

Press Release 17 December 2008

THRUPP LAKE SAVED – IT'S OFFICIAL!

Lake to be gifted to community for nature conservation.

RWE npower has today announced that it now has no need for Thrupp Lake for ash disposal because Didcot A Power Station's ash disposal requirement can be fully met by a planned new facility at the WRG waste site at Sutton Courtenay. Npower has offered to give Thrupp Lake to the community as a nature reserve.

This announcement brings to an end a 41 month campaign by Save Radley Lakes to prevent the destruction of these lakes.

Basil Crowley, chairman of Save Radley Lakes, said:

"It has been a long, hard and difficult campaign, but that is all behind us now. We are of course absolutely delighted by this outcome.

"We would first like to congratulate RWE npower and WRG Ltd for reaching this solution. It took a little effort to get them to put their heads together on this, but once it happened both parties will have found themselves with much to gain and nothing to lose by it. Saving Thrupp Lake is, and always was, the right outcome. But, by offering to give the lake to the community, npower has gone much further, and is showing great magnanimity. I hope that the community will, in the years to come, show its gratitude by treasuring this place for what it is, and what it has become – a symbol of the importance and value of the local environment in human affairs, the need to have beautiful natural places in our own neighbourhoods; and the need for vigilance, and the will, to protect them from harm.

"We look forward to working with npower in restoring this whole area to something that the people of Radley, Abingdon and Oxfordshire can be truly proud of. We now have to turn that vision into reality.

"Finally, I, together with the members of the Executive of Save Radley Lakes, would like to say a big Thank You to all the people who have supported this campaign, some with their time and tireless effort, some with their money, many with both, and I look forward to their continued help in the future in realising the greater vision of a place to be freely enjoyed by people and wildlife alike.

Marjorie White of Save Radley Lakes added:

“The outcome of the Radley Lakes campaign will provide hope and inspiration to the many other campaign groups all over the country who are fighting to protect their local environments from inappropriate development.

The matter of the Town Green Judicial Review remains in the hands of Radley Parish Council, which will decide, in conjunction with its legal advisers and other interested parties, whether it should continue to a hearing in the High Court on the 26th February 2009.

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