

## **Local conservation group raises serious concerns regarding ecological impact assessment commissioned by City of London Epping Forest for the major music festival proposed for Wanstead Flats**

The Wren Conservation Group has written to the City of London, Epping Forest to express its “serious concern” that the proposed concert was voted through to proceed based on deeply flawed assessments of the ecological impact.

The Wren Group was shocked to learn that the impact assessment did not consider any matters related to the comings and goings of c50,000 concert goers, but simply the precise footprint of the exact concert structures.

A spokesperson for the Wren Group said: “just a couple of years on from the worst grass fires in London’s history on the same site, we find it extraordinary and worrying the City of London, Epping Forest, the custodians of the rich but fragile habitats found locally, would conduct a vote based on such an obviously incomplete picture of the likely impact on local wildlife.”

“The remaining, and undamaged, wild areas of the Wanstead Flats are fragile and under great stress. Despite being the closest remaining location to Central London where Skylarks breed and can be heard singing, there are only five or six pairs left breeding here. Skylark are just one of many protected and declining species of wildlife that could be put in peril by tens of thousands of party-goers coming to and from a festival. Why was an ecological impact assessment commissioned that does not consider these fragile areas that are in direct lines for the walking routes from all the local transport hubs?”

The Wren Group is calling for a more thorough impact assessment to be conducted before a decision should be made whether to go ahead with plans for a concert. It also plans to raise this matter urgently with local councillors and MPs.

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