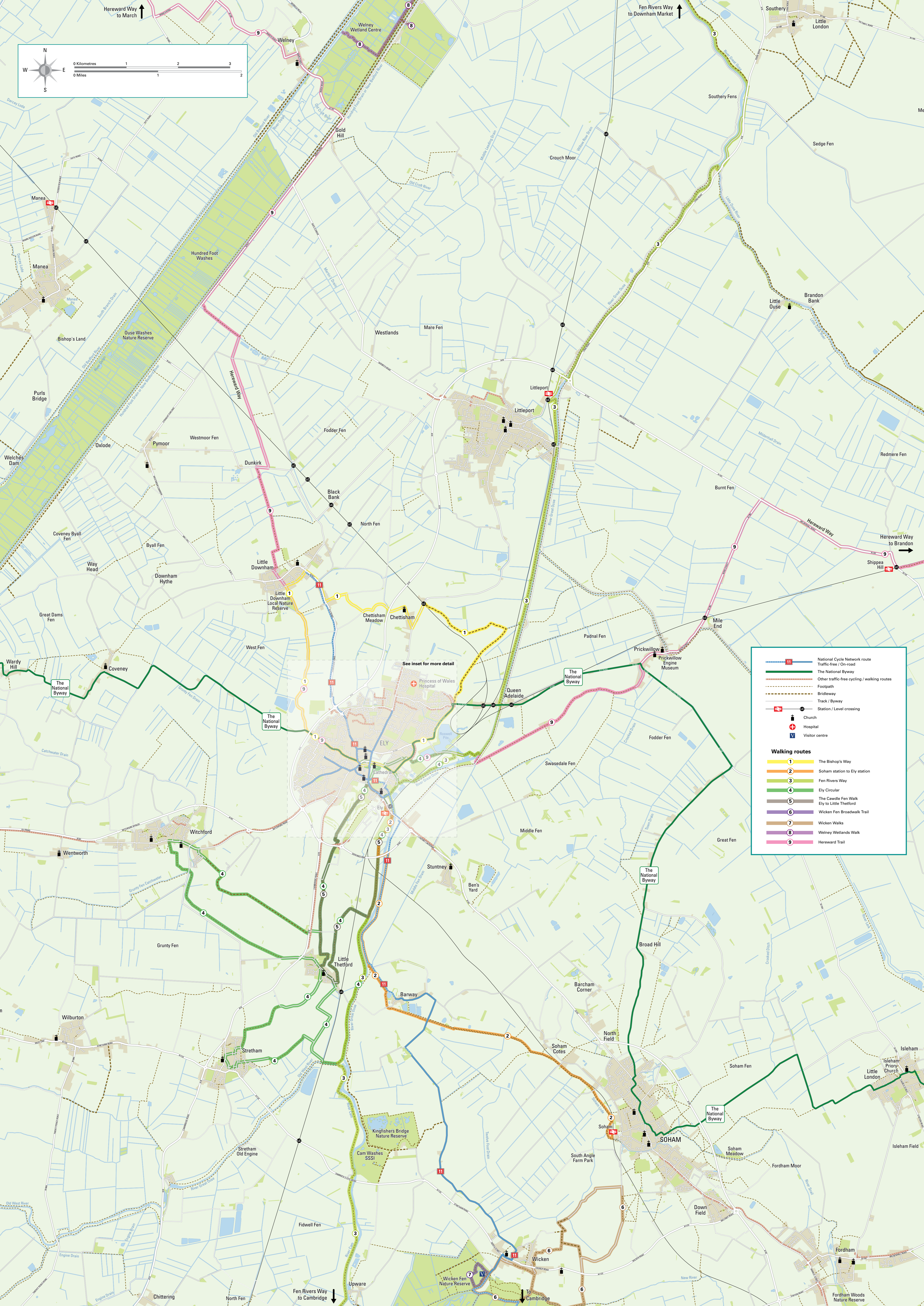
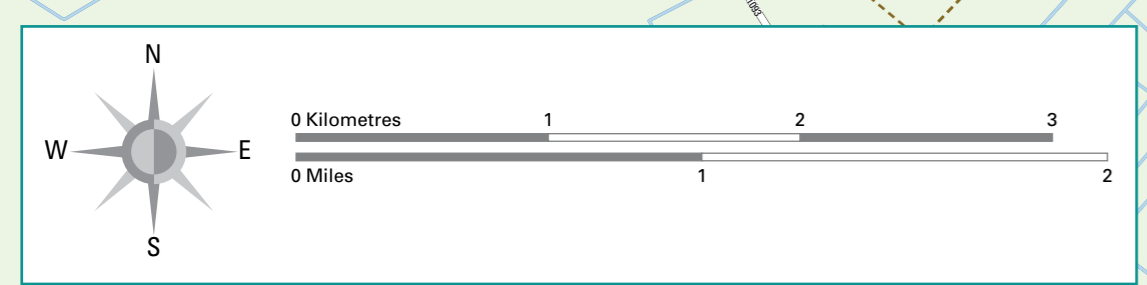


