NORTHERN VIADUCT TRUST

<u>10 Good Reasons</u> why Northern Viaduct Trust can not give permission to further Bridge Jumping/Swinging/Bungie Jumps, Abseiling at Smardale Gill Viaduct, within Smardale Gill Reserve

1. Smardale Gill is a National Nature Reserve and SSSI designated by Natural England and owned by Cumbria Wildlife Trust. Noisy adventure activities are incompatible with this status.

2. Ravens nest on the Viaduct arches (and peregrine falcons have done so in the past). Disturbing them is a criminal offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.

3. Already the activities of the jumpers are attracting hostile criticism from Cumbria Wildlife Trust volunteers and visitors to the Nature Reserve and we will become increasingly unpopular if we are not seen to be taking action.

4. Smardale Gill Viaduct is a Grade 2* listed monument and both English Heritage and Eden District Council have responsibility for it: they can require us as owners to prevent any activities liable to damage the structure.

5. The railings are not designed or appropriate for rope belays.

6.   Any safe belays would be likely to require drilling and fixing masonry bolts in the structure, which would be forbidden because of its Listed status.

7. If we allow potentially dangerous adventurous activities our insurance would go through the roof – from £2,500 per year to
£9,500 per year.

8. If we give permission to some, it will attract other Jumpers and providers of such activities.

9. Our charitable objects (like those of Cumbria Wildlife Trust) do not include the provision of facilities for outdoor adventure.

10. Finally, our Trustees have, following discussion, unanimously voted against granting controlled providers permission to use Smardale Gill

Viaduct for such activities.