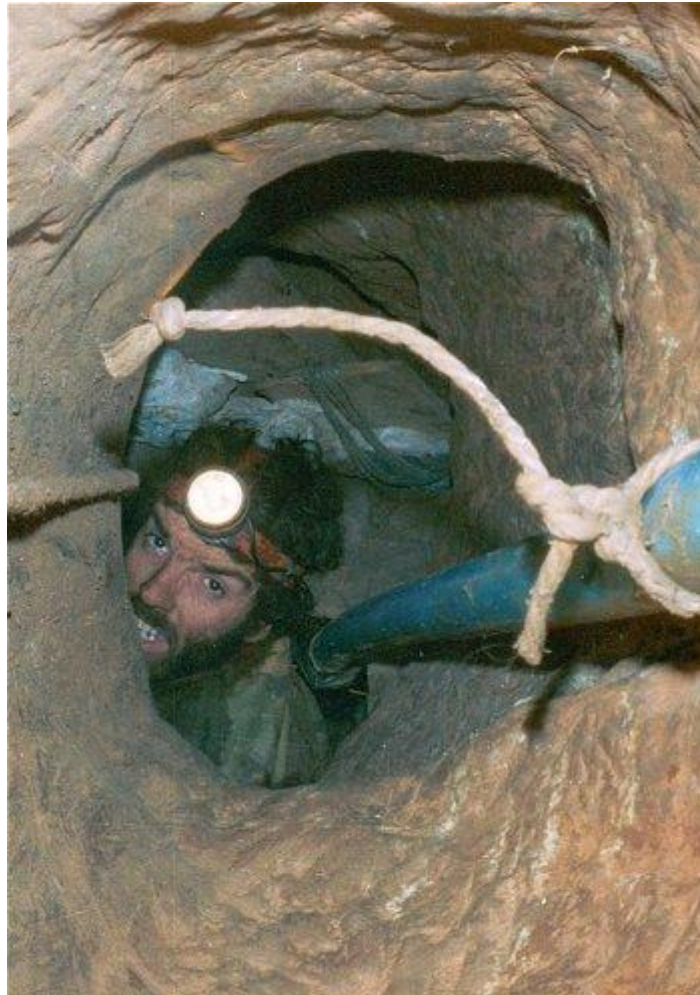


DISCO DAVE'S TUNNEL GUIDE



This compiled version is based on the original text published at www.discodavesunnelguide.com.

Every attempt has been made to preserve the original meaning of the text, while making a few grammatical and spelling corrections, and formatting the text to suit a single download / printout.

Keith, January 2013

INTRODUCTION

In the world of NVDA (Non Violent Direct Action) there are few defence tactics that can compare with the protest tunnel. Dangerous, laborious and time consuming, tunnelling is the ultimate and desperate tactic of desperate people in desperate times. For how can any but the truly insane wish to voluntarily spend days, weeks, even months, underground, for any other reason than that they profoundly believe that they are right? Laughed at, ridiculed and condemned by the media, the few that fight today's environmental war (be they above or below ground) must have the solace of knowing that at least history will treat them kindly. With so much precious countryside belonging to the many destroyed for the profit of the few how could it possibly be any different? Validity is given to this question when supposedly impartial Members of Parliament make financial gain as company directors on major environmentally destructive projects (i.e. Manchester airport in 1997).

It is not surprising when people, disillusioned by the failure of the so-called democratic process to address their concerns, feel pushed against the wall and decide to fight the battle by other means. From demonstrations to tree houses to tunnels, as the destruction of nature increases so will the intensity of resistance and the desperation of the methods employed.

The first protest tunnel in the UK was dug at the No M11 campaign in 1993 but this was not a true eviction tunnel in the sense that it was designed simply as an access to allow protestors to the site. Only in 1996, at the 3rd Battle of Newbury against the bypass camp, did the 1st tunnel designed to resist an eviction appear. Rendered ineffective by a faulty air fan, it was evicted with no one in it but the seed had been planted for future campaigns.

From Swampy's famous 7 day eviction at Fairmyle in 1996 to the 40 days underground at Essex 2000, tunnelling has evolved from just a way to stop the use of cherry pickers evicting trees to a whole new type of defence. Inspired by the infamous North Vietnamese tunnels at Cu Chi, from one campaign to the next, protest tunnels have grown larger and developed more elaborate defences. Using tools no different from the valiant Vietnamese communists and with an equally powerful enemy to defeat above them the tunnel protester of today has something to smile about - for didn't the Americans lose in Vietnam?

This guide has been put on the net with the intention for it to be downloaded and printed out. It can then be distributed to the protest sites of your choice to be used as an on-site reference manual.

Happy tunnelling!

Disclaimer

The authors and host sites would like to point out that the contents of this guide have been published to increase safety awareness. If you dig your own grave by disregarding the advice given and bury yourself alive 'cos you're an idiot don't blame us.

CHAPTER 1

This guide is primarily aimed at campaigners who are on a protest site and have a few months to construct a tunnel or series of tunnels prior to possibly being evicted. Unfortunately there are relatively few people who have any real knowledge of protester tunnelling and fewer still who have actually experienced an eviction from a tunnel and had time or opportunity to record and publish their experiences. This book hopes to remedy this by providing a step-by-step guide to safe and effective tunnel construction and what to expect come eviction day. Nobody really knows if tunnelling really going to be their cup of tea until they try it. People who want to become tunnellers to gain media stardom should at this point stop reading. However if you don't like tree climbing too much and aren't the worlds greatest digger diver but want to cost the developers a great deal of money then read on.

CHAPTER 2

OBJECTIVE

Why tunnel? Why persevere for weeks more often months constructing a tunnel or series of tunnels with all the inevitable problems that will arise and must be constantly overcome?. The options are so much more attractive , don't bother, get drunk , build a tree house or lock on (Ch 15) instead. The aforementioned are tried and tested methods of defence against the earth rapist. From Twyford Down to Crystal Palace to Arthurs wood , tree houses of varying designs have featured on protest camps. Their size limited only by the tree they occupy. If protesters have established a camp in a wooded area earmarked for felling it is pretty much guaranteed tree houses will soon blossom within the dizzy heights of an oak or sycamore. From the local supporters bringing food to the hardened campaigner living on site. The tree house is not only a defensive structure but a potent symbol of defiance that can be seen for miles by friend and foe alike. By contrast a tunnel during construction will on the surface at least look like nothing more than a hole in the ground surrounded by soil and bits of junk. (unless of course it is an open cast which I will elaborate on in a later chapter). This is one of the eviction tunnels greatest strengths. What seems like an innocuous hole in the ground could be just that going under only a few feet. Or it could be the entrance to a tunnel stretching for miles (I'm optimistic for the future). The people digging the tunnel will know of course but the big bad bailiff won't until eviction day (see Tunnel security - Ch 11). It is highly likely the authorities will have people observing the extent and nature of the defences they have to confront. Tree houses , barricades etc are visible. The authorities can therefore make a rough estimate at the cost of evicting them. With a tunnel it is difficult to make this calculation and a team of bailiff tunnellers will have to be hired regardless (and at great expense). Removing protesters from the No M11 campaign and at Newbury cost £11 and £25 million respectively and this was just from trees and squatted buildings. If there were protesters underground on these two occasions the cost would have been significantly higher. That ultimately is the purpose of tunnels and tree houses. To act as a deterrent warning the authorities that should they decide to evict, then it will hurt them where for them it hurts most in the pocket. The proposed developments at Guildford in Surrey and Yeovil in Somerset during the late 1990's are examples of the deterrent factor succeeding both have been cancelled because the developers could not afford to evict the tunnel systems. However should the authorities decide to go ahead with the eviction process the outcome is inevitable. For no under Sheriff is going to give up on an eviction half way through. Once started its all or nothing. The cost may go massively over budget but to them better that then let the "hippy scum" be seen to so blatantly defeat them. Tunnelling has become one of the only really effective ways to fight the developers. The authorities explain to the media that they dislike tunnels because they fear for the protesters safety. This is really just nonsense, they couldn't give a damn. Their only fear is losing money. Tunnelling can be scary, but it scares them a hell of a lot more.

CHAPTER 3

GETTING STARTED

The hardest part of doing anything is usually the start, tunnelling is no exception. Journalists begin every story with the five W's. Who, what, why, where and when. Tunnelling can be approached in the same fashion.

Who?

The answer to that is everyone. Residents on camp, visitors, even people who never come to the protest site can help in one way or another, by building doors, bringing food, offering tunnellers a well needed bath. A few people may actually design and build the tunnel, yet like an army they can only effectively operate with the support of a mass of unsung heroes.

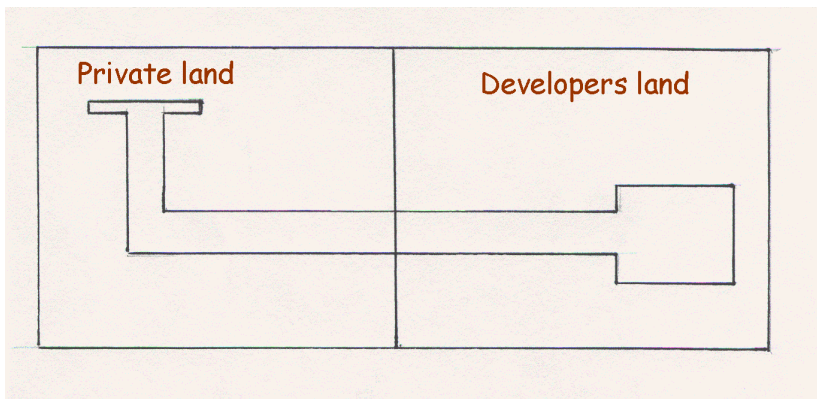
What?

That is the question. There are many factors to consider. How many people are on site? What's the availability of building materials for shoring, bunkers etc? Is there regular local support to recharge car batteries? Are finances available to purchase tools, head torches, computer fans, piping or can they be supplied free of charge? On the face of it seems daunting. But just about everything can be overcome by commitment, determination and damn hard work. Just dig even if you don't know what the end result will be. People on site will empathize with your honest ignorance of tunnel construction. Be open to suggestions, be it from a wet behind the ears teenager or a veteran of twenty campaigns. Throw everyone's ideas into the pot give it a quick stir then in time what started as a hole in the ground could end up like the Maginot line.

Why? (see Chapter2 objective)

Where?

It is generally not too difficult to obtain or at least view maps of the proposed development. The public library of the nearest large town should be able to aid you in your search. Alternatively write or phone the relevant government body (i.e. The Highways Agency) for copies of the plans. Even without admitting you're a protester they will very likely charge you an extortionate fee. Money which could more wisely be spent on tools and supplies. Beginning a tunnel on private land that then goes under land that is due for development will cause the authorities a headache. Especially if the owner of the land the tunnel has started on is vehemently against having neighbouring greenbelt land covered in concrete. The legal battle could go on indefinitely and may even result in victory for the protesters.



The focus of any protest site is the fire pit. It's the rest, eating and social area.... and the most vulnerable point. If the bailiffs decide to mount a surprise attack they could catch the protesters before they have time to occupy their defences. Positioning the fire pit above ground is one way to avoid this. (see raised fire pit). However if materials are lacking and the fire pit area is on ground level, having a tunnel entrance more than a couple of minutes walk away is inviting disaster and foolish to say the least. What's the point spending months digging a tunnel to discover a big burly bailiff has reached the entrance before you have?. That few feet can make the world of difference when eviction day dawns.

When

The Summer is the best time to set up camp and begin digging. During the winter months a lot of protesters prefer to stay in bed or go down the pub. However once a camp has been established it will be the courts that will decide if the development is to go ahead. The protesters can of course lodge an appeal against any decision. If the appeal is lost, in England, the courts will then usually allow a period (approximately 14 days) for the protesters to pack up and leave. After that it's the waiting game for the bailiffs to come in a week, a month or even a year.

CHAPTER 4

TYPES OF TUNNELS

Like people every tunnel's different, the characters of each tunneller making their mark on each new excavation. There do however seem to be two, possibly three basic schools of design. The "Tight and Nasty" tunnel the "Doored and Shored" and the open cast.

(A) Tight and Nasty

(B) Doored and Shored

(C) Opencast

(D) Digging under buildings

(A) Tight and Nasty

As its name implies this tunnel is a long a slender design. The Sir Cliff Richard tunnel on the site of the proposed second runway at Manchester in 1997, was, apart from the living areas, designed with tunnels that were at their widest point 2 and half feet by one and a half feet high. The narrower the tunnel the less need generally for shoring. The protester will go some way to strengthen the tunnel anyway with his or her own body from crawling in and out daily and compacting the soil. The narrow construction means the Bailiffs will have to remove a great deal more soil than they would have to with the Doored and Shored tunnel as well as having to shore the whole tunnel. There were over 5 tunnels at Manchester Airport but not enough materials or people with facilities to make doors for all of them. The Tight and Nasty Cliff Richard tunnel thus relied on extremely narrow passages, minimal shoring, and tight turns to slow up the bailiff. The disadvantage with this type of tunnel is that it is difficult to dig and get soil out of. Even if doors become available moving them through the tunnel is almost impossible. If you're broad shouldered and not of slim, medium build then you should forget it.

Lying on your stomach with your arms outstretched to chip away at the tunnel face is an extremely tiring way of digging. With so little space for air to circulate you may find you're out of breath and needing to come out before your arms tire. Working in such a position that prevents rapid retreat should a collapse occur, a wise tunneller will always have someone waiting to grab their ankles and pull them out. So while this description may dissuade all but the most overzealous it should be remembered that badgers, foxes and of course moles dig small tunnels not much larger than their own bodies and have managed to survive quite happily for centuries without any shoring and without the health and safety executive coming down and going bananas.

(B) Doored and shored

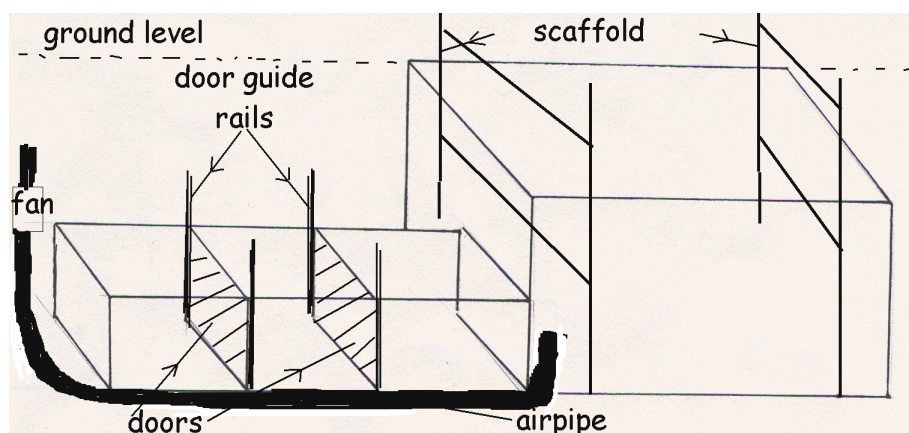
Thick steel or composite doors need to be opened and shut with relative ease. With their frames and surrounding concrete means that to install them it's necessary to dig a much larger tunnel (i.e. one which you can crawl through on your hands and knees rather than on your belly). More shoring will thus generally be needed. The more doors that are installed the longer the tunnel takes to evict. Though of course this design is a non starter if there isn't a local friendly metalworker to make them. Combining both of the aforementioned is the best of all. The more variation in the design the harder it is to evict. A

new different obstacle will cost the authorities more time and money as the bailiffs will leave the tunnel and have a meeting to consider how to safely tackle it. Constant variation in design should hopefully mean many such meetings. You want them to get a headache not a routine.

