



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 5: Access and sustainable use for built heritage sites within Elan	
<h2>5a: Increasing access to Elan's Archaeological and Built Heritage</h2>	
<p>Summary</p>	<p>Elan is 72 square miles and the opportunities to explore are endless. Not just exploration in miles under foot, this is also about a journey through time and space; how this land was once used, is used and will be used. However, much of Elan's diverse heritage is not currently visible or accessible to the visitor for interaction. Through this project we will enable safe public access to six heritage sites on Elan. This project will add dimensions to visitors' knowledge, impression and</p>

	<p>experience of Elan. Seeing the land as a water supply and a farming estate is just the beginning, we will bring to life sites including the half built Dol y Mynach Dam in the Claerwen Valley, the Dam Busters site at Nant y Gro, the World War II pillboxes, the Roman Marching Camp, the Cwm Elan Mine, and the Medieval rabbit farming complex.</p>
<p>Project Details</p>	<p>This project works in conjunction with Project 7 and the Access and Recreation Plan (see Appendix LCAP2) in addition to Project 4a and the Heritage at Risk Survey(see Appendix LCAP10). This project works to provide access to areas of Elan's built heritage which have been highlighted in the Heritage at Risk survey and which the Access and Recreational Plan has shown a desire and usage of these types of facilities.</p> <p>This project will enable increased public access and interpretation to six key heritage sites at Elan.</p> <p>The sites include:</p> <p>1. Half Built Dol y Mynach Dam (& bird hide)</p> <p>This dam was never completed by the Victorians. Built in the 1st phase and planned to be completed in a 2nd phase, the World Wars put a stop to its completion. After the 2nd World War technology had developed and called for just one larger dam upstream (Claerwen). Many visitors leave Elan without ever knowing about the 'unfinished dam'. Shielded by vegetation from the roadside and with no signage or interpretation, visitors are missing out on an important section of Elan's heritage. Dol y Mynach Dam has an important role, it holds back a small reservoir which is linked to a tunnel (Dol y Mynach tunnel), this flows into Garreg Ddu reservoir and then down the aqueduct to Birmingham. Visitors to the Visitor Centre can find out more about this dam; however those self-guiding will easily pass by this site and miss out on an experience.</p> <p>An access track to Dol y Mynach Dam, signage and quality interpretation will give visitors a different experience. A part-built Victorian dam is an opportunity to see dam construction up close and see how the waters of Claerwen and Elan are linked. The access track will also link with the Bird Hide on the shore of Dol y Mynach reservoir. The shallow reservoir is wonderful for wildlife and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and like the dam itself, many visitors are unaware there is a bird hide here.</p> <p>Works will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  'Road test' the new access track to ensure suitable for wheelchairs/pushchairs;  Re-profile the surface and replace gates where necessary;  Construct a new pathway to the bird hide;  Install new interpretation information;  Link to Project 9 and 7a works including branding of information and waymarking and the promotion of the route.

2. Dam busters site at Nant y Gro

A fair proportion of our visitors have heard about a link between Elan and The Dam Busters. More often than not, visitors believe the reservoirs were used to practice the actual bouncing of the bomb, code named, operation upkeep. There was no bouncing practised here; however, Inventor Barnes Wallis tested explosive charges on a small concrete dam (built for construction workers' water supply). On his second attempt in July 1942 Barnes Wallis breached Nant y Gro Dam, giving him the data he needed to continue building the bouncing bomb.

The Visitor Centre exhibition has an interpreted section about Nant y Gro dam including some video from the Imperial War Museum. In addition, Information Desk staff let visitors know about the site, as a point of interest on a two hour circular walk. There is an old interpretation panel at the dam site which we have identified as needing to be replaced. There will be additional information available on this new panel linking the other Elan WW stories. There is also an opportunity to provide those unable to walk to the dam site, to see and learn about the dam from the opposite side – on the Elan Valley Trail. Installing trail binoculars and an additional interpretation panel here will improve inclusivity.

Works include:

-  Remove vegetation from the dam remains;
-  Improve signage to the site;
-  Update interpretation at site;
-  Include interpretation on the accessible trail opposite the valley.

3. World War II Pill boxes

The WWII pill boxes were guarding Birmingham's water supply (specifically the Foel Tower and Garreg Ddu dam) from German attack. These four Pill boxes were constructed (three remain and are scheduled ancient monuments) from which soldiers would aim their machine guns, from a protected vantage, in readiness for an attack.