Hereward Way to March ↑

Fen Rivers Way to Downham Market ↑



	National Cycle Network route
	Traffic-free / On-road
	The National Byway
	Other traffic-free cycling / walking routes
	Footpath
	Bridleway
	Track / Byway
	Station / Level crossing
	Church
	Hospital
	Visitor centre

Walking routes

	1	The Bishop's Way
	2	Soham station to Ely station
	3	Fen Rivers Way
	4	Ely Circular
	5	The Cawdle Fen Walk Ely to Little Thetford
	6	Wicken Fen Broadwalk Trail
	7	Wicken Walks
	8	Welney Wetlands Walk
	9	Hereward Trail

See inset for more detail

Princess of Wales Hospital

Prickwillow Engine Museum

Queen Adelaide

ELY

Stuntney

Ben's Yard

Barway

Little Thetford

Wicken

Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

Upware

Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

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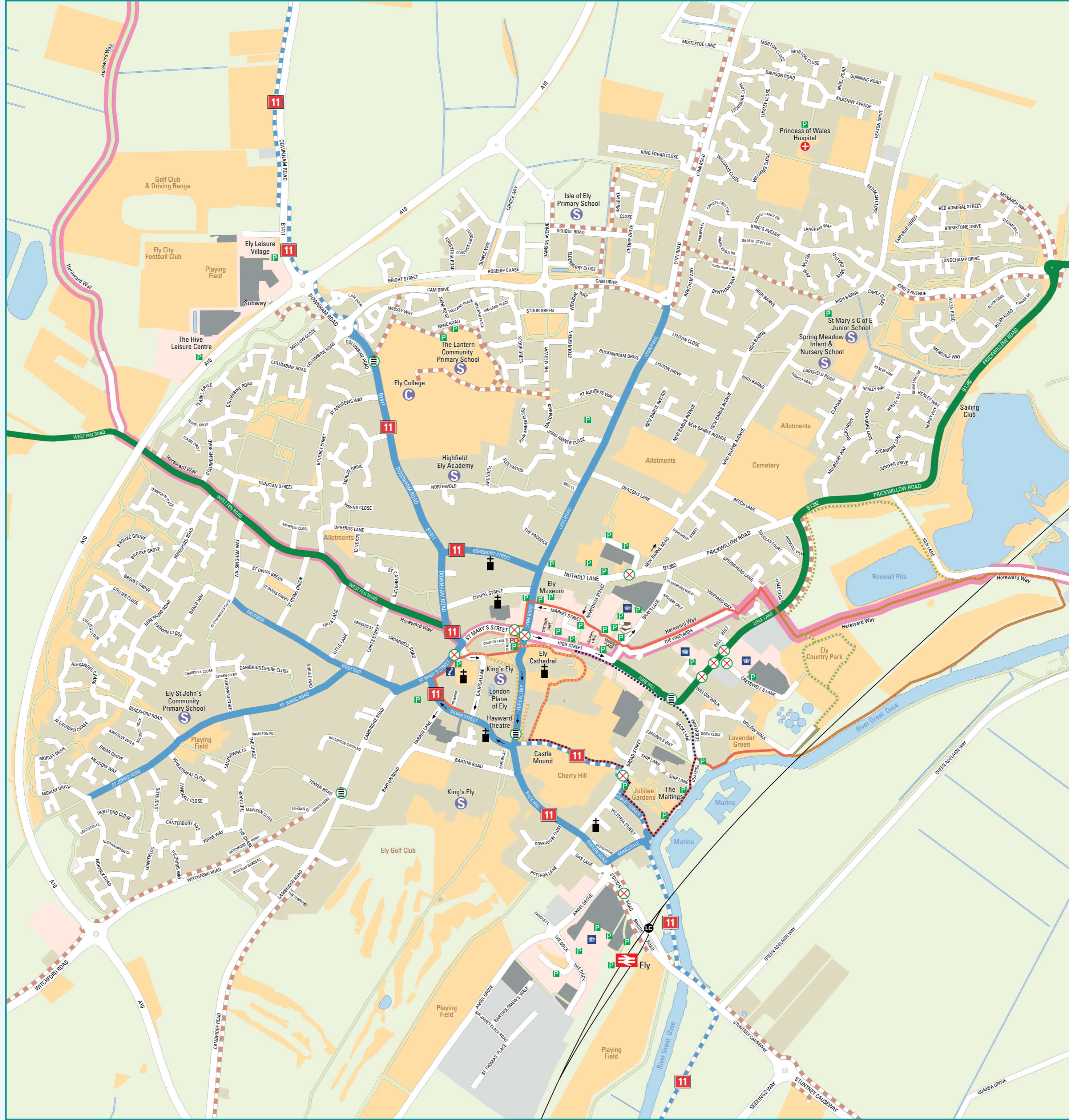
Ely

Walking & Cycling Map

A pocket city with a fascinating medieval story to explore. The city is situated on a 23 square mile Kimmeridge clay island which is home to the highest point in the Fens and subsequently, the cathedral became affectionately known as "The Ship of the Fens".



www.herwardcrp.org



	National Cycle Network route
	Traffic-free / On-road
	The National Byway
	Other traffic-free cycling / walking routes
	Footpaths
	No cycling, Useful walk your bike links
	Track / Byway
	Station
	Light controlled crossing
	Zebra crossing
	Library
