

## **Police have arrested several people in Dover during protests by far-right East Kent Alliance and rival group Kent Anti Racism Network**

[By Emily Stott, 2 April 2016]

<http://www.kentonline.co.uk/dover/news/greater-police-presence-dover-protests-93621/>

Thirteen people have been arrested during a planned march involving rival groups in Dover.

Extra police officers, including some on horses, were in the town amid fears of a repeat of the violent clashes seen there earlier this year.

A similar demo by the far-right East Kent Alliance and a counter protest from Kent Anti Racism Network caused a [day of chaos on Saturday, January 30](#).

Officers used temporary powers to stop and search people and vehicles for offensive weapons and dangerous instruments.

One man was arrested on suspicion of possession of offensive weapons. Three men who arrived in Dover were arrested in connection with the previous protest.

Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Neil Jerome said: "Kent Police planned for a proportionate policing operation that was impartial, firm and fair, and all the objectives we set, were met successfully.

"As I made clear in the run up to the events today, the right to protest inevitably causes disruption to the community. That is largely unavoidable – we do all we can to minimise that disruption.

"I fully appreciate the frustration caused when a road is closed. This decision is not made lightly and only after consulting with Highways England and Kent County Council. It was necessary, to allow us to facilitate the protest and ensure the safety of both motorists and protesters.

"I'd like to thank everyone for their patience and co-operation."

Anti fascists moved along roads in the town following a convoy of aid to the port.

They chanted that refugees are welcome here. Shouting 'Theresa May, hear us say, let them in, and let them stay'.

There was a very strong police presence with officers walking by the side of the group while four horses remained at the back of the crowd.

Some demonstrators held posters saying 'no to racism' and welcoming refugees.

Anti fascists hired a van to take goods for refugees from Dover to Calais.

Earlier in the day it was parked in Market Square where it was decorated with posters and tinsel.

Barclays Bank was closed despite police's recommendation to stay open.

Police also escorted far-right protestors through the town towards the port.

They passed the garage on Folkestone Road, the scene of violent clashes during a similar protest in January.

Police kept rival groups apart as they gathered near to the port.

The A20 Townwall Street was closed for a time due to the demonstration between the A20 York Street and the A2 Jubilee Way.

KM reporter Sam Lennon spent the day in the town, he said: "Words of abuse were hurled between far right and anti-fascist protesters in Dover but only one brick this time.

"Police successfully kept the two sides apart when they came to the town after January's pitched battles.

"This time the two sides faced each other on just two brief occasions, when the far right passed Townwall Street near the Premier Inn and the left wing waited on the seafront side for them.

"But they were kept apart by a wall of police vans and a thick line of officers.

"When the far right marched past, their opponents chanted, 'Nazi scum off our streets' - members of the far right replied with taunts such 'traitors' swear words and one and two fingered salutes.

"Dover had been tightly controlled by police with a heavy presence of officers, mounted police and large mobile barriers in narrow passages such as New Street and Worthington Street."

Kent Police says lessons have been learnt from events in January.

Neil Jerome, assistant chief constable, said: "We are putting in a comprehensive policing operation but what I can't guarantee is that there will not be any trouble.

"Based on the information we have, and the lessons learned from last time, there will be significantly more police officers in Dover."

However, he has urged residents to carry on their business as normal.

He said: "It is safe to say there will be disruption in the town which, even with all the plans in place, cannot be completely avoided.

"We believe that if people are warned in advance, they can make arrangements to avoid getting caught up in the protest and go about their business.

"Our policing operation is intelligence-led, based on the best information available to us.

"However, due to the nature of these protests, it is impossible to know exactly how many people are going to be involved or how they will behave.

"We know from the previous protest there is a potential for a minority of those attending to cause significant disruption and behave in a disorderly and sometimes violent way."

[Almost 40 people have now been arrested in connection to the events on January 30, and 17 were arrested on the day.](#)

So far, 16 people have been charged with a variety of offences and 21 are on bail with conditions not to enter Dover.

Officers have also imposed conditions on organisers and protesters in terms of the route and timing of the march and the assembly point for opposing protesters.

They will use powers to stop and search people or vehicles for offensive weapons or dangerous instruments and those with face coverings may be asked to remove them if it is believed they are wearing them to conceal their identity.

Many residents in the town have called on the police to ban these future protests, after tax payers had to pick up the bill for the destruction in January.

However, an independent report has found Kent Police's actions in Dover were 'proportionate', 'justifiable' and 'appropriate'.

The review, carried out by NPoCC Assistant Chief Constable Chris Sheed, found that 'to ban the march or impose conditions would have been inappropriate' and that while 'there were some areas that could be improved on' the operation was 'effective and well led.'

