



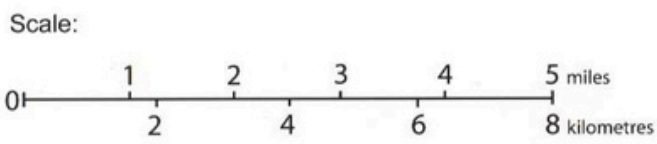
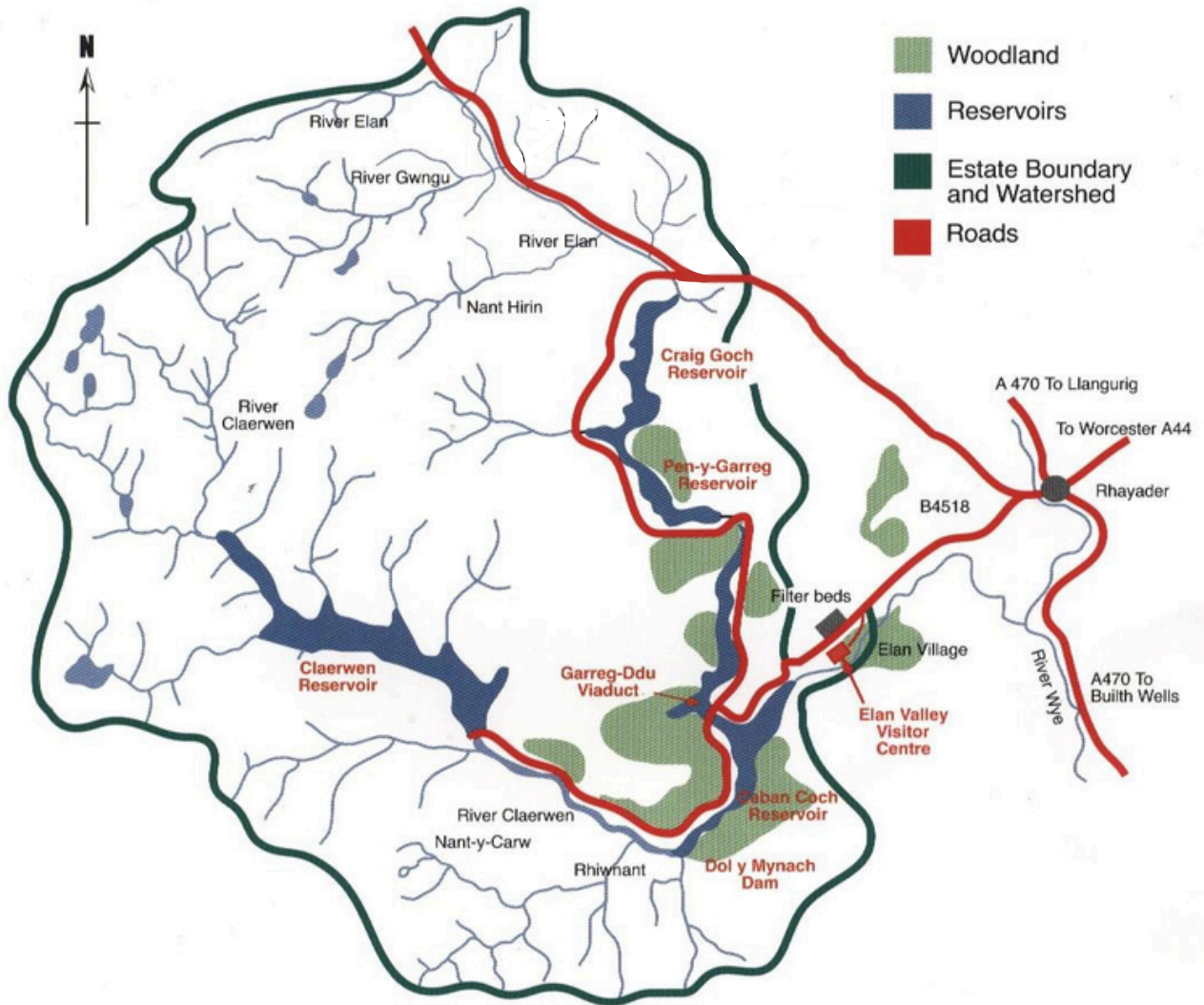
Elan Valley Trust

