



## The Long Gallery

In medieval times, a long gallery was an essential space for work and recreation and this space may have been divided into three rooms. During the civil war between King and Parliament 1641, the Royalist forces made their headquarters in the Palace.

The Parliamentary forces camped on Penn Hill, damaged the Long Gallery with cannon fire. When the Parliamentary troops entered Wells, the Palace was looted and portraits and an organ stolen. Following the Civil War, the Palace was neglected for several decades. By 1824 Bishop Law had turned it into a comfortable Georgian residence and began the present collection of portraits.

The building of an additional storey over this Long Gallery by Bishop Bagot (1845 — 1854) enabled the architect Benjamin Ferrey to renovate the whole of this first floor. In the Long Gallery, windows were enlarged; plaster ceilings installed and the decorations carried out in Victorian Italian Gothic style.

### Items of Interest

- The moulding, panelling and coving made from papier mâché to look like carved wood
- The wallpaper is modern blocking of a Victorian design taken from a medieval fresco in a Norfolk church
- Bishop Bagot's motto, seen in mouldings below the windows, is 'Antiquam obtinens' ('possessing antiquity')
- The long table is one of three made for Bishop Hervey (1869 — 1894)