

Once a narrow lane lined with cramped housing, this is now a busy bus route between Bridge Street and Jesus Lane. The C11 Round Church (Church of the Holy Sepulchre) at the corner of Bridge Street stands out as one of Cambridge's most historic buildings.

In addition to the Round Church, timber-framed buildings at the corner of Bridge Street provide evidence of the close that surrounded the church by the C17. The continuation of the street to the north east appears to have been a speculative C19 development, connecting with the newly laid out Park Street. A short row of three townhouses is the only survivor of this phase of development which

was otherwise demolished in the 1960s. Views along the street are now dominated by the side elevation of the Park Street multi-storey car park and the side elevation of the Cambridge Union Society. Neither building is particularly attractive at ground floor level, although the Union has good features at first floor level and above.



Street view

SIGNIFICANCE - SIGNIFICANT

General Overview

This street was greatly affected by road widening and redevelopment in the 1960s, which involved the demolition of Ram's Yard, which stood to the north, as well as buildings at the corners of Park Street. The entrance from Bridge Street is the best preserved townscape as it retains some of its historic character as part of the C17 square or close which surrounded the churchyard. At the Park Street end it also retains the few buildings that illustrate the street's extension in the late C19. The church hall at No. 15 has architectural merit as a result of the restrained stone detailing to its tall arch-headed window and door openings, as well as the crisp contrast between the stone and plumb coloured brick of the walls.

The junction with Bridge Street is characterised by the openness of the churchyard with the church as a focal feature and the two storey scale and horizontal emphasis of the C17 buildings at the street corner. To the north east the scale rapidly rises to three storeys or two storeys with basements.