Strategic Plan

2024 – 2030

Ymddiriedolaeth
Cwm Elan
Elan Valley
Trust

The Elan Valley Estate



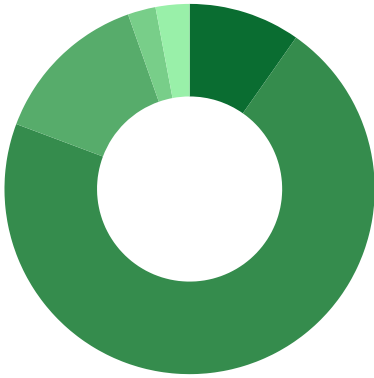
About Us

The Elan Estate was established by Birmingham Corporation Water Department through Water Acts of 1892 and 1896. Today, water is supplied from six reservoirs situated in the valleys of the Claerwen and Elan rivers. They provide a direct supply of up to 320 million litres of a day to Severn Trent Water via a gravity fed aqueduct to Frankley Reservoir to the west of Birmingham. Additionally water is released into the River Elan, a tributary of the River Wye, to help increase its flow during dry periods for subsequent abstractions at Lydbrook and Monmouth. As a consequence the Valley provides drinking water for up to 3 million customers of Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) and Severn Trent Water.

The Welsh Water Elan Trust (generally known as the Elan Valley Trust) was established in October 1989 on the privatisation of Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water. It is a Charitable Trust created to ensure that one of the largest water estates in England and Wales is managed sustainably to deliver a suite of Strategic Aims.



Facts & Figures for the 20,600 hectare (ha) Elan Valley



17,000 ha vested in Elan Valley Trust

1,200 ha retained by DCWW (Forestry & Reservoirs)

2,000 ha Cwm dauddwr Common

14,550 ha tenanted farms

2,850 ha EVT in-hand farms

500 ha of woodland

606 ha open water

19 houses for Elan Valley residents, 23 farmhouses /farmsteads, 4 visitor cottages, bunkhouse and 2 bothies.

28 tenanted farm holdings and 8 in-hand holdings run by the Trust. It is home to more than 20,000 sheep. 50 ponies and 100 cattle.

5 abandoned zinc and lead mines.
Cwm Elan Mine is the best preserved mine site in Powys.

34 listed buildings
39 Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

6 dams with a combined capacity of 99,499 million litres of water.
Water supplied to over 3 million people and the released water generates 4.2 megawatts of electricity.

Open public access on foot to most of the Estate's open hill land.
100km of designated rights of way including the medieval Monks Trod.
The 13 km Elan Valley Trail uses the low gradient route of the old Elan Valley Railway.

12 Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Claerwen National Nature Reserve.
Two Special Areas of Conservation covering 9,049 ha of bog and woodland.
Elenydd-Mallaen Special Protection Area for Birds.

20 species of mammals and 21 "Red and Amber" list (declining) bird species that regularly breed on the Estate.

Species-rich neutral and acidic upland fringe hay meadows, including the Radnor Coronation Meadow.
Nationally important mosses, liverworts, lichen, ferns and fungi and 7 species of orchid.

The first International Dark Sky Park in Wales.

Elan Valley Trust Strategic Aims

The strategic aims of the Elan Valley Trust are to manage the estate and other assets of the Trust in ways that:

Provide responsible stewardship of the Elan Estate for the benefit of the public and local community by conserving its heritage, nature and natural resources.



Facilitate public access to the estate for physical recreation, health & wellbeing



Make a positive contribution to addressing the dual challenges of climate change and loss of biodiversity



Promote use of the estate for charitable purposes including social welfare, education, training and study.



