



HLF Programme Objectives			
Objective	Outcomes	Main Objective (tick one box only)	Links to other areas
1	The heritage will be better managed		✓
2	The heritage will be in better condition	✓	
3	The heritage will be identified/recorded		
4	People will have developed skills		✓
5	People will have learnt about heritage		
6	People will have volunteered time		
7	Negative environmental impacts will have been reduced		✓
8	More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage		
9	The local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit		✓

Objective 2: Target habitat management for key species as identified by the landscape character action plan

2a: Elan Rare Upland Birds



Summary

The Elan Links area is a traditional stronghold for upland breeding birds such as golden plover, red grouse, curlew, merlin, ring ouzel, whinchat, and skylark. The importance of the area is recognised by designation as a Special Protection Area (SPA) across much of the area. In addition, the area has been targeted for action as an Important Upland Bird Area (IUBA) by RSPB and CCW (now NRW).

This project will improve key habitat areas and make other interventions

	<p>to contribute towards improving the breeding success of component bird species in the upland breeding bird assemblage at Elan.</p> <p>In very general terms the priority species are dependent on vegetation mosaics, both in terms of density and height, at a variety of spatial scales as breeding habitat. All except red grouse are dependent on foraging habitat away from the immediate vicinity of a nest site and this is frequently “below the mountain wall”. Golden plover and curlew also benefit from damp to wet soil conditions. Again, in very general terms, declines in populations within the Elan Links area are considered most likely to be associated with a reduction in livestock management practices that created and maintained heterogeneity of vegetation. Planned interventions are aimed at recreating this heterogeneity using sustainable methods – these being delivered by supporting projects throughout Objectives 1-3 under a Natural Heritage Delivery Contract.</p>
<p>Project Details</p>	<p>Management of most of Elan’s key bird habitat areas is supported by Glastir Advanced through individual contracts between farmers and the Welsh Government. Glastir offers a Wales-wide set prescriptions however this project can add specific requirements of the Elan Links area in ways that have proved impractical to deliver through Glastir within current constraints.</p> <p>Building on the recommendations from the 2010 IUBA report this project will undertake targeted habitat management and other actions that will contribute to securing the future of the upland breeding bird assemblage in the Elan Links area.</p> <p>The project has strong links with a number of the other natural heritage projects. Many elements of the other projects are designed in such a way that they will have positive benefits for birds. The more specific and focused bird actions will however be delivered through this project. The principal delivery mechanism will be through a Natural Heritage Delivery Contract for farmers and the scheme will be coordinated by a Natural Heritage Officer (for further details please refer to the Natural Heritage Implementation Plan, appendix PP3).</p> <p>While a range of different actions have been identified all these actions will either improve the suitability of key components of habitats to improve feeding and/or nesting areas for individual bird species, or will take highly focused action to improve breeding success – for example by protecting nests from livestock. The locations for all these activities are broadly drawn around current and past breeding and feeding records, while leaving scope to take advantage of suitable opportunities on the ground. Please note that this project only focuses on the <i>upland</i> breeding bird assemblage. Bird species principally characteristic of Elan Links woodlands are targeted through actions in Project 1c Improving Our Woodlands.</p> <p>Habitat requirements for the five focal species are given in detail in the IUBA report (see appendix PP4). They are briefly outlined below alongside the actions and prescriptions needed to improve key areas of habitat for the Elan Links area.</p>

Curlew:

Habitat requirements: At least 30ha of contiguous open, flat (or gently undulating) landscape with largely unrestricted views of >200m, extensively grazed damp pasture, hay meadows, frequent damp habitats e.g. flushes, scrapes, damp depressions and adjacent areas of improved, earthworm and tipulid-rich pasture of 5cm or less in height on average.

Actions to improve curlew habitat: to include mixed grazing; mechanical intervention for rushes/molinia; liming (where low pH) and muckspreading on 'improved' pastures; stock exclusion at certain times of year, creation of wet flushes and damp scrapes. In addition, nesting success can be improved by protection of nesting sites from grazing livestock (temporary stock exclusion electric fencing around nest sites) and a reduction in predator pressures for example through removal of hunting perches (eg tall posts and individual conifers). These actions will only be delivered in areas where curlew currently nest or are known to have nested in the last 30 years as per the opportunity map for this species. The balance of individual actions required on a specific site will depend on site conditions and opportunities. For this reason the curlew species actions will be delivered on an outcomes basis – farmers will be given guidance on the habitat requirements for the species and then incentivised to achieve the desired outcomes using a guided rather than a prescription-led process with payments dependent on progress towards a pre-agreed and shared outcome.

