



Duncan Laird
National Trust
Heelis
Kemble Drive
Swindon
SN2 2NA

Rich Marshall
Responsible Director
Historical Railways Estate
37 Tanner Row
York
YO1 6WP

9 September 2021

Dear Duncan Laird,

Castlefield Viaduct Pilot Scheme

I write on behalf of National Highways' (formerly Highways England) Historical Railways Estate Team. We are managing agents of the Estate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, who is the owner of Castlefield Viaduct.

We recognise the potential wider social value of the Historical Railways Estate. My Team and I are excited to be involved in this innovative project that has the potential to support active travel and safeguard an important historical asset so that it can be enjoyed now and by generations to come.

As you know, our two organisations have partnered to pilot the use of Castlefield Viaduct as an urban park and consult the public on its longer-term design. To enable this, the Secretary of State would initially lease the structure to the National Trust. This will allow them to use the structure as a temporary urban park that people can experience, helping them provide feedback on its longer-term design. Subject to the success of the pilot, the Secretary of State will consider permanently transferring responsibility of the structure to the National Trust.

We acknowledge specific roles and responsibilities that we will fulfil in this project. Subject to the planning application being accepted, we would expect our role in the Castlefield Viaduct Pilot Project to include:

1. Engagement about the legal agreement to be entered into between the Secretary of State for Transport and the National Trust, which will deal with a potential ownership transfer and the grant of permission to use the viaduct for the pilot project.
2. Sharing of best practice, knowledge and expertise with the project team from other similar projects.
3. Support the provision of access to the viaduct in accordance with the terms of the legal agreement referred to in bullet point 1 above to enable the Pilot to proceed.

National Trust will take responsibility to lead on the project, its development and resolving future ownership and liabilities.

We are looking forward to working with the National Trust and the Department for Transport on this project to realise the potential of this currently disused Historical Railways structure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RM', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rich Marshall
National Highways
Responsible Director, Historical Railways Estate