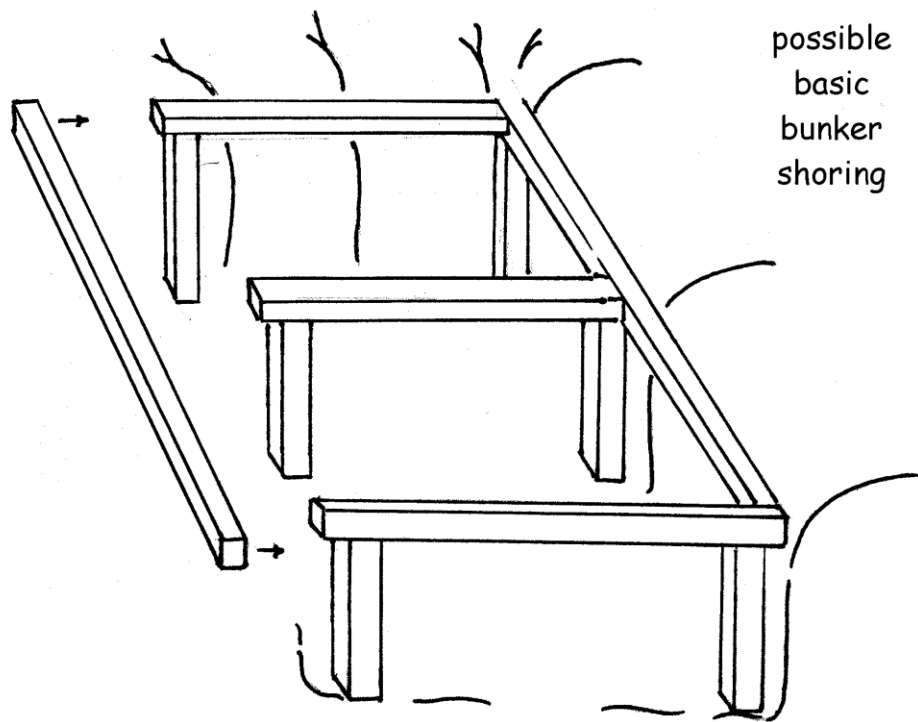
(C) The Opencast

As mentioned earlier tunnelling is not going to be everyone's kettle of fish or did I say cup of tea? There may be over 30 people on site, yet maybe only a few of these will be willing to spend significant periods working underground. If that is the case then an open cast or cut and cover tunnel would be advisable. Everyone can dig -if they've two arms and legs then they can use a shovel. New people on site, visitors and lunchouts* can be put to work, no experience necessary, no excuses accepted. The open cast tunnel on the route of the proposed Birmingham northern relief road (BNRR) in 1998 was excavated to a depth of around 15 feet. This allowed room for shoring and also permitted concrete to be poured between the shoring and the earth to form a wall. While others dig the open cast living area, you can then begin digging the tunnel that will be the entrance. This can also be open cast or one of the designs mentioned earlier. The open cast tunnel has the advantage in that you can merely lower defences into the tunnel such as doors that would be difficult if not impossible to position if it was a normal tunnel. The open cast tunnel at Faslane Peace camp in Scotland had a number of guillotine type doors they could have only been installed in an open cast tunnel as it took 11 people and a pulley system to lower them into position.

Standard open cast /cut and cover tunnel

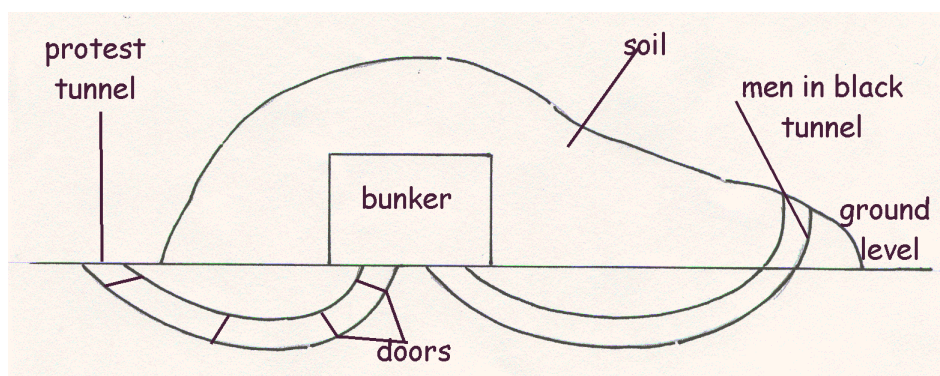


Despite the great deal of physical effort required construction can be surprisingly faster than one would expect. If it's not raining and you're in a group of people with a radio the job can almost seem enjoyable. Once dug it's easy to put in the necessary supplies and install the air pipe. All that remains is to then put in the shoring then cover the chamber and maybe the entrance tunnel with concrete. At Faslane the campers used 4' by 4' pieces of timber which were then positioned at 1 and a half feet intervals to support a steel and concrete roof which was over a 3 foot thick.



Before the cement arrived the campers at Faslane took advantage of the large open hole and threw in as much non biodegradable rubbish in as possible, i.e. old tyres, steel rods, cans etc. (wood ,paper etc rots in the concrete thus weakening the structure). It's worthwhile placing a scaffold frame within the walls prior to cementing, which can in time grow into a tower. The idea being that to evict the tower jolly bailiff will require a cherry picker* which can't be used because it may collapse the tunnel. Likewise evicting the tunnel safely is out of the question while protesters occupy the tower.

The effectiveness of the open cast tunnel was once debatable. It was rumoured the tunnel bailiffs would merely bypass the entrance tunnel and dig into the side of the open cast chamber. As the chamber wall is solid concrete the risk of a collapse while they dig will be almost nil. The eviction of the crystal palace bunker in early 1999 ended that theory. The bunker itself was constructed on the surface with over 4 feet thick walls then covered with tones of earth. A tunnel which had a series of doors led down to the bunker which had a food supply for over a month. Unable to gain entry the bailiffs (See Ch 22 The other side) resorted to digging a shaft down the side of the bunker and up under the side wall. A process that took 19 days. Had the floor of the bunker been made of concrete the tunnel could have held out longer. As it was however the two protesters in the tunnel gave up before the bailiffs reached them due to a lack of food and other items needed for a man and woman to live comfortably underground for a long period.



The danger with digging an open cast tunnel means that everyone will see what you're doing. A police helicopter filmed the massive open cast tunnel at the Greenwood site during the BNRR campaign resulting in the open cast being subsequently destroyed by police and contractors before anyone had time to occupy it. Despite the disadvantages it should be noted that at the time of writing the threat to Faslane Peace camp seems to be receding. The reason is that the council simply cannot afford to evict the open cast tunnel.

* Lunch out- A lazy person

* Cherry Picker- A hydraulic platform used to remove protesters from trees

(D) Digging under buildings

The main camp on the route of the proposed Birmingham Northern relief road was unusual in that the tunnels were built under disused farm buildings. The buildings were in a state a ruin and hazardous to say the least. The tunnels themselves weren't the longest or most elaborate. They were though as said beneath buildings that looked like they could fall down all too easily. Thus it was hoped this would mean the bailiffs would have to take the buildings down brick by brick prior to evicting the tunnels which was estimated to take at least a month . Unfortunately it did not turn out quite like that. The buildings were more sturdy than previously thought with the bailiffs digging into the tunnels almost immediately. The two tunnels 'The Bucket Hotel and NO 69 lasted 7 and 15 days respectively before being evicted. In hindsight it would probably have been better to reinforce the tunnel then collapse the whole building. As they say though hindsight is the best general.

CHAPTER 5

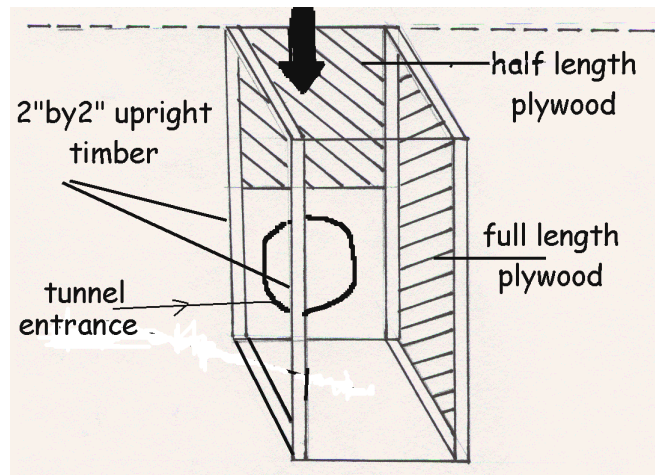
DIGGING AND SHORING

Phase 1 - Tools

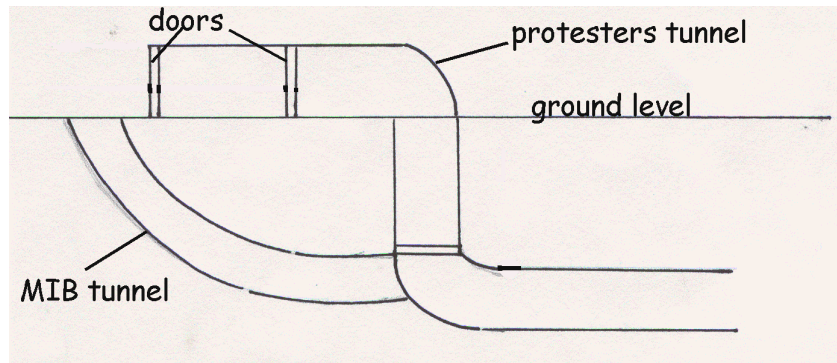
Unless you're digging into a hillside it's an idea to begin with a downshaft. You'll need the following hand tools. A pick, shovel, spade, 1 or 2 buckets, a small trowel, a tape measure, a wood saw, a hammer, 5 or 6 inch nails, a club hammer and building materials. Dig a vertical shaft approximately 4 feet square to a depth of 6 feet then square the walls of the shaft as best you can before measuring up for shoring.

Phase 2 - Shoring the down shaft

Cut 3 pieces of plywood that are the same width and height of the shaft. Cut a further piece that will be the same width but half the height of the shaft. Then cut 4 pieces of 2" by 2" or 3" by 3" timber that are the same height as the shaft. Now with assistance position each piece of plywood on each wall. So that on the surface all 4 pieces of plywood are flush with each other and the surface. Position each piece of 2" by 2" or 3" by 3" timber in each corner then nail into position (See below).



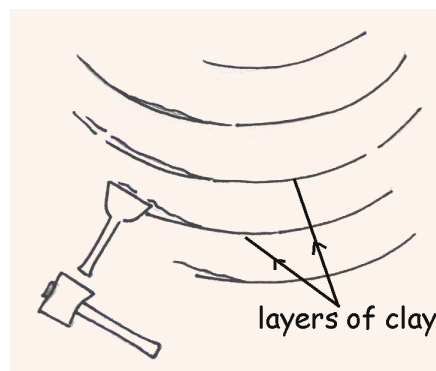
The entrance will see a great deal of activity so in time reinforce the walls as much as possible. It's a good idea to put a small slatted raised platform (i.e. a pallet) resting around 3 to 4 inches from the bottom of the shaft to prevent mud accumulating. A small tent or bender (a waterproof semi permanent erection that uses bent branches to form the frame) above the shaft should be constructed as soon as its completed. As well providing protection from the weather it will prove useful for storing tools etc. Though it is far easier to dig a down shaft straight down from the surface. The tunnel construction on the Arthurs wood site at Manchester in 1999 had a down shaft behind 8 feet of tunnel and 2 steel doors. As the two doors prior to the down shaft were concreted with Granite dust and cement (see [Ch 14-Concrete](#)) the bailiffs had great difficulty removing them. They thus wanted to by-pass the doors and head directly for the tunnel. But where was the downshaft? They only discovered its location by observing protesters popping up and down to talk to them. The bailiffs spent five days digging a new tunnel directly to the downshaft. Had they not known the downshaft's location they they would have likely dug a new tunnel in the wrong direction.



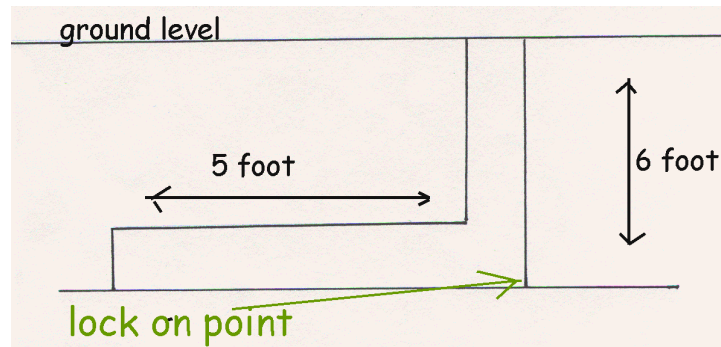
Phase 3 - Digging the tunnel

The vertical down shaft followed by a horizontal tube tunnel allows the defenders to construct a noose arm lock on point (see Ch 16 - [noose arm lock on](#)). At this point you will begin digging the tunnel proper. You'll require a long pointed rod, a small shovel, a brick hammer, a spirit level, a club hammer and possibly a few smaller buckets. Entrenching tools may seem ideal as they have a screw lock mechanism allowing the user to change from shovel to pick. They are however not highly recommended as the majority of them don't last very long. Either the screw mechanism gets cluttered with dirt or it breaks after only a few days use. The steel rod and brick hammer are much cheaper more robust alternatives.

Like Marmite and coach travel you either love digging or you hate it. Some people hate the monotony of hammering away at an earth wall for hours on end. There are others who see digging as an escape from life's complications and find the sheer simplicity of digging almost therapeutic. While a brick hammer can be used on all types of soil, a heavier club hammer with a long or short bolster is useful on clay and harder soil. Clay forms into layers removing the bottom layer will cause the upper layer to fall in. Create a deep ledge on the tunnel face with the hammer and bolster below the clay you wish removed then cut another ledge a foot or so above it. The clay should then fall out in large lumps.



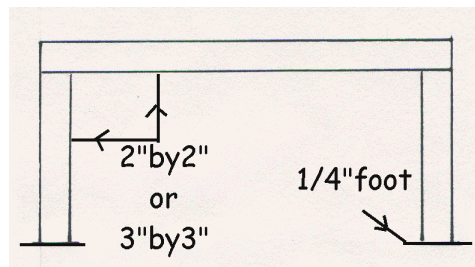
When digging allow at least 5 feet from the entrance of the tunnel before considering placing a door this is to accommodate the legs of a person positioned in the arm noose lock on. To protect this person's legs the first five feet should also be shored (see below)



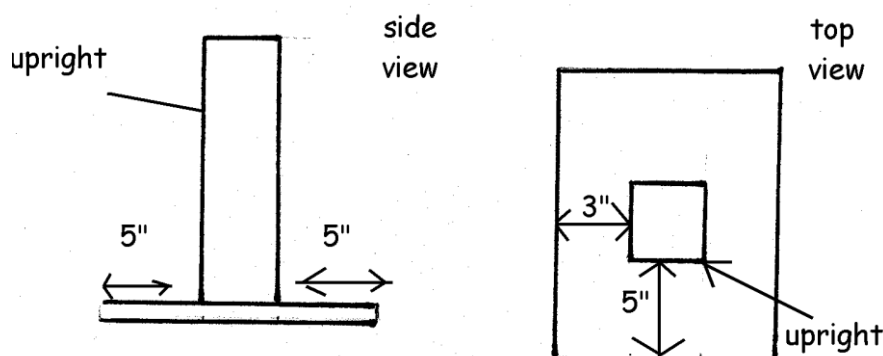
Using both arms the steel rod can prove useful for thrusting at rock or soil that proves difficult or time consuming to move with the brick hammer. As well as sharpening the end it might be an idea to wrap masking tape around the rod to provide grip. Before you begin digging its important you make sure someone is aware you're going underground. They should come and exchange friendly verbal abuse with you half an hour maximum intervals to see if you are all right. Never let a fellow protester do any digging alone who's extremely intoxicated on drink or drugs. For the sake of one fool everyone will worry needlessly.

Phase 4 - Shoring the tunnel

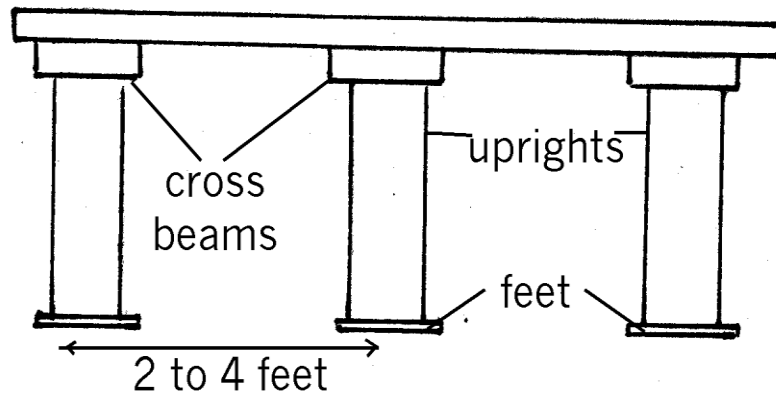
Ideally use either 2" by 2" or 3" by 3" timbers for uprights and crossbeams. At the bottom of each upright place a quarter inch thick piece of wood. This will act as a foot to prevent the upright sinking into the ground.



The length and breadth of the foot should ideally be at least 3 inches wider on each side of the upright and around 5 inches longer. Weak soil may dictate the need for wider and thicker feet.

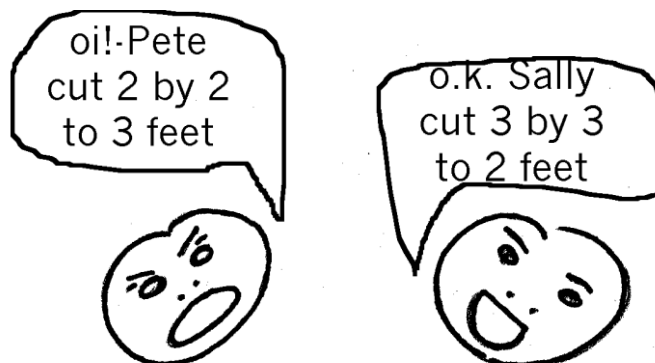


At what intervals you place each piece of shoring depends on the consistency of the soil. IE sand may require shoring every foot to two feet clay on the other hand may only require shoring at four feet intervals. The wider the gap between the shoring the thicker the boarding above the cross beams will need to be. In most cases half inch boarding will generally suffice.