The remaining Pill Boxes sit on the Foel hill overlooking Garreg Ddu reservoir, with two sited near the Foel Car Park, which takes visitors through a section of conifer trees and opens out into a sizable, flat parking area on the hill. From here visitors can currently access the forestry track above to venture on an estate walk. Although the car park is a nice picnic spot, the views across the Valley are blocked by trees. The vast majority of visitors using this car park are unaware there are two Pill Boxes within ten metres of them (and a further one up the hill).

This project aimed to create access to these Pill Boxes. Fortunately during the development phase of this Landscape Partnership Scheme under a trial project by partners TirCoed the access pathway to Pill Box II has been completed. The path begins on the same level as the car park and then gently rises to the Pill Box. The site has been made safe and now requires the interpretation to be completed. It is proposed that the locations of the

other two remaining structures be annotated on the interpretation and information boards but that access not be provided due to their locations and accessibility.

Works include:

- 🌿 Remove vegetation from around the Pill Box and improve sight lines between the Pill Boxes and from Pill Box II;
- 🌿 Install interpretation (including all four Pill Boxes and reference to war involvement elsewhere at Elan(see below));

Alongside the Pill Boxes and Nant y Gro Dam (No. 2) there are additional World War heritage sites across Elan and information about these should be provided at these two locations. This would include Special Constables, artillery ranges (another 'at risk' heritage site) and reservoir protection as part of the wartime story. Linking these stories together will be an important part of the heritage access and interpretation work.

4. Medieval/post-Medieval rabbit farming complex

From the Heritage at Risk survey, Esgair-y-Ty was highlighted as a national significant asset. This impressive group of pillow mounds are about 40 metres long, 6 metres wide and a metre high and demonstrate an early example of rabbit farming and intensive agriculture in Elan. There are further sites in Elan including at Glanhirin and Aberglanhirin. Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) have recorded online that: *"Excavations elsewhere have shown that mounds of this kind were constructed with artificial burrows entering from the sides, which would enable rabbits to be periodically culled with the help of ferrets, to be marketed for both their meat and skins. Artificial rabbit warrens were being built as early as the medieval period, but here it seems more likely that they are post-medieval in date. A concentration of other similar groups of pillow mounds in Radnorshire and in Breconshire has suggested that they may have supplied markets in the expanding industrial towns of south Wales and the Marches. Their siting, near the turnpike road across the moorland, would have helped in getting produce quickly to market"*.

Giving visitors the opportunity to experience these rabbit mounds, adds a layer to their view and understanding of Elan's use and agriculture through the ages compared to the extensive sheep (and some cattle) farming that people see today. Improving access and navigation to these areas will help people picture the rabbit farming complex and a different way of life at that time.

Works will include:

- 🌿 Augmented reality which demonstrates the boundaries of the pillow mounds and provides digital interpretation for this site.

5. Roman Marching Camp

Found on Esgair Perfedd, on Cwmdaiddwr Common, this example of a temporary Roman fort or 'marching camp' is visually acknowledged by a low earthwork enclosure, identified in our Heritage at Risk survey as 'Esgair

Perfedd boundary bank'. CPAT records that "*The camp encloses an area of just over 6 hectares and was built to house a force of about 4,000 men and their supplies in tented accommodation for perhaps only a matter of days. The fort is likely to belong to the period between about AD 74–80, and probably lay on a campaign route into present day Ceredigion or Montgomeryshire*".

A popular bridleway cuts through the Roman Camp, only discovered as late as the 60's as the boundary is only visible from an aerial position. Therefore, most visitors are unaware they're travelling past what was a Roman Camp. The route is well used by walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers. In consultation we found many stakeholders appealing for a modest and sympathetic approach to way marking and interpretation (to maintain the real sense of wild, open space. However, the Roman Camp is not wholly discernible from the ground, therefore ways of identifying and interpreting the site will need to be sensitive. The site is close to the Old Aberystwyth Road, therefore access to some interpretation might benefit those in vehicles (and unable to negotiate the open hills).

Works include:

- 🏠 Through the use of augmented reality the boundaries of the old roman marching camp will be shown and the heritage of the roman era brought to life. Links are possible with Project 6 and the activities and expertises of Elan Links partners, CARAD.