The review was published by police and crime commissioner Ann Barnes, who said: "I know the force has taken the observations and recommendations on board when planning for demonstrations this weekend.

"Kent Police has a duty to facilitate peaceful protest but to anyone intent on coming to Kent to cause trouble I have one simple message – don't bother. You are not welcome here."

Another protest is planned for Saturday, April 23, and may also require the temporary closure of the A20.

Drivers are advised to plan their journeys and allow additional time if required

## ASSAULTED PHOTOGRAPHER CONDEMNS FAR RIGHT GROUPS FOR DOVER VIOLENCE

[KENT ANTI-RACISM NETWORK, TUESDAY 24 MAY 2016]

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/kent-anti-racism-network/assaulted-photographer-condemns-far-right-groups-for-dover-violence/1238723276138610>

A freelance photographer who was savagely attacked during disturbances in Dover on Saturday 30 January, has condemned far-right groups for causing the violence in the town. His attacker, Peter Atkinson from Liverpool, received a sentence of seven years for Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent at Canterbury High Court on Monday 23 May.

The disturbances broke out after far right groups including the English Defence League, National Front, South East Alliance and North West Infidels attempted to march through Dover in a demonstration against immigration. The photographer was badly injured in the attack and required surgery involving plates and pins to reconstruct his elbow and arm.

The photographer said: "I welcome the sentence of 7 years handed to Peter Atkinson today. His attack on me was unprovoked, brutal and cowardly. It took place while I was going about photographing a public event. The sentence is fair and reflects his intentions and the impact of his actions on the day.

"Journalists have long been a target for far-right thugs. Abuse, threats, physical and sexual assaults against members of the press have become all too frequent. They see us as legitimate targets and believe they can abuse and attack us without consequences. They need to think again.

"I made it clear in the statement I gave to the police that I witnessed no violence until the far-right groups broke past police lines and began hurling bricks and bottles at what was a peaceful counter-protest. I hold the far-right groups who attended Dover on the 30th January fully responsible for the violence.

"Among them included supporters of the English Defence League, National Front, South East Alliance, Pie and Mash and Combat 18. These groups care nothing for the issues they protest about. They don't give a damn about truckers but want to use them to demonise refugees. They don't care about child sexual abuse unless they can use it to demonise Muslims. Many would even welcome a Paris style attack in London because they believe it would fit their own agenda. These groups offer nothing but hate and violence."

## Far-right and anti-fascist rallies bring Dover to standstill again

[By Damien Gayle and agency, Saturday 2 April 2016]

Major police operation prevents repeat of January violence between groups opposed to refugees' arrival and counter-protesters

Dover has once again been brought to a standstill by far-right groups marching through the town to protest against the arrival of refugees and a counter-rally by anti-fascist protesters.

Police closed roads and deployed hundreds of officers to ensure that the two groups of demonstrators marched along separate routes through the port town in Kent. Many streets were lined with officers in riot gear in a bid to prevent a repeat of the violent clashes that took place between the two groups in January.

Far-right demonstrators gathered opposite Dover Priory station and chanted, "No more refugees" as they set off, surrounded by police. According to a live blog on the anarchist website [libcom.org](http://libcom.org), numbers on the anti-immigration side were "pretty low", estimating that less than 100 were in attendance.

At one point, anti-fascist protesters blocked the route of the far-right march, prompting Dover's Tory MP, Charlie Elphicke, to post an angry tweet:

**[Charlie Elphicke \(@CharlieElphicke\) April 2, 2016](#)**

Militant hard left occupying port road at Dover. Unwelcome, damaging to our nation's economy and the town. Go away. [pic.twitter.com/pSwDiWqQk9](https://pic.twitter.com/pSwDiWqQk9)

According to libcom.org, police used vans to clear a route through the blockade for the far-right march to proceed.

Live footage broadcast by RT at 3pm showed a small crowd waving English flags hemmed in by dozens of officers at a spot near the seafront. Minutes later they were funnelled towards a rallying point under heavy police escort. Speakers addressed the crowd in front of a banner saying: "Rapefugees not welcome."

One said: "Cameron wants Turkey to join the EU. That's potentially 75 million Muslims who can walk straight into Europe. Do you want an Islamic Europe? Vote no – let's get out of Europe and let's take our country back."

Minutes later, far-right protesters burned a European flag as the crowd chanted, "Out, out, out."

Kent police said they had undertaken a "comprehensive policing operation" to prevent a repeat of previous clashes. [Almost 40 people have been arrested in connection with demonstrations in the town on 30 January, which descended into street fighting.](#)