NEWS THAT US nuclear weapons may already be back in Britain, at RAF/USAF Lakenheath in East Anglia, makes Britain once again a forward nuclear base for the US in Europe.

110 US/NATO free-fall B61 nuclear bombs were removed from Lakenheath in 2008, following sustained protest at the base by CND and the Lakenheath Action Group. US nuclear bombs had been located there since 1954. Their return – assigned to NATO – will increase global tensions and put Britain on the front line in a NATO/Russia war. B61s have continued to be sited in five other countries across Europe – Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and Turkey – in spite of strong opposition within some of the ‘host’ countries.

Now the UK has been added to the US’s list of European sites in line for
infrastructure investment for storing ‘special weapons within secure sites and facilities’. Special weapons mean nuclear weapons and this is happening in the context of increasing tension with Russia and the current escalating war.

The US is the only country to locate its nuclear weapons outside its own borders and this major increase in NATO’s capacity to wage nuclear war in Europe is dangerously destabilising.

Whether they have already been returned to Britain, or their delivery is still in preparation, this is a huge challenge for the peace movement and we will do everything we can to prevent these weapons being sited here. Speaking recently about the risks of the Ukraine war turning nuclear, I said that it was precisely these weapons, at bases across Europe, that would be likely to be used first in a nuclear war over Ukraine – that the US/Russia war will be fought in Europe. This was our worst fear in the 1980s when millions mobilised across Europe against cruise and Pershing missiles being sited here. In the 1980s we got rid of all those weapons, and we have to have the energy, the commitment and the confidence to do that again.

Join the protest at Lakenheath on 21st May – more information on page 4.
Caroline Lucas MP responds to the recently-published Energy Security Strategy, and outlines why nuclear is not the answer to our energy needs.

NOW that the Government’s Energy Security Strategy has finally had a chance to percolate into the public consciousness – and face much needed scrutiny, after being snuck out during Parliament’s Easter recess – it’s become crystal clear that this economically and environmentally illiterate plan represented one very small step forward, several giant leaps back.

In classic Johnson style, the Government has put all its eggs in the ‘Great British Nuclear’ basket, with a plan for 24GW of nuclear-powered electricity by 2050. To put that into context, three of the Climate Change Committee’s five net zero pathways recommend 5GW – five times less than the Government’s new target. So let’s take down the argument for nuclear power in five easy steps.

**Firstly, cost.** The planned Hinkley Point C plant is now expected to total £20 billion which even the National Audit Office has said was a bad investment for consumers. And because of the nuclear funding model, construction costs are parked squarely at the taxpayers’ door, and start racking up before power generation even starts – just when energy bills are spiralling out of control for many families.

**Secondly, time.** Hinkley Point C will have taken the best part of two decades from planning to production, and it’s still years off. And this is no exception – a major Finnish plant was due to open in 2009, and it only started production last month. What about these flagship Rolls Royce Small Modular Reactors, the Prime Minister’s silver bullet to our energy crisis? Well, even if every obstacle they face were met, they still won’t be ready until the 2030s.

**Thirdly, waste.** There are 700,000 cubic metres of toxic waste from just last century’s nuclear plants – that’s the volume of 6,000 double decker buses. Would you be willing to have that on your front lawn?

**Fourthly, reliability.** Supporters of nuclear always trumpet its supposed reliability, but a nuclear grid is no more reliable than a renewable one. EDF in nuclear-dependent France recently told customers to limit their electricity due to a ‘vague de froid’ (or ‘old spell’), and its UK division has lost millions in earnings from nuclear power outages – meanwhile Germany, where renewables supply nearly half its electricity, boasts one of the most reliable grids in the world. This argument for nuclear’s ‘base load’ is now outdated. Nuclear is always on, so we have to switch off renewables to avoid overloading, which wastes so much energy and costs a fortune. We need grid flexibility, which nuclear simply cannot provide.

**Finally – and perhaps most crucially** – there is an abundance of renewable alternatives. More offshore wind is of course welcome, but we need to go much further and much faster – and bowing to Tory backbenchers by shelving plans to end the onshore wind ban is utterly shameful. We now have 6GW of interconnectors, meaning we can trade excess wind and solar energy with other parts of Europe. This is the technology we should be upscaling in the years ahead, to power a safe and jobs rich future – not more nuclear.
Stop US nukes coming to Lakenheath

21 May 1pm-3pm
RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk
Transport options arranged – see CND website
Contact information@cnduk.org for info.
Join CND to protest against US nuclear weapons in the UK

Meet the staff

This month:
Sara Medi Jones
Campaigns Manager

“No two days are the same at CND, with unexpected world events often impacting our work without any notice. My role is to coordinate CND’s day to day campaigning and make sure we get CND’s message out there in various different ways. As well as looking ahead and planning, this entails tasks such as arranging demonstrations and public events, writing reports, supporting CND groups and editing Campaign magazine. I’m also lucky enough to have opportunities to represent CND at international events, such as United Nations conferences. And arranging CND’s presence at the Glastonbury music festival is a highlight!

“We have a very busy period coming up with a protest at Lakenheath, the TPNW conference, a NATO summit, the much-delayed NPT Review Conference, and Glastonbury music festival, all taking place, against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine. We’ll be working hard as a team to make sure CND’s no nuclear message is heard loud and clear.”

Opinions expressed by authors in online Campaign are their own, and do not necessarily reflect the policies of CND.