

A busy side street of C19 townhouses forming part of the intensively used commercial core of the historic market area.

Green Street is a narrow side street in the town's market area and runs between Sidney Street and Trinity Street. From Sidney Street it provides a view of an unspoiled Georgian market town side street, which has been enhanced through the thoughtful paving scheme that was completed in 1999.



Street view looking west



Street view looking east

SIGNIFICANCE - HIGH

General Overview

Green Street was laid out c1614 as High Warde Lane running off Trinity Street, with only a narrow passage, known as Burden Hostel Lane, connecting it through to Sidney Street to the east. The passage was widened in 1819 and the east end adopted its current form. Two possible origins to the street's name have been suggested including it's naming after Oliver Green, of Gonville and Caius College, who owned the land, or as a result of the abandonment of property and natural greening of plots following the impact of The Plague in Cambridge in 1665-7. Today the street thrives as a pedestrian friendly shopping area running between two of the city's principle commercial streets.

The strong building lines, rising at the rear of the narrow pavements provide a strong sense of enclosure, whilst the gentle curves at either end of the street block view lines right along it. This also creates a series of unfolding views of the street and flanking buildings with its continuation tantalisingly disappearing from view. More modern development to the north, including the large buildings of Blue Boar Court and the Wolfson Building are well screened from view. The western end of the street is very narrow, and much of the street is hidden from views from this entrance.



View from the western end of the street



Scale more varied to the south side

The use of brick (mainly Gault but with some red brick) provides a uniformity of character which is enhanced by the use of six-over-six (or larger) pane sash windows recessed a full brick's depth with the outer frame hidden, providing a strong play of light and shade along the frontages and a strong rhythm of openings in views. The north side of the street has a relatively uniform three-storey scale of buildings emphasised by a long parapet roofline. The south side of the street is more varied in scale but with three storeys as an average. Despite some amalgamation for business premises the street retains a sense of the proportions of the narrow fronted townhouses that illustrate the intensive development of the area in the early C19 (or earlier) as part of a busy historic city centre.

The enhanced paving complements the character of the early C19 buildings with large riven slabs to the footpaths, and smaller cobbles or setts for the carriage way that emphasise the importance of pedestrians over vehicle. The pavements are subtly emphasised by cast iron bollards in a cross headed pattern.

Grewen Street is an attractive shopping street with good specialist shops and restaurants / bars and its popularity increased following the 1999 enhancement works. The street is within the core traffic restriction zone and is therefore free from vehicles during most of the day.

Although several shops and restaurants occupy large floor areas, this is not obvious on the street façade, which retains the appearance of a series of townhouse buildings with later inserted shopfronts (generally with a late C19 character) to the ground floors. Examples of surviving domestic frontages to ground floors are notably important in illustrating the earlier character of the street.

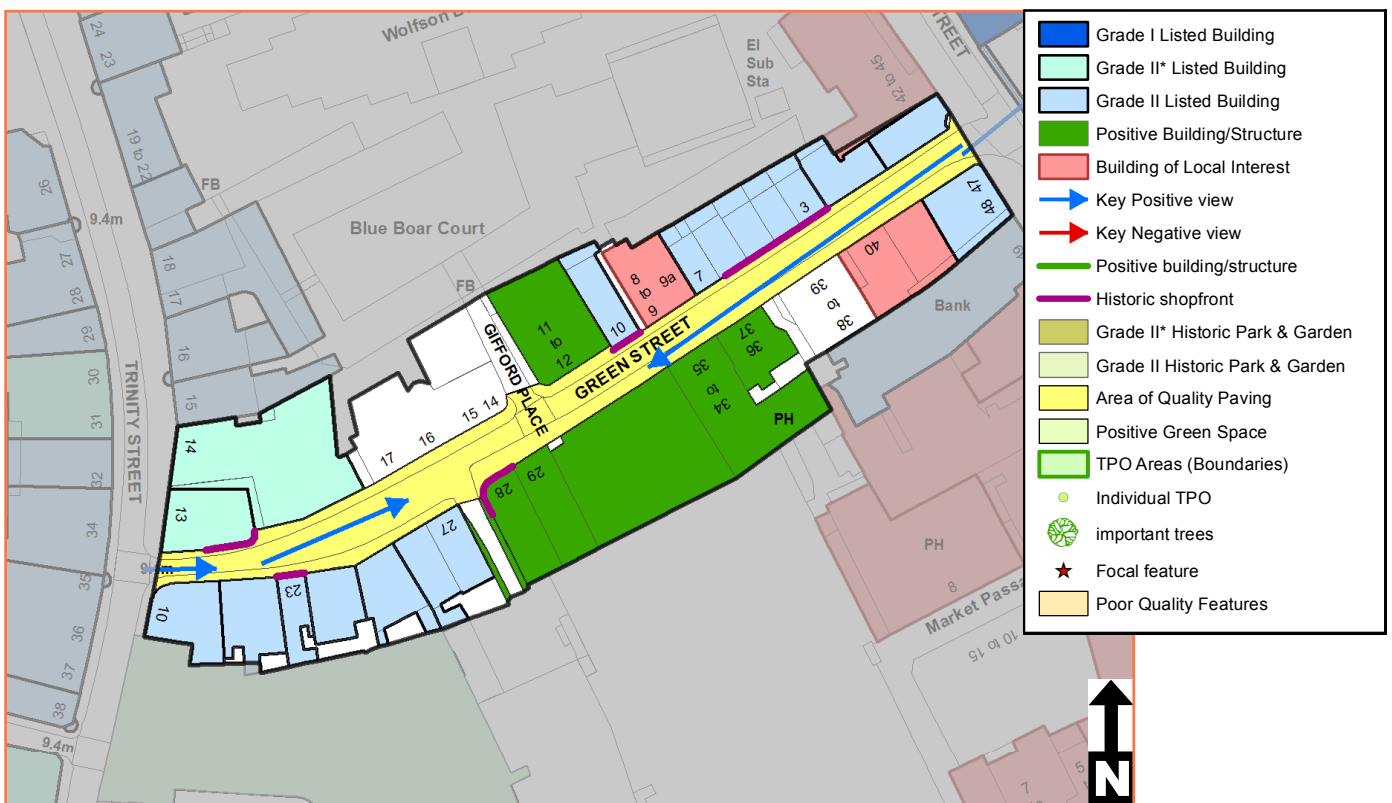
The late opening of shops, cafés and bars has made the street more popular during the evening. In addition to the retail and leisure uses described above, the street also contains some private, but mostly student residential which occupy the upper floors of the buildings - in particular the large Blue Boar / Wolfson Courts for Trinity College behind the north side of the street. This helps to provide activity outside of usual shopping hours and ensures beneficial use of upper floors as well as the preservation of 'domestic' front doors along the street.



