

David Edmonds
Chair of the Board of Governors
Kingston University
River House
53–57 High Street
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT1 1LQ

Dear Mr Edmonds,

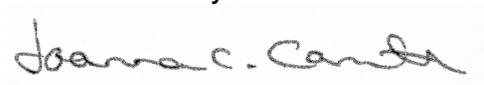
I am writing to you on behalf of RESCUE – The British Archaeological Trust to express the Trust's grave reservations about the plan to close the School of Surveying and Planning. RESCUE is a wholly independent trust which supports archaeology and allied disciplines in Britain and abroad (www.rescue-archaeology.org.uk).

RESCUE is concerned that the planned closure of the School of Surveying and Planning will involve the end of courses in historic building conservation and the loss of capacity in the training of a range of craftspeople whose skills are essential to the maintenance and enhancement of the nation's historic built environment. As you will be aware, heritage tourism contributes an estimated £26.2 billion to the UK economy each year and a substantial amount of this comes from visitors whose primary aim is to see and experience our historic built environment. The impact not only of time and natural decay but of visitor numbers means that skilled craftspeople are needed to maintain the fabric of our heritage and the courses at Kingston University make a substantial contribution to the education and training of this group of people.

RESCUE believes that the proposal to split up existing courses and to disperse elements of them amongst other departments within the university will serve neither the students nor their potential employers well and has little purpose other than bureaucratic convenience. We do not see this as a sufficient reason to take such a drastic step, particularly as courses which bring together such a diverse range of skills are rare.

We would urge you to reconsider the current plans and to put in place measures that will strengthen the School rather than sweep it away.

Yours sincerely



Joanna Caruth
Secretary,
RESCUE: The British Archaeological Trust