



# SECURITY SERVICE MI5

**\*\* EVIDENCE MEMO / EYES ONLY (CLEARANCE BLUE) \*\***

ITEM 7356b  
OPERATION WIRECUTTER

## DESCRIPTION

PRINTED BOOKLET, 16 PAGES (A5, STAPLED); SIGNIFICANT WATER DAMAGE.

Introductory samizdat booklet (first of a series) produced and distributed by [REDACTED], a cell of off-grid "Neoluddite" homesteaders, early 2030s. Content legal, non-seditious: basic overview of requirements for establishing a homestead with no utilities footprint. Includes repeated disavowals of [REDACTED], a.k.a. Butlerian Jihad.

## CIRCUMSTANCES

Item 7356b was collected from an outbuilding of Hillside Farm nr. Crugybar by [REDACTED] of Carmarthenshire Constabulary 03/05/2039 immediately after [REDACTED]; see debriefing transcript 7422j. Item transferred to MI5 archive 09/05/2039.

Hillside Farm had been the main farmhouse of a medium-sized sheep farm, the land from which was mostly sold off through the early C21st. The house and adjoining land (approx. 30 acres) was eventually purchased at auction in 2031 by [REDACTED], and then legally divided as co-owned property of [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], all of whom were resident from February 2032. Hillside Farm also played host to a rotating cast of lodgers and would-be permaculturists, most of whom drifted onwards once they realised the full extent of [REDACTED]'s commitment to reneging on what he described as "the technological bargain".

This rapid turnover of subletting tenants in the early years of the homestead may have helped to spread the word on behalf of a group for whom spreading the word had become *de facto* anathema. Much as a black hole can be detected by the warping of visible light around it, the communications blackzone of Hillside Farm could be detected in the discourse of those who deemed its gravitational well too deep for their comfort. Others, however, relished that depth, and made their way toward it.

A mostly complete roster of inhabitants from 2032 until [REDACTED] can be found in WIRECUTTER 16253a (CLEARANCE YELLOW). While the roster includes a number of persons of interest to this agency it bears noting that, in this case at least, the Neoluddite renunciation of violence seems mostly to have held, with only a few infractions of the Violence Toward Artificial Persons Act of 2033 recorded, all of which against entities since reclassified as non-persons (e.g. autonomous cameras, Large Speech Models).

[REDACTED] was authorised by [REDACTED] on grounds of suspected [REDACTED]. Operational oversight was provided by [REDACTED]. It remains unclear why [REDACTED], or how exactly the [REDACTED].

#### CONTEXT: Neoluddism

A combination of economic pressures, environmental decline and an increasingly militant Welsh independence movement contributed to an emptying out of the former sheep-farming regions of northern Carmarthenshire, beginning in the latter half of C20th but accelerating from the mid-2020s onward. While much of the larger land holdings were bought up by agricultural conglomerates, the often isolated farmhouses and outbuildings became tempting to refuseniks of all sorts, starting with the self-sufficiency farmsteaders of the 1970s. Some scholars (e.g. Hendrickson 2036) suggest that the Neoluddites are essentially contiguous with those early "communes", if only in terms of basic ideology rather than organisation; other sources, meanwhile, highlight the tendency to sabotage, abstraction and trespass which arguably aligns Neoluddites with their historical namesake.

It bears noting that the reclaiming of the label "Luddite" (with or without the "Neo-" prefix) from tabloid slur to badge of identity likewise gathered pace in the 2020s, but only really caught on in the latter half of that decade as a way to supposedly distinguish oneself from the avowedly militant terrorists of [REDACTED], a.k.a. Butlerian Jihad.

#### CONTEXT: Butlerian Jihad

Officially classified as a domestic terror organisation by REDACTED REDACTED in 2027, [REDACTED], a.k.a. Butlerian Jihad, has at time of writing never been formally orgmapped, nor any consistent leaders identified.

The origin of the organisation has been said to be characteristic of the memetic warfare of the mid-2020s, as can be seen in its name. The phrase "Butlerian Jihad" can be traced to a science fiction franchise that began with the novel *DUNE* (Herbert 1965), wherein it refers to a fictional galactic war over the deployment of artificial intelligence in governance roles. The manifesto titled "Declaration of Butlerian Jihad" was published online pseudonymously by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], a pair of precariously-employed doctoral researchers in the humanities at [REDACTED]. A lengthy interrogation (see OPERATION ARRAKIS 421a and 421b) determined that it likely was intended as the joke that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] claimed it to be; however, the first act of sabotage claimed in the Jihad's name—the bombing of a datacenter near [REDACTED]—took place within weeks of its publication. As such, Butlerian Jihad bears resemblance to the Anonymous movement of the late 2000s and 2010s: absolutely anyone could take on the identity at any time, to whatever end.

However, operations soon revealed there to be a fairly consistent core of Butlerian actors, whose actions and published statements quickly coalesced around the stated goal of "reconquering" UK infrastructural assets, which they claimed had been seized by (or handed over to) artificial intelligences of dubious ability and questionable motivations. In short, Butlerian Jihad were cyberterrorists—often highly accomplished ones.

As such, Neoluddite claims of non-involvement with and opposition to the Butlerian project are highly plausible, especially in retrospect. In light of discoveries at Hillside Farm after [REDACTED], it seems that the residents were almost certainly not [REDACTED].