



TR Register Shropshire Group's Run to the Elan Valley Wednesday 18th May 2022



The picturesque Elan Valley (Welsh: *Cwm Elan*) is situated to the west of Rhayader, in Powys. It is sometimes known as the "Welsh Lake District" and covers 70 square miles (180 km²) of lake and countryside.

The valley contains the Elan Valley Reservoirs and Elan Village, designed by architect Herbert Tudor Buckland as part of the same scheme. Elan Village is the only purpose-built "Arts and Crafts" Model Village in Wales.

It is also famous for its scenery. Over 80% of the valley is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The Elan Valley Reservoirs are a chain of man-made lakes created from damming the Elan and Claerwen rivers. The reservoirs, which were built by the Birmingham Corporation Water Department, provide clean drinking water for Birmingham. Water from the reservoirs is carried by gravity to Frankley Reservoir, in Birmingham, via the Elan aqueduct. Pumping is not required because the network drops 52 metres (171ft) along its 117km (73 miles) length. A gradient of 1:2300 maintains a flow of less than 3.2km per hour (2mph) and the water takes one and a half to two days to reach Birmingham. The aqueduct was started in 1896 and opened in 1906

Work to build the Elan Valley reservoirs was undertaken because the rapid growth of the industrial city of Birmingham in the late 19th century had led to a lack of available clean water. Drinking water from the Elan Valley is noted for being exceptionally soft. The reservoirs are now owned and managed by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water. The water filtration works further down the valley is run by Severn Trent Water.

Lunch can be purchased at the café at the Elan Valley Visitor Centre, or you may wish to take your own picnic.

Itinerary:

10:00	Meet at The Ludlow Food Centre, Bromfield, Ludlow, SY8 2JR. (on A490
10:30	PROMPT start of run
12:00	Arrive Elan Valley Visitor Centre for lunch at café or picnic (take your own)
13:30	Depart Elan Valley Visitor Centre
15:00	Arrive back at Ludlow Food Centre

Contacts:

Robin Walker

01952 883513

Roger Critchley trshrops@gmail.com

01743 790253/07811 260166