Strategic Objective 1: Natural Resources

‘A landscape rich in nature with thriving habitats and species’

Our objectives are to:

1. Contribute positively to the quality and quantity of the water from the catchment
2. Foster a landscape rich in nature with:
 - Habitats in good condition
 - Flourishing native wildlife
 - Designated sites in favourable condition
3. Remain ambitious in mitigating the impacts of climate change
4. Value our historic landscape but allow change where this brings overall benefits
5. Foster opportunities to maintain a vibrant local community
6. Provide the charity with a viable income over the long term

In five years we will be managing our SSSIs towards favourable condition and will be experimenting and testing to establish:

- The balance of carbon reduction and nature recovery
- Effective methods to achieve favourable SSSI condition
- The best approach to habitat improvement

In-hand Farms

- Peat restoration
- Delivering an ecology plan
- Implementation of management plans/scoping/surveys
- Developing our cattle grazing systems
- Implementation of Sustainable Farming Scheme



Wider Estate

- Peat restoration
- Partnership with tenant farmers
- Partnership with our stakeholders
- Reduce the impact of off-road vehicles in sensitive areas
- Deliver the estate woodland strategy



Strategic Objective 2: People

‘A great place for people to live, work and visit’

Our objectives are to:

1. Foster opportunities to maintain a vibrant local community
2. Enable people to access recreational opportunities that enhance health and well-being
3. Enable people to study, engage with and value the Elan Valley’s heritage and nature
4. Foster the use of the estate for social welfare purposes
5. Manage access to the estate in ways that conserve its special qualities and support people to access the estate in a way that is safe and responsible

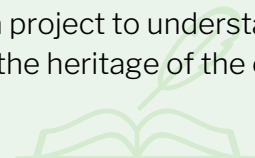
In five years we will have plans and projects in place to:

- Promote responsible access
- Provide greater awareness of the heritage of the estate
- Sustain and strengthen the Elan community and accessibility

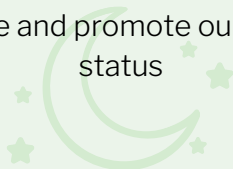
Provide opportunities for volunteers to engage in nature conservation projects



Develop a project to understand and protect the heritage of the estate



Conserve and promote our dark sky status



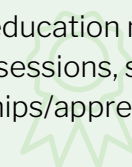
Support targeted groups to access the estate



Provide opportunities for people to live, work and farm on the estate



Develop an education model (training days/sessions, schools, traineeships/apprenticeships)



Strategic Objective 3: Estate Infrastructure

‘Future-proofing the estate’

Our objectives are to:

Ensure that infrastructure on the estate is fit-for-purpose and maintained cost-effectively and sustainably

Give consideration to developing a strong local community when providing rented properties

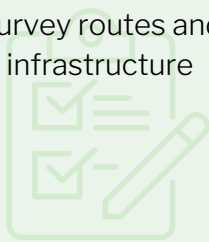
Have regard for the impacts of infrastructure on the Elan Valley’s heritage and consider the future of the assets

Ensure a robust framework for evaluating proposals for infrastructure changes or developments

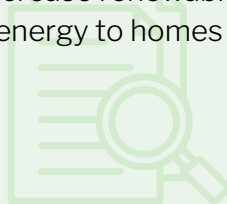
In five years we will have plans and projects in place to:

- Regularly survey our bridges, buildings and roads
- Invest in property improvement
- Facilitate appropriate and effective mobile mast sites
- Provide good sources of renewable energy to our properties
- Facilitate renewable energy sources in partnership with tenants and stakeholders

Survey routes and infrastructure



Increase renewable energy to homes



Improve energy efficiency of properties



Ensure safety of redundant properties



Develop properties to facilitate our plans and aspirations



Strategic Objective 4: De-carbonisation

‘Taking action to reduce our impact on the climate’

Our objectives are to:

