

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 4: Ensure that key built heritage and ancient heritage sites are protected to safeguard and maintain their condition into the future

4a: Safeguarding Elan's Historic Environment



Summary

Elan is home to a wealth of built and ancient heritage sites and assets. There is a diverse range of sites ranging across the ages and into the more recent past of the valleys flooding. Their stories include the cultural history of how people have moved across and inhabited the Elan Valley during the last 5 millennia.

There is a variety of historical records for the features on the estate which have been collected at different points of times and under different emphases. The development of this project has assessed the records and the features to ascertain the condition of these sites in our historical

	<p>landscape. With a greater appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of the records and sites, a programme of works has been compiled to ensure the safeguarding of the sites and the historical evidence they may contain. This programme includes a significant area of resurveying to improve our confidence of the records in terms of accuracy and locality of the asset, to ensure its future protection and management.</p> <p>These works will ensure that our built and ancient heritage is maintained and protected against future deterioration, where appropriate. Where sites are subject to natural factors (for instance erosion) aims of collecting evidence and understanding have been deemed appropriate to salvage information before nature takes its full course.</p> <p>Long term this project will allow a better and more accurate register of the sites across Elan. Sites will be better recorded and more visible and accessible to the public, where fitting to the sites locality (further details in Project 5a). It has also helped identify sites and assets at risk beyond the life of this project and provides partners with a means of assessing this legacy.</p>
<p>Project Details</p>	<p>The Elan Valley has a wealth of built and ancient heritage sites and assets ranging beyond the last 5 millennia. This therefore creates a diverse patchwork of heritage sites and features capturing the history of man in the Elan Valley.</p> <p>In developing the Elan Links Landscape Partnership Scheme, during the development phase the partnership commission a 'Heritage at Risk' report to inform several of the Elan Links projects. It has been agreed that of the 80 sites identified in the 'Heritage at Risk' report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏠 15 sites have been identified as actionable in <u>this</u> project and described as 'Priority 1'; 🏠 Four Priority 2 sites have been identified; 🏠 Six Priority 3 have been identified; 🏠 19 sites are within the resurvey areas and as such 15 will be actioned with the final 4 having addition data to identify the actions required; 🏠 Seven sites have been identified for monitoring during the project and beyond; 🏠 Seven sites have been identified which can be actioned through our Natural Heritage Agreements (for Projects 1 and 3); and 🏠 Nine sites have been identified for Project 5a and 7a (access and interpretation). <p>From the above list, this project will therefore action 34 of the 80 sites in the 5 year project and based on the costings of these actions, there will be a small budget surplus which has been deliberately left to tackle the 4 actions in the resurvey area (subject to the further investigations) and other works which we are yet to identify in the areas to be resurveyed.</p> <p>In addition, a further ten sites have been identified which could be completed during this project if surplus funds are available or if match funding is achieved. These have been designated priorities two and</p>

