



**SAVE  
RADLEY LAKES**

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## **RADLEY LAKES CAMPAIGNERS – DIDCOT ASH IS NEEDED AT SUTTON COURTENAY LANDFILL SITE**

Radley Lakes campaigners have published figures today which show that at least 580,000 tonnes of Didcot power station ash is needed to help fill the Sutton Courtenay Landfill Site, right beside the Power Station. That is more than the total amount due of ash to be dumped in Thrupp Lake. The ash is used as an essential part of the landfilling process at Sutton Courtenay. If Didcot's ash is sent to Radley now, this could mean more lorries on Oxfordshire's roads in future.

Roger Thomas of Save Radley Lakes said:

"The Sutton Courtenay Landfill Site has a large need for ash from Didcot Power Station. It's used as part of the overall landfilling operation. Ash is used to cover up deposits of household waste at the end of each working day ('daily cover'), as part of the final capping on landfill, and for other engineering purposes on the site. The site operators (WRG Ltd) say that, if they did not use Didcot ash for all this, they would have to import other suitable material by road.

"We calculate, on the basis of figures confirmed by WRG Ltd, that Sutton Courtenay will need between 580,000 and 780,000 tonnes of material for 'daily cover' between now and 2021, if the County Council approves a current application to extend the life of the landfill operation to 2021. Further quantities of material will be needed for capping and engineering.

"Perhaps as much as 450,000 tonnes of ash will be needed at Sutton Courtenay for landfilling space which WRG didn't even realise it had before – because they'd underestimated the size of their hole. So that's a totally new requirement for up to 450,000 tonnes of ash – and the whole capacity of Thrupp Lake is only 500,000 tonnes.

"What's more, up to 310,000 tonnes of this covering material will be needed at Sutton Courtenay after 2015 – by which time Didcot Power Station will have closed, and won't be producing ash any more. Ash could be stockpiled at Sutton Courtenay now and used there later. If it isn't, over 300,000 tonnes of some other material will probably have to be brought to Sutton Courtenay by lorry. The County Council only approved the destruction of Thrupp Lake

because of concerns about putting more lorries on the road. It's a complete nonsense.

"We are looking at what seems to be a disastrous failure of planning. As things stand, 500,000 tonnes of ash, which may be needed at Sutton Courtenay Landfill Site in the future, will actually be used to destroy part of a County Wildlife Site. Then, after the Power Station closes, over 300,000 tonnes of some other material may have to be imported to Sutton Courtenay by lorry, because all Didcot's ash has gone to Radley. It's ludicrous, and it's disgraceful.

"We wrote to RWE npower about this in December, and tried to talk to them about it. They simply didn't want to know. They just seemed hell-bent on sending their ash to Thrupp Lake, whatever the environmental damage. RWE npower describe Thrupp Lake as their 'best available option'. 'Best' means cheapest and easiest – in other words, the option that makes the biggest profit for RWE npower, with the environment and the community left to pay the real price. It's absolutely scandalous."

**For further information**, contact Marjorie White on 01235 530174