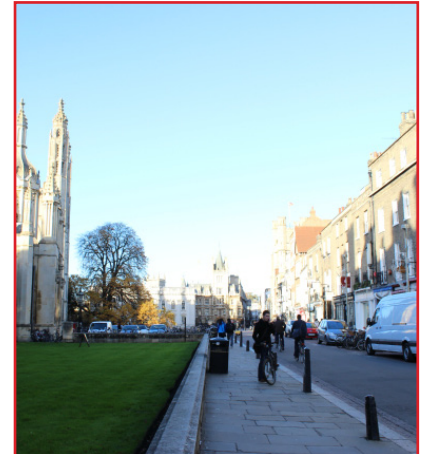


King's Parade / Senate House Hill

The most iconic street in Cambridge with a streetscape of international significance, centred on King's College Chapel and the Senate House, the University's ceremonial focus.

In C16, King's Parade was lined with shops and tenements and functioned as the city's principal street. Adoption of King's College Chapel as a royal chapel by the Tudor dynasty ensured its completion as a magnificent monument to the royal family, becoming the jewel in Cambridge's architectural crown. The erection of the college's Gothic screen in

1828 added to the splendour of the frontage. This also emphasises the division of Cambridge between the commercial-dominated areas to the east of King's Parade/ Trinity Street/St John's Street and the university colleges to the west. Today, King's Parade and Senate House Hill are exceptionally busy and probably the most photographed streets in Cambridge.



View north

SIGNIFICANCE - VERY HIGH

General Overview

King's Parade and Senate House Hill are wide streets, providing a strong contrast with the much narrower Trinity Street to the north. The width of the space provides an appropriate setting for the fine quality college buildings and the open southerly aspect fills this space with sunshine and light.

King's College Chapel is the most visually important building with its east end rising well above the other buildings and its vast east window framed by corner towers. In views along King's Parade from the south, the roofline of the long south frontage is seen above the college screen with its many pinnacles breaking above the roofline and creating an intricate silhouette. Whilst the chapel is the most significant focal building in the space, numerous other buildings play an important role and are considered of similarly high significance in their own right. The former Provost's Lodge and Library was designed by Wilkins along with the college screen and provides a strong southern anchor to the frontage in lavish Tudor Gothic style (including a statue of a Henry VIII). G. G. Scott's later C19 range which adjoins it to the south is complementary, carefully using some elements of Wilkins' design, but is simpler in its detailing.



King's College Chapel



The Senate House

To the north, the Senate House and East Range of Cobble Court (part of the Law School and University Offices, built in 1754-8) frame the north west corner of the street with classical frontages that are a strong contrast with the Gothic buildings to the south. The common style of these buildings is further enhanced through their consistent two storey scale and balustrade-topped parapets, as well as their shared setting of the lawn with its surrounding fence of cast iron railings. The pyramid roofed gate tower of Tree Court (Gonville and Caius College), built in 'French Chateau style'

to designs by Alfred Waterhouse, provides an end stop to Senate House Hill in views looking north.

The Church of St Mary the Great is a foil to these buildings on the east side of Senate House Hill, with wide spaces to either side (including the churchyard and streets leading to Market Hill) providing an open setting that frames the church. Senate House Hill has been enhanced with a well designed public realm scheme that reflects the quality of the surrounding buildings and also the street's importance as a centrepiece of the city and university.

The east side of King's Parade is made up of a mixture of historic town houses generally with narrow frontages, reflecting the width of the earlier medieval tenement plots. These are individual buildings, built with a variety of materials and details, reflecting their varied dates

of construction which span from C16 to C19. The scale varies between three to five storeys and attics with a similarly varied and intricate roofscape. Materials include timber-frame with plaster infill, grey Gault brick with stone or plaster dressings, and painted render and red brick, all creating a lively mixture of colours, tones and textures. Toward the southern end the mix of styles is more limited with a dominant neo-classical style in grey Gault brick and a parapet to the roofline. Many of these buildings retain well



Church of St Mary the Great



East side of King's Parade



Narrow frontages of three to five storeys



Shopfronts



Richardson Candles

preserved C19 shopfronts, whilst details of architectural interest include cast iron window guards and wrought iron brackets for hanging shop signs.