	<p>threats they require similar tasks but are in more challenging locations or have a lower threat level and as such priority should be given to the other sites.</p> <p><u>The Projects two main actions:</u></p> <p>1. Priority 1 sites</p> <p>These sites were identified by the archaeologists as those which should be prioritised within this project. They are sites which are under significant threat either from physical actions (erosion) or a lack of evidence and understanding recorded.</p> <p>This undertaking will complete works such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 vegetation management: so our sites are visible therefore better appreciated and managed (8); 🌿 excavation and photographic records: as some sites will, in the fullness of time, be lost to natural causes (water erosion), therefore completing excavations to ensure any evidence is collected and the site fully recorded photographically to ensure this history is not lost completely (3); 🌿 Geophysical surveys: to clarify the true extent and purpose of certain features (2); 🌿 Resurfacing: to protect the base of standing structures to prevent erosion and ensure their long term stability (1); and 🌿 Researching and re-erection of a standing stone (1). <p>It is proposed that 'participants'/volunteers will be encouraged to join in with projects with the intention that during excavation digs, a basic training and understanding can be provided to allow public participation in these tasks. For the proposed timeline of actions it has allowed for the more easily accessible sites at the beginning of the project to encourage interest and as knowledge develops they move onto the more significant geophysical surveys such as Carn Ricet.</p> <p>2. Resurvey</p> <p>Due to apparent records inaccuracies; two resurvey areas have been proposed looking at the upland areas of approximately 65 square kilometres. This will include 19 of the 80 sites which have been identified as needing resurveying and/or monitoring. It will be made explicit in the brief for this piece of work that these sites must be specifically reviewed.</p> <p>Local participation could again be possible, dependent upon the brief written for this task. In the locality there are a number of amateur archaeologists and this project would look to utilise their skills and knowledge of the locality to ensure complete coverage of the heritage around.</p>
<p>Need and Opportunity</p>	<p>For this Landscape Partnership Scheme there have been a number of threats identified for Elan's heritage. This project is needed to address the following threats as described in the LCAP :</p> <p>4.2.2 The threat from changing land management practices</p> <p>Due to the Elan's unique existence and management the heritage sites</p>

	<p>have not been subjected to the same intensive management which has led to the loss of other heritage sites across the country. However, there are real threats towards this heritage. There is the threat that the landscape will reclaim these assets, either from vegetation overgrowth or erosion and as such we lose the history and stories they may contain and the sites physical location. Furthermore by losing their location they are further at risk from external factors which could increase the intensive management practises on Elan in order to maintain an economic future.</p> <p>4.2.3 Threats from neglect, abandonment and lack of use & Opportunity: 4.3.1.3 Sustainable usage</p> <p>Many of these assets have long been abandoned and have no future use. It is therefore important that where possible interesting sites are made accessible and useful to visitors to increase the attraction of the area and give value to the heritage and their maintenance. We have an opportunity with this project and through the landscape collaboration, to salvage possible evidence from sites under threat of permanent erosion and imminent loss as nature takes its course. We can enhance peoples understanding of the things they encounter and observe in the Elan Valley and appreciate the significance of them; locally, regionally and nationally.</p> <p>4.2.5 Threats resulting from inadequate evidence-gathering, recording and understanding & Opportunity: 4.3.1.4 Development of a strategic approach to evidence gathering, monitoring and archiving</p> <p>There are two forms on inadequate information here: firstly we know very little of some of the sites and are at risk of losing all evidence (e.g. from erosion) and secondly that all sites are not clearly located and their extent known. This project provides an opportunity to re-evaluate parts of the estate and to accurately record the heritage there is.</p> <p>4.2.6 External impacts and the threat to Elan’s heritage</p> <p>From the changes caused by climate change and those of agricultural policy, our land management practices change and as such there is the threat that the landscape will reclaim these assets, either from vegetation overgrowth or erosion.</p>
Project Management	Assistant Land Agent for Elan Valley Trust supported by Partnership Manager, reporting to the Built and Ancient Heritage Sub-committee.
Project Partners	Lead partner: Elan Valley Trust Other partners: DCWW, CADW, RCAHMW, CARAD and outside contractors.
Project Development	<p>The Elan Valley has a wealth of built and ancient heritage sites and assets ranging beyond the last 5 millennia. This therefore creates a diverse patchwork of heritage sites and features capturing the history of man on the Elan Valley.</p> <p>The built and ancient heritage is a critical part of the Elan Valley which includes sites of national importance and rarity. There is a diverse mix of eras within the close boundary of the Elan Valley providing us with a</p>

caption of mans interaction with the landscape here.

It was known that the Elan Valley held a number of historical assets and in initial work undertaken during the LCA that these were in danger of being lost whether by vegetation, erosion or misunderstanding from inaccurate or incomplete records. This project has therefore been developed through a 'Heritage at Risk' survey completed by contracted archaeologists. This survey has assessed the records and sites across the estate to identify risk and threat factors.

