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The University of Bath  
Claverton Down  
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Job Reference: J006306

15 May 2017

Dear Martyn

#### CLAVERTON DOWN CAMPUS, MASTERPLANNING

In April 2017, Ecosulis was commissioned by The University of Bath to undertake an update ecology survey of the Claverton Down Campus, Bath. Ecosulis have undertaken extensive survey work on the site between 2011 and present. The purpose of the update survey is to inform the proposed masterplanning of the south-eastern area of the campus.

#### Methodology

The site was assessed for any potential ecological constraints relating to any further development of this site. Any changes from the latest Preliminary Ecological Appraisal survey in September 2016 (reference J006192) were noted. Annie Hatt BSc (Hons), an experienced ecologist of Ecosulis, completed the survey on 21 April 2017.

The survey was undertaken according to Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (2010) Handbook for Phase I Habitat Survey – a Technique for Environmental Audit, JNCC Peterborough.

The subject areas were systematically walked and all habitats present, along with their dominant flora, are recorded and mapped. Where appropriate, target notes were used to highlight potential features of interest, such as provisional signs of protected or notable species, or habitat features of note. The survey considers the suitability of the habitats on site and within the accessible surroundings to support such species. Habitats were mapped using standard colour codes, allowing rapid visual assessment of the extent and distribution of different habitat types.

#### Limitations of the Survey

The survey will not record any plants or animals that may appear at other times of the year and were therefore not evident at the time of visit. Some species that might use the site or be apparent at other times of year, or only in certain years, would not have been detected. The advice contained in this report relate primarily to factual survey results and general guidance only. On all legal matters you are advised to take legal advice.

#### Results and Assessment

Habitats and opportunities on site are largely unchanged, but some additional building and car park works have been undertaken since previous surveys.

The site is a university campus and comprises of several buildings, semi-improved grassland, amenity grassland, standing water, scattered trees, woodland, bare ground, hedgerows and stone walls. (Figure 1).

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With the exception of the areas mentioned above, the habitats on site are very much the same as within the previous survey. All habitats are well managed, including the grassland areas, as such they provide limited opportunities for wildlife.

### Bats

The woodland on site is patchy and has limited connectivity, it does, however provide good a foraging and commuting route for bats. Scattered trees and hedgerows located across the site also provide opportunities for commuting and foraging bats. A large pond is present within the southern area of the site, which supports foraging opportunities for some species of bat, including common pipistrelle. Tree and buildings on site provide opportunities for roosting bats, however further surveys will be required to fully assess their suitability, should any be affected by new development.

The majority of habitats on site are subject to high levels of light spill as a result of floodlights and additional lighting present across the campus. Hedgerows along the eastern boundary remain dark and therefore are more likely to be utilised by bats, including Annex II species such as horseshoe bats.

Recommendations for the site include the retention of green spaces and corridors where possible including the eastern boundary hedgerow. Dark corridors, especially the eastern hedgerow, should remain dark and any additional lighting on the site should follow a sensitive lighting plan. This plan will include directional lighting away from currently dark areas and suitable habitats, to avoid light-spill.

### Nesting Birds

Hedgerows, trees and buildings on site provide opportunities for nesting birds. Whilst no nesting birds were recorded during the survey, it is likely these habitats will be utilised. As such any vegetation clearance should avoid the nesting bird season (March – September inclusive, dependent on weather). Where this is not possible, a nesting bird check prior to any works commencing will be required.

Any development proposals on the site which will result in the removal of nesting habitat should consider enhancing the site for nesting birds by including nest boxes on new building or retained trees. Where possible this should be included within the site wide masterplan to ensure that nesting habitat is created in the most beneficial areas for birds.

### Other Wildlife

No evidence of protected species was recorded on site during this survey, and the other existing habitat descriptions are still relevant for the site.

The large pond within the 'green finger' of the site supports opportunities for ducks and other wildlife including invertebrates and fish, however the surrounding grassland is very well managed. This means connectivity to other suitable habitat for wildlife such as amphibians, is limited. All of the grassland on site, similarly is well managed and kept to a short sward, as such there are very limited opportunities for foraging badger, small mammals and reptiles.

The 'green finger' through the southern area of the site could be enhanced to provide better opportunities for wildlife. This includes leaving unmanaged grassland borders, planting of nut and berry bearing plant species, and enhancing connectivity across the site between suitable habitats. Lighting within this area should be kept to a minimum and should be included within the sensitive lighting plan.

### Recommendations

Based on the update assessment, it is considered that the existing survey data for the site is still valid and the recommendations contained in the previous report are still appropriate for the site.