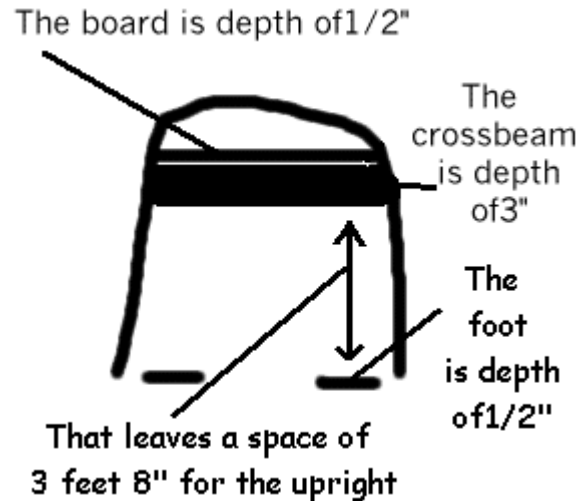


Phase 5 - Erecting and constructing the shoring

In phase 4 the principal behind shoring has been outlined. The practice of cutting then erecting it in a small tunnel is usually a total nightmare no matter how often you do it. If you can dig 40 to 60 feet of uniform tunnel in all types of soil in weeks and months rather than years. Then to paraphrase Rudyard Kipling, "You'll be a tunneller my son". Well for us mere mortal women and men who find that they've dug out a tunnel with one wall higher than the other and with a slight gradient, I'll say this don't worry it's normal. Before putting in any shoring try to level off the roof as much as possible. Contrary to popular belief it is ideal but not essential to have the board above the cross beam tight up against the soil. Good shoring will hold the weight of a collapse. However the gap between the board and the soil should not be too excessive. Anything over a foot and a half could be asking for trouble and allow the soil during a collapse to gain enough momentum and knock out the shoring. You'll now need another tunneller and possibly a colleague on the surface with a saw and another tape measure, as the shoring will be supporting a board. A section of shoring must thus consist of 4 uprights, 2 cross beams 4 feet and a board above the cross beams. Where each upright is to go measure from the floor to the roof. If you're near the surface you can probably go out of the tunnel and cut it yourself. But it is generally better to have a colleague who you can shout the measurements to for him or her to cut. To avoid mistakes when shouting measurements to a colleague get into the habit of asking them to shout the measurement back to you. Or you may end up with an upright that is two feet longer or worse shorter than you need.



Before shouting for the upright to be cut remember that above the upright will be a cross beam and a board below the upright a foot. For example



The tunnel height on the left side is 4 feet The board is half inch thick. The cross beam is three inches thick. The foot is half inch thick.

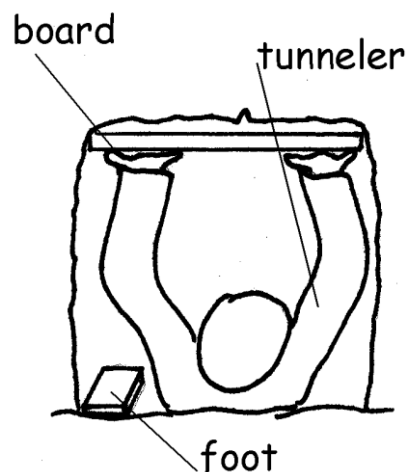
The upright should thus be 3 feet 8 and half inches tall. It's worth however cutting the upright to a length 3 foot 11 inches. Eight and a half inches may fit but it won't be a snug tight fit as will be explained later.

(A) Measure and cut the remaining 3 uprights with an extra 1 to 2 inches on each.

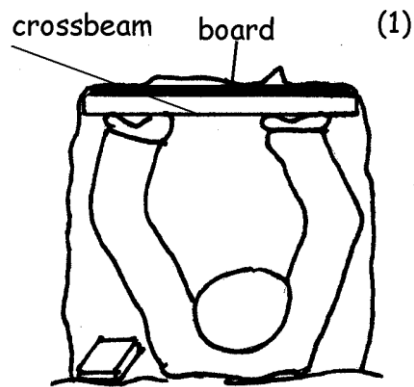
(B) Measure and cut the crossbeams feet and boards.

(C) Patience, persistence and a sense of humour are essential prerequisites for tunnellers about to install shoring. Level off the floor, then using a spirit level place a foot where an upright is to go.

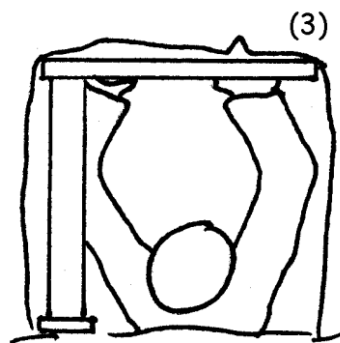
(D) Lying on his or her back the tunneller should hold the board up tight as possible against the roof



(E) In front or behind this lying tunneller with timber to hand and being careful not to accidentally hit them. The second tunneller should hold a cross beam up against the board which is grabbed by and held in place by the first tunneller (1)



The second tunneller should then position an upright over the foot (*fig 2 missing*) then bang it into place until it's vertical (3)

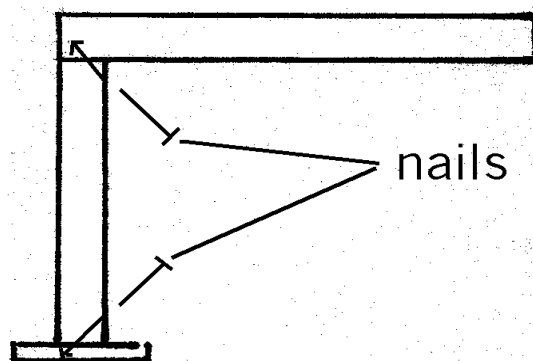


(F) Position the upright on the other side and bang into place. The extra 1 to 2 inches on the upright should mean the shoring is tight against the roof. If not remove and chop out soil from the floor a little at a time.

(G) The person lying down should now be free to get up and assist his or her colleague shoring the other end of the board. Do exactly the same as before and after a few arguments and about 4 or 5 attempts the first bit of shoring is completed.

(H) Make sure the uprights are upright use a spirit level and club hammer to knock them until vertical.

(I) With the roof board up tight against the soil and the shoring vertical use 5 inch nails to nail the upright to the feet and to the cross beams.



*Having more than two people erect shoring is a mistake. In such a confined space you'll get on each others nerves. What's more it's always better to work with someone you know and get along with.

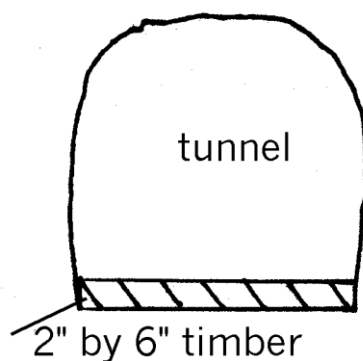
*This is particularly true in a Tight and nasty tunnel. For a doored and shored tunnel however room should allow for an extra person.

MIB (Men in Black) Shoring

As mentioned earlier shoring does not need to be tight up against the roof of a tunnel providing of course the shoring is of a good standard. The MIB (who are specialists sworn in as bailiffs to evict the tunnels) construct their shoring to meet with health and safety requirements. You can of course copy their ultra safe shoring which would mean though that you would be doing a lot of work for them thus speeding up your own eviction.

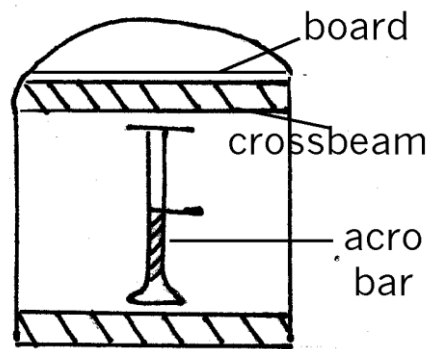
The distinct flaw with most protester shoring is that protesters presume that a tunnel collapse will only happen from above and they thus make their shoring to deal with such an eventuality. Collapses however aren't so and could come from the side as well as the top.

(1) The MIB begin by levelling off the ground then place a piece of two by six timber.

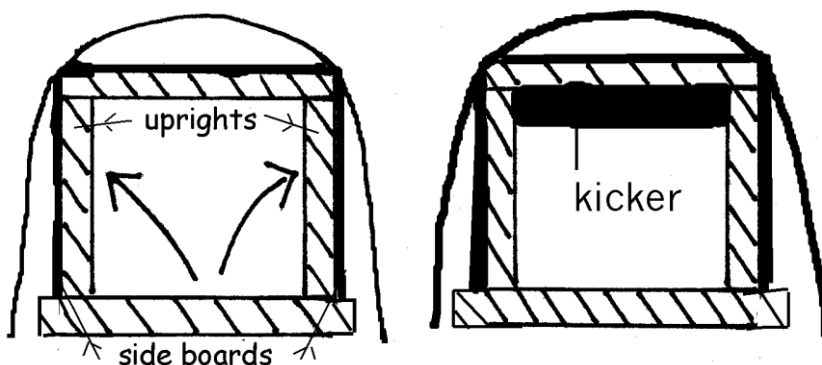


(2) They then cut a board to go above the cross beam as well as cutting the cross beam.

(3) The MIB generally construct their shoring so it will allow two men (i.e. normal bailiffs not MIB's) to come down the tunnel and pull out a protester if they refuse to come out of the tunnel when the MIB have reached them. Their shoring is thus generally made so it is at least 23 inches wide. During the Arthurs wood eviction at Manchester in 1999. The MIB knew the protester at the end of the tunnel as they had dug him out two times before. They therefore presumed (rightly as it turned out) that he would not resist and gambled by making a tunnel that was just wider than the existing protester tunnel. Though this allowed them to make faster progress the tunnel held out for 22 days before it collapsed. Though fortunately this happened 15 minutes after the protester had left the tunnel. To whatever size the MIB construct their shoring, after they have put in the 2"by 6" piece of timber on the ground they then place a small acro bar on the floor beam and tighten the crossbeam up against the ceiling.



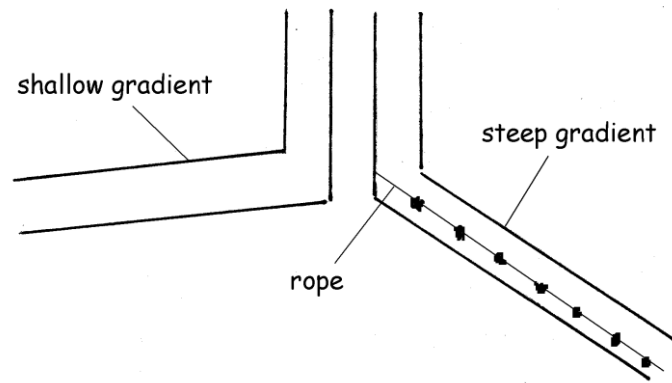
(4) Once the cross beam is in place side boards are cut to go behind the uprights which are then knocked vertical. The acro bar is then removed.



They then place what they refer to as a "kicker" in between the two uprights. Two up rights and a cross beam alone will not stop a collapse from the side. The Kicker placed tightly and nailed below the crossbeam will prevent the shoring merely falling to one side. Everything is then nailed into place.

Phase 6 - Angle of descent

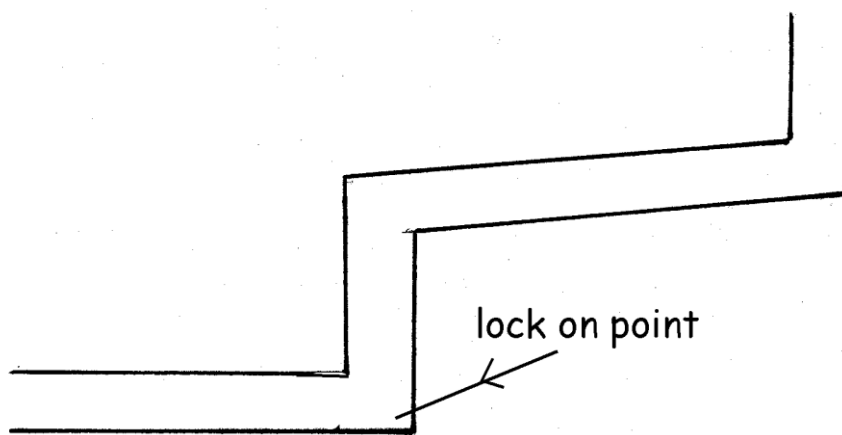
As everyone is different (they haven't started cloning tunnellers yet). People vary as to how long and at what speed they are willing to work. Some work for two hours at a rapid pace then call it a day. Others spend all day underground. When you dig you may encounter a large lump of rock or stone that despite your best efforts isn't going to break. Go round it and possibly incorporate in to the defences ie as part of a concrete door frame. You will dig downward naturally. The further down the more the soil will become more compact and stable with less danger of subsidence which in turn will mean less shoring. It will be easier to pull out bags of soil if the gradient is shallow. Also a long steep downward tunnel (i.e. 12 to 15 feet long) will be easy to get into but difficult to get out of. A rope with knots tied at intervals in the centre of the tunnel is a useful addition.



The steep slope will also make possible shoring difficult but that will also be the case for the bailiff who will have to enlarge to tunnel to create what they call a "safe working area".

Phase 7 - Drop shafts

A shallow gradient followed by a drop shaft is a good idea. As the bailiffs erect square shoring dig a circular drop shaft and incorporate a nice little lock on midway down. At the bottom of such a long narrow dropshaft a lock on will cause problems for the bailiffs. As unlike one positioned in a horizontal tunnel (which they can crawl up to). At the bottom of a downshaft they can't actually see what you're locked on to unless they jump straight down and onto you (a scenario which is extremely unlikely).



Phase 8 - Digging chambers

After around 8 to 15 feet of tunnel you'll want to start digging a chamber (living area). A chamber can be as long as you want but no wider than 6 feet. Don't finish digging the chamber before you shore. Having an unshored area 12 feet by 6 feet wide will be tempting fate. The fixation for digging tight and nasty tunnels at the Sir Cliff Richard camp at Manchester insanely carried over to the design of the first chamber which was 15 feet long by 6 feet wide but only 3 foot high. The protesters occupying the tunnel during the eviction sincerely regretted making the chamber roof so low but admitted lunching out had something to do with it. Unshored arched chambers are also a possibility. The arches inbuilt strength means it doesn't need shoring. That said it may be difficult to find someone who'll happily go to sleep

every night looking up at bare earth. This was the case during the eviction of the Travesty tunnel at Arthurs wood in Manchester. Torrential rain during the first week of eviction had caused the clay to become unstable. With the chamber unshored large chunks of the ceiling began to fall in ...Mercifully no one was injured. It may be tempting to dig small chambers just for one person. Though this will ensure privacy it will mean more supplies, e.g. candles will be needed. Not to mention the fact that it's more comforting to be around people than alone in a small chamber.

CHAPTER 6

DODGY SHORING

There are those who advocate making shoring that looks or is poorly made, i.e. Dodgy, to confuse the bailiffs and slow them up. All things considered dodgy shoring is a bad idea. For when eviction starts you cannot guarantee you'll be down the tunnel. The bailiffs could mount a surprise attack on the camp while you are off down the news agent buying cigarettes. A person who is unfamiliar with the tunnel layout will then occupy your space. You may know what shoring is safe and what isn't but it won't be obvious to your replacement. The same is true prior to eviction. People removing soil could inadvertently knock a dodgy upright and cause a collapse. Campaigners unaccustomed to a tunnel eviction will find it stressful enough when the bailiffs comes a calling. Why add to that stress. You're taking a calculated risk by being in the tunnel. Dodgy shoring isn't calculated it's just foolish. If a tunnel needs shoring then make and make it well. If doesn't then don't. It will create unnecessary uncertainty in the mind of the tunneller. Uncertainty will become fear. Once you're afraid you'll give up and come out prematurely. You may have to spend a week or two in the tunnel. Do you want to spend that time worried a piece of shoring could collapse at any minute or would you rather sit back feeling confident that the tunnel was made to the best of your abilities? At the end of the day you'll want to crawl out of the tunnel alive not be carried out in a bodybag.