For these sites there is a variety of historical records, primarily:

- 🏰 National Monuments Record (held by the RCAHMW)
- 🏰 Historical Environment Record (held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust in Ceredigion and Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in Powys).

These records have been collected at different points of times and under different emphases leading to an uncertainty of continuity and clarity across them. From these records we know that within the Elan Links area there are:

- 🏰 34 Listed Buildings (including the dams and related structures); and
- 🏰 39 Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Due to their 'listing' these are all considered as being of 'national' significance.

This report identifies weaknesses in our heritage both in their physical state and in the confidence of some records.

- 🏰 Due to recording inaccuracies: a resurvey has been proposed looking at the upland areas of approximately 65 square kilometres.
- 🏰 For physical conditions the archaeologists have identified a level of threat alongside the features importance; national, regionally and locally and rarity.

The sites were condensed into a potential 80 which are at risk to some degree and a top 15 priority sites to action (under this project). These were shortlisted based on their level of risk and significance in addition to a considerable area of resurveying where a lack of confidence in the records represented a significant threat.

Work has then been completed by the Lead Partner to understand the interlinking between this report and other projects such as the natural heritage suite and project 5a to ensure our heritage is safeguarded throughout the Elan Links scheme and beyond it. This is summarised by:

- 🏰 15 sites have been identified as actionable in this project and described as 'Priority 1';
- 🏰 Four Priority 2 sites have been identified;
- 🏰 Six Priority 3 have been identified;
- 🏰 19 sites are within the resurvey areas and as such 15 will be actioned with the final 4 having addition data to identify the actions required;
- 🏰 Seven sites have been identified for monitoring during the project

