

Out and About

Elan Valley Area



This leaflet answers some of the frequently asked questions about what to do and where to go in the local area. Staff at the Information Desk will be pleased to help if you have any further queries relating to the Estate and Visitor Centre.

USEFUL NUMBERS:

Rangers' Office	01597 810880
Information Desk	01597 810898
Café	01597 810899
Local Police (or 999 or 112 in an emergency)	0845 330 2000
Doctors' Surgery (Rhayader)	01597 810231

www.elanvalley.org.uk
rangers@elanvalley.org.uk



Elan Valley Visitor Centre

Open from 10 am until 5.30 pm, seven days a week, from mid-March until early November. Please see our website for exact opening dates: www.elanvalley.org.uk

Facilities include: a large exhibition area about the history and natural history of the Estate, audio-visual show, information desk, shop, café, children's play area, toilets, easy disabled access.

The £1 parking charge at the Centre goes towards the upkeep of the Visitor Centre and nature conservation on the Estate, and covers you for all the car parks for the whole day.

Seeing the Estate by car

A leaflet with map is available from the Information Desk, priced 30p.

Main car parks are located at the Visitor Centre, Nantgwyllt Church, Penbont (below Pen y Garreg Dam), Gwaelod y Rhos (along from Pen y Garreg Dam), Craig Goch Dam, Pont ar Elan, the base and top of Claerwen Dam and at Llannerch y Cawr. There are several other lay-bys and spaces for smaller numbers of vehicles.

Please lock your vehicle when unattended, and take any valuables with you.

Coach drivers

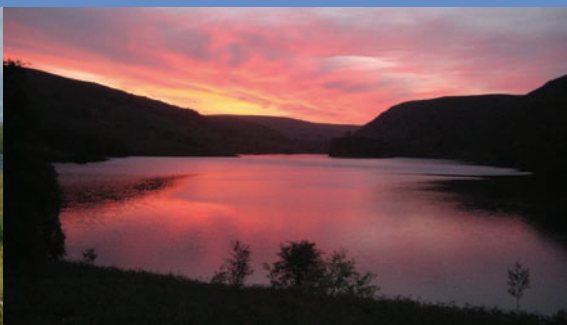
Ask at the Information Desk for a free Coach Drivers' pack. Please follow a clockwise route around the valley, as the road is very narrow in places!

Ranger Service

The Ranger Service works on behalf of Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water and the Elan Valley Trust to help visitors enjoy and appreciate the Estate and to protect and conserve the area's diverse plant and animal life. They run various events throughout the year, including guided walks, birdwatching safaris, dam open days and holiday events for children. The Rangers' Office is open throughout the year. Pick up a copy of this year's events leaflet at the Information Desk.

Educational visits

The Ranger team includes an Environmental Education Ranger who can assist with educational visits to the Estate, from giving information and advice for a self-guided visit, to providing Ranger-led activities. We also hold the Learning Outside the Classroom's Quality Badge. Ask for a copy of 'Educational Visits to the Elan Valley' at the Information Desk, or call (01597) 810390.



Walking

There is open access over most of the 70 square mile Estate, as well as over 80 miles of designated rights of way. However, please do not enter fenced areas around farms unless you have been given permission by the farmer. Ordnance Survey maps are available from the Information Desk, as well as a variety of walks leaflets, 'Ten Hillwalks around Rhayader and the Elan Valley' and 'Woodland Walks in the Elan Valley' packs. The OS maps for this area are the Explorer 200 and the Landranger 147.

Some of our walks leaflets have been 'calorie-mapped', allowing you to calculate how many calories you will use when enjoying the walks!

Other local walking groups and information:

Rhayader Walkers - contact Carl Baker, Glenydd, South Street, Rhayader, LD6 5BH. Contact 01597 810405

Four Wells Walkers - contact Derek Cosslett on 01597 860519 or www.fourwells.powysramblers.org.uk

www.leapingstiles.com - information about walking in the mid Wales area

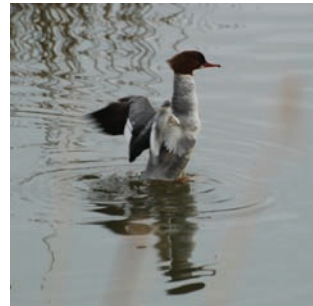
Birdwatching

A leaflet on where to watch the diversity of bird life on the Estate is available from the Information Desk. There is also a board at the Desk which lists recent sightings. The Ranger Service runs birdwatching safaris on Sunday mornings from late April to June - please book places at the Desk.

Gigrin Farm Trail and Red Kite Centre - Kite feeding all year round. 2pm in winter, 3pm in summer. Three of the hides have wheelchair friendly access. Contact: 01597 810243 www.gigrin.co.uk

RSPB Carngafallt Nature Reserve - situated at the eastern end of Elan Village. Area of upland woodland and heathland that is accessed via public rights of way. Contact: 02920 353000 or www.rspb.org.uk/wales

Gilfach Nature Reserve - owned by Radnorshire Wildlife Trust. Follow the A470 between Rhayader and Llangurig, approximately 2 miles from Rhayader. Waymarked trails, historic long house, car park and toilets with facilities for the disabled. Contact 01597 870301 or 01597 823298 info@radnorshirewildlifetrust.org.uk www.radnorshirewildlifetrust.org.uk





Cycling

Cyclists may ride on bridleways and byways open to all traffic (BOATs), but must give way to walkers and horse riders. It is illegal to cycle on a public footpath. Look out for marker posts from the main highway: these are coloured blue for bridleways and yellow for footpaths.