CHAPTER 7

FLOODING

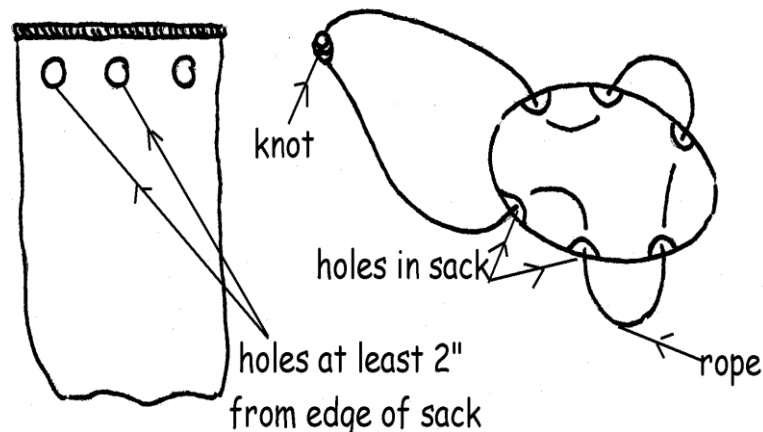
The dreaded words, the one thing the tunneller can't defeat is the water table. It can vary tremendously on just a small site. At Birmingham the tunnellers constructing the Shovel and Bucket tunnel hit the water table at 9 feet. In tunnel 69 just 50 feet away the water table was 15 to 20 feet. At the Sir Cliff Richard the protesters excavated a considerable amount of soil and dug a further 40 feet of tunnel prior to the heavens opening again and awakening the tunnellers to the fact that they had inadvertently tunnelled at least 6 feet beneath the water table. With a dug tunnel where solid clay or soil once was, water is only too keen to take advantage of cleared spaces. A flood doesn't stop when it reaches the pre tunnel water table, it just continues flowing along the narrow passages of your hard labour for seemingly as long as it sees fit. So making the danger of flooding the entire tunnel a very real possibility. Two tunnels at Faslane peace camp were abandoned due to flooding before the campers opted to dig an open cast tunnel. The Sir Cliff Richard tunnel at Manchester took a week to be evicted. In hindsight it could have taken a great deal longer if the protesters could have expended their energy on tunnel construction rather than removing gallons of water on at least five separate occasions. One memorable day the tunnellers spent 7 hours indulged in this necessary but exhausting task. They then emerged from the tunnel cold wet and hungry only to find, after a cup of tea, that the tunnel had flooded once again in the space of 15 minutes. Forlorn and despondent they all understandably headed for the pub to "drown " their sorrows. Despite this there was no serious tunnel collapse due to flooding (this was probably also due to the sturdy composition of the Cheshire clay in that area). It was their added good fortune that during eviction a prolonged dry spell (unusual in Manchester) allowed the protesters to occupy a chamber that would have definitely had to be abandoned had it rained. Tunnellers in the Cakehole tunnel in the neighbouring Flywood camp fared considerably better. Having constructed their tunnel into a shallow hill they experienced no flooding problems and subsequently the eviction of the Cake Hole tunnel lasted 17 days.

CHAPTER 8

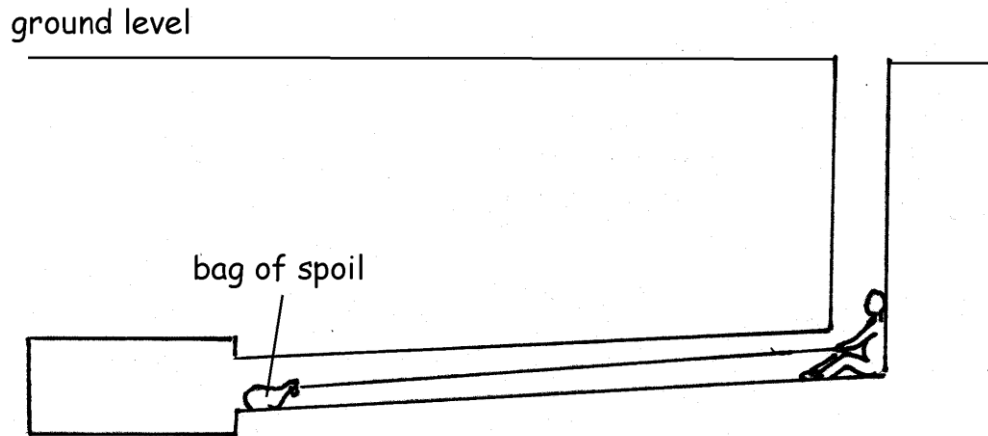
BAGGING AND BUCKETING

That soil has got to get to the surface somehow. You may be the fastest digger in the west. But without a team of baggers or bucketers to remove the evidence of your labour you ain't going nowhere buddy. While two or three small buckets can be used nearer the surface, they will soon become redundant as your tunnel goes ever deeper. Hessian sacks are cheap (or free if you ask a coal merchant nicely) and pliable. However their use in damp or wet spoil will mean that the material will soon become clogged with mud thus making the bag heavier to move. Thick polythene sacks that builders merchants use to deliver sand are a good alternative and though not as strong or pliable as the Hessian sacks they're just as effective in wet or dry soil.

To "rope" a Hessian or plastic sack, place a bag on the ground making sure the edges of the bag are level. Then with a sharp knife or screwdriver puncture the bag through both sides with 3 holes at equal distances apart and not under 2 inches from the bags edge. Then cut a 6 foot piece of 5 or 10 mm poly prop, open the bag, then thread the rope through the holes.



Digging alone in the depths for hours with only the light of a head torch for company can sometimes sap morale. Having someone waiting nearby patiently waiting for you to fill a bag of spoil then pass it to them encourages the digger to work faster. Not to mention the time in between bags when the bagger can provide the digger with gossip and roll him or her cigarettes. If there aren't many people on site or they're busy, accumulate as much spoil as possible i.e. 5 to 7 bags worth. Then shout "BAG" to the people on the surface. After shouting then screaming this inane word 5 or 6 times hopefully someone will crawl down and pull out a bag of spoil. On a long tunnel cut a piece of polyprop (nylon rope) twice the length of the tunnel. Make a small hook then tie it in the middle of the rope. Then at each end of the tunnel tie the rope to a piece of shoring. The bagger at the top end of the tunnel will then be able to pull the rope and bag to the surface.



The digger at the bottom can then pull the rope back until he or she sees the hook and attaches another bag. Police with video cameras or plain clothes bailiffs masquerading as locals will observe the ever growing pile of spoil on the surface which can give some indication as to how long the tunnel system is. There's little that can be done to avoid this unless you gain inspiration from the film "the great escape" and sprinkle the earth around from the bottom of your trousers! It's sensible to use the spoil to gradually cover a bunker on the entrance to the tunnel ([See Bunker](#)).

Starting such a bunker after the tunnel is finished will invariably mean there's a large pile of spoil in the way of where you want to put the bunker. Meaning you'll then have to shovel the spoil away then shovel it back to cover the structure.

(Hard digging = Easy bagging) Easy digging = Hard bagging

Generally speaking when the digging is hard the bagging is easy. This is because so little soil is being removed. However once a tunneller can sit upright the opposite is true. Pulling bags of spoil out in rapid succession is exhausting. A radio is thus a good morale booster. If your tunnel has a lot of corners be aware that the movement of the rope may erode them. Concreting such corners is a good idea.

CHAPTER 9

LIGHTING

Head torches

A Petzel AA battery head torch (cost around £20.00) and the Petzel 4.5 volt Battery head torch (cost £25.00) are probably the best available on the market (they do however require regular cleaning because of dust). The 4.5 volt version omits a stronger beam and is a more robust than the AA. The 4.5 volt batteries though can be hard to obtain and are bulky. This is contrary to the AA which is very compact. There are cheaper alternatives available but in comparison they are shoddy and unreliable.

Candles

Candles are usually donated. In desperation a box of 250 manufacturers reject candles can be purchased for around £30 00. For obvious reasons don't leave lit candles beneath shoring or near combustible material. Make sure the bottom of the candles firmly wedged in a bottle and on a level surface. Be frugal in their use. Creating something equivalent to a small church mass in your tunnel with a lot of candles is just wasteful as well as dangerous.

Electric lighting

It's hard work taking dead car batteries out from the end of a tunnel to be recharged. Bear this in mind when installing lighting. Long halogen lights will quickly eat up battery power. A length of fairy lights however with the wire covered with insulating tape makes a pretty and comforting addition to a dark tunnel. Remember don't it take for granted that local people will recharge your batteries regardless of how many you use up. Use power wisely.

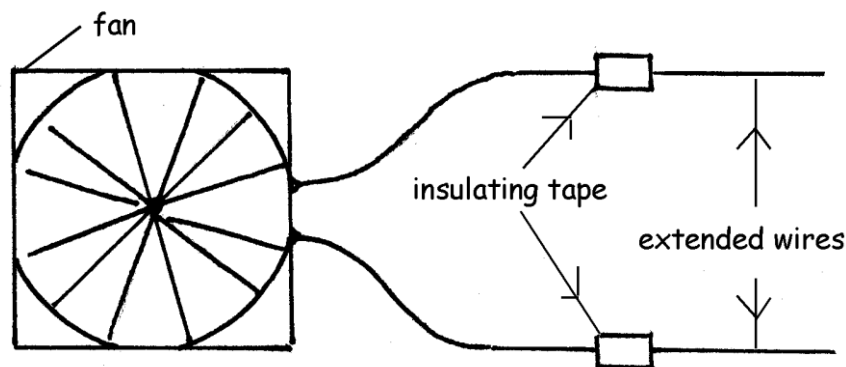
CHAPTER 10

OXYGEN

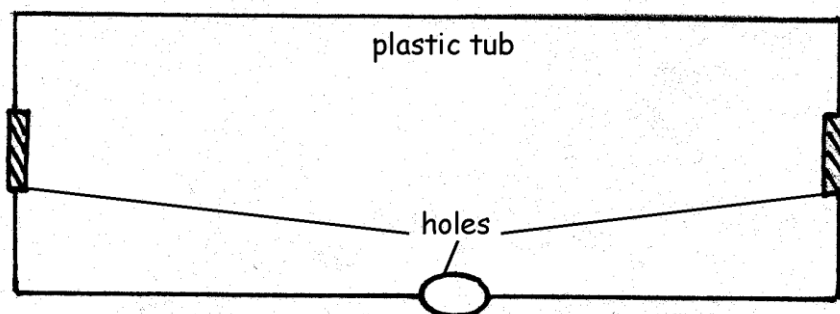
It's day 4, the tunnel's going well. The first piece of shoring went up without too many problems and the baggers are working hard. Yet today the digging seems more difficult. Yesterday wasn't easy but today you're stopping and breathing heavily after only 10 minutes work. Go to the surface and let a colleague have a go at digging. If they experience the same breathlessness then you'll soon need a fan to pump oxygen into the tunnel. Digging until the air becomes so thin that it's impossible to continue will mean you'll have to wait on the surface for a fan and piping to arrive. You should therefore continue digging at a slower pace asking your colleague (or going yourself) to go and acquire what's needed. (Ideally of course you'd have the piping etc on site before any diggings started). You'll need the following:

A 12 v computer system fan (available from any computer retailers), a large roll of gaffer tape, 2 crocodile clips, a small length of electrical wire, insulating tape, a large rectangular margarine tub or similar and piping. Mains duct pipe commonly used on building sites is perfect. The pipes strong ribbed plastic design means it will stand up to any collapse. Yet at the same time is very pliable and permits a trapped tunneller to puncture a hole in between the ribs for air. The only downside is the pipe is expensive to buy.

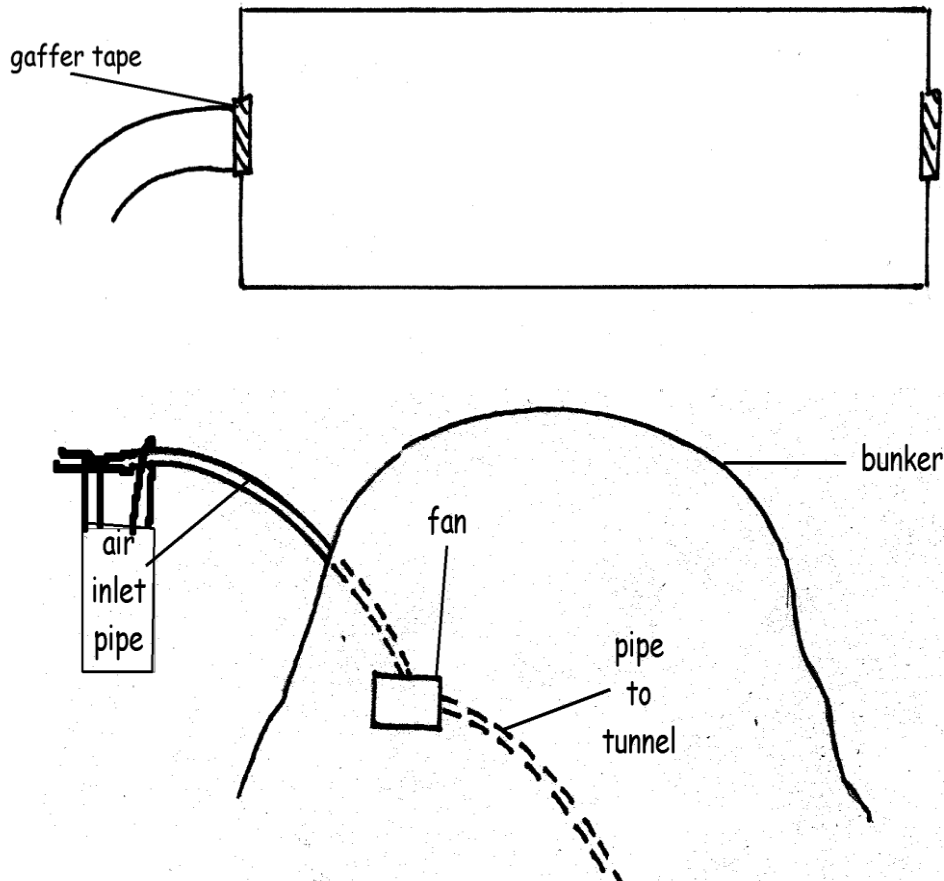
(A) Extend the wires of the computer system fan so the positive and negative leads are each around two feet long. Then cover the connections with insulating tape.



(B) Take the lid off the margarine tub. Then cut three holes in the tub one at each end for the half-inch diameter pipe, the third in the side for the two wires to power the fan.

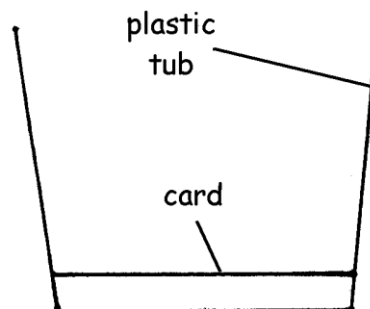


(C) As the fan will be positioned in a bunker on the surface the air inlet pipe should be long enough to stretch around to the roof of the bunker. Paint a clear sign to hang from this pipe to inform humans and bailiffs what the pipe is for. Push the other end of the pipe into the end of the tub. The tighter the fit, the better. Then gaffer tape around the hole so it's as air tight as possible.

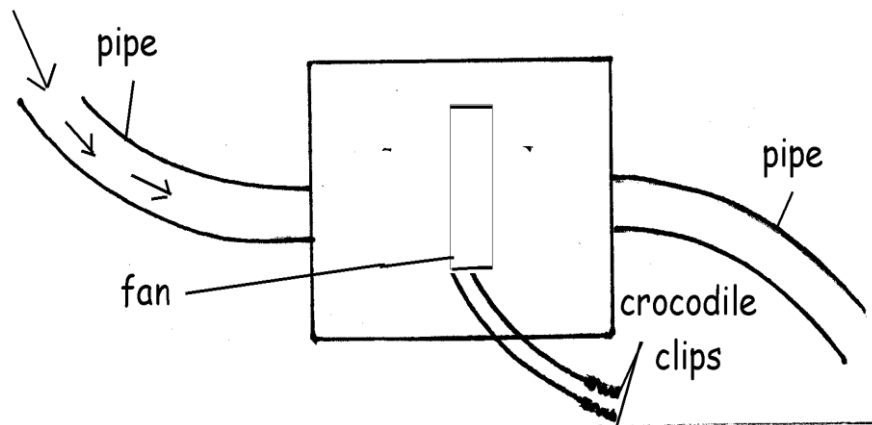


(D) The air pipe that leads down the tunnel can now be cut to the desired length and attached to the shoring or dug into the wall. (See MIB section "The Other side" Ch 22 before doing this). Use a pair of gloves and a knife that's been heated over a fire to slice through the plastic. Rather than cutting the pipe with a saw that will leave small plastic chipping on the rim and in the pipe. Like with the inlet pipe position the pipe into the other hole and gaffer tape.

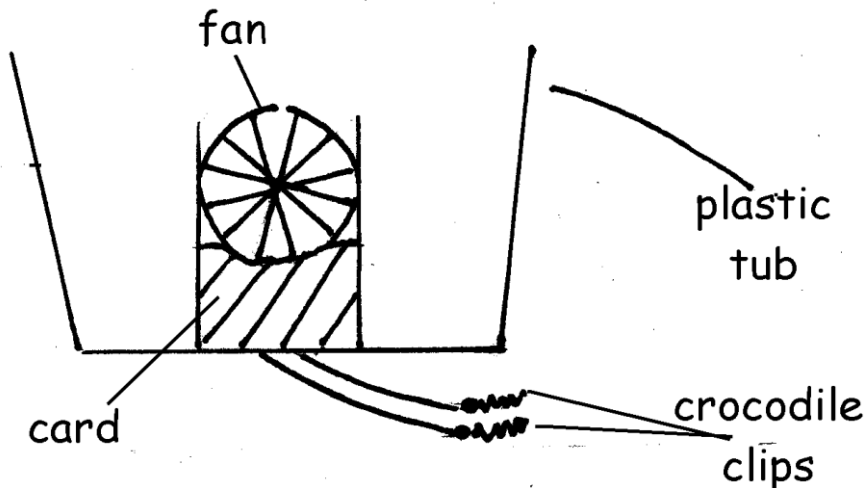
E) Place a thick piece of cardboard on the floor of the tub. This will act as a cushion for your fan.



