and wildlife on your next visit.

Christchurch Meadow is regularly mown for hay and then
of the flowering plants that can be found here.

You can see dragonflies over the water and butterflies feasting
water cress and marsh marigold. In the summer you
field flowers provide wet conditions needed by butterflies.

River sides, meadows and ditches:

There are like the wetland look out for herons, kestrels,
common birds such as blackbirds and thrushes and to
600 years old. They offer food and shelter to many
The lakes are bounded by trees and hedgerows which may be
These large, which form most of the wall, and Christchurch
Wildlife meadows
Come and enjoy it!

The Island Villages
Lost Villages

Bishop's Way, the 1950s, and the 1990s
The much missed streets of Bishop's Way have been reproduced in the Village Centre, with models of shops, houses, and businesses as they used to be.

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Follow the country code — why?

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The Bishop's Palace in Downham has a long history of occupation and use. The monastic property here was first described in 1086 when it was said to have sufficient meadow for all the plough teams, pasture for the cattle, woodland for 100 pigs and fisheries producing 300 eels a year. Little remains of the palace today.

Butterflies such as the Peacock can be seen between July and late September.

In addition to the Cathedral, the City of Ely contains many beautiful buildings including the Bishop's Palace, which was built at the end of the 15th century. Cromwell's House, former home of Oliver Cromwell, is another notable building now used as the Tourist Information Centre.

The drainage of the fens in the 1800s led to the creation of a 'new' parish at Chettisham. It was first described in 1170 as a wooded assart from the New Barns estate.

The hedges offer food to many common birds such as blackbirds and thrushes. Field ditches provide wet conditions needed by such plants as bulrushes.
The Bishops Way

How to get there

Further information

Referees: Plenty of cafes and shops in ELy

Waymarking: Green discs indicate the route

Maps: The route can be followed on OS maps

English Heritage and the local community are committed to the preservation of the route. Local historians and archaeologists are also involved in the care of the historic buildings and monuments along the route. The route is well signposted and the local community is proud of its heritage.

The route is suitable for all ages and abilities and is ideal for a family day out. It is also a great way to explore the local countryside and enjoy the beautiful scenery that ELy has to offer.

For more information on the Bishops Way, please contact the local tourist information centre or visit the ELy website.