	Post office
	Hospital
	Tourist information centre
	Church
	Supermarket
	School / College
	Cycle parking
	One way street
	Parks, pitches and green spaces
	Urban areas
	Car parks
	Industrial areas
	Shopping areas

Walking routes

- Around Ely Walk
- Ely Town Trail
- Riverside Trail
- Ely Country Park Walk
- Hereward Trail

Useful information and numbers

Ely City Council
www.elycitycouncil.org.uk
 01353 661016

East Cambridgeshire District Council
eastcambs.gov.uk
 01353 665555

Visit Ely
 Oliver Cromwell's House, 29 St Mary's Street, Ely, CB7 4HF
www.visitely.org
 01353 662062

Cycling UK
 To find out more about how Cycling UK champions the cause for cyclists, as well as finding out information about local routes and events, visit: www.cyclinguk.org

Walk Wheel Cycle Trust
 enquiries@walkwheelcycletrust.org.uk
 0117 926 8893

Ely Library
 6 The Cloisters, Ely, CB7 4ZH
info.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/kb5/cambridgeshire/directory/service.page?id=vHBTwnr-myY&camcommunitychannel=6-1

Cambridgeshire County Council Fault Reporting (paths and roads)
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roads-works-and-faults

Cambridgeshire County Council Cycling Information
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/cycling


Cambridgeshire Policing Team - 101 (non-urgent)
www.cambs.police.uk

Bus Services
 For the latest bus information and details of operators etc, please visit: www.traveline.info