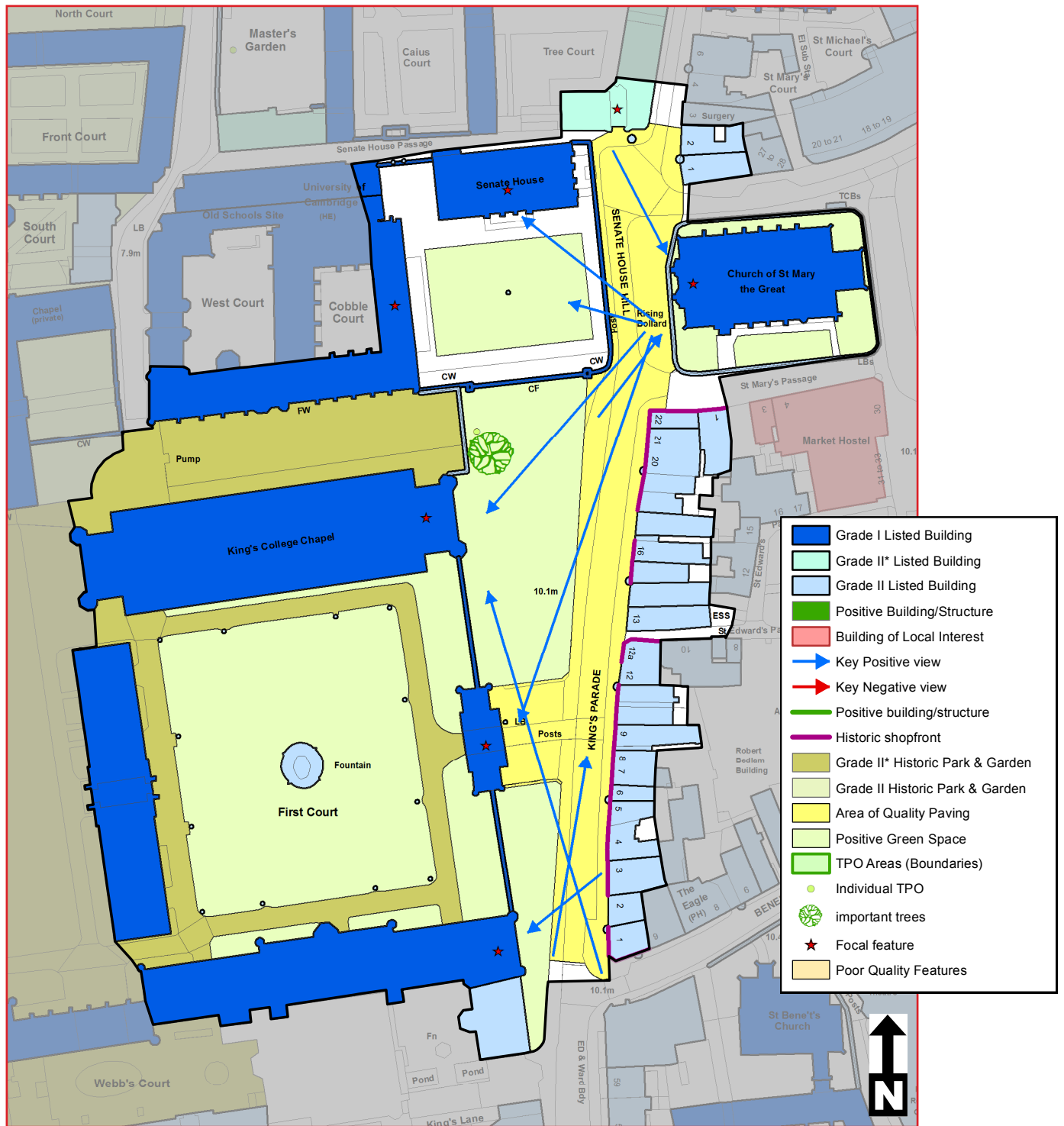
Lighting on both streets is provided by the distinctive Richardson Candles, with fluted cast metal columns and tall tubular lamps. These date to the 1950s although they have an Art Nouveau character. They have been supplemented with a graceful modern design of lighting column which provide greater illumination for pedestrians. King's Parade has a shared surface, encouraging pedestrians to make use of the road, whilst pavements on either