	<p>and beyond;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Seven sites have been identified which can be actioned through our Natural Heritage Agreements (for Projects 1 and 3); 🌿 Nine sites have been identified for Project 5a and 7a (access and interpretation) <p>Within this report the necessary works have been identified and the partnership has agreed a programme of works in order to best achieve the outcomes required.</p>																											
<p>Key Audiences (Please see Audience Development Plan, appendix LCAP3, for more detail 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; 🌿 Residents of Elan and Rhayader. 	<p>Secondary audiences that will also benefit as a result of this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Visitors who are within 1 hour's drive away; 🌿 Visitors coming for a specific activity; 🌿 All other visitors; 🌿 Local schools; 🌿 Volunteers. 																										
<p>Activities and Timescale</p>	<p><u>The Projects 2 main focuses:</u> 1. Priority 1 actions: These have been scheduled across the five years with a slight front-end loading to allow time for actions picked up in the resurveyed areas to be actioned in the later years.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="483 953 1458 1852"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="483 953 873 1024">Historic Asset Name / Task to complete</th> <th data-bbox="873 953 1458 1024">Site recommendations</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="483 1024 1458 1062">Year 1 Actions</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 1062 873 1167">TRE-HESGLOG CIST; NANT Y LLYN CIST</td> <td data-bbox="873 1062 1458 1167">Control bilberry growth and manage spread of heather or purple moor grass in the immediate vicinity.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 1167 873 1205">GLOG FAWR CAIRN</td> <td data-bbox="873 1167 1458 1205">Careful removal of bracken</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 1205 873 1377">MAEN HIR, STANDING STONE</td> <td data-bbox="873 1205 1458 1377">Consider returning the stone to its original location and re-erecting it as a standing stone. Local understanding maintains it once stood above the road, north of its present location.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 1377 873 1482">CERRIG LLWYDION DESERTED RURAL SETTLEMENT</td> <td data-bbox="873 1377 1458 1482">Target removal of bracken from archaeological features. Resurvey.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="483 1482 1458 1520">Prepare the brief and tender for the areas of Resurveying</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="483 1520 1458 1558"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="483 1558 1458 1596">Year 2 Actions</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="483 1596 1458 1633">Re-surveys to be completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 1633 873 1709">HIRNANT CLAERWEN, SHELTER I</td> <td data-bbox="873 1633 1458 1709">Clear vegetation carefully</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 1709 873 1785">HIRNANT CLAERWEN, SHELTER II</td> <td data-bbox="873 1709 1458 1785">Clear vegetation and potential excavation</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 1785 873 1852">CEFN TROEDRHIW- DRAIN CIST</td> <td data-bbox="873 1785 1458 1852">Keep free of vegetation</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Historic Asset Name / Task to complete	Site recommendations	Year 1 Actions		TRE-HESGLOG CIST; NANT Y LLYN CIST	Control bilberry growth and manage spread of heather or purple moor grass in the immediate vicinity.	GLOG FAWR CAIRN	Careful removal of bracken	MAEN HIR, STANDING STONE	Consider returning the stone to its original location and re-erecting it as a standing stone. Local understanding maintains it once stood above the road, north of its present location.	CERRIG LLWYDION DESERTED RURAL SETTLEMENT	Target removal of bracken from archaeological features. Resurvey.	Prepare the brief and tender for the areas of Resurveying				Year 2 Actions		Re-surveys to be completed		HIRNANT CLAERWEN, SHELTER I	Clear vegetation carefully	HIRNANT CLAERWEN, SHELTER II	Clear vegetation and potential excavation	CEFN TROEDRHIW- DRAIN CIST	Keep free of vegetation
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	LLUEST ABER CAETHON RING CAIRN	Geophysical survey to clarify its true purpose
	ESGAIR WEN, EARTHWORK II	Remove reeds
	ESGAIR WEN, EARTHWORK I	Remove reeds
	Year 3 Actions	
	CARN RICET	This cairn needs to be better understood. Geophysical survey may help reveal its character and identify any surviving features of archaeological interest, potentially followed by archaeological evaluation. Restoring the cairn as a landmark and rerouting the footpath around the monument would also improve matters.
	ESGAIR Y TY, PLATFORM	Excavate the remaining parts of the platform.
	MAEN SERTH ESGAIR DDERW, STONE;CARREG BICA	Resurface the area immediately around the stone base.
	Year 4 Actions	
	HIRNANT CLAERWEN, SHELTER I	Clear vegetation carefully
	HIRNANT CLAERWEN, SHELTER II	Clear vegetation and potential excavate
	CEFN TROEDRHIW- DRAIN CIST	Keep free of vegetation
	MYTALOG FAWR, LONG HUT	Could be excavated in advance of further damage by the stream
	ESGAIR WEN, EARTHWORK II	Remove reeds
	ESGAIR WEN, EARTHWORK I	Remove reeds
	Year 5 Actions	
	MARCHNANT HAFOD II	Excavate this long hut to retrieve any data before the stream causes more damage.
	TRE-HESGLOG CIST; NANT Y LLYN CIST	Control bilberry growth and manage spread of heather or purple moor grass in the immediate vicinity
	Where items are repeated above this is to allow for two vegetation removals during the project delivery phrase. Future management would look to be considered in the long term land Management Agreements (Project 1-3 legacy).	
Outputs	 Heritage at Risk survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total of 80 sites identified at risk 	

