

**Councillor Catherine West****Leader of the Council***Labour Member for Tollington Ward*

Mr Richard Lungmuss  
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Our Ref: CW1295/JHB

Dear Mr Lungmuss,

**Drayton Park Sidings**

Over the last week, it has been brought to my attention by local residents that you have cut back the vegetation in an area of your land within Islington that is an important habitat. I am concerned about the timing and severity of the works and damage that has been done.

The Council has received numerous complaints about this I would like to take this opportunity to add my concern to that raised by many of your rail side neighbours, who are also Islington residents. The site forms part of one of the Borough's 41 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), and has a high wildlife value. The site is an intrinsic part of our green corridors which facilitate the movement of wildlife through London. Of particular concern is that you as an organisation did not know that this was a SINC, despite being made aware of this following a similar situation arising in 2004.

It is Imperative that you keep us informed about works of this nature and I would like you to consult with us about the future management of this site.

It is also important that you provide us with evidence about why the works were done along with the pre survey checks that were carried out to ensure there was no disturbance to protected species. To avoid further concern to our residents, and to ensure that the value of the land for wildlife can be improved, I would encourage you to work with my officers to address these issues. I trust that it is possible for a management regime to be put in place that works for both the safe operation of the railway and protects the biodiversity value of the site. We currently have plans in place to discuss all SINC's with their owners to ensure their records regarding them are up to date, and that the sites are in positive management. I would also ask you to ensure communication around this and other sites of nature conservation importance managed by yourselves is improved and we can avoid this situation in future.

I would like the following actions to now take place:

- A meeting with officers about the future management of this site.
- Evidence of your approach to managing sites of nature conservation importance and a clear explanation for why the works were done.
- Improved communication with officers about future works likely to impact on sites.

This is not the first time that this has occurred and we have had ongoing issues with your contractors at the nearby Gillespie Park Local Nature Reserve with safety issues relating to vehicles and gates being left open.

I would ask that you now liaise directly with my officers and contact Andrew Bedford, the Principal Parks Manager in Public Realm on 020 7527 3287, or [andrew.bedford@islington.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.bedford@islington.gov.uk).

I hope that a positive solution to this issue can now be found.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Catherine West