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Ms Catherine West
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25th August 2011

Dear Ms West

Drayton Park Sidings

This letter is to reply to your letter to myself of 4th August, in which you raised concern regarding vegetation work carried out by Network rail in the area of Drayton Park sidings. I apologise for the length of time that it has taken me to reply to you, I have been waiting for a response from the local team into a number of queries that you raised. I hope to be able to answer most of them in this letter.

As you state in your letter, we, network rail were unaware of the SINC status of this site. Our environmental specialist has no written record of this ever being requested and we are uncertain as to who, from the Council, might have done so. My Maintenance Protection Coordinator, Tracy Penman, will raise this with her contact in the Council, Andrew Bedford.

The work in question was completed directly as the result of a safety directive from First Capital Connect, the Train operator which uses the sidings. They were concerned that the vegetation was preventing the effective evacuation of their personnel from the sidings should the need arise.

We in Network Rail are very clear on the environmental benefits of rail travel as compared to other forms of transport and we are also aware that our land often provides a safe habitat for plants and animals. We are very keen to work with Islington Council in the future to understand the various environmental issues in and around London and we certainly intend to meet Andrew Bedford to ensure that any further plans we have for the site minimise the impact and adverse publicity. We are very happy to give a clear undertaking that no future works will be undertaken without prior consultation. We would emphasise however that safety on the railway

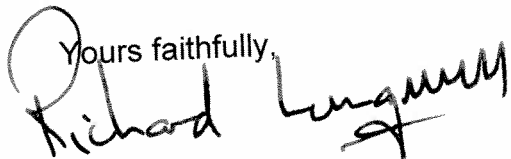


is paramount and we are obliged to deal with the safety concerns of our customers when raised.

We further note your concerns regarding contractors and the gates at Gillespie Park Local Nature reserve and will ensure that they are briefed on the sensitivity regarding leaving the gates open.

Both Tracey and our Environmental specialist will now communicate directly with Andrew Bedford regarding this and other matters.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Lungmuss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a stylized "L".

Richard Lungmuss
Route Director, LNE