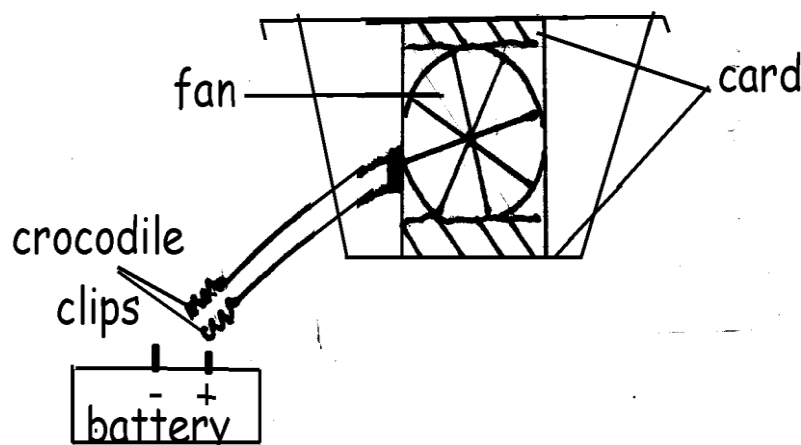
F) Rest the fan onto the cardboard and tape so it is in an upright position. Feed the positive and negative leads through the hole on the side of the tub. Attach a crocodile clip to the end of each wire, and then tape around the hole.



(G) Tape a thick piece of cardboard to the inside of the tubs lid



(H) Put the lid onto the tub. The cardboard on the lid will remove the gap from the inside of the lid and keep the fan stable. Tape around the lid of the box. Then test using a car battery. All going well the fan will hum softly to itself as it pumps a sufficient steady flow of air down to you.



(I) Bury the pipe* into the wall or floor of the tunnel. Extending it when necessary by gaffer taping on an extra section. *(See communications prior to doing this)

Allow the fan to run during workdays. With the last person to leave the tunnel remembering to disconnect a crocodile clip. If people are sleeping in the chambers allow the fan to run for 2 hours before people retire to bed. Leaving the fan to run all night is unnecessary and a waste of battery power. If, while you sleep, the oxygen level drops to a dangerous level, your brain will give you warning by awakening you thus allowing you time to get out of the tunnel. This may seem hard to believe but it's true none the less. Carrying a small pocketknife is a sensible precaution. If the tunnel collapses blocking you in a small space by puncturing the air pipe you'll get enough oxygen while waiting for help to arrive. Baggers should take note of what a digger has eaten that morning. Remembering that as well as blowing stale air back out the tunnel, the distinct aroma of the diggers bake bean breakfast will also come back at you.

CHAPTER 11

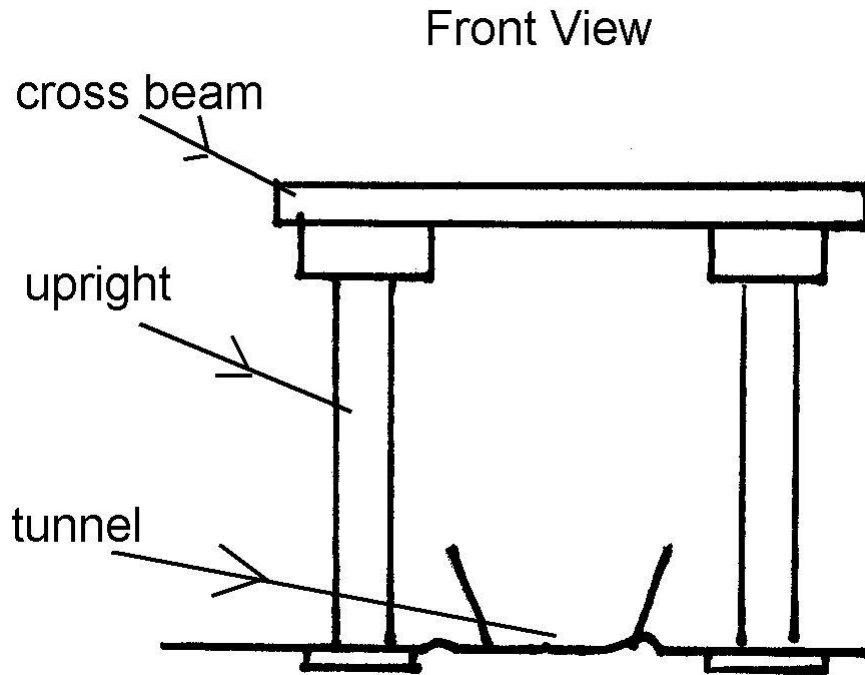
TUNNEL SECURITY

As your tunnel grows many a stranger coming onto site will enquire most politely if they could possibly "have a look". To some of these people it will be easy to reply with a blunt no. To the majority use your discretion and point out it is a question of security. After all, not knowing who they are, you are quite justified in refusing them entry. During construction people working on the tunnel will fall into roughly two groups. Those who help out from time to time with bagging and those who work on the tunnel full time and actually live in it. The smaller latter group will have an unwritten natural authority over the tunnel. Letting strangers in will slow up work and once you let one person in it's unfair to stop others. Better to refuse people entry and be called a fascist, than to spend half the day getting no work done while you're busy being nice and showing people around a new tunnel. Though most people will respect your wishes, the paranoia over security has sometimes gone to extremes. It's unlikely the Bailiff tunnellers or "Men in Black" will pay much attention to information received on tunnels. Of course they can get an idea of what they're going to encounter. But at the end of the day they take a tunnel as they find it when they arrive on site. A plainclothes MIB tunneller or police officer may briefly see the defences of a tunnel before eviction, but so what? They won't know from a brief look what's the total strength of, say, a door. More importantly- could they guarantee that these defences will be the same when eviction starts? For example let's suppose they manage to film the tunnel prior to eviction and they then approach the eviction using this information as a guide. Any change in the tunnel layout could be disastrous, as the MIB could chop through a once undefended wall and into somebody's arm. Working throughout the world as professional tunnel rescuers, safety is always the MIB'S overwhelming priority. They have a reputation to think of after all. Gaining information prior to an eviction may speed up the job for them. But as they are a private company being paid by the day why should they rush? That said there's nothing wrong with being a little paranoid and watchful of those who enter the dark depths that is your home.

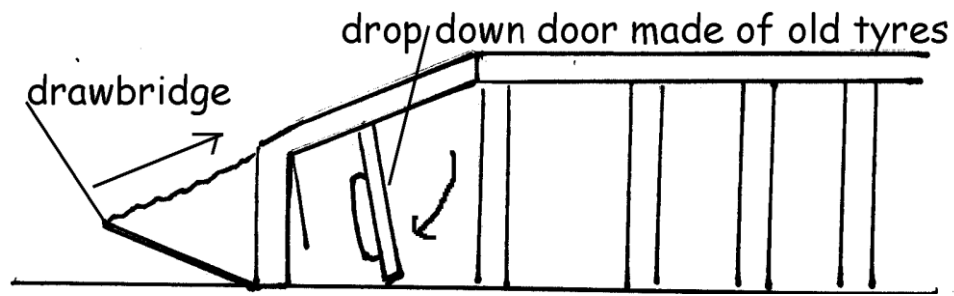
CHAPTER 12

BUNKERS AND RAISED FIRE PIT

A bunker over the entrance to a tunnel can be constructed to achieve two primary aims. First and foremost is defence. It will hide the tunnel entrance, and then during eviction impede the progress of the bailiffs who are attempting to gain entry to the tunnel. The bunker can also be made to accommodate a protester who can occupy a surface, or just below the surface, lock on. A bunker structure should be as strong as possible and made with large timbers (i.e. 4" by 4") so as to be able to support the large mound of spoil which will be tipped upon it. A basic frame can be made in much the same way as you shore a chamber. Burying the uprights would also provide stability.

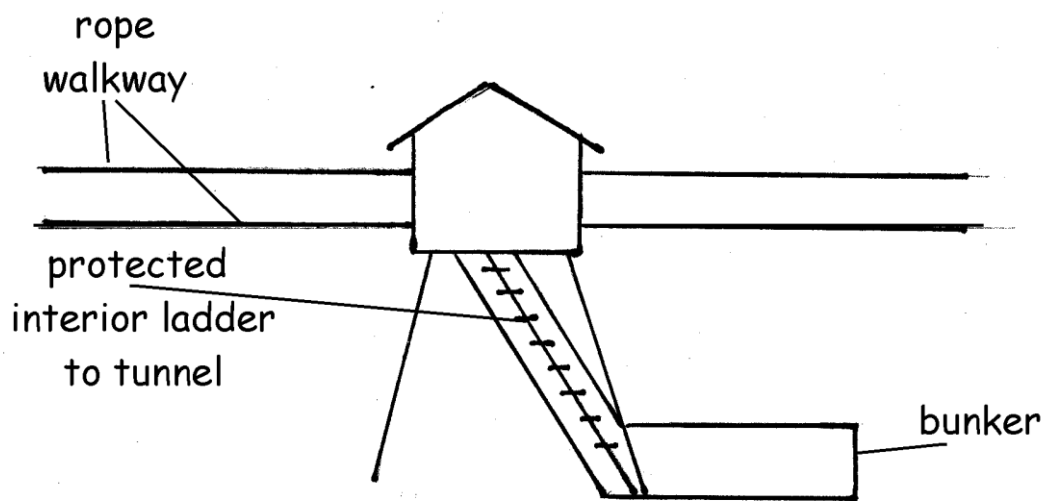


Position the air pipe so it protrudes at least 3 foot from the bunker roof. Then put a sign to indicate what it is. Cover the roof and walls with plywood, and then a waterproof material (remembering to let the material hang loosely so as to prevent it ripping on corners) .The bunker is now ready for spoil. Treat the bunker as a rubbish tip. Rather than waste time removing rubbish off site put old tyres, tins, and broken glass in with the spoil. Put a sign to warn other protesters and bailiffs. Remember you want to slow or stop the bailiff's work, not injure them. Dump the spoil evenly on each wall before putting it on the roof. When you feel that a greater part of your tunnel has been completed, then it's time to put doors (of whatever material) on to the entrance. As you are on the surface the doors drawbridge should be far easier to make then install and thus more robust than those underground. Attaching doors sooner rather than later will mean you will probably need one or two extra people to pass the bags of spoil out from the bunker. Therefore treat bunker doors as the finishing touch to the overall construction.

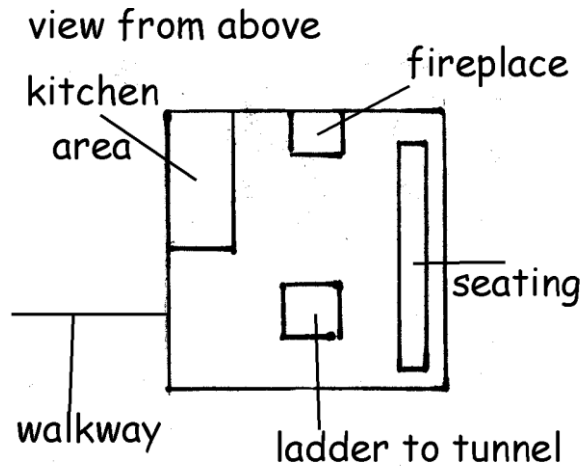


The Raised fire pit

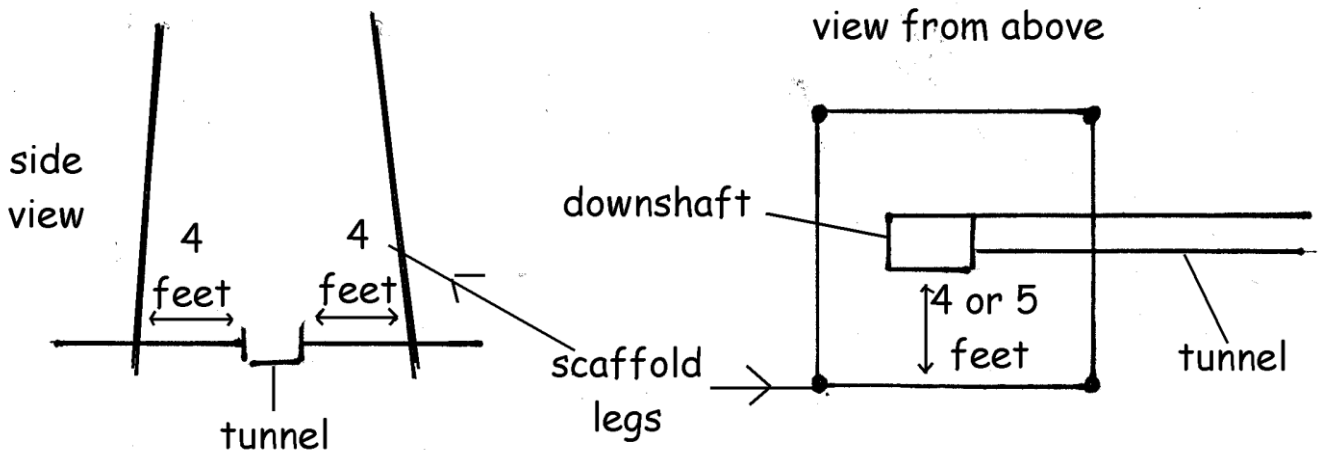
The fire pit where protesters congregate to eat and socialize is the most vulnerable point on the camp. Having it at least 7 feet above ground level will mean even if the bailiffs storm in unannounced the protesters will have vital minutes to get to their defences by means of rope walkways to the nearest tree. Scaffolding is probably the best and only safe way of making such a construction as it is relatively easy to assemble and rigid.



(A) The raised fire pit could be built directly over the entrance to the tunnel, or as above just in front of it. The platform of the fire pit should be of metal with the fire itself within a metal box. An exterior ladder will allow protesters to enter and exit the platform to collect wood etc. A second ladder leading down from the centre of the fire pit and surrounded with wooden boarding will allow protesters to enter the tunnel.



(B) Building the raised fire pit directly over the tunnel will mean the bunker will require less timber as the scaffold poles themselves could be bunker uprights and crossbeams. The possible disadvantage would be that the weight of a scaffold frame, a steel floor and half a dozen protesters above the tunnel may put pressure on the tunnel and could cause severe weakening if not collapse of the walls. To avoid this, position the scaffold uprights at least 4 to 5 feet from the tunnel entrance. For obvious reasons the scaffold legs, when dug in, should not be above any part of the tunnel but to the side.



It is worth remembering that before a tunnel can be evicted the MIB must clear an area above it and make it safe. This means any tree or tower with someone locked on above the tunnel has to be removed first. At Arthur's wood the MIBs ignored such regulations and began evicting with people still above them in the trees. REMIND THEM-breaking such regulations is irresponsible and risks lives.

CHAPTER 13

COMMUNICATIONS

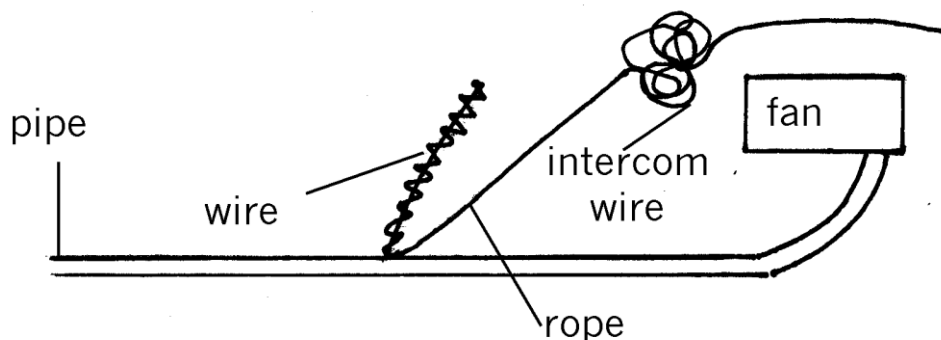
In the UK cheap two way intercom systems and leads are readily available from electrical stores. Being small and relatively easy to use they are ideal for tunnels. To operate the person in the tunnel with an intercom unit holds down a button which will activate a buzzer on the surface unit. The person on the surface switches on the intercom and then communicates by holding the buzzer button.

To install

Attaching the wire along the shoring from the surface to the chamber is the easiest way to install shoring. However with tunnellers crawling in and out constantly the wire is liable to be damaged from a boot or from material being pulled along. Bearing this in mind it is far better to let the wire run along the inside of the air pipe.

(1) Puncture a hole in the air pipe just after the fan unit

(2) With a long length of thick wire feed a piece of rope down the air pipe. Once the wire and rope have reached the end, pull the rope through with the intercom wire at one end of it. Then cover the punctured hole with gaffer tape. If at all possible feed the intercom wire through the air pipe before placing the pipe in the tunnel.



3) The tunnel intercom should be attached to an upright in a chamber. The surface unit should be positioned on the outside of the bunker with a small cover over it.

Mobile phones

They cannot receive a signal underground so are useless. As a point of interest, when on the surface with your mobile phone switched on the mobile phone company can locate your position anywhere within 25 metres. They will only do this if asked ...wait for itby the police.