6. Cwm Elan Mine

Worked between 1796 and 1877, Cwm Elan Mine is tucked in the Nant Methan Valley in the hills above a popular (footpath) walk alongside Garreg Ddu reservoir (the 'Garreg Ddu Reservoir Roundabout'). More experienced walkers who use OS maps might see the mines (on their map), and venture off to explore this area. Although a walk to the mines had featured in an old walk routes book, visitors to Elan on the whole, are unaware of this mine and it's relatively simple access on foot (across woodland and field footpaths).

Between 2005 and 2010, The Welsh Mines Preservation Trust visited the mines to survey and record the remains. In 2009, The Elan Valley Trust commissioned a Survey and Conservation report. This work demonstrates much interest in the mines, and visitors are sure to be interested also. Also in preparation, during the compilation of the Partnership Scheme, Elan Valley Trust and CADW have undergone structural and safety repairs to several of the structures known collectively as 'Cwm Elan Mines'.

This project will include work to develop the access to Cwm Elan mines:

- 🏠 Link with 9a: improving the Garreg Ddu Roundabout (this is the first part of the walk to the mine);
- 🏠 Install signage to the mine where possible and identify the route on website and publications as necessary;
- 🏠 Install interpretation (linking with 7a);

<p>Need and Opportunity</p>	<p>From chapter four of the LCAP this project reflects the identified needs and opportunities of:</p> <p>4.2.3 Threats from neglect, abandonment and lack of use Particularly when considering Cwm Elan Mines and the WWII Pill Boxes they are suffering from a lack of repair due to their lack of use. Through the Elan Links Scheme this project aims to provide wider access and interpretation of these sites so they become a valuable part of the tourism and heritage provisions of Elan. In preparation during the compilation of the Partnership Scheme, Elan Valley Trust and CADW have undergone structural and safety repairs to Cwm Elan Mines.</p> <p>4.2.3 Problems associated with over-use and inappropriate use Sites such as the Roman Camp and the Rabbit Farming complex are at risk from the over-use and inappropriate use of public routes around and across them, and to a lesser extent the land management practises on and round them. It is important that the correct level of information and interpretation is available to allow the correct and sustainable use and access of these historical assets.</p> <p>4.2.5 Threats resulting from inadequate evidence-gathering, recording and understanding Across the sites there is a variance of information known about them, particularly by the general public and as such there is a need to provide this information so people can appreciate the heritage around them.</p> <p>4.3.1.2 Developing new uses & 4.3.1.3 Sustainable usage By incorporating these sites into tourism provision of Elan we are gaining interesting and thought provoking exhibits and connecting people with their heritage. By having a new and sustainable purpose these sites will continue to be of value to Elan and her visitors and as such warrant their continued support and maintenance.</p> <p>4.3.1.6 Mitigating and adapting to a challenging economic and policy environment & 4.3.2.3 Opportunity to become an exemplar for public access, recreation and enjoyment By enhancing Elan's tourism offering we have an opportunity to buffer the ebbs and flows of public interest with the different types and interest of recreational activities. Through our interpretation we can also provide new and interactive ways for people to engage with Elan's heritage.</p> <p>4.3.2.1 To work in partnership for mutual benefit: The Elan Links scheme brings together partners who can provide an alternative form of interpretation and particularly with these sites we have an opportunity to provide augmented interpretation so people can engage in new and interactive ways with the history and stories of Elan.</p>
<p>Project Management</p>	<p>Access and Recreation Officer reporting to the Access and Built Heritage Sub-Committees (where applicable).</p>
<p>Project Partners</p>	<p>Lead partner: DCWW Other partners: EVT, RCAHMW, CADW, CARAD and wider public</p>

<p>Project Development</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 on the Elan Valley.</p> <p>It was known that the Elan Valley held a number of historical assets and in initial work undertaken during the Landscape Character Assessment 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.</p> <p>For these sites there is a variety of historical records, primarily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏡 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). <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏡 34 Listed Buildings (including the dams and related structures); and 🏡 39 Scheduled Ancient Monuments. <p>Due to their 'listing' these are all considered as being of 'national' significance.</p> <p>This report identifies weaknesses in our heritage both in their physical state and in the confidence of some records.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏡 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. <p>The sites were condensed into a potential 80 which are at risk to some degree. Under this project five sites have been identified for actions under Project 5a and one site to include of WWII information boards (others sites of the 80 are being completed in 4a and 7a).</p> <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>During the development year a key part of our project development work was to understand what heritage our audiences were currently aware of and accessing at Elan and what their interests were in terms of the other</p>
-----------------------------------	--