Entrance from Bridge Street

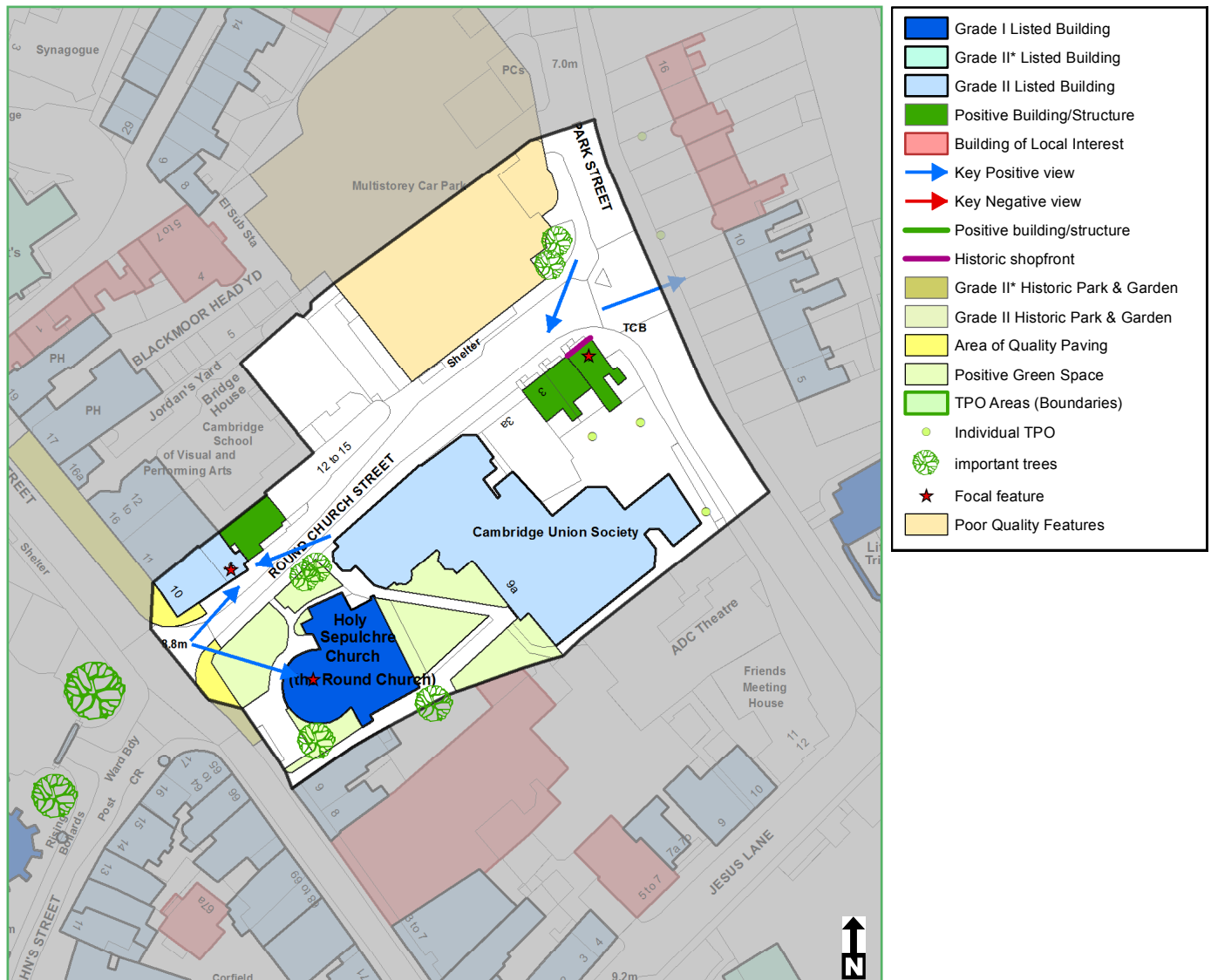


Cambridge Union Society

The semi-basement side elevation of Cambridge Union Society, which contains 'The Cambridge Footlights' club, does not have any doors or windows and thus creates a large inactive frontage in the street. Facing this, the recent development of CATS College (a private sixth form college) is not intrusive but would not be considered to make more than a neutral contribution to the significance of the street. At five storeys high, the multi-storey car park rises well above the other buildings in the area, with a curtain wall of concrete fins rising from an ashlar plinth enclosing the parking decks. Whilst this is a jarringly modern structure within the city centre, the quality of materials and construction help to reduce the negative impact that such a building would otherwise have in this

sensitive location.

The street can be quite a busy route for cyclists and buses, but few pedestrians use the street except to



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get to the Park Street Car Park. Pedestrians do, however, use the Bridge Street corner in significant numbers, and this can conflict with the other road users.



Timber framed buildings

Townscape Elements

- The timber-framed buildings at the street corner opposite the churchyard provide a gateway feature to the street, indicating its history as part of the C17 (or earlier) street pattern.



Views of the Round Church Churchyard

- Glimpsed views into Round Church churchyard and the Union Society garden provide spatial interest, with architectural interest being provided by the details on the two buildings.
- The building line generally lies at the rear of the footway or set back with narrow basement areas, reflecting the former tight enclosure and cramped conditions of the lane.
- Views to the north east are closed by the late



View south west

C19 terrace of Park Street as well as two substantial trees, and to the south west by the curving line and college frontages of St John's Street/Bridge Street, which is one of Cambridge's finest views.

- Above the inauspicious ground floor elevation, the Union Society building provides good late C19 roofline features.
- The churchyard's shrubs and trees add to the greenery of the street scene, curtailed by the dwarf wall boundary.
- Trees at the corner of Park Street help to soften the outline of the car park.

Streetscape Enhancements

The footway paving could be improved in places, whilst further greenery could be added at the junction with Park Street.

Round Church Churchyard

Railings could be erected around the churchyard to complement the fine railings of the Union Society.

The side gate to the Union is of high quality wrought ironwork with polychrome brick piers but it is presently rather neglected and in need of repair.

Redevelopment Opportunities

Car park

Should private car usage reduce, the redevelopment of the car park could bring about significant improvements to the townscape. Ideally this would echo the vertical emphasis and horizontal rhythm of the remaining town houses that face it across Round Church Street. Any further increase in scale is unlikely to be acceptable in this location.

Cambridge Union Society

The squash courts and extension (1930s refronting in render and steel windows) to the Union could be significantly enhanced. This should include creating a more active ground floor frontage to the street. Consent has been granted for substantial changes here.

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
Church of the Holy Sepulchre (the Round Church)	Listed Grade I	C12, C15 & 1841	N/A	stone	collyweston stone slate		
Cambridge Union Society	Listed Grade II	1866, 1933-34 extension	3	polychromatic red brick / rendered extension	pantile	Alfred Waterhouse	
3 & 4	Positive building	C19	2 + basement	Gault brick	slate		
5	Positive building	C19	3 + basement	Gault brick	slate		
multi-storey car park	none	1962-3	5	brick / painted concrete	flat	Truscon	
12	none	C20	4	modern cream / yellow brick	slate		
13 & 14	none	C20	3 + basement	modern cream / yellow brick	slate		
15	Positive building	C20	2 + basement	dark plub coloured brick	parapet		
16 and 10 Bridge Street	Listed Grade II	C17 & C18	2 + attic	plastered	old tile / slate		Originally one build. Listed with Nos. 11-14 Bridge Street