1. Be ambitious in setting targets for and delivering measures for mitigation and adaptation such as:

- Reduction in fossil fuel use from our activities
- Carbon sequestration and storage on the land we manage
- Production of renewable energy where opportunities arise
- Measures to manage increased risks brought about by climate change

2. Have regard to the impact on our heritage and nature when evaluating climate mitigation and adaptation proposals

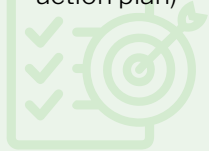
3. Foster opportunities and work with tenants and other partners to support climate goals and sustainability

By 2030 we will make significant progress towards implementing a de-carbonisation strategy:

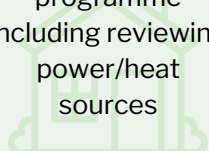
- Ensuring our operations reach net-zero
- Develop and deliver a carbon in the landscape plan
- Habitat management for carbon
- Renewable energy generation



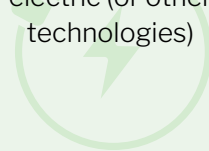
Write carbon strategy (goals / action plan)



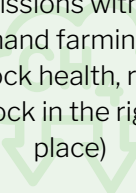
Buildings - renovation programme including reviewing power/heat sources



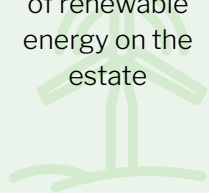
Where possible renew vehicles with electric (or other technologies)



Consider methane emissions with in-hand farming (stock health, right stock in the right place)



Increase the scale of renewable energy on the estate



Investigate the potential of the carbon market



Peat:

Assess opportunities

Research into emissions

Prioritise and plan works

Implement restoration works



Strategic Objective 5: A Strong and Effective Organisation

‘Financially sustainable and well governed’

Our objectives are to:

1. Ensure a sound financial basis for the charity over long term
2. Use income streams that enable the delivery of our strategic objectives
3. Ensure an efficient and effective operating model is continually managed and maintained
4. Evaluate the use of our assets to achieve income that enables the delivery of our objectives

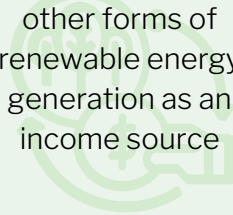
Review in-hand farming systems:

Balance of cost effective and nature effective

Evaluate agri-environmental schemes

Review our in-hand holdings and consider future land investments

Assess potential for other forms of renewable energy generation as an income source



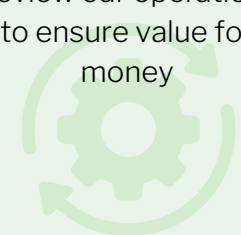
Develop and deliver a funding plan



Review our tenancies and rents



Review our operations to ensure value for money



Review our assets and investments and ensure they meet our strategic objectives



Develop and deliver an asset management plan (replacements / renewals)



Explore alternative sources of income



Strategic Objective 6: A Well-governed Organisation

‘A great place for people to live, work and visit’

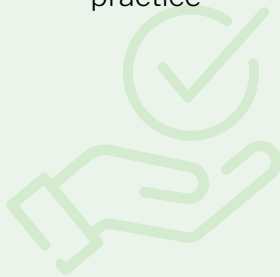
Our objective is to:

1. Ensure the organisation is effectively governed
2. Establish ourselves as an employer of choice
3. Ensure that staff are empowered to deliver in line with strategic objectives
4. Have organisational values that align with and support our charitable objectives



We will maintain an effective governance structure, complying with relevant standards and be a great place to work.

Develop our organisational values and embed them within our working practice



Review and develop our policies



Governance development programme



Review and develop our employment practice and policies to enhance staff wellbeing and effectiveness





01597 810449



info@elanvalleytrust.org

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Cwm Elan
Elan Valley
Trust



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Elan
Valley



Elan Valley Trust, Elan Estate Office, Elan Village, Rhayader, Powys, LD6 5HP

www.elanvalley.org.uk