CB Radio

Protesters were surprised that during the evictions at Birmingham the Under Sheriff officer didn't order the CB communications between protesters be jammed. One can surmise that this was a shrewd move on their part as it allowed them to listen into conversations thus possibly gaining valuable information. The CB will be a massive morale booster if you're the last one in the tunnel and have been alone for a

number of days. No amount of vodka, whiskey etc. is going to make up for hearing that friendly voice giving you support and news from the outside, (even if it is to hear that your friends just run off with your girlfriend). That said, reception will be bad to non-existent if your tunnel is at a great depth. Therefore your only communication will be with the tunnellers coming to get you out. Between the various CB units on site agree a daily set of frequencies. The main one and a back-up in case the reception on the first is jammed etc. Agree a code so hearing it the user can change frequency. The chart with the frequencies on should be kept in the tunnel out of general view.

Example chart

Days of the week	Main frequency	Back up frequency
MON	20	15
TUES	17	16
WED	18	11
THUR	4	5
FRI	6	9
SAT	8	7
SUN	10	11

BAZOOKA (code word)

Keep at least 3 fully charged car batteries in the tunnel for use only during eviction. Use a fourth for day to day use. During the Birmingham evictions the two tunnels had intercom links and CB's which led to a safety caravan. The safety caravan was manned constantly during the eviction and was a point where the authorities could go and liaise with a representative of the protesters to make the eviction as safe as possible

CHAPTER 14

CONCRETE

Most types of defences will require concrete. A sand and cement mix alone will be relatively easy for the bailiffs to get through using a pneumatic hammer so be imaginative and put strips of metal, old wire, rocks and stones into the mix. Almost anything can be added providing it is not biodegradable such as paper which will rot and weaken the mix. Hollow objects create a space and thus will also weaken the mix. Using aerosol cans or gas /oxygen bottles is not advisable and could land you in deep trouble. On the NO A30 campaign in Devon protesters were threatened with terrorism charges if they did not remove gas bottles which were encased in lock on positions. Getting 20 years in prison will be a rude awakening when you only expected a slap on the wrist and a small fine.

Delicious Special Cement Recipe

(once mixed and poured it will take approximately a month for the concrete to "Go Off "i.e. go hard)

(A) 2 or 3parts sand (3 shovels worth)

(B) 1 part cement

(C) 1 part aggregate (The lock on point behind the first door at the Travesty tunnel in Arthurs wood was made of 3 parts Granite dust, 1 part cement, and 1 part sand plus nuts bolts etc. Even with a pneumatic drill it took the Men in Black 5 days to cut the man out of the lock on. They commented that in all the evictions they had been in they had never encountered such good concrete)!

(D) Bits of crushed clay drainpipe (if the bailiffs use an angle grinder the drainpipe will create a lot of sparks and a possible fire risk)

(E) Bits of old rubber. Rubber lets off a distinct burning smell when cut with an angle grinder. The bailiff tunnellers will stop as they won't know what's burning - them or the defences they're cutting into.

(F) Polyprop rope. (Strands of rope mixed in will jam up an angle grinder).

(G) A handful of old nuts and bolts.

CHAPTER 15

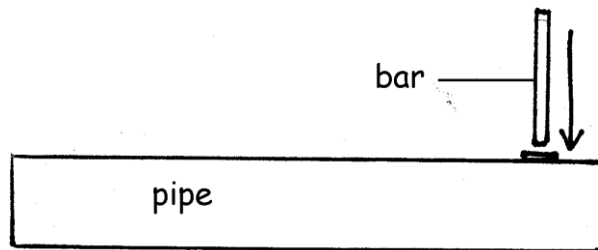
LOCK ONS

Like the hand grenade the inventor of the lock on is unknown. They are easy to make and can be put almost anywhere. A good one can be a real pain in the arse for Mr jolly bailiff

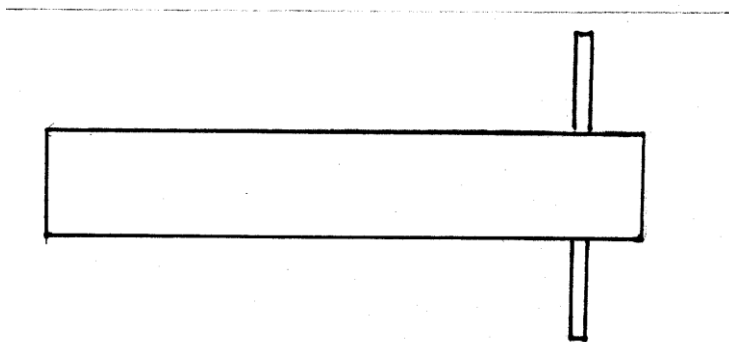
How to make a lock on

(A) Find a piece of plastic drainpipe that your arm will fit into snugly with a thick jumper on. The pipe should be long enough to cover from just above the elbows to around 4 inches further from where the hand is at the other end. Estimate where the hand is inside the pipe then mark the pipe on the outside. Everyone's arm length is different. A lock on designed for a long armed man will be impossible for a smaller person. So try to make a standard length with one size fitting all. (If no drainpipe is available two litre cider bottles with the tops and bottoms cut off then fixed together work almost as well).

(B) You'll need a steel bar or similar that's around 2 feet long. Start a fire then heat the end of the bar until its red hot. Put a thick glove on then drive the bar though the pipe where the mark is. Then put the pipe under a cold tap. There is generally little point in making a fire and using up valuable wood to heat up one lock on bar. When with a bit of fore thought a lock on production line can be put into operation making five to ten at a go.

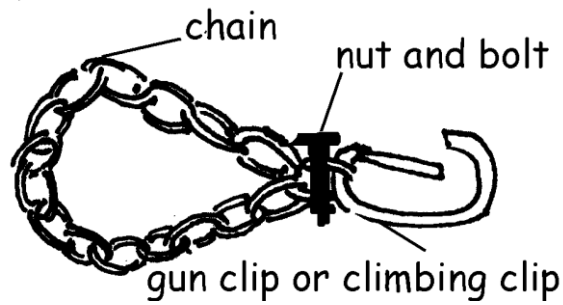


Try to put the bar through the end of the pipe which is rough edged after it's cut to size, leaving the smooth end for the persons arm for comfort. The overlong bar will hold the lock on more firmly in place once the concrete has been poured.



(C) To actually lock your hand on to the metal bar, You'll require a lock on clip.(either a climbers clip or a gun clip) Cut a piece of small chain just under a foot long and wear like a bracelet around your wrist.

(D) Use a nut and bolt to join the chain



(E) To provide comfort feed the chain through part of an old bicycle inner tube.

(F) Attach either a gun clip or a climbing clip to the chain to join the ends

(G) Put the bracelet on and grip the clip with the thumb and first finger. Then insert the hand into the drainpipe and clip on, then off the bar.

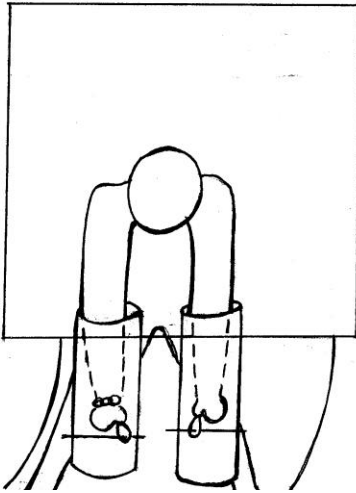
Once made and ready for positioning and covering in concrete one of the most important parts of lock on building yet probably the most ignored should be considered: comfort. It's all well and good making a lock on out of reinforced steel surrounded by tonnes of concrete but a nightmare for the person who will have to occupy it when it's positioned vertically in the floor of the tunnel forcing the person who wants to use it to lie down and remain with an arm rapidly turning blue down a tube, unable to unlock themselves. This scenario for the locked on person in the Shovel and Bucket tunnel in Birmingham very nearly caused them to lose their hand - an extreme example of what not to build. If the lock on is a well made one and the person occupying is an obstinate beast it will take hours, even days for the Bailiffs to cut them out. That will only happen though if the angle of the lock on tube is shallow enough (i.e. 40 degrees) to allow blood to pump back up the arm. If the angle is any steeper then really you're wasting your time and valuable concrete mix. Of course there's no harm making "quickie" lock-ons with outrageous arm numbing angles if there's little concrete and time used on them. These will be easy for the bailiff to evict, even if they aren't evicted immediately the occupier won't feel guilty about giving up a defence that's only taken a couple of hours to throw together, rather than a few days. For both the "quickie" and "long haul" lock on tubes put a lot of tape around the end of the tube to prevent an arm getting too sore.

CHAPTER 16

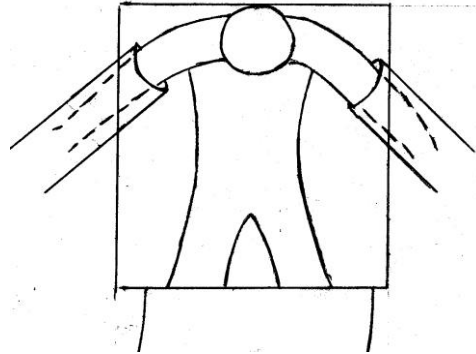
THE NOOSE ARM LOCK ON

At the entrance to the Sir Cliff Richard Tunnel in Manchester the noose arm lock on occupied by a determined defender prevented the bailiffs from entering the main tunnel for two whole days . It proved to be the hardest obstacle faced by the bailiffs throughout the entire eviction. Once the initial down shaft has been dug (see phase one digging and shoring), dig away soil from above the entrance to the tunnel. Then position one or two lock on tubes in the hole.

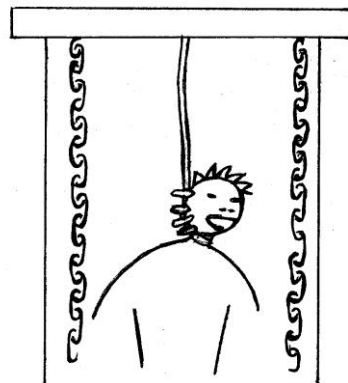
Option A



Option B



Alternatively the lock on tubes could also be placed to the left and right of the person. This position could be a lot more uncomfortable though. Concrete either option as explained earlier. A steel hatch above the top of the down shaft should be large enough to overlap the sides of the entrance by at least 5 inches. A hinged hatch will provide a gap for the bailiffs to insert a crow bar. An unhinged hatch however will allow the freedom for the hatch to be opened from the left or right or front or back. Beneath the hatch attach chains with a hook at the end of each that will allow the hatch to be secured shut.



The noose itself is the icing on the cake. At Manchester a polyprop rope was used, though padded steel wire would be more effective. While ideally none of the defences should be designed to fit just one person the noose is the exception as if it's too loose it will allow the bailiff to lift the hatch safely and

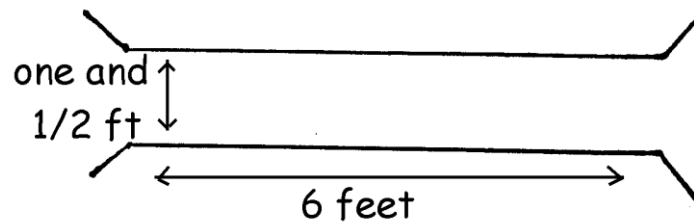
easily. At Manchester the bailiffs managed to cut the polyprop noose by digging a hole underneath the side of the hatch. Then reaching in, they cut the rope with a hacksaw blade. A steel wire noose and concrete around the hatch could prevent this. It's imperative you paint a large sign and position it near the hatch. That clearly explains to the bailiffs that there is a person below the hatch with a noose on. Video and photograph this sign for evidence in court just in case the extremely unlikely does occur when the bailiffs will say there was no sign and it was just an unfortunate accident.

It is not uncommon to hear that after spending 8 hours being unable to move during an eviction while in on a lock on some protesters have regretted not listening to the advice of others-to spend their last few pennies not on a can of lager but a pack of babies nappies.

CHAPTER 17

WORM HOLES

The worm hole in the Cliff Richard tunnel at Manchester was a 6 foot long circular tunnel that was little over a foot and a half wide and sloped downwards to the first chamber.

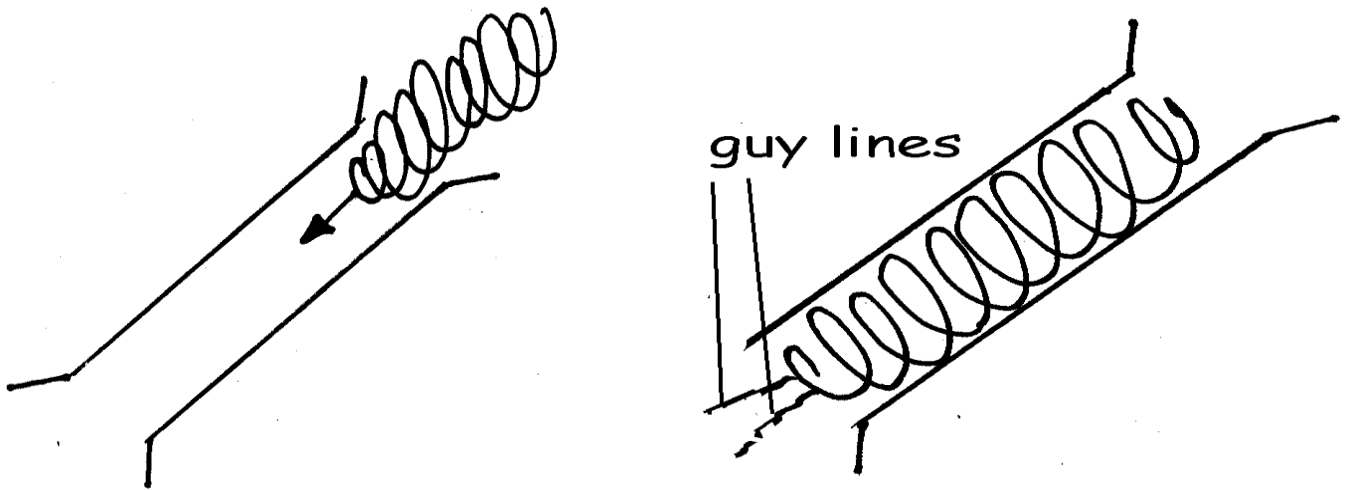


It was easy to get into but difficult to get out of, with protesters from time to time getting stuck like a cork in a bottle. A horizontal worm hole would probably be a better idea. Both options mean a lot of digging for the MIB.

CHAPTER 18

THE MAGIC WIRE MESH

Four foot high wire fencing liberated from fence posts can be put to better use in your tunnel. A five foot length should be rolled up as tight as possible then secured with a length of polyprop. Prior to eviction find "a space in your tunnel to store this coil of trouble ". Then during eviction the last person in the tunnel should go in backward pulling the coil in after them. Once in the worm hole a tunneller can then cut the rope. The wire will burst open forming an immovable blockage. Forcing the MIB to snip away at the wire or dig around it.



The MIB may try of course to pull the wire out. To prevent them attach polyprop rope from the wire to the shoring. Though most effective in a tight tunnel the magic wire mesh can be used in any tunnel. Bear in mind once the wires "burst" you can't get out even in an emergency till the MIB gets you outEnd of story.

