

Petty Cury was originally the bakers' street in C14 and remains a principal shopping street today.

Petty Cury is an ancient street, recorded in the early C14 with a name that refers to the bakers' stalls that originally lined the route from the crossing of the King's Ditch to the market place. From C15 the street also housed the city's major inns, the yards of which became the city's worst slums in C19. These were demolished in the late C19 and early C20 at a time when the

street was being redeveloped for new commercial buildings, many of which survive. This regeneration continued into the mid C20, conscientiously using architectural styles that conserved the street's historic character. The south side of the street underwent major redevelopment in the 1970s for the Lion Yard shopping centre, which now dominates the street.



Petty Cury

SIGNIFICANCE - SIGNIFICANT

General Overview

This slightly curved street leads from Sidney Street to Market Hill and represents one of the historic routes to the market from the main crossing of the King's Ditch. The street is one of the city's primary shopping areas and national retailers occupy the majority of the ground floor units. The north side of the street is made up of mixed frontage of two and three storey buildings that date from between the late C19 to the mid C20 with a high level of architectural detail that makes an important contribution to



The north side of the street



Nos. 32-33 Petty Cury

the interest of the street scene.

Nos. 32-33 stand out as an historic building with a jettied frontage leaning over the street which confirms its age. The mixed pattern of broad and narrow building frontages adds to the variety of the street scene and in places preserves the medieval or early modern plot boundaries of the galleried inns that once dominated the street. Modern shopfronts have a considerable impact on the streetscene. The Lion Yard shopping centre makes up the entirety of the southern frontage as a single block of consistent appearance. It has a long

colonnade frontage of white pillars supporting the upper storey which projects over a covered walkway or arcade with shopfronts set well back in deep shade. The street is fully pedestrianised and is also a principal pedestrian thoroughfare between the market and the adjacent shopping streets. The upper



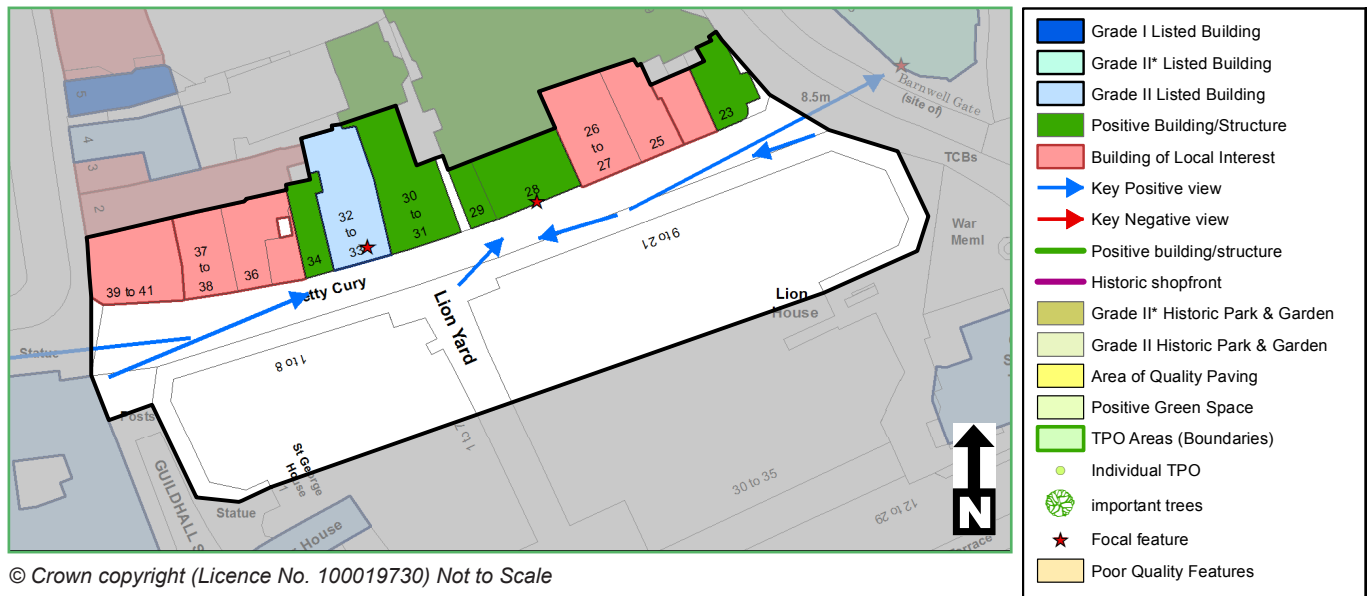
Modern shopfronts



The Lion Yard to the south side



The colonnade



storeys of the street are mostly in commercial use, with some used for storage or offices. The upper storeys of Lion Yard are all offices, except for the nightclub.