Golden plover:

Habitat requirements: golden plover prefer broad, open, exposed areas (e.g. hill and ridge tops) at least 400m from any conifer plantations, with short vegetation and wet areas. Adults and chicks rely on invertebrate food throughout the breeding season, particularly the larvae of Tipulids (leatherjackets). Adults also use short-grazed pastures containing high densities of soil invertebrates e.g. leatherjackets and earthworms.

Actions to improve golden plover habitat: re-wetting of degraded bog – delivered through Project 1a; increased structural diversity of vegetation (reducing molinia over-dominance) in key nesting areas – mechanical topping; mixed grazing; targeted supplementary feeding of grazing livestock; seeding with heather, sphagnum (delivered through Project 1a) and/or finer leaved grasses depending on peat depth; liming (where low pH) and muckspreading on 'improved' pastures. In addition, nesting success can be improved by a reduction in predator pressures for example through removal of hunting perches (e.g. tall posts and individual conifers). These actions will only be delivered in areas where golden plover currently use or are known to have used as per the opportunity map for this species. The balance of individual actions required on a specific site will depend on site conditions and opportunities. For this reason the golden plover species actions will be delivered on an outcomes basis – farmers will be given guidance on the habitat requirements for the species and then incentivised to achieve the desired outcomes using a guided rather than a prescription-led process with payments dependent on progress towards a pre-agreed and shared outcome.

Red grouse:

Habitat requirements: red grouse need heather-dominated moorland with the heather managed to produce a varied age structure. Adult red grouse are dependent on heather for food (particularly the shoots of young / regenerating plants), nest sites and cover. Other plants used for feeding include bilberry (berries) in the autumn and cotton grass (flower buds) in the spring. Red grouse chicks require invertebrates when young; wet/damp areas are favoured for foraging. The presence of louping-ill (carried by ticks) can have serious impacts on chick survival.

Actions to improve red grouse habitat: Since the requirements of red grouse are so closely aligned to the management of dry heath the following actions will be delivered through Project 1b Dry Heath Management: manage trees/scrub to maintain an open landscape, i.e. remove invasive conifers; manage the dry heath on a minimum 15-year rotation by cutting and/or burning with cuts/burns to be 100m x 30m, where this is acceptable in respect of other site features e.g. sensitive habitats should be left unmanaged. The birds project itself will benefit grouse by encouraging more effective tick control in grazing livestock to reduce tick burdens. This action will be undertaken by commissioning a veterinary tick control management plan for the Elan Links area and providing support for prophylactic ectoparasite control on grazing livestock for two years to demonstrate the benefits in terms of sheep productivity to farmers.

Ring ouzel:

Habitat requirements: Medium to long heather and invertebrate-rich short (5cm or less) grassland (either amongst the heather or as adjacent pasture) in a ratio of 60:40 within a c 450m radius of crags/rock faces. Scattered fruit-bearing trees and shrubs e.g. rowan, hawthorn, juniper, crowberry, bilberry and patches of bracken.

Actions to improve ring ouzel habitat: autumn berries: planting of scattered rowan and hawthorn on moorland edge/ffridd; spring/summer: worm rich in-bye pastures: cattle and pony grazing; liming and muckspreading on in-bye fields. These ideally as close as possible (<1km – preferably 500m) to known nesting crags as identified in the ring ouzel opportunity map. Bracken management where this is forming a closed canopy in ffridd areas (in line with the bracken management plan described under Merlin actions). These actions will only be delivered in areas ring ouzels are known to have used in the last 30 years as per the opportunity map for this species. The balance of individual actions required on a specific site will depend on site conditions and opportunities. For this reason the ring ouzel species actions will be delivered on an outcomes basis – farmers will be given guidance on the habitat requirements for the species and then incentivised to achieve the desired outcomes using a guided rather than a prescription-led process with payments dependent on progress towards a pre-agreed and shared outcome.