	<p>layers of heritage at Elan. Audiences were asked about their interests in Elan’s different heritage themes and these sites came out on top with people wanting increased access and information about them.</p> <p>Consultation has highlighted that most visitors to Elan don’t venture further than the circular route around the dams and the Visitor Centre. As a result of this, many are unaware of the built heritage sites that are in other areas of Elan. Poor access to these sites also means that they aren’t easily spotted for those visitors who pass but are unaware of their existence.</p> <p>Working with our partners CADW and the RCAHMMW and heritage consultants and interpretation consultants we have developed the Elan Valley Access and Recreation Plan and an Interpretation Strategy which include information on the heritage sites included in this project. This will enhance and enrich our visitors’ experience of heritage whilst ensuring that the heritage of these sites are safeguarded and associated sensitivities are considered.</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"> 🌿 Visitors who are within 1 hour’s drive away; 🌿 Visitors coming for a specific activity; 🌿 Visitors from Birmingham (Birmingham Residents) 🌿 Volunteers. 	<p>Secondary audiences who will also benefit as a result of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Residents of Elan and Rhayader; 🌿 Businesses in Elan and Rhayader.
<p>Activities and Timescale</p>	<p>Dol y Mynach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Road test the new access track to ensure suitable for wheelchairs/pushchairs; 🌿 Re-profile the surface and replace gates where necessary; 🌿 Construct a new pathway to the bird hide; 🌿 Install new interpretation information; 🌿 Link to Project 9 and 7a works including branding of information and waymarking and the promotion of the route. <p>Dam busters site at Nant y Gro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Remove vegetation from the dam remains; 🌿 Improve signage to the site; 🌿 Update interpretation at site; 🌿 Include interpretation on the accessible trail opposite the valley. <p>World War II Pill boxes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Remove vegetation from around the Pill Box and improve sight lines from the Pill Box; 🌿 Install interpretation (including all four Pill Boxes and reference to war involvement elsewhere at Elan(see below)); <p>Medieval/post-Medieval rabbit farming complex:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏰 Through the use of augmented reality the boundaries of the pillow mounds will be brought alive and interpreted. <p>Roman Marching Camp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏰 Through the use of augmented reality the boundaries of the old roman marching camp will be shown and the heritage of the roman era brought to life. <p>Cwm Elan Mine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏰 Link with 9a: improving the Garreg Ddu Roundabout (this is the first part of the walk to the mine); 🏰 Install signage to the mine where possible and identify the route on website and publications as necessary; 🏰 Install interpretation (linking with 7a). <p>It is proposed that timescale of these works be:</p> <p>Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏰 Nant y Gro Dam 🏰 Dol y Mynach & Bird Hide <p>Year 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏰 WWII Pill Boxes <p>Year 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏰 Cwm Elan Mines <p>Year 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏰 Medieval/post-Medieval rabbit farming complex <p>Year 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏰 Roman Camp
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏰 Increased public access to and appreciation of six heritage sites in Elan; 🏰 Six scheduled historic monuments will be accessible and interpreted; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nant y Gro Dam (1); ○ Pill Boxes (3); ○ Roman Camp (1); ○ Cwm Elan Mines (1); 🏰 Visitors will have broadened their experience of and potentially their range of travel in Elan. 🏰 Increased number of visitors visiting the sites
Output indicators and targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏰 Where feasible and appropriate, trail counters will capture footfall at sites; 🏰 We will ask users to tell us the time (in hours) they have spent engaged in recreation (through our website and using technology e.g. e-surveys at the Visitor Centre); 🏰 We will also measure the impact these sites have on visitors, how this adds to the overall wellbeing.

