



Carlisle Waverley Viaduct Trust
13 Beaver Road
Carlisle
CA2 7PS

7 September 2017

The Campaign for Borders Rail supports the reopening aims of the Carlisle Waverley Viaduct Trust.

Dear CWVT Supporters,

As a worthy example of adapting the historic infrastructure of the old Waverley Route railway line to serve the modern needs of the community at large, the ambitions of the Carlisle Waverley Viaduct Trust echo the parallel ambitions of the Campaign for Borders Rail. It is therefore without reservation that the Campaign supports the Trust in its endeavours to incorporate the Viaduct into a sustainable, traffic-free corridor, that will enhance the lives of everyone in the surrounding communities, and provide an exemplar of how historically important industrial heritage can play an active part in the life and commerce of our communities for generations to come.

Think of Britain's industrial heritage, and inevitably the railways spring to mind. It could well be argued that, of all the advances that swept through our islands since we stepped away from the subsistence culture of the eighteenth-century, the railways made the greatest, most widespread, and most enduring transformation. The single greatest change in the way we communicate, the way we conduct commerce, and the way we perceive our nation came about with the advent of the railways. No picture of rugged Scotland, of rural Wales, nor English market town, seems complete without the presence of a railway line, a station, or another impressive artefact of the endeavours of the railway engineers. It is for all these historical reasons that the work of the Carlisle Waverley Viaduct Trust has merit, and deserves support.

However, history alone is not reason enough to warrant the effort and expenditure required to make the Viaduct formally accessible. There must be a valid need to be answered. That has been the motivation behind the Trust, which has identified a list of needs, uses and

Simon Walton, chairman
The Campaign for Borders Rail
one of the most successful grassroots rail campaigns in Great Britain
www.campaignforbordersrail.org
0131 281 5203 / 07540 313018
Chairman.bordersrail@uwclub.net



innovations that serve nearby communities, the city of Carlisle and the greater Borderlands. Bridging the River Eden was the first major civil engineering challenge to which the builders of the nineteenth-century railway rose. Answering the latent demands of the twenty-first century is the challenge of the Trust, and gives new purpose to the foresight of that Victorian engineering.

Our own success, in the opening and overwhelming popularity of the Borders Railway, and our continued work to see the line completed with reconnection at Carlisle, is a prime example of perseverance bearing fruit, and of public demand far beyond even the most optimistic projections. For commercial, community, cultural and historical reasons, the Carlisle Waverley Viaduct Trust has equal merit and deserves to succeed. As a parallel of the work of the Campaign, with concordant aims of economic development and social inclusion, we wholeheartedly endorse these ambitions and offer our support in promoting the Waverley Viaduct project.

Yours faithfully

Simon Walton
Chairman
Campaign for Borders Rail