Know your signs

- No Entry signs** always apply to cyclists too ...
- ...unless there is an exception shown underneath, or ...
- ...you can bypass No Entry signs if there is a gap alongside with this "route for cyclists" sign.
- No cycling**
Typically used on a footpath away from a road. You can still wheel your bike.
- No motor vehicles**
A cycle is not a motor vehicle. Cyclists are allowed to pass these signs where motorists cannot.
- Shared route for cyclists and pedestrians together**
The only time cyclists are allowed to ride on a pavement alongside a road is where you see this sign...
- ... or this one, indicating a **segregated route**, where you must keep to the side designated for cyclists.

Direction sign showing National Cycle Network route.



Ely

The Cathedral city of Ely offers something for everybody – monastic buildings steeped in intrigue and history, the long winding riverside for peaceful walks and beautiful big sky vistas, independent shops, restaurants and cafés an array of themed markets, and pretty Fenland villages and hamlets, all neatly packaged into an area of just 60sq km.

In AD 673, St Etheldreda, an Anglo-Saxon princess, built an Abbey Church and created a monastery for both monks and nuns. This is the site where Ely Cathedral now stands.

St Etheldreda dedicated her life to chastity and religious service and, following the death of her husband in AD 655, she took her dowry and moved to Ely to retire. Her life is celebrated each year on 23rd June with a Feast Day – the anniversary of her death in AD 680.

Ely's first abbey church was later destroyed by Danish invaders in AD 870. The first Norman Bishop, Abbot Simeon, started building the cathedral in 1081; its construction took 100 years, and in 1109, Abbot Hervey was appointed the first Bishop of Ely in the "new" Ely Cathedral.


Following the sudden and dramatic collapse of its central tower in 1322, the Cathedral underwent further work to restore this, including the building of the Octagon Tower. This newer construction was built upon deeper foundations and with an internal height of 142 feet (43 metres), it has rightly earned its accolade as one of the "wonders of the medieval world" and the Cathedral itself is commonly and affectionately known as "The Ship of the Fens".

In 1349, the stunning Lady Chapel was completed as a space dedicated to Our Lady (the Virgin Mary). It would originally have been highly coloured with many stained-glass windows and painted statues in the niches.

Sadly, this was all destroyed during the 16th century revolution of the Puritans who rejected all forms of religious decoration. Elements of the original chapel can still be seen today with traces of coloured paint and fragments of glass on the central window on the southern side of the chapel.

It is only very recent that the Lady Chapel of the main Cathedral building allowed passage of pilgrims between the two. This was achieved when Processional Way was dedicated in 2000.

Cherry Hill, which is located at the foot of the Cathedral, was the site for Ely Castle, a motte and bailey style construction built by William the Conqueror. Following the submission of the Isle from the likes of Earl Morcar and the folk hero Hereward the Wake, of The Ely Rebellion, the building was completed in around AD 1070.



Cherry Hill, site of the former Ely Castle, in Autumn time

Oliver Cromwell – deep-rooted connections to Ely
 Oliver Cromwell lived in Ely between 1636-1646.

He originally hailed from nearby Huntingdon and after an early life of financial struggles, his fortunes changed when he inherited several estates, including the home in Ely, from his uncle, Sir Thomas Stewart.

Cromwell moved to Ely with his family and was a tax collector and governor of Thomas Parson's Charity.

The charity still exists today and provides grants and housing to deserving local applicants.

During his 20s or 30s, Cromwell converted and became a stout Protestant. The changes which King Charles I began to bring in during this period, led Cromwell to believe that God had given him the task of preventing them being enforced.

He often made angry and passionate speeches in Parliament, and when Civil War broke out between Parliament and the King, in 1642, Cromwell was one of the first to leave London and return to his constituency in Cambridge readying himself to take up arms and go to war. Those who took sides against the King included aristocracy and landowners from some of the richest parts of the country who had all come to see the king as a tyrant.

