



HLF Programme Objectives			
Objective	Outcomes	Main Objective (tick <u>one</u> 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

2b: Elan Rare Species



Summary

The Elan Links area is a traditional stronghold for many rare species and habitats. In order to undertake targeted actions for these species to ensure they survive and thrive in the future it is important to understand where they live and any changes there may be in their abundance over

	<p>time, including in response to works undertaken through Elan Links. This project will combine the skills of professional nature conservationists and trained volunteers to search for rare species, monitor biodiversity changes and undertake activity to support important species and habitats in conjunction with the other natural heritage projects.</p>
<p>Project Details</p>	<p>This project aims to underpin targeted conservation action for rare and important species and habitats in the Elan Valley by identifying the locations where they are found and changes in their abundance and location over time. The project includes practical actions using a range of volunteer activity to support important species and habitats in conjunction with the other natural heritage projects. As part of this, the project will undertake the biodiversity monitoring required for the other Elan Links natural heritage projects. Importantly however, this will be combined with a wider but complementary remit to identify and study the suite of rare and important Elan species and their abundance. This will be undertaken in areas subject to management action through Elan Links funding as well as in the wider landscape. In this way the project will fulfil the monitoring requirements for the natural heritage components of Elan Links but will also ensure that 'nothing is missed' across the area and that volunteers are enabled to play a full role in delivering Elan Links nature conservation actions.</p> <p>The project will be delivered by nature conservation experts, trained volunteers and the Natural Heritage Officer. The nature conservation experts will play a key role both in delivering focused activity requiring professional expertise but also in offering training opportunities to volunteers. These volunteers will principally be recruited through the 'Friends of Elan' programme and through Objective 10 training and volunteering programmes. However, volunteers will also be welcomed through other channels, particularly from organisations operating locally such as RSPB, Rhayader by Nature and Radnorshire Wildlife Trust. The volunteers will be supported and coordinated by the Natural Heritage Officer.</p>
<p>Need and Opportunity</p>	<p>This project has been developed to mitigate the threat identified in 4.2.2 and 4.2.6 of the LCAP:</p> <p>4.2.2 Threats resulting from inadequate evidence-gathering, recording and understanding</p> <p>Elan is home to many rare species as identified in the Elan Biodiversity Action Plan. There is currently insufficient understanding (in some areas) as to what is around and what measures can be completed to secure the species. For example, priority BAP species such as the large heath butterfly found here, at the very southernmost extent of its range in the UK, are reported but otherwise unstudied.</p> <p>4.2.6 Development of strategic approach to evidence gathering, monitoring and archiving.</p> <p>The extent, current location and conservation status of many of these BAP species requires better mapping and understanding. There is also the need for better targeted habitat management for key species (as delivered through other Elan Links projects) and to understand the efficacy of these actions in practice, such management can only take place on the basis of</p>

	<p>good evidence gathering and monitoring.</p> <p>This project also provides the opportunity to build farmer and community knowledge, interest and pride in these rare species and combine this with the understanding gained through the project. In this way the project will go a long way towards ensuring that these species and habitats are protected and cared for into the future.</p>	
Project Management	Natural Heritage Officer reporting to the Natural Heritage Sub-Committee and the Partnership Board where necessary.	
Project Partners	<p>Lead Partner: EVT</p> <p>Other Partners: NRW, RSPB, PONT, Friends of Elan, TirCoed</p>	
Project Development	<p>Development of this project has been integrated into the development of the other natural heritage projects with further development work through discussion with the project partners.</p> <p>Biodiversity monitoring need to happen as part of all of the natural heritage projects. A range of baseline biodiversity monitoring data covering the key habitats and species is available and has been reviewed as part of the development of the natural heritage projects (see Evidence below). Also during the development phase TirCoed have piloted their monitoring programme using trainees as part of the Pilot Training Course in preparation for a full survey at Penbont Wood.</p>	
Key Audiences (Please see Audience Development Plan, appendix LCAP3, for more details about Elan Links audiences.)	<p>Audiences that will be primarily targeted through this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Volunteers; 🌿 Organisations working with harder to reach individuals locally. 	<p>Secondary audiences who will also benefit as a result of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Land managers including landowners tenants and commoners; 🌿 Residents of Elan and Rhayader.
Activities and Timescale	<p>Activities will be undertaken through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Specialists for key species and habitats; 🌿 Natural Heritage Officer (trained by specialists); 🌿 Volunteers (led and trained by specialists or Natural Heritage Officer). <p>Activities will principally be focused on management action areas or will be 'intelligence-led' using previous records, local knowledge or specialist knowledge.</p> <p>Activities completed will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Monitoring to enable evaluation of the Natural Heritage projects; 🌿 Elan BAP updated; 🌿 New records for the Local Record Centre (LRC); <p>The activities will be undertaken through the course of the Elan Links programme to establish baselines, monitor changes and feed into final project evaluations.</p>	

Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Monitoring to enable evaluation of the Natural Heritage projects; 🌿 Elan BAP updated; 🌿 New records for the Local Record Centre (LRC); 🌿 Volunteer activity to support important species and habitats in conjunction with the other natural heritage projects; 🌿 30 supporting your natural heritage to include the monitoring of other natural heritage projects with 300 people attending over the 5 years; 🌿 100volunteers trained in biodiversity monitoring skills and nature conservation actions (50 of these attending TirCoed courses).
Output indicators and targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Monitoring reports 🌿 Volunteer timesheets 🌿 Biodiversity changes form a key component of end-of-project evaluation reports for the Natural Heritage project suite; 🌿 Elan BAP revised as new evidence emerges; 🌿 Records inputted into LRC as and when.
Outcomes	<p>Heritage Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Better management of Elan’s heritage will be enabled through a better understanding of 1. The biodiversity that currently exists (what and where) and, 2. The impact of targeted management actions on species extent and prevalence; 🌿 Increased knowledge will inform coordinated action that will ensure that farmers, land managers and decision makers make better decisions for nature into the future; 🌿 The natural heritage of Elan will be more visible and accessible to both our community and our visitors <p>People Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 People will have received specialist training in biodiversity monitoring skills; 🌿 People will have volunteered time, learned new skills and benefited from being outdoors in the natural environment of Elan; 🌿 Farmers, land managers, policy makers and visitors have a greater awareness of the natural heritage of the Elan Valley. <p>Community Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Communities will have better knowledge and awareness and hence respect for the natural heritage of Elan and the importance of safeguarding it; 🌿 Elan will become known as an exemplar destination for sustainable management of natural resources for the benefit of nature, carbon sequestration and storage and water storage and quality.
Monitoring and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Progress with project implementation will be reported to the Natural Heritage sub-committee annually; 🌿 Volunteer training monitored by Natural Heritage Officer; 🌿 Volunteer days monitored by Natural Heritage Officer. 🌿 Data collection – updated records for the project area, records for Local Record Centre and BAP updated yearly.
Evidence	<p>There already exists a good (rather than comprehensive) understanding of Elan’s nature and this is evident in a range of sources such as: the Elan BAP, the IUBA report (appendix PP4), SAC, SPA and SSSI monitoring and the scientific literature.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, through our development of the other natural heritage projects it has shown that, in some areas, there is limited information, particularly modern records, as to the species supported in Elan's habitats. For example, with Project 2a there is reliance upon the 2010 Important Upland Bird Area report but our sightings and records post that period are limited to the private surveys undertaken by EVT for golden plover and curlew but only in certain areas. A bird survey for Cwmdauddwr common is being completed during late Spring early Summer 2017 to help inform projects.</p>
Wider Context	<p>This project is an integral part of the natural heritage projects under objectives 1, 2 and 3.</p> <p>The wider context is diverse depending on the area or project of interest and will relate to various reports and Elan's statutory designations (SSSI, SAC, SPA and National Nature Reserve). Please refer to the individual project plans for more details.</p>
Legacy and maintenance of benefits	<p>The outputs from this project will be critical in informing project evaluation and are therefore a key component underpinning any ability to develop legacy actions through the other natural heritage projects.</p>
Risks and risk mitigation	<p><u>Risk 1:</u> Specialist support will not be forthcoming. <u>Mitigation:</u> There is a small budget to acquire this support. In addition, Elan Links partners and stakeholders have considerable expertise in-house and excellent local knowledge for identifying specialists to support the project.</p> <p><u>Risk 2:</u> An inadequate volunteer resource becomes available. <u>Mitigation:</u> This type of activity has in the past proved popular with volunteers and using the 'Friends of Elan' model will support efforts to recruit and maintain suitable volunteers. A small budget is available to pay volunteer expenses (Project 8b) which will reduce barriers for people who wish to volunteer.</p>
Links to other Elan Links project	<p>Objective 1a, 1b, 1c 2a 3a 3b and 3d: This project completes the majority of the survey work to ensure these projects are developing and achieving the wider outputs. This project is vital to the long-term effectiveness of these natural heritage projects.</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>
Background information	<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</p>

	<p>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>
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