Merlin:

Habitat requirements: Merlin are found on open moorland, and in

	<p>adjacent farmland and forestry. Nests are typically located on the sides of small valleys, steep banks or rocky terraced slopes. They feed on small birds, particularly meadow pipit and skylark. Prey abundance is related, in part, to moorland vegetation structure and habitat type and structure on surrounding land; a variety of sward heights and edges between different habitat types (e.g. grasslands with patches of rushes, bogs with flushes and managed heather moorland) support higher densities of preferred prey species.</p> <p>Actions to improve merlin habitat: merlin will benefit from the dry heath management delivered through Project 1b. A limiting factor to merlin abundance in the Elan Links area is thought to be the number of prey available (e.g. whinchat) in the ffridd habitat and moorland edge habitats in the spring. Management of these areas should focus on developing a diverse mix of open swards, scattered trees, shrubs and occasional stands of bracken to suit this prey species. Overgrowth of bracken in many of these moorland edge areas is a particular issue and so a bracken management plan for key areas of the Elan Links area will be undertaken early in Year 1. Other actions to deliver a more diverse moorland edge include scattered tree planting and mixed grazing. However, the balance of individual actions required on a specific site will depend on site conditions and opportunities. For this reason the merlin actions will be delivered on an outcomes basis – farmers will be given guidance on the habitat requirements for the species and then incentivised to achieve the desired outcomes using a guided rather than a prescription-led process with payments dependent on progress towards a pre-agreed and shared outcome.</p> <p>Implicit in the development of agreements with farmers based on shared outcomes is the need for a high degree of understanding of farmers with the nature conservation objectives on their land (and vice versa). To promote this outcome, farmers will be encouraged to participate in discussions with the Natural Heritage (NH) Officer and other experts and training in bird identification and habitat monitoring will be given on-farm as needed. The NH officer will be encouraged to better understand the farming system operated by individual farmers. Feedback on bird sighting's by farmers will be encouraged and a shared 'sense of pride and purpose' with other participating farmers will be encouraged by an annual project stocktake held on a participating farm or other venue of interest.</p> <p>Monitoring of the project will be coordinated by the NH Officer supported by RSPB, professional expertise, farmers and other trained volunteers and delivered through Project 2b.</p>
<p>Need and Opportunity</p>	<p>This project has been developed to mitigate the threats identified in chapter four of the LCAP, namely:</p> <p>4.2.1 Damage to Elan's distinct habitats</p> <p>Although the primary threat is to the landscape features these three identified areas also have resultant threats to the species that are dependent on them, such as the upland bird assemblage of Elan. Together this project, alongside objective one, has the opportunity to</p>

	<p>restore habitats and continue to provide a mosaic of habitats.</p> <p>4.2.2 The threat from changing land management practices & 4.2.7.1 Threats to upland farming</p> <p>With the changes in how the land is managed there is not only the loss of traditional methods and a farming heritage and legacy but again there is the loss of practises which have historically supported a variety of species including the upland bird assemblage. Not only do we have the opportunity to reinvigorate these traditional practises but there is the opportunity to mitigate the threat of further changes and reduction in the level of upland farming. Thus taking advantage of opportunity: 4.3.1.1 'Reinvigorating farming practices.</p> <p>4.2.6 External impacts and the threat to Elan's heritage</p> <p>With external impacts such as climate change, there is again added pressure on the landscape and the habitats available. This project is therefore looking to mitigate these changes so that Elan can continue to host the variety of birds and other species for which we are renowned. The Elan Links programme presents a fantastic opportunity to take the sort of landscape scale, coordinated, innovative and ambitious approach that is needed to reverse the decline in the upland breeding bird assemblage. In so doing, the project will provide valuable learning – both for the continuation of these actions in the Elan Links area and for other upland areas in Wales.</p>
Project Management	Natural Heritage Officer reporting to the natural Heritage Sub-committee and the Partnership Board.
Project Partners	Lead Partner: Elan Valley Trust Other Partners: NRW, RSPB, PONT, Elan Valley Tenants Association, Cwmduddwr Commoners Association
Project Development	<p>Development of this project has been integrated into the development of related projects that have been supported by an Agrigop animateur (funded through the Wales RDP) who brought together interested parties – farmers/commoners/EVT/NRW and facilitated discussions.</p> <p>In addition site visits between RSPB, NRW and EVT officers have provided an opportunity to share ideas and consider links with other projects. Where there have been gaps in survey data, for example for golden plover and curlew, these surveys have also been undertaken to inform project development. Furthermore, the project plan has been informed by previous initiatives to support particular species in the Elan Links area such as the Elenydd Purple Moorgrass Project in 2015 (funded by the Nature Fund of Welsh Government).</p> <p>Through an analysis of the distribution of past records the IUBA report went on to identify species management zones where species specific management is most likely to be successful in supporting breeding success. Additionally, species population targets were set. These targets are considered realistic and were set with consideration of the fact that there was very little species specific management being undertaken at the time and achievable targets were seen as a sensible approach to encourage management to commence.</p>

