

One of the best surviving examples of the cramped yards of mainly C19 housing that lay behind Cambridge's busy streets, including a C17 timber-framed building.

Portugal Place is a narrow, very picturesque street of housing running back from Bridge Street and set up against the green space of St Clement's Churchyard. No. 19 Portugal Place became known as 'The Golden Helix' as the home of Francis Crick, the discoverer, along with James Watson, of DNA. The lane becomes progressively narrower before splitting into a Y-plan and continuing to New

Park Street, as well as making a dog-leg to Park Street and emerging behind the Maypole Public House.



View along Portugal Place

SIGNIFICANCE - HIGH

General Overview

Portugal Place is lined with early C19 townhouses illustrating a significant period of intensification of the city centre. At the Bridge Street end the buildings rise to three storeys, matching the more built-up scale of the city centre. These buildings have common details such as the use of Gault brick with arch-headed openings to the doors, and tall, narrow six-over-six pane sash windows that confirm their date of construction. Many retain their historic wrought or cast iron banisters which mark the steps up to the front doors or down into the half basements. In the narrower passage to the north east the scale reduces to two storeys high and most of the buildings have been painted white, which adds some additional brightness.



Three storey buildings at Bridge Street junction



St Clement's Church and railings

is a well preserved C17 building and stands out amongst the later buildings.

The lane is paved in riven stone slabs providing a high quality surface whilst cast iron railings provide the boundary to St Clement's Church, allowing views through to the medieval church and the green churchyard which surrounds it. Views south east along the narrower part of the lane are channelled to the tower of St John's College Chapel.

The small garden with its 150 year old pear tree at the dog-leg in the lane is a hidden oasis of greenery.

No. 8 Portugal Place



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	Grade I Listed Building
	Grade II* Listed Building
	Grade II Listed Building
	Positive Building/Structure
	Building of Local Interest
	Key Positive view
	Key Negative view
	Positive building/structure
	Historic shopfront
	Grade II* Historic Park & Garden
	Grade II Historic Park & Garden
	Area of Quality Paving
	Positive Green Space
	TPO Areas (Boundaries)
	Individual TPO
	important trees
	Focal feature
	Poor Quality Features

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Townscape Elements

- Early C19 terraced townhouses line the narrow lane and are set at the back of the pavement creating a tightly enclosed space.
- No. 8 Portugal Place forms a focal feature at the dog-leg in the lane due to its contrasting materials and C17 character.
- The changes of direction in the road create two small squares (one of which is a private garden), providing changes from enclosure to openness that allow appreciation of the building frontages.



Openness looking to enclosure

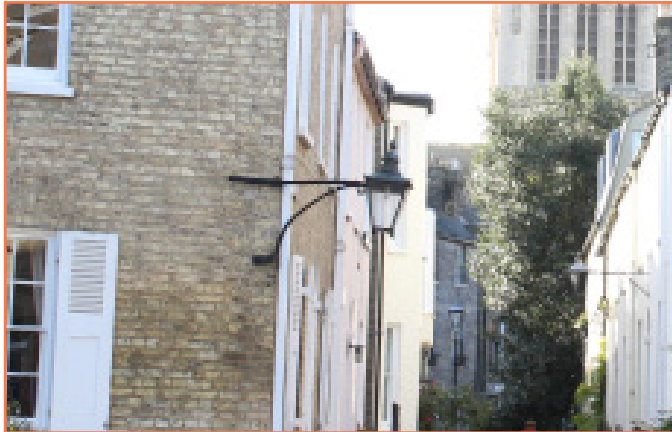
- Views to the south are focused onto the tower of St John's College Chapel.



Views to St John's College Chapel

- To north east, the narrower section of the lane provides glimpsed views to Portugal Street and Jesus Green beyond.
- The skyline is given some interest by the variety of roof heights and chimneys.
- Iron railings and balustrades are a key architectural feature.

- Lighting is provided by reproduction heritage columns and lanterns on brackets. +



Lighting to Portugal Place

- The tall holly tree in St Clement's Churchyard adds greenery.

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
St Clement's Church	Listed Grade B	C13 & C14 restored 1863	N/A	brick / stone	slate / tile	Charles Humphrey: West Tower 1821	rebuilt aisles C16; chancel c1726
No. 20 Bridge Street	BLI	C20	4	Gault brick	slate		
1 & 2	BLI	mid C19	3 + basement	Gault brick	slate		
3		mid C19	3	Gault brick	slate		
4		mid C19	3 + basement	Gault brick	slate		
5-7		1939	2	rendered	flat	Harold Tomlinson	Built as a shop, print and picture gallery and reading room.
8	Listed Grade II	C17 altered C18	2	timber-framed & plastered	old tile		
9-14 (consec.)	Listed Grade II	early / mid C19	2 + attic + basement	grey Gault brick (most painted)	slate		No. 9 is cement rendered
15	BLI	C19	3 + attic + basement	Gault brick	pitched with dormers / slate		
16 & 17	Listed Grade II	early / mid C19	2 + basement	grey Gault brick	slate		
18			3				
19 & 20	BLI	Mid to late C19	3 + attic + basement	Gault brick	slate		Double helix above door surround to No. 20
20A, The Maypole PH	none	late C19	2	painted brick	slate		
21-22A Hythe House	BLI	early C20	2 + attic	red brick with pebble-dashed panels	Mansard / tile		
23-27 (consec.)	Listed Grade II	early / mid C19	2 + basement	grey Gault brick	slate		
28 & 29	Listed Grade II	early / mid C19	2 + attic	grey Gault brick	mansard with one dormer / slate		

NOTE: All the Listed Buildings in Portugal Place form a group