Domestic frontages

Looking east the view from the street is directed to Chapel Court of Sidney Sussex College as an attractive end stop.

There is occasional on street parking which detracts from the attractive quality of the area.



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Townscape Elements

- A street of mainly early C19 townhouses with similar detailing, including six-over-six pane sash windows recessed behind the brick work and with parapets to the roofline.
- Historic or sensitively replaced front doors also stand out as making a positive contribution to the integrity of the street's character along with the preservation of many domestic ground floor frontages.
- Shopfronts have generally been maintained with a late C19 appearance, including stall riser, engaged pilaster, consoles and fascia with lobby entrances.



Shopfronts

- The uniformity of the use of brick as a building material contributes to a strong sense of place.
- The survival of a number of historic painted shop advertisements on the building frontages illustrates the long history of use of this street for commercial premises and the types of businesses represented (e.g. Stoakley and Son's bookbinders).
- Buildings are placed at the back of footway with narrow fronted 'town houses' forming either formal or informal terraces creating a strong enclosure and channelling views along the street.
- The view east is completed by the attractive end stop of Sidney Sussex College whilst the bend in the street closes views to the west and brings the buildings of the street into the focus of views (particularly the painted render frontage of No. 24 Green Street, which stands out in views westward due to its larger scale and symmetrical three bay frontage to the street).



No. 24 Green Street

- Breaks in the building line occur at Gifford Place, the access to Blue Boar Court. Views along these routes show the side elevations of buildings on Green Street, including wrap around corner shopfronts.
- Buildings of varying height block the vistas towards Trinity Street. This is a good example of juxtaposed scales of town and college buildings; the fanciful Gothic gables at Sidney Sussex perform a similar function looking east.
- The variety of building heights along the street with chimneys, gables and dormers with glimpses of taller buildings beyond gives great richness to the streetscene.

Streetscape Enhancement

On street parking at the western end of the street mars views and negatively affects the use of the street as a commercial area. Ideally this would be a pedestrianised street with no on-street parking during the working/shopping day.

Redevelopment Opportunities

The only redevelopment opportunity is Nos. 38-39, which although carefully designed does not have the historic interest of other buildings on the street.

Area Development

There is some potential to reopen links between Green Street and Rose Crescent, and Market Passage to create a greater intensity of business frontages and a more permeable shopping area.

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
46 Sidney Street	Listed Grade II	late C18 / early C19	3	Gault brick	mansard / slate		Forms a group with Nos. 1 - 7 Green Street
1-7	Listed Grade II	early / mid C19	3 + attic	painted grey Gault brick	mansard / slate		
8 & 9	BLI	late C19	3 + attic	red brick	mansard / slate		
10	Listed Grade II	c1700	3 & 4	red brick	parapet / slate		refronted late C18; extensively altered late C19
11 & 12 (Open Air)	Positive building	C19	3 + attic	brick	mansard / slate		
14-17 (Trinity: Bevan Hostel)	none	1948	3	brown brick	mansard		
Side elevation of 14 Trinity Street (Jigsaw)	Listed Grade II*	mid C19	2	Gault brick	slate		originally Foster's Banking Hall
13 Trinity Street	Listed Grade II*	late C18 (1783?)	4	red brick	parapet		
10 Trinity Street	Listed Grade II	mid / late C19	3 + attic	Gault brick	slate		
22 (White Stuff)	Listed Grade II	mid / late C19	2	grey Gault brick	slate		Venetian Gothic
23	Listed Grade II	early C19	2 + attic	plastered front	mansard / old tile		
24 (Bangkok City)	Listed Grade II	mid C19	3 + basement + attic	brick, rendered & painted	slate		
25	Listed Grade II	early C19	3	Gault brick	parapet		
26 & 27	Listed Grade II	early C19	4 + basement	grey Gault brick	parapet		
28-32	Positive buildings	C19	3 No. 29: 4	Gault brick	parapet		Nos. 31 and 32 contain an unattractive ground floor entrance to car parking.
33 (TK Maxx)	Positive building	C19	2	Gault brick	slate		
34-35 (Bill's)	Positive building	C19	4	Gault brick	parapet		
36 & 37 (Sundaes)	Positive building	C19	3 + attic	Gault brick	mansard / slate		
38 & 39	none	C20	2	brick	parapet		
40 & 41	BLI	C19	3	brick	parapet		
47 and 48 Sidney Street	Listed Grade II	late C18 / early C19	2	Gault brick	mansard / slate		