Townscape Elements

- All buildings on the north side are set against the footpath edge with shopfronts providing a busy, active frontage.
- The width of buildings varies but reflects the historical plot layouts created by the original, wide fronted medieval buildings, similar to the width of Nos. 32-33, the oldest building on the street.
- The detailing of historic building frontages provides interest in the street scene, including balconies and oriel windows leaning over the street. The complex roof line on the north side of the street provides an attractive backdrop to the street and acts as a visual draw.



Ashlar stone frontage to No. 28 Petty Cury - Boots

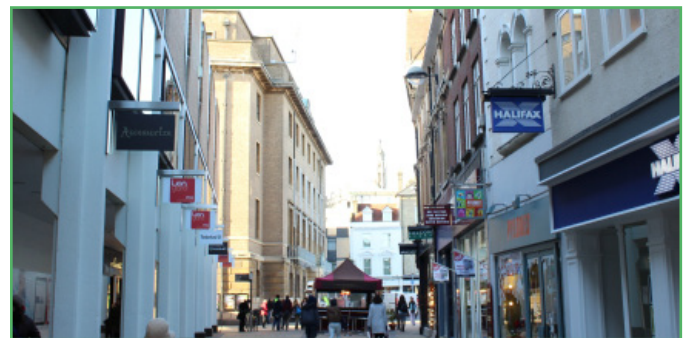
- The use of ashlar stone for facades adds to the quality of the mid C20 buildings, particularly the Jacobean Revival Boots Chemists by Colin St Clair Oakes.

- On the south side, ground floor shopfronts are set behind a colonnade, broadening the pedestrian area and softening their visual impact.



View east - Lloyds Bank

- The supports to the colonnade provide a strong rhythm in the scene looking in either direction, made more prominent by the concave frontages on the south side of the street.



View west - the Guildhall

- Vistas eastwards are enclosed by Lloyds Bank on the end of Sidney Street and focus on the bank's clock tower.

- The interesting vista to the west takes in the imposing Guildhall and continues along the line of the street to the pinnacles of King's College Chapel, rising above buildings on the west side of the market.
- The street has a shared surface with a notional footpath marked in the paving on the north side: there are no plants or trees.
- The east to west alignment of the street, and the continuous three storey frontage along the south side, mean that the street is in deep shadow for most of the day.

Building Enhancement

Some of the upper storeys of buildings appear little used and there may be some potential for them to be converted into residential or other uses.

Given the high numbers of historic shopfronts elsewhere in the historic core, Petty Cury is not notable for such, with most being modern.

Streetscape Enhancement

Visually, the street surfacing is complex but reflects the regular pattern of building frontages and adds to the horizontal emphasis of the streetscene.

The complete lack of cars means that the street is pleasantly free of highway signage. It is important that this smooth, uncluttered surface is retained as this is one of the busiest pedestrian streets.

The timber bollards at the west end have a rather informal character for such an urban street; suitable bollards with a more sculptural quality could be an improvement.

A street café, including two gazebos, adds some activity within the street but might be better designed to have a less dominating impact on the streetscene.

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
Lion Yard	none	1975	3 + attic	concrete & buff brick	flat	Arup Associates	
23	Positive building	late C19	3	stone-faced	slate		
24 (Whittards)	BLI	late C19 / early C20		red brick	slate		
25 (The Perfume Shop)	BLI	late C19 / early C20	3	stone	flat		Baroque Revival detailing including wreaths, swags
26-27 (Nationwide)	BLI	1960s	3	brick	flat		Includes moulded brickwork forming a sculptural relief. The projecting clock is very prominent in views along the street.
28 (Boots the Chemist)	Positive building	1959-61	3	stone	slate	Colin St Clair Oakes	
29 (Nana Mexico)	Positive building	C20	3	stone	slate		
30/31 (Superdry)	Positive building	C20	2 + attic	stone	slate		
32-33 (Halifax)	Listed Grade II	C16	3	plastered timber-framing	clay tile		Jettied frontage projects over the street. Casements at first floor level.
34	Positive building	C19	3	painted brickwork	parapet		
35 (Timpsons)	BLI	C20	3	red brick	parapet		
36 (The Body Shop)	BLI	late C19 / early C20	3	red brick & stone dressings	slate		
37-38 (Sole Trader)	BLI	late C19 / early C20	3	red brick & stone dressings	slate		
39-41 and 1 Market Hill (Optical Express)	BLI	1890	3 + attics	red brick & stone dressings	tile		