

A pedestrian cut-through lined by mostly Victorian buildings with an enclosed feel emphasised by its tunnel access from Market Street.

Market Passage is a narrow lane formed after 1848 from what was the yard of the Black Bear Inn. The frontage includes distinctive C19 buildings and serves as a secondary commercial frontage to both Market Street and Sidney Street, helping to provide greater intensity of use and pedestrian permeability.

However the presence of several 'blind' shopfronts reduces its sense of vitality and makes it less appealing for pedestrians.



Street view

SIGNIFICANCE - SIGNIFICANT

General Overview

This passage has a distinctive C19 character enclosed by buildings of between one and three storeys rising at the rear of the pavement and including long areas of shop windows that provide visual permeability between the shops and public realm. The buildings retain attractive yellow and red polychrome or white glazed brickwork detailing, whilst the sensitive design of shopfronts emphasises the C19 date of the buildings. Windows at first and second storey level have generally survived as one-over one or two over-two pane sash windows. The former Arts Cinema (now Baroosh, a bar and restaurant) has an attractive frontage of engaged columns with classical capitals above a tall plinth.



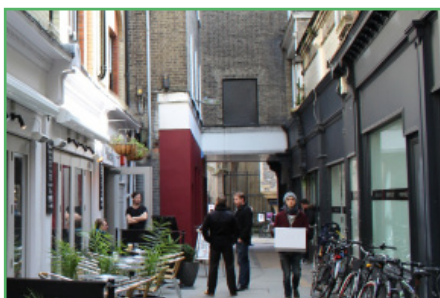
Baroosh



Yellow and red polychrome detailing

A recent public realm enhancement scheme has provided attractive paving, whilst café furniture spilling onto the pavement makes this look like a more inviting area than it may have been previously.

The tunnel entrance from Market Street contains views within the southern leg of the lane (although the spire of Holy Trinity Church rises above the lane), whilst the sharp bend and building frontage foreshorten the views north, creating a very enclosed intimate area that could seem threatening after dark. Views west from the lane are focused on the attractive brick frontage of Montagu House at the entrance to Sussex Street



Underpass entrance



Views north



Views west



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Market Passage is a useful, fully-pedestrianised, cut-through which links two main shopping streets. The passage includes retail uses, cafés, bars, restaurants, a nightclub and a travel agent.

Townscape Elements

- Buildings set at the footpath edge creating informal terraces provide tight enclosure and form an intimate street space.
- Brick buildings with a strong contemporary character as a C19 development in brick to similar scales, with polychrome or glazed brick detailing.
- Attractive, sensitively designed shop windows have low stall risers with slim pilasters and scrolled brackets to consoles.
- The view east onto Sussex Street is focused on the architecturally interesting Montagu House.

- Views west and north are contained within the street and therefore focus on the detail of the surrounding buildings.
- The view south is disappointing due to the unrelieved brickwork of the building above the archway, but provide a framed glimpse of the church beyond and above.
- Café furniture spills onto the street providing a lively atmosphere.
- A high-quality paving scheme has significantly improved the appearance of the street and complements the historic buildings.

West and North sides

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
10 Market Street (Karen Millen)	Positive building	C19	tall single	white glazed & Gault brick	parapet		
			3 & 4	light buff brick, red brick window surrounds			
Side entrance to 13 Market Street (TK Maxx)	none	late 1960s	2	render & white mosaic tiles	flat	Lanchester & Lodge	
8 Market Passage (Baroosh)	BLI	early C20	2& 3	white painted Gault brick	parapet	alterations 2003 Bland, Brown & Cole	built as University Gymnasium
54 Sidney Street (Trailfinders)	BLI	C19	3	Gault brick	parapet		in a group with Nos. 50-53 (consec.) Sidney Street

East and South sides

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
9 Market Street (Offspring)	BLI	C19	4	Gault brick			Nos. 3-9 (consec.) form a group
10-15 Market Passage (Superdrug and David Clark)	none	C19	3	Gault & red brick	parapet / slate		
57 Sidney Street (David Clark)	BLI	Late C18 or early C19	3 + attics	painting brick	mansard / slate		Nos. 57-60 (consec.) form a group