# Daniel Knorr found guilty of conspiracy after Manchester Airport climate protest



Daniel Knorr, a 23-year-old former Oxford University student, has been found guilty of conspiracy to commit a public nuisance following a trial at Manchester Crown Court. Alongside his co-defendants—Margaret Reid, 54, Indigo Rumbelow, 30, and Ella Ward, 22—Knorr received a majority guilty verdict and is set to be sentenced on May 23 at Minshull Crown Court in Manchester. The group was arrested in the early hours of August 5, 2024, as they prepared to disrupt activities at Manchester Airport by attempting to breach its perimeter fence and glue themselves to the taxiway.

During the trial, presided over by Judge MacAdam, the defendants claimed their actions were motivated by urgency regarding the climate crisis. They argued that they sought to prevent harm and aimed to raise public awareness about the "huge risks unfolding right now due to the collapsing climate." Such reasoning has been a common theme among climate activists, who insist that traditional forms of protest no longer suffice in conveying the gravity of ongoing climate degradation.

Knorr's legal troubles are not new; he has previously faced legal action for his activism. In June 2023, he and two fellow protesters disrupted the prestigious Ashes cricket match at Lord's by storming onto the pitch and throwing orange powder. This incident garnered extensive media coverage after Jonny Bairstow, England's wicketkeeper, was photographed carrying Knorr off the field, a moment that quickly went viral. The court later found the trio guilty of aggravated trespass, and they were sentenced to community orders, unpaid work, and fines in October 2023.

Further complicating his record, Knorr was also involved in a more controversial act of vandalism at the Radcliffe Camera in October 2023, where he and a companion were charged with causing significant damage during a protest. This incident, which reportedly involved spray-painting the historic structure with orange paint, highlighted the escalating tensions between expressive environmental activism and legal boundaries, leading to public discourse about the effectiveness and ethics of such actions.

These developments are part of a broader narrative concerning youth-led climate activism, where participants often express frustration over perceived governmental inaction on climate issues. Knorr has been vocal about his commitment to "civil resistance" until meaningful changes are implemented to address the climate crisis, a sentiment echoed by many in the Just Stop Oil movement.

As his sentencing approaches, Knorr's case serves as a salient example of the current clash between environmental protest and public sentiment, raising questions regarding the limits of civil disobedience in advocating for urgent action in the face of climate challenges.

**Reference Map**

1. Paragraph 1: 1, 7
2. Paragraph 2: 6
3. Paragraph 3: 2, 3, 4, 5
4. Paragraph 4: 6
5. Paragraph 5: 7

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25150342.sentencing-date-set-former-oxford-university-student/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-66050912> - In June 2023, three Just Stop Oil protesters, including Daniel Knorr, disrupted the first day of the second Ashes Test at Lord's by entering the pitch and throwing orange powder. They were charged with aggravated trespass and bailed to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on 31 July 2023. The protest briefly halted play as security and ground staff cleaned the pitch. England's Jonny Bairstow carried one protester off the field, and the game resumed shortly after. The incident drew significant media attention and public reaction.
3. <https://www.skysports.com/cricket/news/12123/12971938/just-stop-oil-protesters-convicted-of-aggravated-trespass-over-lords-stunt-during-ashes-test> - In September 2023, three Just Stop Oil protesters, including Daniel Knorr, were found guilty of aggravated trespass for disrupting the Ashes Test at Lord's in June. They ran onto the pitch and threw orange powder, causing a brief halt in play. District Judge Neeta Minhas stated that the protesters breached well-publicized rules against trespassing and demonstrations on the field. The trio was conditionally bailed ahead of sentencing at Westminster Magistrates' Court on October 24, 2023. The incident highlighted tensions between environmental activism and public events.
4. <https://www.skysports.com/cricket/news/12123/12991400/just-stop-oil-protesters-who-carried-out-lords-stunt-during-ashes-test-given-12-month-community-orders-and-ordered-to-pay-costs> - In October 2023, three Just Stop Oil protesters, including Daniel Knorr, were sentenced for disrupting the Ashes Test at Lord's in June. They received 12-month community orders, 60 hours of unpaid work, and fines of £444 each. Knorr stated he would continue civil resistance until the climate crisis is addressed. The protest involved entering the pitch and throwing orange powder, briefly halting play. The court emphasized the disruption caused to the game and the public, despite the protesters' claims of minimal impact.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/just-stop-oil-protesters-lords-cricket-sentenced-jonny-bairstow-b1115608.html> - In October 2023, three Just Stop Oil protesters, including Daniel Knorr, were sentenced for aggravated trespass after disrupting the Ashes Test at Lord's in June. They received 12-month community orders, 60 hours of unpaid work, and fines of £444 each. The protest involved entering the pitch and throwing orange powder, causing a brief halt in play. England's Jonny Bairstow carried Knorr off the field during the incident. The court highlighted the disruption caused to the game and the public, despite the protesters' claims of minimal impact.
6. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/24395691.just-stop-oil-protesters-accused-damaging-radcliffe-camera/> - In October 2023, Daniel Knorr and Noah Crane were charged with criminal damage after allegedly causing £2,500 of damage to the Radcliffe Camera in Oxford. The incident occurred during a Just Stop Oil protest, where the pair were accused of vandalizing the historic building with orange paint. Knorr, a biochemistry student at the University of Oxford, stated that the action was part of a wave of civil disobedience by students demanding an end to new oil and gas projects. Both men were due in Oxford Crown Court for a plea and trial preparation hearing in July 2024.
7. <https://juststopoil.org/2025/02/21/manchester-airport-five-one-acquitted-four-found-guilty-after-acting-to-prevent-mass-death/> - In February 2025, four Just Stop Oil supporters, including Daniel Knorr, were found guilty of conspiracy to commit a public nuisance at Manchester Crown Court. They were arrested in August 2024 for planning to access Manchester Airport via the perimeter fence and glue themselves to the taxiway. The group aimed to prevent harm and inform the public about the risks of climate collapse. Sentencing was adjourned until May 23, 2025, for pre-sentencing reports. Knorr had previously been convicted of aggravated trespass for disrupting the Ashes Test at Lord's in June 2023.