It is recommended habitats supporting ecological opportunities should be maintain and enhanced to maintain the connectivity across the site. The scheme includes a 'green finger' which is to provide a green corridor / link across the site. This is no longer apparent due to the new building

located within this area, as well as the adjacent car park. As such enhancement should be made over the rest of the 'green finger' to enhance this area for wildlife. It is important the remaining green corridors are retained to maintain linkages across the site. Light spill is high across the site due to flood lighting and dark corridors are limited. As such any further development will require a sensitive lighting plan to minimise the light spill into these green corridors.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

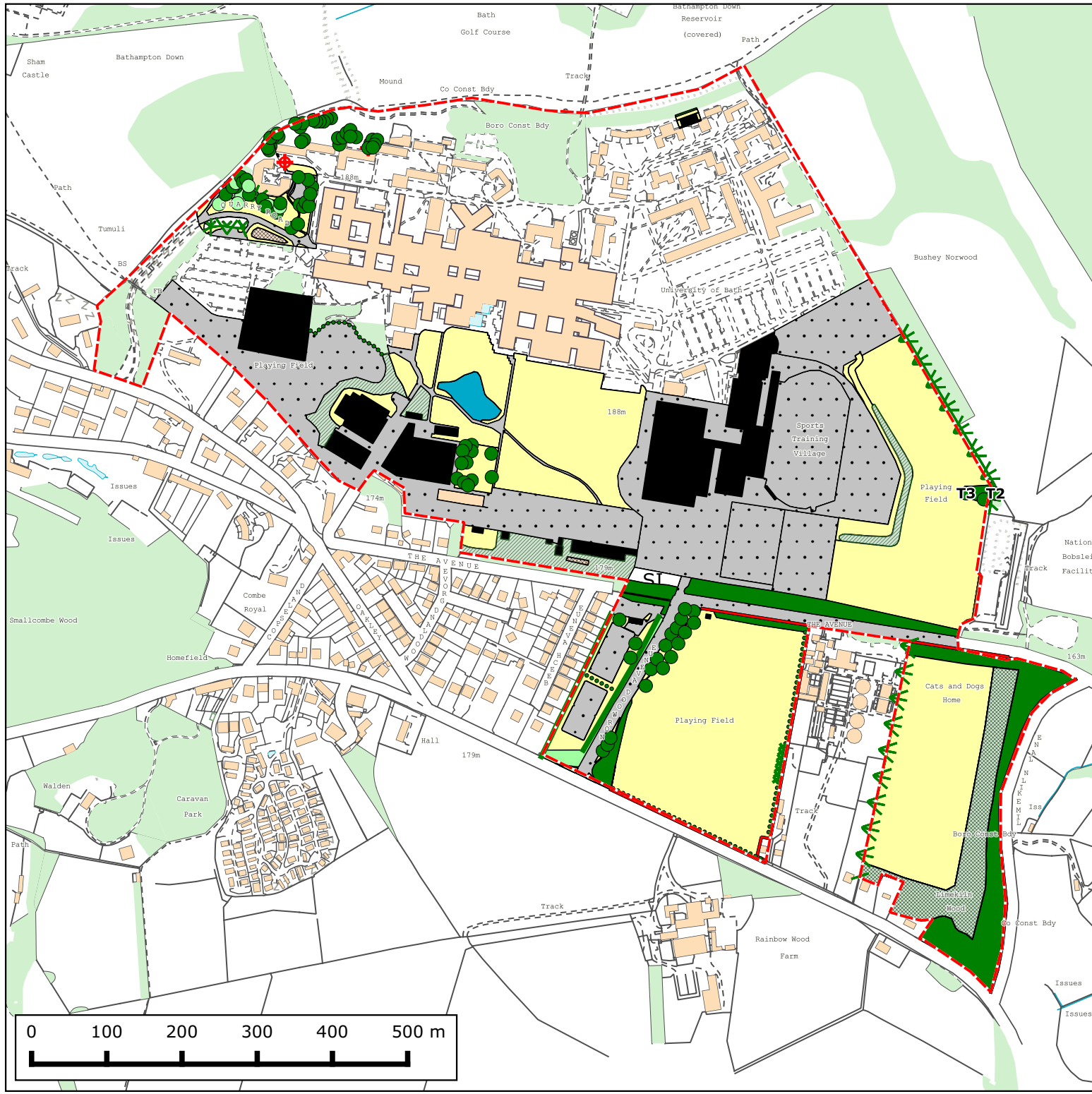
Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S King', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Sara King BSc (Hons) MCIEEM  
Senior Ecological Consultant


Enc. Figure 1

Enc. Cons and ops plan



### Key

- Site Boundary
- A3.1 Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
- A3.2 Coniferous parkland/scattered trees
- Target Note
- A2.2 Scrub - scattered
- A3.1 Broadleaved Parkland/scattered trees
- J2.1.1 Intact hedge - native species-rich
- J2.1.2 Intact hedge - species-poor
- J2.3.1 Hedge with trees - native species-rich
- J2.5 Wall
- A1.1.1 Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
- A1.1.2 Broadleaved woodland - plantation
- A1.2.1 Coniferous woodland - semi-natural
- A2.1 Scrub - dense/continuous
- A2.2 Scrub - scattered
- SI B6 Species poor semi-improved grassland
- C3.1 Tall herb and fern - tall ruderal
- G1 Standing water
- J1.2 Amenity grassland
- J1.4 Introduced shrub
- J3.6 Buildings
- J4 Bare ground



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Client: The University of Bath

Project: Claverton Down Campus Masterplanning

Title: Update Walkover

April 2017

Figure 1

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