Outcomes	Heritage Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Access for five currently difficult to reach sites; 🌿 Interpretation for five important sites currently uninterrupted.
	People Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 People will have a better visitor experience; 🌿 People will have a better understanding of Elan’s heritage.
	Community Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 The heritage of Elan will be better understood and more accessible thereby supporting the local tourism economy.
Monitoring and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 Data collections monitors the number of people engaging with the heritage; 🌿 Surveys and ad hoc comments will provide information on the people who have engaged with heritage reporting positive experiences and benefits;
Evidence	<p>Elan Valley Access and Recreation Plan (see Appendix LCAP2). From visitor interaction reports, we understand the volume of visitors experience the dams and reservoirs. This also includes the more visible and accessible areas of the Estate. Visitors are often leaving the Elan Estate without having a fuller appreciation of its stories and uses.</p> <p>Consultation sessions found visitors were aware of the evident Victorian Water Scheme; however other significant sites on the Estate were missed. The size of Elan, quality of interpretation/information and access to such sites were barriers to learning more about the Estate’s heritage.</p> <p>Heritage at Risk Survey (see Appendix PP14). This survey highlighted sites that were at risk and would benefit from new and recreational usage.</p>
Wider Context	<p>These proposals would co-inside with those of project 4a, 7a and 9. They also work in conjunction with Elan's existing tourism provisions including the archaeological interest that people have with Elan (as demonstrated in the Access and Recreation Plan.</p> <p>The scheduled status of these sites demonstrates the value in increasing the access to them. With research, it’s possible to learn more about the sites however, for the regular visitor, their stories are generally under sold. Increasing accessing to these stories will likely lead to further interest in the Estate’s history.</p> <p>Focused interest groups and organisations such as the Welsh Mines Preservation Trust and Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust, have held an interest in Elan for many years. Although keen to share their interests, the size of their concerns makes it difficult to highlight special areas like these to a wide audience. The Elan Links project provides a platform to combine the efforts of such organisations, bring heritage to visitors and hopefully, a continued appreciation and conservation of sites.</p>
Legacy and maintenance of benefits	<p>The Elan Ranger team and Elan Valley Trust together have day to day responsibility for the Estate’s managements. This together with the development of the volunteer team at Elan, the physical maintenance of the sites will be coordinated well. Working closely with the RCAHMMW (also</p>

	CADW & CPAT), we will ensure sites retain (or enhance), their importance in Elan's story.
Risks and risk mitigation	<p><u>Risk 1:</u> Damage to the heritage sites and evidence they hold. <u>Mitigation:</u> Recommendations of risk management of these sites are provided through Trysor's LCAP report. The archaeological and historical significance of the sites, in light of proposed increased access are considered. In also consulting with CADW and the RCAHMMW, specifications are drawn from which the site developments will follow.</p> <p><u>Risk 2:</u> Increased access to these sites does hold risks in terms of potential damage to them and their surrounding area. <u>Mitigation:</u> These are mitigated through prevention measures and ensuring compliance with CADW best practise guidance's.</p> <p>There are also risks of not undertaking this project and having the sites remain to some degree hidden. This might diminish the visitor's experience and appreciation of its heritage.</p>
Links to other Elan Links projects	<p>Objective1: Capital work actions under these projects can be completed in harmony with works necessary under Project 4a and clearing works which may be necessary to this project. It is essential that capital works are assigned and completed with a holistic view across the projects.</p> <p>Objective 4: Strong links to the Heritage at Risk survey and the programme of work being completed under project 4a. Both increase the safety and utilisation of some of Elan's built and archaeological heritage and provide information of these finds to the wider public.</p> <p>Objective 6 & 7: These are vital to the promotion and information available to the sites. Interaction will the level of historical content available and the interactive interpretation through different mediums.</p> <p>Objective 8a: Volunteers will be encouraged to help complete works such as path clearing and involvement with the compilation of information boards.</p> <p>Objective 9: Both projects work to enhance visitor experiences at Elan, including through family-friendly activities and augmented realities to bring this area of heritage to life.</p> <p>Objective 10: Projects 10a-c will engage with this project as there will be opportunities to be involved with the capital works such as the woodwork (gates, paths, railings) and will provide the participants the opportunity to engage with this area of Elan's heritage at the same time as enjoying the opportunity of being out and about and gaining new skills.</p>
Background information	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>The community of farmers, tenants, the town of Rhayader 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> <p>Community Arts Rhayader And District (CARAD) is a charity involved in community arts in the Rhayader an Elan area. They also manage Rhayader Museum and Gallery which opened in 2009 and is situated in the town of Rhayader.</p>
--	---