Cromwell and his Parliamentarian forces eventually defeated the King and his army, and this led to the toppling and execution of the King in January 1649. Cromwell and 58 other commissioners had signed the King's death warrant.

Shortly after this, in September 1649, Cromwell and his new model army suppressed Royalist supporters in Ireland and then in 1653, Cromwell was bestowed with the title of "Lord Protector". After the death of the previous King, the title was offered to Cromwell, but he declined. The country ran for some time with no monarch. After months residing at Whitehall Palace and Hampton Court Palace, and being referred to as "Your Highness", Cromwell relented and became "King in all but name".

His reign was short lived with his untimely death (from a fever) in 1658. It left the nation divided, often still to this day, about his beliefs.

Today, **Oliver Cromwell's House** is home to a Civil War exhibition with interactive displays and interpretations. Visitors can try on costumes and try out games of the time to fully understand life living during the Civil War was really like.

For details of the house opening times as well as special events and tours, visit: www.olivercromwellshouse.co.uk


The house is now also home to the city's Tourist Information Centre, and if you're looking for a "one-stop" shop where you can learn everything you need to know about the city, book tours or plan travel, then the team at Visit Ely can help you.

As well as a plethora of information about the city, the team run a range of events throughout the year, including Ely's Eel Day (traditionally held on the first May Bank Holiday Saturday each year) and Ely's Apple & Harvest Fair (held each October). For dates and details of everything on offer, visit: www.visitely.org.uk

The River Great Ouse in Ely
 The Great Ouse is one of Britain's longest rivers and winds its way through Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridge and Norfolk before draining out into the Washes near Kings Lynn.

The river has been historically important for commercial navigation and for draining the surrounding low-lying land of the Fens. The river's lower course runs through the wetlands and the Fens, and has been highly modified and channelled to relieve flooding and allow a better route for barges and traffic to pass through. The first known modifications to the river's channels were made in 1236 after a flood. During the 1600s, the Old Bedford and New Bedford were built to provide a better and quicker route for water to flow away into the sea, and, with the addition of sluices and locks during this period, water flow became easier to control.

Dutch engineers, including Cornelius Vermuyden, were engaged to assist with this, and the successful drainage of the Dutch marshlands, coupled with the use of windmills to power the water drainage systems and allow water to flow quicker, was mirrored in Ely and the Fens.



River Great Ouse

Much later, in the 20th century, the Cut off Channel was built to adjust the flow of water and relieve flooding in the area.

By controlling water flow, the Fens stayed a highly productive area for growing grains and vegetables.


Today, the River Ouse at Ely offers a range of recreational activities, from pleasant riverside walks to nature spotting and boating - its navigable waterway offers a range of points of interest along the way.

Boat trips along the river can also be booked, with tour guides along the way – a very pleasant way to while away some time. For booking details, contact Visit Ely: www.visitely.org.uk/establishments/elys-liberty-belle-river-cruises/

The railway in Ely
 The arrival of the railway and the new Ely station in 1845 brought new opportunities. As well as moving cargo around the area using the excellent waterways, the railway offered a new, speedier way, to move goods. Ely became an important interchange and the shift from water to land took place. Leisure trips became much more popular during the late 1800s and as time passed, trains from London travelling to the Norfolk coast called at Ely. These services offered passengers a faster way to escape for a day trip.

Today, Ely remains an important interchange, with direct services to many Norfolk and Suffolk towns, as well as Peterborough in the west (connecting with the East Coast mainline) and Cambridge and Stansted Airport for commuters and travellers using the airport. London Liverpool Street and London Kings Cross are also easily accessible from Ely station with frequent services to both.

Ely station is easily accessible from most parts of the UK with only one change of train, or sometimes, direct services.



Ely station



Ely market

Shopping in Ely
 Alongside its many independent shops, cafés, and restaurants, Ely offers a wide range of well-known high-street brands. Many are located around the central area of the city, focusing on the Market Place.