	<p>Subsequent project development has been undertaken electronically and face-to-face with discussion between NRW officers, RSPB, PONT, EVT and a number of farmers. These discussions have led to the development of an 'opportunity map' (see appendix PP6) showing where actions for individual bird species should best be targeted. The map only shows 'opportunities' for five key species; curlew, golden plover, red grouse, ring ouzel and merlin, although the ring ouzel and merlin areas similar. This is because actions supporting these key species will also support the other IUBA species because of similar habitat requirements. Furthermore, actions in other projects to improve habitat condition (namely 1a Healthy Bogs and 1b Dry Heath) will also support the upland breeding bird assemblage. There is considerable overlap in the 'opportunities maps' for these habitats and the birds project and consideration of how best to integrate the work plans for these projects to the benefit of birds was undertaken during project development.</p>	
<p>Key Audiences (Please see Audience Development Plan, appendix LCAP3, for more details about Elan Links audiences.)</p>	<p>Audiences that will be primarily targeted through this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Land managers including landowners, tenants and commoners. 	<p>Secondary audiences who will also benefit as a result of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Volunteers 🌿 Visitors from Birmingham (Birmingham Residents); 🌿 Visitors who are within 1 hour's drive away; 🌿 Visitors coming for a specific activity; 🌿 All other visitors; 🌿 Residents of Elan and Rhayader.
<p>Activities and Timescale</p>	<p><u>Curlew actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Mixed Grazing; 🌿 Mechanical intervention; 🌿 Liming and muckspreading on in-bye land; 🌿 Stock exclusive and certain times of year; 🌿 Protection of nesting sites; <p><u>Golden plover actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Re-wetting of degraded bog (project 1a); 🌿 Mechanical intervention for structural mosaic habitat; 🌿 Mixed grazing plus targeted supplementary feeding for targeted areas; 🌿 Seeding of heather, sphagnum (project 1a); 🌿 Liming and muckspreading on in-bye land; 🌿 Protection of nesting sites; <p><u>Red grouse actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Manage trees/scrub to maintain an open landscape i.e. remove invasive conifers (project 1c); 🌿 Manage the dry heath on a minimum 15-year rotation by cutting and/or burning (project 1c); 🌿 Veterinary tick control management plan. 	

	<p>Ring ouzel actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Planting of scattered rowan and hawthorn on moorland edge/ffridd 🌿 Cattle and pony grazing 🌿 Liming and muckspreading on in-bye fields 🌿 Bracken management (linked with Merlin actions below). <p>Merlin actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Dry heath management (delivered through project 1b); 🌿 Management of ffridd (including tree planting, see above, and bracken management); 🌿 Bracken / Ffridd Management Plan <p>Timescale:</p> <p>Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Compilation of the Tick Control Plan; 🌿 Farmer interaction and implementation of the Tick Control Plan; 🌿 Natural Heritage Officer engaging with the farmers of Elan and preparing Natural Heritage Delivery Contracts; <p>Year 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Continuation of tick control actions; 🌿 Aim to have all engaged farmers under a Delivery Contract and commencement of capital works; <p>Year 3,4 and 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Completion of capital works and management options as per the farmers Contract 🌿 Reviews with the Natural Heritage Officer as to the outcomes/outputs achieved
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 40 hectares better managed for curlew; 🌿 40 hectares better managed for golden plover; 🌿 450 hectares tick control zone for red grouse; 🌿 30 hectares better managed for ring ouzel; 🌿 30 hectares better managed for merlin; 🌿 'Bird farmers' group - 4 stakeholder days with 10 farmers attending; 🌿 10 people trained in farming for birds; 🌿 All Elan Links farmers informed about project; 🌿 End-of-project report with recommendations for future activity; 🌿 Volunteering activity delivered through Projects 2b and Objectives 8 and 10; 🌿 Interpretation to a wider audience delivered through Objective 7.
Output indicators and targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Curlew target: Two farm-holdings within the curlew opportunity area participating totalling 40 hectares. Cost: £6k pa x 4 years = £24k; 🌿 Golden plover target: Three farm-holdings in the golden plover opportunity map area participating totalling 40 hectares. Cost: £6k pa x 4 years = £24k (excluding cost of actions delivered through Project 1a); 🌿 Red grouse target: Tick control measures on holdings in the red grouse action area including buffer zone (450 hectares total);

