

Earth Trust Little Wittenham Oxfordshire OX14 4QZ

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Friday 16th<sup>th</sup> August

Dear Resident,

## RE: Demolition of Didcot Power Station cooling towers, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August: Emergency procedures being put in place at Earth Trust's Wittenham Clumps

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August RWE will be demolishing the final three cooling towers of Didcot A Power Station. RWE are actively discouraging people from viewing the demolition and whilst Earth Trust supports their decision, we recognise that people will wish to view the demolition from the Wittenham Clumps. We know from previous experience (when the first three cooling towers were demolished) that the Clumps were a popular destination given their landscape views.

Earth Trust is an environmental learning charity caring for 500 hectares of farmland, woodland and wetland and our role is to safeguard these green spaces for the public to enjoy. We take this role seriously and in preparation for Sunday we are putting in place emergency procedures that will require funding from core resources.

We are not publicly promoting the Wittenham Clumps as a venue to watch the demolition. However, we are realistic that people will visit our open access site. We understand that as a local resident you may have concerns about the impact of this on the local area. Therefore, we wanted to inform you about that we have an emergency procedure in place. This includes:

- Working closely with the Fire and Rescue service. They will conduct regular checks overnight and will be based on site from 3:30am onwards.
- A team of staff will be on site from 3:30am.
- A statement on our website, signage on the road and at access points asking visitors to heed our guidelines:
  - To not park in the village or on the access track. It is imperative that we keep access routes clear for emergency services. We have a plan in place for parking and this will be managed by our staff team on the day. We urge people to arrive when it is light for safety reasons, and to enable Earth Trust staff to manage traffic flow safely.
  - Overnight camping is not allowed on our land, the area is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a Special Area of Conservation and Scheduled Ancient Monument.
  - o Not to light campfires or barbecues; these pose a serious fire risk as the grass is dry during the summer and fire could guickly spread, any fire will impact the ecology and biodiversity.
  - o Reminding people that we are a working farm and that cattle are on site (we have moved the cattle to Church Meadow so they are away from the busiest viewing point).

Given that our emergency procedures are over and above our usual visitor management of the Earth Trust Farm, we will be asking visitors to make a donation to help support us in looking after and protecting the green spaces in our care. If you are planning on visiting early on Sunday morning, we kindly ask you to be vigilant in helping us look after these green spaces. Alternatively, if you would like to help us as a volunteer on the day, please do get in contact.

Yours sincerely

Jayne Manley

## **Chief Executive Officer**