



CARLISLE WAVERLEY VIADUCT TRUST

Registered Charity No. 1168423



Website: <http://www.carlislewaverleyviaducttrust.co.uk>

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Who are we?

Carlisle Waverley Viaduct Trust (CWVT) is a campaigning organisation dedicated to re-opening this closed-off Victorian railway bridge over the River Eden near Etterby, firstly as a public footpath and ultimately as a cycle way. CWVT was incorporated as a company on 2nd July 2015 and registered as a charity with The Charity Commission on 25th July 2016.

Brief History

For forty years, following closure of the Waverley Line from Edinburgh and a short spell serving a MoD maintenance unit during 1970, the viaduct was open to the public and used extensively by the communities on both banks of the river Eden: local residents, walkers, fishermen, dog-walkers, joggers and others, including ramblers associations. The viaduct is a substantial and majestic listed structure dating from 1861, but in 2009, health and safety concerns led Department for Transport (DfT) who own it, to erect ugly steel barriers at both ends, thereby curtailing its many years as a public asset. As current owners, the DfT have a responsibility to maintain it in a safe structural condition and spent £303K to this end in 2014.

Probable New Owners

Things are about to change, however, as negotiations are underway to transfer ownership of the viaduct structure away from DfT to a charitable organisation called Railway Paths Limited (RPL) which exists to champion and support the re-use of historic railway structures by the community for the community. RPL has close links with Sustrans and Railway Heritage Trust and has a respected track record with DfT. It does not, however, exist to provide funds from its own resources to finance projects, but instead acts as a catalyst promoting co-operation and partnerships between fundraisers, funders and local authorities.

Challenges

Up until earlier this year a substantial proportion of the trust's efforts had been concentrated on overcoming opposition from the owner of a small but key piece of land immediately to the north of the viaduct structure. He remains steadfastly opposed and will not let the proposed path through. (Please see the drawings set out below).

A Company limited by Guarantee with charitable status. Company no. 09668596. Charity no. 1168423

Registered office: 13 Beaver Road, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA2 7PS

Directors: R A Bain, C Bowditch, J Bowman, S J Crichton, B A Maxwell, D Ramshaw, J S R S Riddle, R M Tringham

Our Patrons: Eric Martlew, Freeman of the City of Carlisle, Eric Robson, Broadcaster, former Honorary President of Cumbria Tourism, Chair of the Wainwright Society

