



Campaign to Protect  
Rural England  
OXFORDSHIRE

## Press Release

### What Future for Radley Lakes?

**19 February 2008**

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Oxfordshire Branch, warmly welcomes RWE npower's announcement on Monday 18 February to defer its plan to fill Thrupp Lake near Radley with coal ash from Didcot Power Station.[1]

Dr Helena Whall, Campaign Manager for CPRE Oxfordshire said: 'We are very pleased with the news, as will be all of those who love the lake as a local beauty spot. We are glad npower has recognised they can recycle the ash in the short-term. It's something we have said all along they can do. But we want assurances the lake will never be used as a dump before the power station closes in 2015.'[2]

'The Save Radley Lakes campaign, which CPRE has been supporting, deserves huge praise for its campaign, which not only opposed the plan to fill the lakes but importantly showed the way for less environmentally damaging alternatives.'[3]

Dr Helena Whall concluded:

'We hope that this reprieve will allow a discussion between npower and other interested parties about the long-term management and use, not just of Thrupp and Bullfield Lakes, but of the whole area between the edge of Abingdon, the Thames and the main railway line as a wildlife reserve and public amenity as it has been for so many years.'

'Much of this area bears the scars of old (and sometimes bad) planning decisions and very lax enforcement over the years. Now is the time to start thinking about how this area can be restored for the long-term.'

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#### NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. CPRE Oxfordshire promotes the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural Oxfordshire by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. We are part of the national CPRE charity. For more information see: [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)

2. Local residents have long battled RWE npower in a bid to save 11 beauty spots in Radley. Planning permission was first granted to pump sludge from Didcot Power Station into the old gravel works in 1982. Protesters objected then, but lost the battle and nine pits were filled.

3. Save Radley Lakes (SRL) was formed in 2005 to call on Oxford City Council to look again at the planning permission as npower tried to fill in the remaining Bullfield and Thrupp lakes. In April 2006, a public consultation received more than 1,450 objections. SRL then applied for the lakes to be granted town green status. A public inquiry investigated claims that the lakes had been used for recreation by local people for 20 years without interruption. The inspector rejected the town green application. Campaigners refused to give up and last week launched a £40,000 appeal for funds to support a judicial review of the council's decision. It now has 600 members. For more information see Save Radley Lakes website:  
<http://www.saveradleylakes.org.uk>

CPRE Oxfordshire  
Punches Barn  
Waterperry Road, Holton  
Oxfordshire  
OX33 1PP  
01865 874780  
[campaign@cpreoxon.org.uk](mailto:campaign@cpreoxon.org.uk)

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