side are surfaced in Yorkstone with granite set gutters. The central carriageway is covered with resin-bonded aggregate. Bollards of several different styles mark the pavement's edge.

King's Parade and Senate House Hill are two of the most popular streets in the region for tourists and are, therefore, occupied by tour groups for most of the year. The streets are an important through-route, particularly for student cyclists, but also for pedestrians – this role has been enhanced by restricting vehicular use. Further restrictions to prevent 'lost' drivers from entering the street would be an additional improvement. The buildings are in varied uses – university premises and residential accommodation, religious, specialist shops, offices and cafes.



Horse chestnut tree



© Crown copyright (Licence No. 100019730) Not to Scale

The space contains only one tree, a 200-year old horse chestnut next to King's College Chapel which provides an attractive juxtaposition of a soft natural form against the formality and geometry of the Gothic tracery of the chapel's east window.



Spacious feel of lawn area

Townscape Elements

- The college and university buildings on the west side of the road dominate the space in views but are set well back from the road with generous green area to the front creating a spacious feel.
- They generally stand gable end to the road and have a strong presence in views along the street due to the generous open spaces surrounding them.



Views south to Trumpington Street

- The buildings to the east, by contrast, are set at the back of the pavement with shopfronts providing a high degree of interaction with the street.
- The vista south continues into Trumpington Street, with further examples of college and university buildings seen along the street frontages.
- Views east down streets around the market and along St Edward's Passage take in the bustling commercial town, which is a strong contrast with the more tranquil college buildings to the west.

- King's College's Gothic buildings provide an impressive roofscape, particularly in silhouette at dusk.
- The horse chestnut tree in front of King's College Chapel is a key landscape feature of the area.



Hard landscaping at Senate House Hill

- Other landscape features include the manicured lawns of the Senate House and King's College – which are appropriately formal foregrounds to the buildings.
- Glimpses of trees along the Backs are seen beyond the college buildings.
- High quality hard landscaping has been retained or updated including the cobbled square at Senate House Hill.
- Hanging signs, plaques and other small-scale features add great richness to the street scene.

Streetscape Enhancement

Enhancement of the streets should include further restrictions to traffic use, including reducing or removing parking on the east side of the street. The paving and surface treatments have been recently upgraded and although they utilise modern, non-traditional materials, they are functional and fairly low key.

New street lights have been installed replacing the unattractive temporary lights that were noted as a negative feature previously. These are restricted to the east side of the street to retain the open, uncluttered nature of the space on the college side.

Landscaping

The horse chestnut tree is reaching the end of its life and at some stage a difficult decision about its future will need to be made. This should include the consideration of replacing it by a suitable mature tree to lessen the visual impact of its removal.