From local crafts and fudge, to cheeses, delis and butchers, Ely's shops always offer a wonderful selection of goods.

The City also offers visitors a wonderful variety of "themed" markets, which change regularly. These include Charter Markets every Thursday, offering a selection of local produce and street food. During the summer, (April – August) on the last Friday of the month, "Foodie Friday" is also very popular. As the name suggests, this event offers a great mix of street food and drinks, with covered seating, perfect for catching up with friends.

As well as the weekly craft, food and vintage market every Saturday, every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month also sees the addition of a local farmers market, where a great selection of local producers have come together for over 20 years to showcase their array of fresh fruit and vegetables, cakes and bread and meat.

Each Bank Holiday Sunday sees the more laid-back market, which offers visitors a range of street foods, craft and vintage goods stalls to browse at their leisure.

Whatever the occasion, whenever you're buying for, there is almost certainly a place you'll get it in Ely!


A little further out of the city, located on the A142 in the Stuntney Estate, you will find Bens Yard (www.bensyard.co.uk) – an independent lifestyle shopping village with places to eat, shop, and walk.

Places to visit

Ely Cathedral
 The Cathedral's rich historic significance, coupled with its Romanesque and decorative Gothic features, draws visitors in their droves to explore this wonder – currently the only building in the UK to be listed as one of the "Seven Wonders of the Middle Ages".

As well as a rolling programme of regular religious services and events, the Cathedral serves as a central focal point for the region, offering an array of cultural, musical, and heritage events throughout the year.

To browse the full programme of services and events, visit the Cathedral's website www.elycathedral.org



Ely Cathedral - the view from the train as you arrive into the city

Housed within the Cathedral is Ely's Stained Glass Museum – the only museum in the UK dedicated to the art of stained glass housing an important collection of designs and pieces, along with materials and tools that provide a fascinating insight into this intricate art.

The Museum is located on an upper level of the Cathedral and is accessible by a spiral staircase (40 steps). Check out the website for more details, opening times and special events etc: stainedglassmuseum.com

Ely Museum
 The Museum offers visitors the chance to explore the rich heritage of Ely and the surrounding Fens. Ely Museum tells the stories of the people and the landscape of Ely and its surrounding area from prehistory to the present day.


Downstairs, you can discover the early history of the area, from fossils to the medieval period.

Upstairs explores the stories of more recent centuries after the fenland marshes were drained to make fertile farmland. Visit the original Gaol cells and hear the prisoners' stories.

Amazing, hands-on displays, fascinating stories, and a quirky gift shop make Ely Museum a vital part of any visit to this vibrant city.

As well as regular opening hours, the Museum hosts a series of special events and exhibitions throughout the year, including holiday and seasonal activities.

For details and opening times, visit the Museum website: www.elymuseum.org.uk



Ely Museum from the outside

A little further out of the city, if you choose to explore the local area, you will be spoilt for choice with unique and interesting places to visit:

Prickwillow Engine Museum
www.prickwillowmuseum.com

Prickwillow Museum tells the story of the drainage of the Fens, the history of the local area, and the courageous individuals who ran the drainage pumps in such remote locations. It also showcases some of the region's finest examples of restored diesel engines.


Special events and open days are also on offer – check the website for details to plan your visit.

Within easy reach of Ely, and offering a café and a range of local walks, the museum is a great place to visit in rural Cambridgeshire.

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Welney
www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/welney

A must-do for nature enthusiasts – home to a wide variety of wildlife, including whooper and Bewick's swans in the winter months and lapwings, dragonflies, and a variety of ducks and wading birds in spring and summer. The centre is the starting point for several walks, including a gentle, easy circular walk alongside the New Bedford River – perfect for bird-spotting. The centre also connects with the longer Hereward Way.

For opening times and access details (please check, especially in the wetter months, as the centre can be cut off from the village of Welney via the A1101 due to localised flooding), visit the website.



