

🕒 This article is more than 12 years old

# Climate protests in the UK courts - timeline

From the Kingsnorth six to the Ratcliffe 20, environmental protesters have received a range of sentences for their actions



📷 Activists are reflected in a police riot shield at the Climate Camp near Kingsnorth power station in Kent, August 2008. Photograph: Gareth Fuller/PA

---

---

***Kara Moses***

Thu 6 Jun 2013 17:00 BST

## **2008 - the Kingsnorth six**

Six Greenpeace campaigners were found not guilty of causing £30,000 of criminal damage to Kingsnorth power station in 2007 after arguing that they were legally justified because they were trying to prevent climate change causing greater damage to property around the world. This set a precedent in English law.

## **2009 - the Drax 29**

Convicted with obstruction for hijacking a train carrying coal to Drax power station in Yorkshire in 2008, they failed to convince the jury that their actions were justified by the "imminent threat" of devastation from global warming. They were sentenced with fines, unpaid work and conditional discharges.

## 2009 - the Ratcliffe 20

In the [biggest pre-emptive raid on environmental campaigners in UK history](#), 114 people were arrested after it was believed they were planning to shut down Ratcliffe-on-Soar coal-fired power station. Proceeding with the action amid [violent clashes with police](#), 20 people were eventually convicted of conspiracy to commit criminal damage and aggravated trespass. Sentences ranged from 18 months' conditional discharge to 90 hours' unpaid work, after a judge declared the protesters [acted with "the highest possible motives"](#).

## August 2009 - the Climate 9

Charged with the Scottish crime of breach of the peace for [locking themselves to a barricade](#) to disrupt flights at Aberdeen airport in protest against the airport's planned expansion, they failed to win the case using a similar defence to the Kingsnorth six. [The nine were given fines](#) of £300-700 each.

## 2011 - [Mark Kennedy](#)

[The Guardian reveals](#) the extent to which undercover policeman [Mark Kennedy](#) had been infiltrating the international eco-activism movement over a period of more than seven years. The case [raised serious questions](#) about the conduct of undercover police officers such as Kennedy, who had a number of sexual relationships with the women he was spying on.

## 2011 - Ratcliffe convictions acquitted

Convictions of the [20 activists charged in the Ratcliffe-on-Soar case](#) are quashed after court of appeal judges ruled that crucial evidence recorded by police spy [Mark Kennedy](#) had been withheld.

## 2012 - Climate activists sue the Met

Activists [sue the Metropolitan police](#) over relationships with police spies.

---

---

---

## **Most viewed**