Blue Plaque on Chetwynd Court

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
1 King's Parade	Listed Grade II	early C19	3 + modern attic floor	painted brick	mansard / slate		
2	Listed Grade II	c1800	3	painted brick	tiled		
3	Listed Grade II	mid C19	4	painted brick	parapet		
4, 4A & 5	Listed Grade II	1834	4	grey Gault brick	parapet / slate		
6 & 6A	Listed Grade II	early C19	3 + attic	grey Gault brick	mansard / slate		
7 & 8	Listed Grade II	early C19	4	Gault brick	parapet / slate		
9	Listed Grade II	early C19	3	Gault brick	parapet / slate		
10 & 11	Listed Grade II	1827	3+ basement + attic	Gault brick	parapet / hipped slate		
12 & 12A	Listed Grade II	C18	3 + basements + attics	timber-framed, front rendered	mansard / tiled		
13	Listed Grade II	C19	4	red brick	gabled / tiled / ornamental bargeboards		
14	Listed Grade II	1787	5 + attics	brown brick / rubbed red brick dressings	mansard / tiled		
15	Listed Grade II	C19	5	buff brick	slate		Window pediments from Wanstead House (demolished 1823)
16	Listed Grade II	C17, extensively altered C19	3 + attics	plastered timber-framing	tilled / hipped dormers		
17	Listed Grade II	C16, extensively altered	3 + attics	timber-framed & plastered	tilled / hipped dormers		
18	Listed Grade II	mid C16 (mid C17 East Wing)	3 + basement + attic	timber-framed & plastered	tilled / hipped dormers		
19	Listed Grade II	c1700	3 + basement + attic	timber-framed, refaced in brick & roughcast C19	tilled		
20	Listed Grade II	early C19	4	white brick	parapet / slate		
21	Listed Grade II	late C19	4	white brick	parapet / slate		

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
22	Listed Grade II	C17	3 + attics	timber-framed, refaced in red brick c1730	tilled		
Church of St Mary the Great	Listed Grade I	late C15	N/A	rubble and ashlar stone	flat pitched	alterations & restoration by G. Scott 1850-1 & by A. Salvin 1857	
1 Trinity Street	Listed Grade II	early C19	3 + attics	Gault brick and rusticated stucco at ground floor	mansard / slate		
2 Trinity Street	Listed Grade II	early C19	4	render with rusticated stucco on ground floor	parapet		
Gonville & Caius: Tree Court	Listed Grade II*	1870	5 storey tower	ashlar-faced	Westmoreland slate	Alfred Waterhouse	French Chateau style
The Old Schools: The Senate House	Listed Grade I	1722-30	1 (gives the appearance of 2)	Portland stone ashlar	slate	James Gibbs	West End completed by James Essex 1767-8
Urn on Senate House Lawn	Listed Grade II	c1830	N/A	bronze on stone cased iron plinth		made by Sir Edward Thomson of Birmingham; inscription: Eric Gill	copy of Warwick Vase presented to university in 1842
railings & gates	Listed Grade I	completed 1792	N/A	cast-iron railings & pedestals; dwarf stone wall		thought to be among earliest cast-iron railings in England	
The Old Schools, Cobble Court: East Range	Listed Grade I	1754-8	2	Portland stone ashlar	hipped / slate behind parapet	Stephen Wright	
King's College Chapel	Listed Grade I	1446-1515	N/A	ashlar	lead	fan-vault roof designed & built by John Wastell, master-mason: timber roof by Martin Prentice and Richard Russell 1508-1515	
screens & entrance gateway	Listed Grade I	1824	2 storey gatehouse	Ketton stone ashlar	slate roofs	William Wilkins	designed to accord with chapel
letter box at gate	Listed Grade II	mid C19	N/A	cast iron		"Hexagonal Penfold" box with initials VR	
King's College: Front Court, South Range, Old Provost's Lodge and Library	Listed Grade I	1824-28	3	Ketton stone ashlar	slate	William Wilkins	Tudor Gothic style
King's College: Chetwynd Court, Scott's Building	Listed Grade II	1871-85	3	ashlar	gabled / slate	G. G. Scott	Gothic style
King's Lane Court	none	1965-8	3	Portland stone	flat	James Cubitt & Partners	
Richardson Candles	Listed Grade II	1957	N/A	fluted metal columns and tubular lantern of translucent glass, either free standing or wall mounted	N/A	Sir Albert Richardson	Group value with several others in the immediate vicinity. Designed especially for Cambridge