Pembroke Street

A narrow street lined on the north side by historic townhouses and large laboratory buildings, with the medieval and later buildings of Pembroke College on its south side.

Pembroke Street was developed on the gently curving line of the King's Ditch and so lies partially outside the medieval town core. It has elements of different phases of development including the medieval college with its later additions, C17, C18 and C19 townhouses, and part of the complex of laboratories and museum buildings that lie between Free School Lane and

Corn Exchange Street known as 'The New Museums Site'. This provides a mixed architectural character that varies from the domestic to monumental in both scale and detail. The street's gently sinuous course provides a series of unfolding views with key historic buildings as focal features.



Pembroke Street

SIGNIFICANCE - HIGH

General Overview

The street is narrow and sinuous illustrating it historic origin and the influence of the King's Ditch on its alignment. The curving route brings a series of historic buildings into the focus of views that are channelled by the buildings on either side. The buildings form continuous frontages that are only broken at the entrance to Free School Lane, and the oldest are located at the west end of the street. Pembroke College on the south side is seen as a series of long two storey blocks, divided by contrasting building materials, but is initially unified by a single eaves line with a long series of gabled dormers above.



Historic shopfront at No. 3 Pembroke Street

East of Free School Lane, the scale of the building steps up significantly on both sides of the street with large institutional buildings of C19 construction. These have heavily modelled facades using C17 and C18 Baroque motifs but are of a scale that reflects the growth in status and wealth of the university and its colleges in the late C19 and early C20, as well as the needs of the subjects being studied. This part of the street is wider, with broad pavements, and provides long channelled views eastwards along Downing Street with Emmanuel College as a focal point.



Pembroke College screen

Near the first bend in the street the building line steps up for Caroe's block (built 1907). Facing the college, a series of townhouses have a more organic mix of scale and massing including large Georgian and Victorian three storey blocks and a diminutive C17 two storey timber framed house, representing the earliest domestic buildings on the street. The street preserves a small number of historic shopfronts (notably Nos. 3 and 7) that help to maintain its character as part of the historic market town.

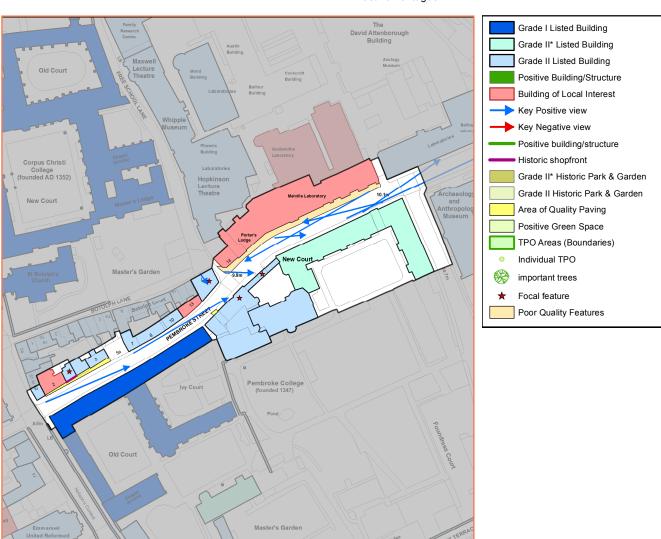


Views towards Emmanuel College

The institutional uses of the road create long sections of inactive frontage, despite the overlooking of numerous windows both large and small. The street is busy with motor vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians, and it is used as a through-route rather than a place to saunter or rest due to the narrow footpaths. There is a notable rush of people along the street and over the pedestrian crossing at its eastern end between lecture periods.



Inactive frontages



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Townscape Elements

- Buildings are set at the back of the pavement creating long continuous frontages that enclose the street and form a long, curving vista.
- The buildings gradually rise in scale to the tall three storey buildings that dominate the east end of the street.
- Use of materials becomes more consistent in the east end of the street where ashlar masonry

is dominant.

- Pembroke College provides an interesting roofscape with varied dormers and chimneys.
 A series of sections of different materials illustrates an accretive process of development lasting several centuries.
- The street is very urban in character with no soft landscaping.
- No. 51 Trumpington Street supports a wall



Differing materials

mounted street light of the special Richardson Candle model found in Cambridge, which dates from 1958.

Enhancement Opportunities

There are no opportunities for redevelopment, though the Caroe Screen at Pembroke College is still in need of repair.

The appearance of the street has been improved by the cleaning of the stonework to the university and Pembroke College buildings.

Bollards defending the flank wall of Botolph House are of a poor quality cast concrete design and could be improved through sensitive replacement.

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
No. 51 Trumpington Street	Listed Grade II	C19	3 + attic	Gault brick	mansard / slate		
Street Light at No. 51 Trumpington Street	Listed Grade II	1958	Designed by the architect Sir Albert Richardson using the REVO Festival Lantern, one of only 120 ever produced.				
2	BLI	C19	2	grey Gault brick	parapet		
3	Listed Grade II	C17	2	timber-framed & plastered	tile		
4 & 5	Listed Grade II	early C19	3 + attic + basement	Gault brick	parapet		
5a	none	rebuilt 2004	2 + attic	buff brick	mansard / slate		
6-12	Listed Grade II	C18	2 + attics	painted brick	Mansard / tile		Possibly C18 refronting of an earlier building.
13	BLI	early C20	1	painted brick	parapet		
Botolph House	Listed Grade II	c1790	4 + basement	Gault brick	parapet		
14 Heycock Lecture Theatre	Positive building	1886	2	Ashlar	tiled		
Melville Laboratory	BLI	C19	3 + attic	ashlar	tiled		
Pembroke College: New Court	Listed Grade II*	1883	3 + basement	stone	tiled	G.G. Scott (Junior)	
Screen	Listed Grade II	1907	N/A	stone		W. Caroe	late C17 Baroque style
Old Master's Lodge	Listed Grade	1871-3	2	Red brick and stone	Welsh slate	A. Waterhouse	In Tudor Revival style
block between Ivy Court & Old Master's Lodge	Listed Grade II	1907	2 + attic	brick with stone dressings	slate	W. Caroe	
Ivy Court: north range	Listed Grade I	1614-16 & 1670	2 + attics	red brick, Ketton stone dressings	tiled	Robert Grumbold Mason	
Old Court: north range, kitchen range	Listed Grade I	Medieval, C18 facing	2 + attic + basement	stone rubble	tiled		