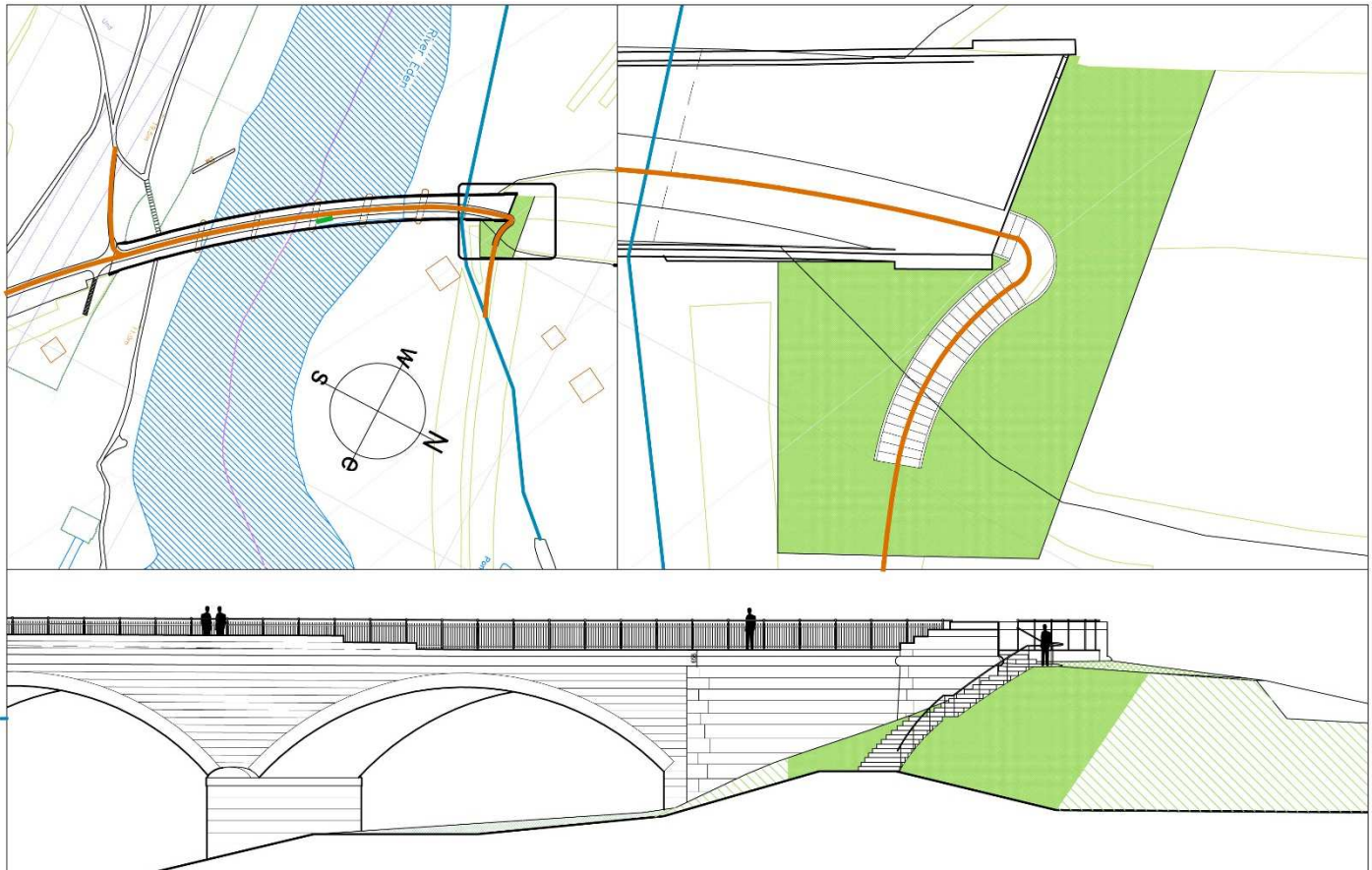


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Title	Scale	Date	Drawing No.	Rev.
Proposed New Footpath Across The Waverley Viaduct, Carlisle. PLAN AND ELEVATION ON NEW STEPS AT NORTH	1:200 @ A3	29/10/2018	WV24	<input type="checkbox"/>

All attempts to mollify this owner over many years have failed leaving the trust with no apparent alternative but to seek a public path creation order (PPCO), through the agency of a local authority, to unplug the impasse. Carlisle City Council has committed to assisting in this way, including finding up to £38K for a public inquiry should the landowner continue to object. However, the support of the Council comes with some seemingly intractable conditions; the main one being its requirement that all the funds required to pay for the project must be in place BEFORE it will begin the process of making the PPCO. But the trust is confident that potential funders will not commit until the PPCO is in place, so overcoming this apparent chicken and egg situation is central to the trust's efforts. To this end, enlisting the support of members in the forthcoming Cumberland Unitary Authority is seen as being an important and urgent task. The new authority must ensure that the resolution made in 2019 by Carlisle City Council remains firmly in view, AND importantly it must also

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work to have the PPCO implemented immediately, so that wide and proven support can be realised and money raised through grants and voluntary giving.

Light at the End of the Tunnel

Railway Paths' involvement brings with it, among other things, one very important benefit. RPL intend to facilitate a first phase of works which will NOT require a PPCO. The unsightly barriers will be removed at both ends, essential repairs will be carried out and strong balustrades will be erected along the full length of both sides to a pattern which satisfies the 'listed' status of the bridge, thereby enabling the public to gain safe access for the first time in many years. Tantalizingly, though, the holy grail of achieving legal access down to the existing public path on the north side by means of new steps will still not be attained until a PPCO is forthcoming, so this challenge will remain a case of 'so near, yet so far'!

Costs

The cost of the first phase has been professionally assessed to be in the order of **£280K** and is valid until end 2022. This estimate includes VAT, a contingency sum, and professional fees. The trust will begin fund-raising for this as soon as RPL obtain possession of the bridge.

Permissions and Procurement

Planning and Listed Building Consents were obtained in 2018, and these will be renewed when transfer of ownership is complete.

Contract management and engineering professionals will be confirmed to lead procurement of the project.

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