	<p>Cost: £1500 in Years 1 and 2 = £3k (excluding cost of actions delivered through Project 1a);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Ring ouzel target: 30 hectares managed better for ring ouzel. Cost: £4k pa x 4 years = £16k; 🌿 Merlin target: Up to 30 hectares of moorland edge and ffridd habitat managed on an outcomes basis and informed by a bracken / ffridd management plan. Cost: £4k for 4 years = £16k. <p>Total cost:£83k</p> <p>Indicators of output include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Photographic recording. 🌿 Data collection – management agreements, small grants, farmer groups active. 🌿 Progress with project implementation will be reported to the Natural Heritage sub-committee annually.
Outcomes	<p>Heritage Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 The future of the upland breeding bird assemblage in the Elan Links area will be secured including SPA species; 🌿 An innovative model of managing for nature conservation based on shared outcomes between farmers and nature conservationists will be tested for the future; 🌿 Designated and other semi-natural habitats will be in more favourable condition; 🌿 The resilience of Elan is strengthened for the future and a legacy for future management has been created. <p>People Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Farmers will have benefited from a more diverse business income and improved grazing for livestock; 🌿 Better understanding between farmers, land managers and statutory and regulatory bodies about how to meet farming and nature conservation objectives; 🌿 People including farmers will have volunteered time to monitor benefits for nature conservation (through links with Project 2b). <p>Community Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 The community will have a greater sense of the importance of Elan’s open hill spaces and the complexity of their future management will be higher on the agenda; 🌿 A greater cross section of the community will appreciate and have a deeper understanding of the natural heritage of the Elan Links area; 🌿 Elan will become more widely known as an area with a distinctive natural heritage and this will help to build the reputation of Elan as a tourism destination.
Monitoring and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Progress with project implementation will be reported to the Natural Heritage sub-committee annually; 🌿 Bird monitoring using a mix of expert input / advice and trained volunteers will be implemented through Project 2b and supported by Project 8b; 🌿 Stakeholder days will be used to understand the benefits of the project from the point of view of farmers and other

	<p>stakeholders. Stakeholder feedback will be reported to Natural Heritage Sub Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏡 Ecological monitoring biodiversity surveys. 🏡 Photographic recording. 🏡 Data collection – management agreements, small grants, farmer groups active.
Evidence	<p>Lamacraft, D., Vanstone, A. & Thorpe R. I. (2012) Important Upland Bird Areas: Elenydd SSSI. CCW Contract Science Report: No. 944 59pp. appendix PP4</p> <p>Note of meeting of Commoners (appendix PP7)</p> <p>A number of bird surveys commissioned by EVT and others have been used as evidence to support project development over the last few years, e.g. for curlew and golden plover. RSPB hold considerable information on bird use of the Elan Links area compiled over many years.</p> <p>Actions for golden plover have been informed by evidence generated in the Elan Links area (e.g. the Trumau project, funded by CCW) and on neighbouring areas for example on Abergwesyn Common (delivered through the National Trust).</p>
Wider Context	<p>In recent years there has been a crisis in the Welsh populations of upland breeding birds. For example, in 2007, there were only 36 pairs of golden plover in Wales, mostly in and around the Elan Valley, with an 88% decline since 1982. On account of this decline the golden plover is listed as a Principal Biodiversity Species in Wales, and is red-listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern in Wales, highlighting the need for conservation action. Similar declines have also been recorded for many other upland breeding bird species. The IUBA work undertaken by RSPB under contract to CCW, established the priority species requiring management in the Elan Links area as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏡 Golden Plover 🏡 Curlew 🏡 Red Grouse 🏡 Ring ouzel 🏡 Merlin <p>As noted above, this project is set in the context of a wider crisis in upland breeding bird populations in Wales. The Elenydd, along with the Migneint and the North Wales Moors have been highlighted as key areas to target actions for securing these populations and ultimately reversing the downward trends. The Elan Links area is therefore one of the key, strategically important sites for undertaking the actions identified here.</p>
Legacy and maintenance of benefits	<p>Many of the actions outlined in this project will show benefits for farm productivity. It is expected that supporting actions such as these during the delivery period will lead to ongoing beneficial activity beyond the life of the project. In other cases, for example the development of the bracken management plan it is anticipated that project activities can be used to unlock funding from other sources, for example from the Welsh Government's Sustainable Management Scheme.</p>