The main observatory at WWT Welney

Strehtham Old Engine
www.strehthamoldengine.com

Lying to the south of the city of Ely, Strehtham Old Engine is the last complete survivor of the engines that managed the drainage across Cambridgeshire and the Fens in the 1800s.

The pumps ensured that farmers could manage their land and produce adequate crops to "feed" The Industrial Revolution.

Today, the pump is powered by electricity, but a visit here can really help visitors understand the might and importance of this machine.

For details of opening times (which are usually limited to Sundays and Bank Holidays between April and October) visit the website.

With nearby nature reserves at Kingfisher Bridge and Wicken Fen, the engine is a great place to enjoy a walk to or from.

Wicken Fen Nature Reserve
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/cambridgeshire/wicken-fen-national-nature-reserve



Wicken Fen windmill

Now managed by the National Trust and taking the title of their oldest nature reserve – and one of England's most famous Fens – Wicken Fen is one of the country's most important wetlands, with over 10,000 species recorded there, including birds, plants, and probably its most famous residents – dragonflies.

The fen has a labyrinth of raised boardwalks and lush green paths making it accessible and easy to explore. Take a moment to catch your breath and enjoy a chance of spotting a visiting hen harrier, water vole, or bittern.


The Reserve's grazing cattle and Konik ponies, often seen up close, play a key role in creating and maintaining the Fen's diverse, thriving habitats.

South Angle Farm Park, Soham
www.southanglefarmark.co.uk

Located just outside Ely, on the outskirts of the market town of Soham (20 minutes' walk from Soham train station) is this family-run petting farm, which makes for a great day out with the children! You can wander around exploring the fields of horses, donkeys, alpacas, and llamas, or cuddle up to the farm animals – or even a snake or spider (if you're brave enough). With adventure play areas, sand play areas, a craft barn, and café, there's lots to see and do, and you can easily fill a day!

Why walk or cycle around Ely?

- The wide Fenland landscapes and big skies are perfect for walking and cycling. Alongside many formal routes Ely's easy-to-navigate surroundings also offer enjoyable off-route trails – just remember to check public rights of way.
- The city also offers well-maintained links to formal NCN routes – NCN route 11 winds its way around the city, traversing the route from Wenders Ambo, near Saffron Walden, to Kings Lynn; while the longer NCN route 51 passes to the south of the city, connecting Oxford with Milton Keynes, Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich.
- Ely has lots of open, green spaces, including Jubilee Gardens and Ely Country Park – shorter walking routes are available, as well as a range of longer walks, and so there is something for everybody to enjoy.
- Ely is easily accessible by public transport as well as by car, and the city's railway station has ample cycle racks if you choose to travel on the train and want to leave your bikes parked there.
- Parking your cycle is free and there is ample space to park up whenever you feel like it!
- Remember that you can also take your bicycles on the train (check in advance. Although there is usually no charge, pre-booking with the train operator is essential to guarantee space).



Ely's pretty riverside as seen from Ely Country Park.



Market Street

Walking and cycling tips / general rules

- Always give your bicycle the "once over" before going out – check tyres, pedals, brakes, gears and seat height.
- Wear a quality, well-fitted cycle helmet.
- Ride confidently – secure your spot on the road, well away from the kerb, and stay there.
- Be aware of parked / stopped vehicle doors opening as you pass them.
- Check behind you regularly when planning to turn right or overtake.
- Remember that large vehicles have blind spots on the inside, so don't try and overtake them on the left.
- During hours of darkness or in poor visibility, ensure that you can be seen – high visibility clothing is essential. Road rules apply to cyclists too.
- Do not ride on paths, unless blue signs indicate that it is allowed.
- Remember that weather conditions can change quickly, especially in the Fens. Please check the weather forecast and allow sufficient time for walking. Due to the peaty nature of the ground in the Fens, conditions can often be heavy so appropriate footwear is essential.
- Please remember that landscapes in rural areas can be fragile and careful management is necessary to protect species and habitats. If you are unsure of any of the regulations, please check The Countryside Code: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code