

A C19 street of two halves.

Portugal Street is a linear residential road that represents a late C19 extension of Portugal Place as part of the wider development of the former Nursery Gardens on Lower Park Street. This development also included New Park Street, Park Parade and St John's Road, forming a small grid of streets. It has a mixed architectural character including late C19 townhouses and a later C20

development of modern buildings designed to be sympathetic in their detailing and materials to the street's earlier terraces. The street is divided in two by New Park Street and is narrower and pedestrianised to the south, providing a transition to the even more tightly enclosed lane of Portugal Place. It is, today, a quiet, architecturally cohesive street with a consistent appearance.



View through Portugal Street

SIGNIFICANCE - SIGNIFICANT

General Overview

Portugal Street is a broad, spacious street of late C19 townhouses in Gault brick, built in terraces which are of two storeys high with basements. They are set back from the road behind basement areas with railings to the front. The rows of uniform buildings have a strong sense of enclosure and channel views to the green spaces beyond, providing a harmonious character that is supported by the low amounts of traffic and predominance of pedestrians rather than cars. The narrowing of the street and attractive garden court at the southern end of Portugal Street is an attractive transition to Portugal Place which functions as a route to the city centre beyond. The later C20 townhouses are in private ownership, the older ones now being occupied by students.



Terraces set back from the road



Rows of uniform buildings



Views of green spaces



Narrowing of the street to the south



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Townscape Elements

- The building line is set back from the footway with ground floor entrance above pavement level. Basement areas and railings providing separation from the public area and privacy.
- The foliage of rear gardens on Park Parade spills over sidewalls and adds greenery to the streetscene.



Foliage of Park Parade Rear Gardens

- Formally designed terraces of two storeys with basements provide a strong sense of enclosure creating channelled views to the greenery of St Clement's churchyard with the tower of St John's College Chapel beyond, to the trees of Jesus Green and, via New Park Street, to the trees on Lower Park Street.
- Consistent use of Gault brick and natural slate tiled roofs create a unified character that emphasises the street's character as a single-phase development.
- The uniformity of detailing on buildings within terraces reflects the formality of development as part of the improvement of housing around the cramped C19 city centre.
- The uniform appearance of terrace roofs, including use of repeated designs of dormer windows and continuous surfaces of a single material, contributes to the sense of each

terrace as a single, planned development.

- Use of bay windows provides a detailed building line, adding rhythm to the streetscene, articulating interiors and contributing to the strong sense of passive surveillance.



Bay windows

- The private garden at the corner of Portugal Place provides a special 'hidden' green space within the street including an old pear tree that creates a focus for views at the street corner.
- The narrowing of the street south of New Park Street creates a funnelling effect for views up to Portugal Place, which appears as a continuation of the street. In the opposite direction the street 'opens out' in the view towards Jesus Green.

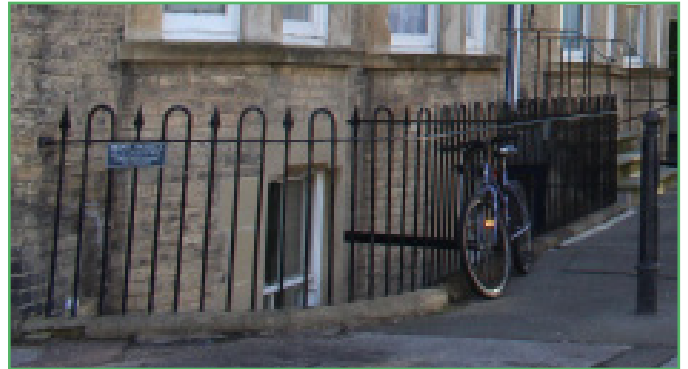
Streetscape Enhancement

- Surfacing

The floorscape is inconsistent with an area of poor quality tarmacadam showing evidence of numerous interventions and patching and some in situ concrete that is in poor condition and should be repaired.

- Streetlights

Some of the streetlights are important remnants of an early design of fluted columns with a curved, decorative arm and lantern. Others are modern reproduction types. The historic lights should be restored and the newer ones could possibly be replaced with new lights to a historic design.



Railings

- Railings

Iron railings are a consistent front boundary treatment that makes a strong contribution to the character of the street.

- Bollards

The bollards on the south side of New Park Street delineate the extent of the quieter pedestrian area.

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
1-11 (odd)	BLI	C19	2 + attic + basement	Gault brick	Slate, mansard, with pitched roof dormers		
15-27 (odd)	none	1996	3 + basement	brick	sheet metal / slate, with canopied dormer balconies	Barber Casanovas Ruffles	
12-26 (even)	Positive buildings	late C19	2 + attic + basement	Gault brick	Slate, with flat roofed dormers		
4-10 (even)	BLI	C19	2 + attic + basement	Gault brick	slate, mansard with flat roofed dormers		