<p>Risks and risk mitigation</p>	<p><u>Risk 1:</u> The natural heritage projects in Elan Links are designed to complement and tailor agri-environment provision in Wales. Following the Brexit vote there is considerable uncertainty associated with the future shape of this provision. Any changes may impact on the suitability of components of the natural heritage projects delivered through Elan Links. <u>Mitigation:</u> uptake and suitability of the natural heritage projects will be monitored by the Natural Heritage Sub-committee. This committee will consider and recommend alterations to the projects to ensure they are fit-for-purpose and deliver best value-for-money.</p> <p><u>Risk 2:</u> Uptake by farmers is lower than expected. <u>Mitigation:</u> This project has been developed in conjunction with Elan Links farmers and is supported by them – this reduces the risk of this happening. The project will be reviewed annually by the Natural Heritage Sub-committee which will recommend alterations if uptake is low.</p>
<p>Links to other Elan Links projects</p>	<p>Objective 1a, 1b and 1c: Works completed in this project will be done in conjunction with 1a, b and c. All projects are working to provide a better habitat and as such promotes and provides better resilience for the species which rely upon them.</p> <p>Objective 2b: 2b completes the majority of the survey work to ensure projects are developing and achieving the wider outputs.</p> <p>Objectives 3a, 3b & 3d: Will all work to improve the in-bye fields therefore providing worm rich pastures and insect friendly environments which in turn provides a better feeding ground for the birds actions in this project.</p> <p>Objective 4: The actions and management agreements are better informed by the Heritage at Risk survey and actions are considerate of the goals of this project. Vegetation works can be agreed as capital works within these management agreements.</p> <p>Objective 6: Monitoring of this project is important and as noted above, photographic recording of the project will happen. This will be implemented through project 6.</p> <p>Objective 7a: This project will be interpreted through objective 7a in various ways dependant on the project requirements.</p> <p>Objective 7b: Information about this project will appear on the app as well as on the Elan Valley website and Elan Links' social media platforms. All of the events that are organised will be promoted on all of these platforms and they will be updated regularly to show the work that is carried out through the whole Scheme. Any content that is being recorded, either through photograph or film, will be shared and place on all of the platforms to ensure that the profile of Elan is raised and that all followers that have been gathered during the development phase are kept up to date and interested in the project throughout the delivery.</p> <p>Objective 7c: Artists will take inspiration from some of the themes in these objectives. As well as inspiration, it is possible that some of the artists may wish to interpret the different themes in their own way.</p>

	<p>Objective 7d: All events that will happen through this project will be organised through the work carried out in objective 7d.</p> <p>Objective 8: The volunteers that are required for this project can be selected from the database of volunteers that is collected through objective 8. Volunteers who participate in activities that aren't already part of Friends of Elan can be referred over and from there they will be offered a wider range of volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>Objective 9: The proposed routes and rights of way may go through some of the habitat areas in these projects. Project management for these projects as well as the project management for objective 9 need to be aware of the different habitat areas and ensure that the proposed routes does not interfere with the work proposed to the habitat and does not effect the rare upland birds in objective 2a.</p> <p>Objective 10a: There is a possibility that the participants and trainees, who are taking part in the training courses at Elan, will undertake some of the work that is required in this project.</p> <p>Objective 11: Working to expand the knowledge and the connection between the habitat and species to the people who benefit from the water. Engaging in this elements supports the principles of payments for ecosystem services and raise the public profile of this concept between Elan and Birmingham. Thus developing a longevity to the actions.</p>
<p>Background information</p>	<p>Elan is located in the Cambrian Mountains, Mid Wales, 5 miles to the east of the Market town or Rhyader. Elan's 20,000 hectares comprises 1% of Wales and is a unique landscape combining remote hill land, isolated farmsteads, steep-sided wooded valleys and the extraordinary feat of Victorian engineering that brought clean water to Birmingham.</p> <p>The community of farmers, tenants, the town of Rhyader and the village of Elan are the backbone of this vast area, with farming and tourism activities being the most significant economic activity in the area.</p> <p>Elan Links: People, Nature & Water Landscape Partnership has an ambitious vision: to generate a step-change increase in beneficial outcomes for people, communities and heritage.</p> <p>Elan Links is a £3.5 million project with a significant £1.8 million secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme.</p> <p>The Elan Links: People, Nature & Water Landscape Partnership is currently made up of 17 different organisations who aim to deliver 26 projects under 12 strategic objectives over 5 years.</p>