	<p>Of these 80 identified sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏠 15 sites have been identified as actionable in this project and described as 'Priority 1'; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ vegetation management: so our sites are visible therefore better appreciated and managed (8 sites); ○ excavation and photographic records: as some sites will, in the fullness of time, be lost to natural causes (water erosion), therefore completing excavations to ensure any evidence is collected and the site fully photographically recorded is essential to ensure this history is not lost completely (3 sites); ○ Geophysical surveys: to clarify the true extent and purpose of certain features (2 sites); ○ Resurfacing: to protect the base of standing structures to prevent erosion and ensure their long term stability (1 site); and ○ Researching and re-erection of a standing stone (1 site). 🏠 4 Priority 2 sites have been identified; 🏠 6 Priority 3 have been identified; 🏠 19 sites are within the resurvey areas and as such 15 will be actioned with the final 4 requiring additional data to identify the actions required; <p>Of the actions above it is proposed that public participation will be encouraged at three excavation sites and the geophysical surveys alongside professionals.</p>
<p>Output indicators and targets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏠 Heritage and risk database updated during year 1 of the delivery phase following area needed resurveying. Commitment to further resurvey. 🏠 Project completion reports with photographic and findings evidence. 🏠 Annual targets as per the activities timeframe. 🏠 Volunteer timesheets and feedback forms.
<p>Outcomes</p>	<p>Heritage Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏠 15 of Elan's archaeological and built heritage sites will be in better condition and better managed. 🏠 19 of Elan's archaeological and built heritage sites will be better recorded and understood (re-survey areas) <p>People Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏠 People have increase access to heritage sites 🏠 People have increased knowledge of Elan's diverse heritage 🏠 People will be engage with the works and have the opportunity to take part and learn new skills of archaeology. <p>Community Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏠 People have increased knowledge of Elan's diverse heritage 🏠 People will have a better understanding of Elan's heritage 🏠 People will have an opportunity to participate and learn new skills. 🏠 Access to Elan's key heritage sites is increased making the areas more open and accessible and easier for the community to access the different strands of heritage on offer
<p>Monitoring and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏠 Heritage and risk database updated during year 1 of the delivery

Evaluation	<p>phase following area needed resurveying. Commitment to further resurvey.</p> <p> Project completion reports with evidence.</p>
Evidence	<p>Heritage at Risk survey completed by TRYSOR. Please refer to Appendix LCAP 10</p>
Wider Context	<p>The Elan Valley is distinctive in the role it has played over the centuries from its connectivity between Abbeys and markets, to its intrinsic part in World War II with the bouncing bomb and national water security.</p> <p>For a full historical content of the Elan Links area is described and detailed within our Landscape Character Assessment Plan under 'Understanding your Landscape', chapter 2 of LCAP.</p>
Legacy and maintenance of benefits	<p>The Heritage at Risk report has provided works which can be actioned and monitored into the future and as such provide a cohesive plan beyond the life of the project. The resurveying of a large part of the Estate will further illustrate this plan, not only in completing a definitive record of the heritage but in actions required going forward.</p> <p>Increasing access and interpretation of Elan's heritage will also live-on beyond the project and will ensure that the memories and evidence of the past are not forgotten and are available to the public (via other projects).</p>
Risks and risk mitigation	<p><u>Risk 1:</u>A risk or threat not to consider in the Heritage at Risk report is the impact of other Elan Links project, particularly those that require ground and vegetation works.<u>Mitigation:</u> It is imperative that these projects be looked at holistically.</p> <p><u>Risk 2:</u>There is a risk that land owners/occupiers will not permit the necessary works on the land in their control. <u>Mitigation:</u> The collaborative approach of the Elan Links and the responsibility of farmers with Glastir agreements towards heritage assets should mitigate this risk.</p>
Links to other Elan Links projects	<p>This project and its evidence has linkages with other aspects of the Elan Links projects:</p> <p>Objective 1, 2 and 3: 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 5a: Based on public consultations completed during the development phase of the Elan Links project, both local and wider visitors have indicated that they visit and are interested in Elan's built heritage. Public engagement and access to heritage sites is further in project 5a.</p> <p>Objective 6 and 7: Any evidence that is gathered will be available to the public via collections, the website and the interactive app so ensure people understand the heritage and the reasons behind the works.</p> <p>Objective 8 and 10: Volunteers will help deliver aspects of this project and they will be able to progress their skills through the tasks they undertake and through their participation and enjoyment of the wider estate.</p>
Background	<p>Elan is located in the Cambrian Mountains, Mid Wales, 5 miles to the east</p>

<p>information</p>	<p>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>
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