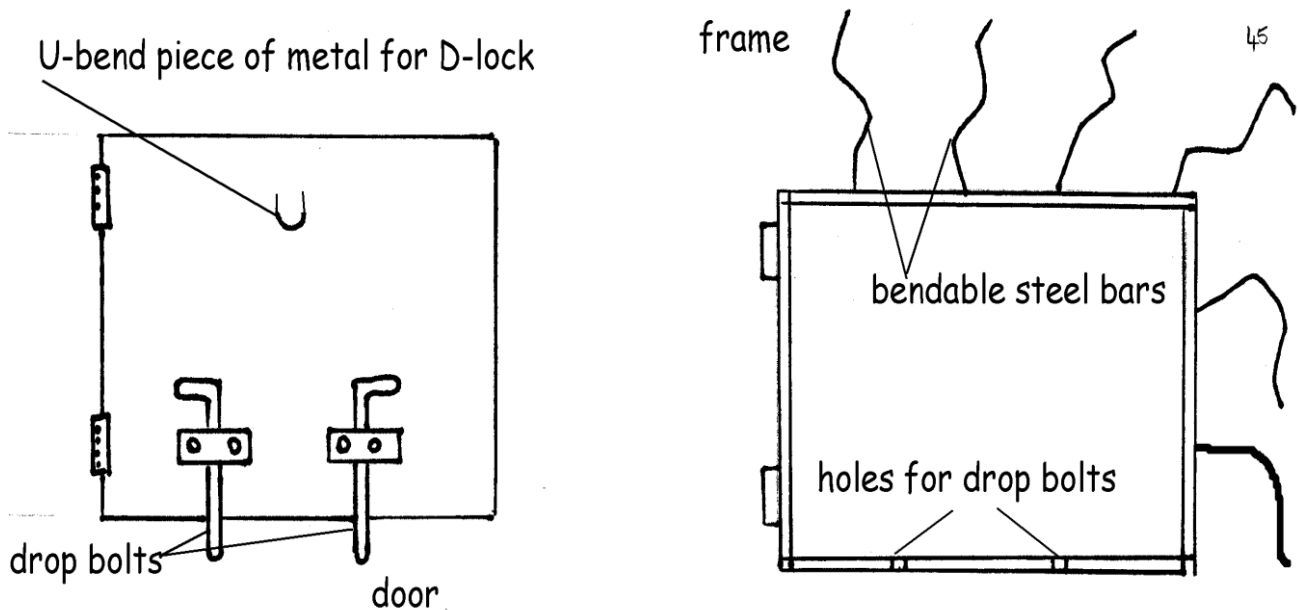
CHAPTER 19

DOORS

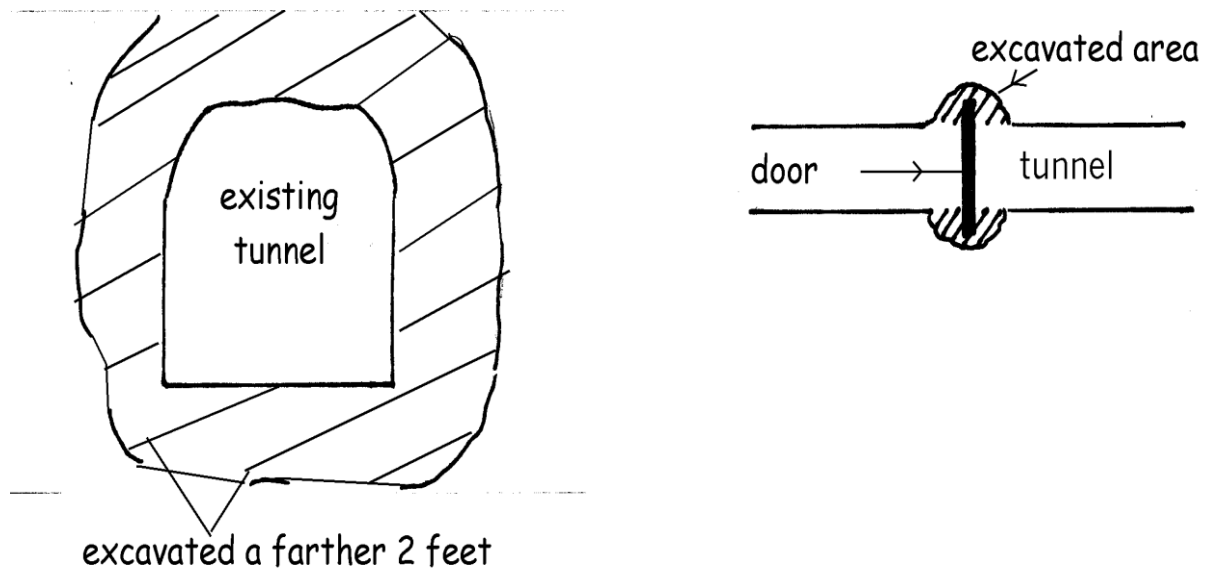
One wonders if Jim Morrison in between drink, drugs, sex, more drink, a few poems and a little music could have come up with a design for the ultimate tunnel door???

Type (A) Hinged Steel plate door

Try to obtain as much quarter inch or half inch steel plate as possible as well as inch or 2 inch angle iron. Ideally a supportive local who has access to a welder and workshop will construct the doors for you or at least help you obtain the metal. Manhole covers are ideal but will require oxy acetylene - cutting gear to cut it to the right size.



Drop bolts will be required as well as large robust hinges. The door itself should fit tightly within the angle iron frame. To ensure this build the frame around the door with holes at the bottom for the drop bolts. Once shut any gap between the frame and the door will allow the bailiff to use a crow bar to lever the door open. So make the effort and confront the MIB with as flat a surface as possible. A "U" bend piece of metal welded to the back of the door will allow a person with a D lock to lock themselves to the door (How long a person could last in such an uncomfortable position depends on the individual). Bendable steel bars of about two foot long should be welded around the frame.



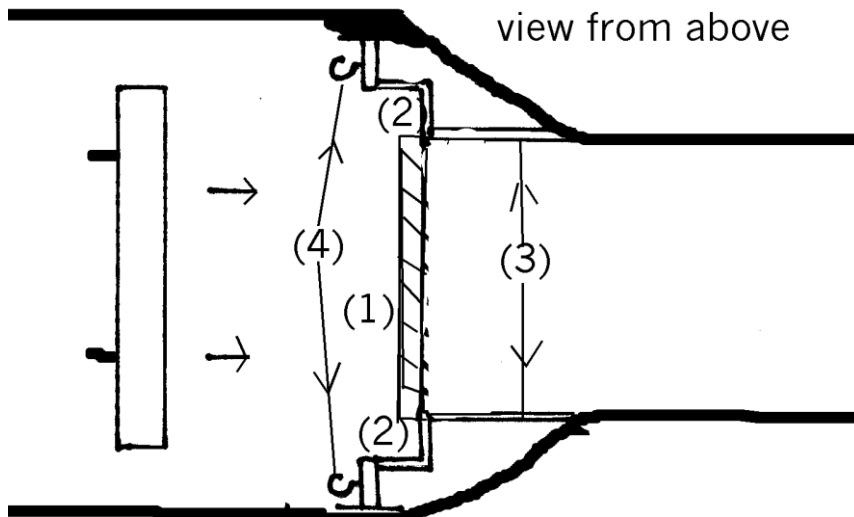
Excavate at least a 2 foot depth from around where the door is going to sit in the tunnel. Bend the steel bar as much as possible so as to allow the door and frame to be dragged into the tunnel. Once in position bend the steel bars open and concrete. The smaller the door size the better. The bailiffs will undoubtedly try to gain access by using an angle grinder on the door if they feel it is large enough for them to move through safely. A small door will mean they will have to try to dig through a much tougher concrete surround. Installing the air pipe within the concrete will make the bailiff's job a great deal more difficult forcing them to dig at the concrete with hand tools instead of using a pneumatic drill. This is probably one of the simplest tunnel door constructions with a great deal of variation possible on this basic design.

Type (B) Composite

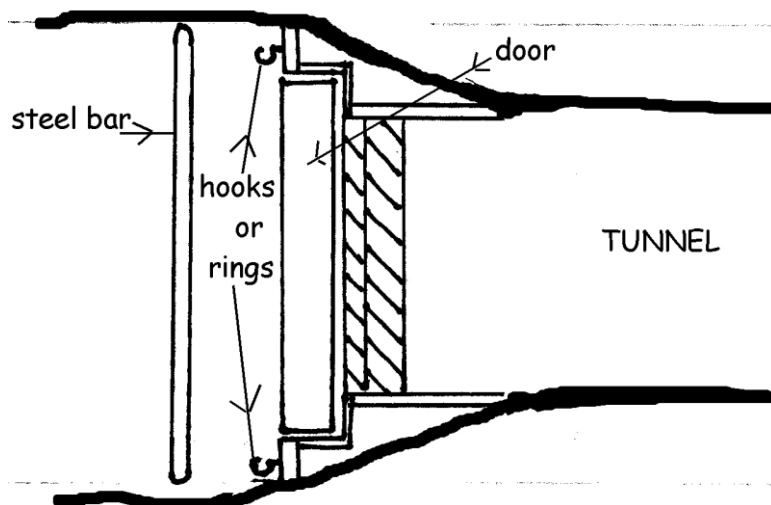
The disadvantage with a steel plate door is that the bailiffs will only require an angle grinder to cut away at the door before they have room to reach through a hole and open the bolts. (Doing this of course will be impossible if someone's D locked to the other side). Doors constructed using a number of materials (composite) will force them to keep going back and forth down a narrow passage with different tools. These doors can be hinged like the steel plate door or lifted into place and secured. They can be made to be as strong if not stronger than the surrounding concrete and would thus allow the tunnel protester to make a door that is larger than would be advisable if it were just made of steel plate.

(A) Construct a hollow steel box that is at least 2 inches wide by approximately 3 foot square. Cut a piece of steel to act as a lid and attach two handles to it.

(B) Within the box put in the concrete mix. Don't fill the box in one load as this may prove to heavy for even two people to lift.



(C) Make a frame out of steel. This should be with a piece of steel plate (1) to act as ledge and to rest the door on. Then on either side of the door should be- two upright pieces of 2" angle iron (2) which the door will rest against, to prevent it falling forward. On the entrance side of the angle iron frame weld two steel plates to the edge * (3) to prevent the bailiff cutting the angle and pulling the door out. Then on the inside of the frame weld a further two pieces of plate (4) which will have hooks or rings, fixed to it.



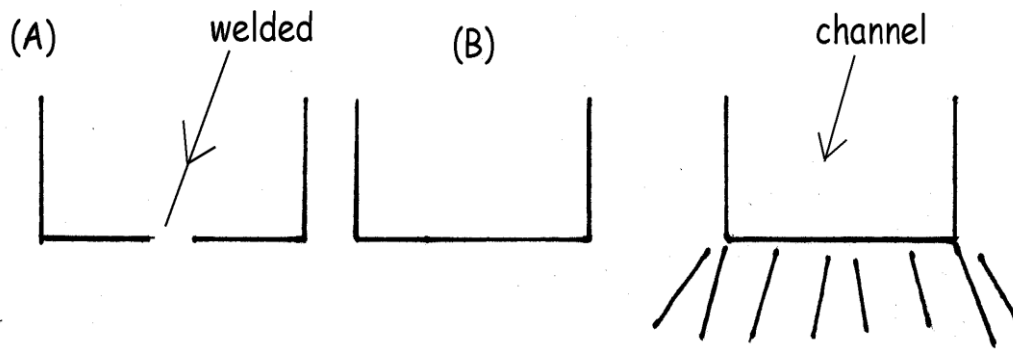
Once the door has been-lifted into place a number of steel bars can be put through rings or on hooks to prevent the door being pushed back. As with the steel plate door weld bars to the frame so that it remains firmly in place once cemented.

Type(C) Portcullis

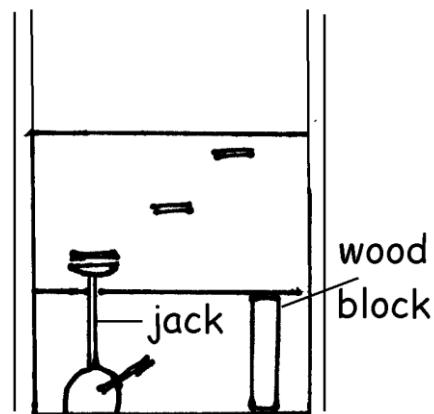
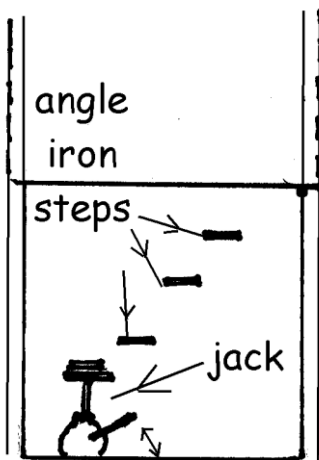
Portcullises fall into two basic types, those that once dropped, are light enough to be pulled up with ease by one person and those that are made of such heavy material that once dropped or lowered they require a jack to lift them up again. Both types of tunnel will require an area above the tunnel for them to be stored when not in use.

Frame

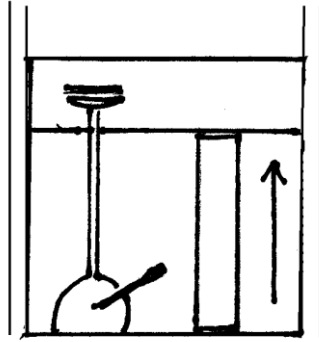
The strength and thickness of the frame will be dependent on the weight of the portcullis. Four pieces of angle iron that are over twice the length of the door should be welded together to form a channel for the portcullis to slide up and down in.



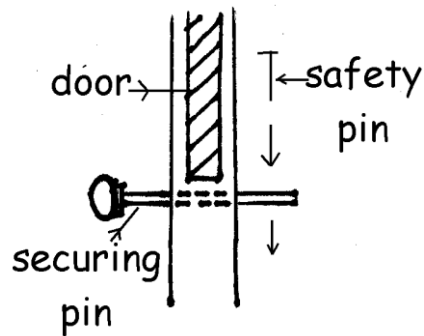
As with composite and steel plate doors weld bendable steel bars to the outside of the angle iron to secure the frame within the concrete surround. With an open cast tunnel the thickness and strength of the portcullis can be whatever the tunneller desires. However a one inch steel plate door will be too heavy for a tunneller to lift back up. If for example the portcullis is dropped because of a phoney eviction alert. By welding small pieces of angle at intervals to the inside of the door then using a car bottle jack. The tunneller will then be able to slowly jack the door back up (see below).



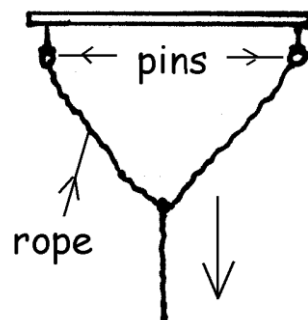
Place the jack under the second stop and on a piece of wood. Jack the door up until the jack reaches its maximum height. Then place another block of wood to hold the portcullis in its new position, while the jack is removed. Continue in this fashion until the door is back to its open position. Though this process will take 45 minutes or more to complete the delay the door will cause the bailiffs will make it worth the effort.



Once the door is in its open position secure the door on each side with a half inch pin that can be inserted through the angle iron. Go to a shop and buy them new rather than pick up two rusty old things found lying around on the campsite. As you crawl to bed every night it will give you piece of mind knowing that the heavy lump of steel just above your head is firmly secured and not about to slice you in two. In the unlikely event that someone pulls out the pins by accident it is a good idea to put a small hole in the end of the half inch pin which can be inserted a blunt 3 inch nail or similar.



To close the door, remove the blunt nails. Then the tunneller sitting some distance away should jerk the pins out with two ropes.



It's imperative the tunneller wears some form of ear protection as the noise of the door sliding down in an enclosed area will be deafening. Remember to keep the door well oiled and to keep a bottle jack and blocks on the inside of the door.

Doors by the professor Von Wolfgang Henrich Gwindelberg method .

So who is Wolfgang Gwindelberg? Well he is actually a totally fictitious character in my head I just thought that as nutty German professors seem to come out with quite a lot of harebrained (but usually quite brilliant) ideas. I decided to dedicate this one to my pal Wolfie.

So let's suppose you're in the tunnel during the eviction watching the MIBs slowly shore their tunnel towards you. The tunnel has no doors, no worm holes, no nothing in fact it's rather shit. But you have cardboard ! No, let's say you have quite thick plyboard lying right beside you.

So you think, "If I put this thin piece of board up across the tunnel so blocking their progress and lie against it, what would the MIBs do?" With the board preventing them seeing what's on the other side, they're blind but they know there's someone lying against it.

So then, do they kick it in and possibly injure the person on the other side or do they dig round it? As it's never been tried before one cannot be certain, but there is a very good chance they will opt for the latter for two reasons: the first is they do not want to injure anyone (especially not a female). The second is that to go round will add days onto the eviction and pounds in their (the MIB's) pockets.

Of course pressured to speed up the job, they may just dig away at the sides of the board to try to pull it towards them and see what's on the other side. At which point you just back further down the tunnel with your board to form another obstruction, leaving them having just wasted two hours work.

All sounds a bit mad - well, blame von Gwindelberg, nothing to do with me.

CHAPTER 20

EVICTON STASH

Digging a tunnel is physically demanding you obviously therefore eat a lot more to replace lost calories. During eviction you will require less food. This is simply because you will be sitting in the tunnel almost motionless for days on end. For some people this will seem a golden opportunity to eat endlessly .The reality is generally different. Even non smokers tend to spend most of their time either reading a book or listening to the radio. People eat and drink a lot when they're happy and content. Few can honestly say they are happy and content being underground for weeks in a confined space. Try to make an eviction stash that will suit everyone on site. Having 20 tins of hot dogs may be fine for you but will be unacceptable to a vegan or vegetarian. Vegan food however is expensive and therefore a compromise may be needed. For storage on the surface make parts for a box that is approximately 2 foot deep by 4 foot long and 2 to 3 feet wide .The box should be assembled in the chamber then put into a hole in the floor. Once the eviction stash has been placed in the box nail down the lid ready for the big day.

Food and Water

Bottled water, tinned food, chocolate, soya milk, cereal, peanuts, orange juice, yoghurts, (ideally store in plastic tubs to protect from dampness and mice*).

*mice though are a rare sight only humans it seem are mad enough to endure such conditions

Other

2 tin openers, plate and bowl for each person, spoon fork and knife, candles, AA batteries for head torches, lots of matches and lighters, cups, spare torch, toilet paper, bin liners, plastic paraffin containers (to piss in), plastic funnel (for women), books (never too many) recommended reading "The Tunnels of Cu Chi, by Tom Mangold and John Penycate, and this guide. Radio, tobacco, alcohol (wine or spirits rather than beer or lager), Pens and paper, Pack of cards, board games, clock and calendar, multi vitamin tablets*.

