT

At the time of my arrest for my involvement in the planned protest at Ratcliffe power station last Easter, PC Kennedy was known to me as Mark Stone, a trusted environmental activist with many years of experience within the environmental movement. Mark drove me on the first reconnaissance mission to look at how we might enter the station, helpfully pointing out good access points and possible shortcuts. Indeed, without the trust that developed between us all I doubt very much that the plan would have gone ahead. Our close support of one another was vital of the months of work needed.

I was hugely disappointed that our plan to stop the 150,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide being emitted by Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station was thwarted by the police. But this was nothing compared to the betrayal I felt when I found out last October that one of our team was, in fact, a police officer, feeding back intelligence on activists and our plan to his police handlers. The news came just weeks before our trial, but soon it became clear that the news about Kennedy really meant nothing. I was going to shut down a power station, and I was still going to explain why dramatic action to reduce carbon emissions is one of humanity's most urgent tasks. That I was to be flanked by Jim Hansen, the world-famous climate scientist, Green MP Caroline Lucas and 19 other amazing people who gave evidence for the defence showed that our proposed action was important.

I've had a lot of time for reflection over the last few months. I am amazed by the role Mark took: hiring, paying for and driving a 7.5-tonne truck for the action; driving reconnaissance missions; telling me that I could stay at his house "whenever". He even bought me a pint in the pub after we were released from custody after our arrests. This was not an undercover police officer watching on the sidelines - PC Kennedy was proactively helping to put the action together and make it happen.

I was still studying for my GCSEs when PC Kennedy began infiltrating the nascent climate movement. In that time we've grown, having stopped a third runway at Heathrow and a fleet of new coal-fired power stations. Police surveillance has grown too. Let's hope that the careful documentation of Kennedy's actual identity, and this week's dramatically dropped court case will force a change in police tactics. We will find ways around people like PC Kennedy. Our collective future is too important not to.

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