The Elan Valley Trail which lies between Craig Goch Dam and Rhayader is a permissive bridleway along the lower section - please give way to all other users. A leaflet is also available from the Visitor Centre for 30p.

Clive Powell Mountain Bike Centre provides guided and fully supported mountain bike weekends, bike hire and repairs. For more information on cycling in the Elan Valley and Rhayader areas please contact: 01597 811343 clive@clivepowell-mtb.co.uk www.clivepowell-mtb.co.uk

Llandrindod Wells Leisure Centre also has bikes available for hire, contact 01597 824249 or <http://llandrindod-leisurecentre.powys.gov.uk>



Horse riding

As for cyclists, you may ride on bridleways and byways open to all traffic, but not public footpaths. A guide called 'Powys on Horseback' is available from the British Horse Society (BHS) on 01926 707714 or www.britishhorse.com



The Lion Royal Hotel provides pony trekking from their hotel in Rhayader. BHS recommended. Contact: 01597 810202 or www.lionroyal.co.uk

Other riding stables nearby:

Underhill Riding Stables, Dolau, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5TL. Contact 01597 851890 www.underhillridingstables.co.uk

Heart of Wales Riding School, Penybont, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5TB. Contact 01597 851884 david.tyddu@btconnect.com www.heartofwales.co.uk



Fishing

A fishing information leaflet and fishing permits are available from the Information Desk for the Elan Valley Reservoirs. Rhayader and Elan Valley Angling Association manage fishing on the Wye/Elan/Marteg and Llyngwyn Lake. Contact: 01597 810383
www.rhayaderangling.co.uk

Picnic areas

There is a large picnic area at the Visitor Centre, and picnic tables can be found in or around all of the main car parks and along the Elan Valley Trail. **Please take all your litter home and recycle it where possible.**

Camping

No camping or overnight parking is allowed on the Estate. An up to date list is available for the local area from the Elan Valley Visitor Centre Information Desk.

Off-road vehicles

The Monks' Trod/Road is currently closed to **ALL** motorised vehicles. There is no right of way for motorised vehicles beyond the bridge at the top end of Claerwen Reservoir.

Accommodation

A list of local hotels, guesthouses and self-catering accommodation is available from the Information Desk. www.rhayader.co.uk also has information about accommodation in the area.

Dogs

Because of the many free-ranging sheep on the Estate, please keep your dog under close control at all times. The area around the Visitor Centre, as well as Cnwch Wood (opposite the Centre) is used for children's nature activities; please clear up after your dog.

Telephone boxes

The closest telephone to the Visitor Centre is 1/2 mile away, on the B4518 towards Rhayader, just before the turn off for the Visitor Centre. Other telephones are located at Penbont bridge and Llannerch y Cawr car park. They take credit cards/phone cards, but not coins.

Please be aware that mobile phone reception on all networks is very poor in this area.

Toilets

As well as at the Visitor Centre, there are toilets in Elan Village, at the base of Claerwen Dam and on the far side of Craig Goch Dam. These are only open from mid March until November. Outside these times, the nearest toilets are in Cwmdauddwr, on the outskirts of Rhayader.

Water sports

Boating, canoeing or any other water sports are **NOT** permitted on the Estate.

Rock climbing

This is only permitted through the Elan Valley Lodge. Tel: (01597) 811143.
www.elanvalleylodge.co.uk



Paragliding

This is only permitted through the Mid-Wales Hangliding and Paragliding Club.
Tel: 07814 441242 or (01970) 624666.

Leisure Centre

In Rhayader there is a Leisure Centre situated in North Street. Swimming pool, fitness suite, squash courts, solarium and snooker table. During school holidays there are supervised activities available for children. Contact 01597 810355
<http://rhayader-leisurecentre.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=2408>

Indoor Play Centre

Quackers Play Centre is at Newmead, Newbridge-on-Wye, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5HR.
Contact 01597 860111
www.quackersnow.com

Safety information:

- Make sure you are suitably equipped for changes in the weather
- Wear appropriate footwear and clothing
- Be aware you may encounter rough and uneven terrain
- Don't rely on mobile phones as the signal is very poor!
- Always tell someone where you are going and what time you expect to return

Please follow the Country Code

Please don't feed the sheep or pick up the lambs!

Please report any fires or suspicious activities to the Information Desk, Rangers' Office or local Police

We hope that you enjoy your visit to the Elan Valley, and will return again in the future!

Elan Valley Visitor Centre

Elan Village
Rhayader
Powys
LD6 5HP



DŴR CYMRU
WELSH WATER

CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU



COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