*Though in the past tunnellers have religiously taken vitamin D tablets to compensate for lack of sunlight. The fact of the matter is that this is actually unnecessary. After consultation with a doctor the understanding was a person would really only need vitamin tablets if they are older than the average tunneller (i.e. in their 40's) and underground for a exceptionally long period (i.e. three months). As food eaten contains ample amounts of vitamin D and as most tunnellers are in their 20s to early 30s. The cash strapped tunneller would be better purchasing more head torch batteries than vitamin D tablets. However that said at the end of the day there is of course no harm in taking a multi vitamin tablet for those who are content to live on Twix bars and Yorkies while underground.

CHAPTER 21

EVICION TEAM

Contrary to popular belief the most stressful and difficult period of a campaign isn't the actual eviction, it's living with people on a campsite for months on end prior to it. During this time you'll get a good idea of those people you like and those who you just have to bloody well co operate with for the good of the bloody campaign. Like the crew of an aircraft or ship the tunnel crew should work as a team. Consult everybody involved in the tunnel construction prior to making any changes. Everyone on a protest site is a general and a private combined it can be no other way. The authorities are constantly looking for leaders that they believe know everything and are running the show.....Don't give them one. Everyone in the tunnel should know where the eviction stash is, and how the air system works. Thus, if any person in the tunnel is arrested prior to eviction it will be a sad loss but not a disaster. Having two people on reserve is a good idea to replace people who leave the tunnel for whatever reason. Under no circumstances should the entire tunnel team go off to the pub together. How can you enjoy a pint anyway, when you'd be just thinking of that damn hole in the ground with no one guarding it.

There's a mutual understanding between protesters that if someone puts in a significant amount of time and effort into building a tunnel then they should have a place within it come eviction or at least have some say who does. On the BNRR protest however the original tunnel builders of the Shovel and Bucket tunnel left long before the eviction began. This created a vacuum allowing, it seemed, all and sundry to move in, live, leave, move in, live, leave etc. The situation got so bad that the tunnel was renamed the Bucket hotel. Before eviction a security guard jumped the fence and became a protester. Though the press loved the story he didn't like the dirt and lasted only a few days down the tunnel. In all fairness the leap from security guard to protester then tunneller in two weeks would be a daunting prospect for anyone.

Before eviction anyone considering living in the tunnel should spend at least two consecutive nights below the surface or ideally be sleeping underground every night. If they can handle awakening every morning to the pitch darkness then they've crossed the first hurdle. The next is dirt. Anyone wishing to have a wash every morning should forget it. As a tunneller you're digging and living within mother earth. The dirt should be as much a part of you as your right hand. Walking around all day every day a dirty dusty mess should become second nature. Though admittedly a nice bath once in a while is welcome, the removal of that layer of dirt from the skin of a dedicated tunneller, to whom it has become a part of their very nature, can leave one feeling a little vulnerable.

CHAPTER 22

THE OTHER SIDE

How and when the authorities will mount an eviction of a camp is anyone's guess. In Britain the eviction process is planned and co-ordinated by a sheriff officer. There are apparently only 40 of them in the UK with the job of hiring the various specialist personnel required.

To safely mount an eviction is a costly and complex undertaking and must be something like organizing a smaller version of the D Day landings. These were the people employed during the BNRR evictions and could be as follows.

1) Police Superintendent

Has overall control.

2) Sheriff Officer

Commands the eviction process

3) Local police

Who are not authorized to evict protesters. Merely they arrest people handed to them by the Welsh bailiffs.

4) F.I.T.S

Forward intelligence teams ie evidence gatherers these are also police personnel.

5) Bailiffs

From Wales and dressed in green. They are employed to secure the immediate eviction area before arresting protesters who are on the ground, or ones handed to them by the climbers or the MIB's . They then in turn hand them over to the police. Like the MIBs and the climbers they are keen to see the eviction go on for as long as possible to significantly increase their bank balance.

6) Climbers

Generally dressed in white employed to evict the trees

7) Security guards

The poor sods paid a pittance to stand for hours in all weathers guarding the surrounding security fence .

8) Bailiff Tunnellers (MIB's)

9) T.S.G. (Tactical support group)

The police's hard nuts waiting around the site in black overalls looking forward to a riot.

The Men In Black

The Specialist Rescue International (or Men In Black from the black overalls they wear) have been digging out protesters since the first protest tunnels were constructed at Newbury and Fairmile in the mid 1990's. Based in Redhill in Surrey they are specialists in underground rescue be it removing miners from mine collapses in the former Yugoslavia or getting potholers out of sticky situations in the UK. Treating the eviction of protesters as just another rescue of people who curiously don't want to be

rescued. They are the people the under sheriff calls on when there is a tunnel "problem". Also being a private company and holding a monopoly on this type of work it is in their interests that the eviction goes on for as long as possible, which of course is in the protesters interest as well, as the people paying the bill are the developers. Up until late 1998 the MIB would shore parts of a tunnel which they thought was unsafe. Now with new Health and safety guidelines they have to shore the entire tunnel which means more work for them but a lot more expense for the developer. From experience the protesters expected the Arthurs wood tunnel to last 10 days and they thus had enough food to last that period. With the MIB having to shore the entire tunnel the eviction lasted 22 days. Though a number of the MIB are ex military they are not as first thought serving soldiers "doing a bit of civilian work on the side".

It's difficult to find anyone who's been through a tunnel eviction to make a derogatory remark against the MIB. They are by all accounts a professional well motivated team imbued with a cheerful if somewhat overtly laddish sense of humour. Working for the other side they may be. But there's little point shouting obscenities at them while they dig nearer and nearer to you. Everyone's patience runs out eventually and there's nothing stopping them simply switching off the air supply for an hour until you start to behave.* Once they've reached your position in the tunnel you have the option of resisting (i.e. having a fight with the MIB which you will lose) or going out of the tunnel and being offered a cup of tea and a cigarette by the MIBs before being arrested by the police. After over a week underground the latter option is the wisest.

*When on site the MIBs immediately disconnect your fan and attach their own compressed air supply to your air inflow pipe. This normally takes around 10 to 15 minutes and so as not cause alarm they will inform you beforehand via the intercom.

Pumping in air up to a maximum of 40 PSI (pounds per square inch, you can ask them to increase or decrease the flow slightly). This strong influx of air will none the less still be significantly more than what was pumped in by your small air fan. So much so that the constant noise of air blasting in may prove annoying, not to mention could cause sore teeth to hurt. This is something to bear in mind when you first install your air pipe. Do not for instance have the end fixed rigid to the shoring and into someone's sleeping area. As it's unlikely they will not be able to sleep properly with cold blasting up their backside so fix the pipe so the end of it finishes at ground level in a corner. A place where you can cover it with a large rag so as to impede (obviously not stop) the annoying whoooooosh of air coming in. Alternatively have an extra piece of pipe to gaffer tape on during the eviction so that you can send the air influx away from where you sleep. At some time during the day or night the air supply will suddenly stop. This is because they have to change the filter on their air compressor, a process that normally takes about an hour. While you may be alarmed at this Don't forget they've been blasting down probably 30 times as much air as you had with the small computer fan so even if the filter change took an hour and a half there will still be more than enough air to keep you alive. That said for peace of mind it's always best to ask them when they will be turning the air back on.

CHAPTER 23

TUNNEL SAFETY / LIAISON PERSON

While no one could argue that being underground isn't demanding, the role of the tunnel safety person could hardly be called a bundle of laughs. Sometimes thought of as being secondary in importance to being up a tree or in a tunnel, the truth of the matter is that the right person (or people) on the surface can help prolong an eviction by days, even weeks. If you're not up for getting arrested and are calm, collected and rational with a bit of backbone, previous eviction experience and a knowledge of tunnels you have the qualifications to make a tunnel safety person.

Once the eviction commences at the sheriffs officer discretion (meaning you need to bring out the charm as well). The only person (other than the media) to be allowed on site will be the safety person, whose job is to see that the eviction is being carried out competently and safely.

When the safety person is a local supporter returning daily or a protester, being on a site that is now occupied by crowds of generic uniforms is going to feel very intimidating. It's undoubtedly going to make the safety person angry to see their once picturesque tree village now being felled before them- always a traumatic experience. The temptation to start trashing the bailiff's tents etc will be overpowering but it is a temptation that must be resisted. Getting arrested for smashing a generator may make you feel better but when you and possibly your fellow safety staff are thrown off site you'll realize how foolish you've been, having failed in your job. The bottom line is you have to in effect become another person and learn to be detached and objective about what is happening around you. If you're the sort who can't keep their emotions in check or bite their tongue then don't bother volunteering.

With tunnel evictions getting longer its now apparent than one person should not, for the sake of their sanity, do the job alone. Two or three people on a rota should thus volunteer at the pre eviction safety meeting between protesters and the authorities.

It should be noted that until the Essex evictions in March 2000 it was believed amongst protesters that an eviction would not commence until such a meeting has been concluded, however at Essex the bailiffs began evictions the day of the meeting which not surprisingly created a great deal of ill feeling towards the sheriff and his not so merry men.

With the MIB being extremely safety conscious anyway, there sometimes seems little point in having any one to be safety person. However what shouldn't be forgotten is that for those underground for a number of weeks isolated from the rest of the world hearing a familiar voice on the intercom asking you if everything's "tickity boo" is a definite comfort and morale booster. The tunnellers at Essex were greatly uplifted by the daily 10 to 20 minute chats to their tunnel safety person, just snippets of news from the world outside helped the five of them last an amazing 40 days and nights underground.

During the first rounds of evictions at Manchester airport in 1997 the tunnel safety officer experienced some intimidation from the police but it was by no means overpowering.

At the evictions on the route of the Birmingham northern relief road and at the Arthurs wood site, though the MIB respected the tunnel safety officer's position the police and the bailiffs did not. They threatened them with arrest if they didn't constantly ask the protesters to give themselves up. At Arthur's Wood the police went as far as to write out what the safety officer had to say down the intercom or she wouldn't be allowed on site. Her daily scripted message to the protesters was videoed

by the police. So should the tunnel collapse and kill any protester she would be seen to have at least attempted to persuade the protesters to come out. Such intimidation didn't work on the Safety officers at Kingston up on Thames who refused to say what the police wanted and remained on site monitoring the intercom on 12 hour shifts.

You may think you have just been allowed through the security fence because the sheriff wishes to have good PR with the protesters. That to a degree is true. However it shouldn't be forgotten that the Bailiffs and the MIBS might try to prise information from you on the how big the tunnel is and what are its defences. As they really want to let the eviction drag on for as long as possible to make more money it may seem surprising that they will take you to one side to constant bombard you with questions then criticize you for the tunnels "breaking all the safety rules under the sun". But they have to because that's what they're meant to do when under the watchful eyes of the police and sheriffs officer. As both the police and the sheriffs officer do not make any great cash boost from evictions, they, unlike the climbers, bailiffs and tunnellers are keen to see the end of their time standing around windswept fields. Thus we have a quite bizarre conflict of interest: those who love to make more money and those who just want to go home. It's something that's worth bearing in mind.

At the end of the day you ultimately need to be like a person most protesters despise. A politician. Who can be polite but firm and not be bullied by uniforms. Combined with giving media interviews almost daily it's a very hard job. So make sure the person or persons volunteering to do it have a warm cosy place to chill out in at the end of the day. Not like the Essex liaison officer who just had a cold ambulance to live in for 40 days.

CHAPTER 24

A TALE OF TWO EVICTIONS

At Newbury in 1996 the authorities were thugs. From Manchester airport in 1997 until Essex in 2000 the other side changed tack by employing specialist bailiff teams from Wales, tunnellers from London and security guards from Manchester. Evictions became rather civilized affairs generally allowing little room for complaint from the protesters. However being civilized is expensive a fact not forgotten by the developers at the nearby Essex housing development site of Hockley. Fenced in and initially denied food and water the protesters there were intimidated and beaten up by the so called security guards who seemed to have learned their trade from reading the SS Guide to being a concentration camp guard.

Being a small housing company, the contractors (Countryside Homes) either didn't have the cash to do thing properly or unlike a major developer weren't too fussed about getting bad media coverage. Whatever the reason, the eviction of the protesters was carried out in an appalling manner and in stark contrast to the road campaign site just a few miles away.

Big corporations or small companies that you're opposing could now really determine how you are evicted. It is therefore important to note that while making an impressive tunnel and treehouses is good for flaunting to the media, surrounding the camp with sturdy barricades and barbed wire are equally as important.

CHAPTER 25

THE MEDIA

Tunnels are now becoming common place. So much so that the media coverage surrounding a tunnel eviction is less than it once was. That said the media attention a tunneller could get may seem a little overpowering. The tunneller thus can either evade the media and hide away or accept them.

Protesters have become justifiably cynical of the way the media constantly ignores the environmental reasons they are there to start with and instead focuses on how a protester lives in a tunnel and up a tree. They may promise to put out a story on the possible environmental damage a project will cause however when they return to their respective editors, he or she will have ultimate control on what's broadcast. Trees, pollution and the environment are boring. A man or woman underground in a dangerous situation isn't. Such is the way of the media world who crave sexy snazzy stories. Just accept it and give them what they want. Talk about tunnels and watch them beam with delight. Then while you're at it why not charge them an interview fee (£70 to 100)? It's quite possible you'll emerge from a tunnel without a penny to your name and with a fine to pay. They've got the cash and are desperate for a story, make them pay my friend, make them pay. As after all what goes out that evening on the TV may not be what you want but at least it's coverage of the eviction and has bought you a hot meal.

Prior to eviction it's not unknown for a fresh faced TV reporter to arrive on site with a video camera and a big smile. After ingratiating themselves with the tunnellers, they will give the camera to someone who seems responsible and dare I say it gullible enough to film the eviction from within the tunnel. Once the eviction is over the tunnellers will be asked to return the cameras and film to the reporter. The reporter in return may buy the tunneller a drink even a new head torch. In hindsight though this generosity will appear more an insult than a gift. As the TV companies will be able to use then sell the coverage for a huge fee to other TV stations the tunnellers and the campaign in general meanwhile gains almost nothing. Even if the camera has been supplied by the TV company the film footage is legally yours. You shot it you can thus demand a price. The TV company will try to persuade you to hand over the tapes so they can promote the cause you are campaigning for. This may or may not be true. So to avoid a dispute, agree a contract prior to eviction and sign it only when yourself and other tunnellers are decided on the amount that should be paid etc., with a proportion of the funds going back into the campaign.

Not all campaigns will be bombarded with press. So the solitary camera crew that may turn up after over a month shouldn't be hit with demands for money. Instead subtly mention about money for "next time". The media are polite but shrewd and tough. Be the same or they'll walk all over you.

CHAPTER 26

AFTERMATH

The rapid transition from protest tunnel to police station then to hopefully a friendly locals bed will be the end of your first tunnel eviction. If there's to be a next time you can rest on the fact that it will be easier. After maybe a month of living in a tunnel your mind will find it difficult to adjust immediately to a bed in a house or flat with a window and clean sheets. Time (at least a year) and rest will sooth the mind. Making you mentally stronger ready for the next battle with the tarmac tyrants. As Oscar Wilde said "all the best people have been inside" (I'm sure he meant tunnels?)

Good luck.

The Credits

A Teknopunx/Disco Dave film

Brought to you in association with Lumpy porridge productions

Written and Directed by Disco Dave

Produced and edited by Banner Heather

Artwork by Danny Panic

Tea making by Cosmo

Technical advice from Kif

Some website stuff from Freya

Mad cap Ideas and Inspiration from

Local Jon, Bran, Sir Galahad, Swampy, New Zealand Jess, Artist Liz, Squaddie Wayne, Muppet Dave, American Emma, Jimmy Bonkers, Guntha, Video Tony, Sorted Dave, Manic Martin, John the Blacksmith, Inverness John, Tunneller Tim, The Red Baron (the First world war geezer) and Animal.

Anecdotes from local supporters

Gaynor and Alan in Manchester, Pat and John in Essex, John and Margaret in Birmingham.

Special Spice Girls appearance performed

By the MIBs with backing vocals by the Welsh Bailiffs

Cameo appearance

By the ever so nice (I'm being serious) under Sheriff of Essex

To those who "sold out" (and I don't mean tickets)

The National Trust

And finally a big load of kisses to those who made it all possible.

AMEC, TARMAC, WIMPEY and Manchester Airport PLC.

Disclaimer

This production is purely fictitious. Any connection with anyone alive or from Buckingham palace is purely coincidental, contrary to protesters claims. The millions of trees that have been chopped down to make this production were not just butchered but checked before hand to make sure they were all diseased or desperately needed for car dash boards. In fact all the animals and trees through out this land are happy, the sun's shining so eat your popcorn everything's gonna be alright.

Made on a shoe string budget and in string vests. Due to the excessive cider consumption of the cast and crew the few pennies that were left were not enough to hire anyone with an official sounding name to advise us on the safe way to make tunnels. We concluded that it wasn't safe to let humans go down these death traps. We therefore strongly recommend only young Tories should be allowed underground if future films of this nature are made.

This production is dedicated to the memory of "Sorted " Dave Richards