

Corn Exchange Street

This street connects Downing Street with the market place area and has existed since at least the late C16, when it was known as Slaughter Lane.

Today it is a narrow but busy route used by motor traffic. A pedestrian route is set well above the road level on the outside of the Grand Arcade shopping centre. The ornate brickwork of the Corn Exchange's long side elevation provides the street's main historical interest.



Corn Exchange Street, looking south

SIGNIFICANCE - LOW

General Overview

Whilst this street has been in existence since the C16, its character is now dominated by large commercial and institutional buildings of the late C20 and early C21. The narrow space is unwelcoming for pedestrians due to the busy traffic accessing the Grand Arcade's car park, although the high level walkway on the north side of the street provides an alternative route which draws pedestrians into the arcade.



Zoological Laboratory Building

At the southern end, the corner with Pembroke Street is formed by the Zoological Laboratory Building, an early C20 addition to the University's Museum's Site by E. S. Prior. Progressing along the south west side of the street, the buildings reflect a chronology of development with the Zoology extension representing an addition of 1934 and the David Attenborough Building (formerly the Arup Building) providing a "brutalist" contribution from the early '70s with a tall tower and blocks of four storeys with cantilevered and jettied frontages in concrete rising from a two storey plinth housing the University's Zoological Museum and Babbage Lecture Theatre. Refurbishment (including re-cladding) of the building began in 2013 and was completed in 2016 after listing it was rejected. At the north end of the street, the Corn Exchange building, built in the late

C19, provides a more historic frontage with long rows of windows decorated with polychrome brickwork and stone window detailing as well as bands of embossed and glazed tiles.

The north east side of the street is dominated by the side elevations of the recently constructed Grand Arcade multi-storey car parks. At the southern end of the street this is masked by the Hilton Hotel, built in the 1990s using buff brick (that has been matched in the later development) with cast stone Neo-classical detail and including a ground floor arcade that covers the public walkway from the car park to Downing Street. North of the Grand



Fisher Square

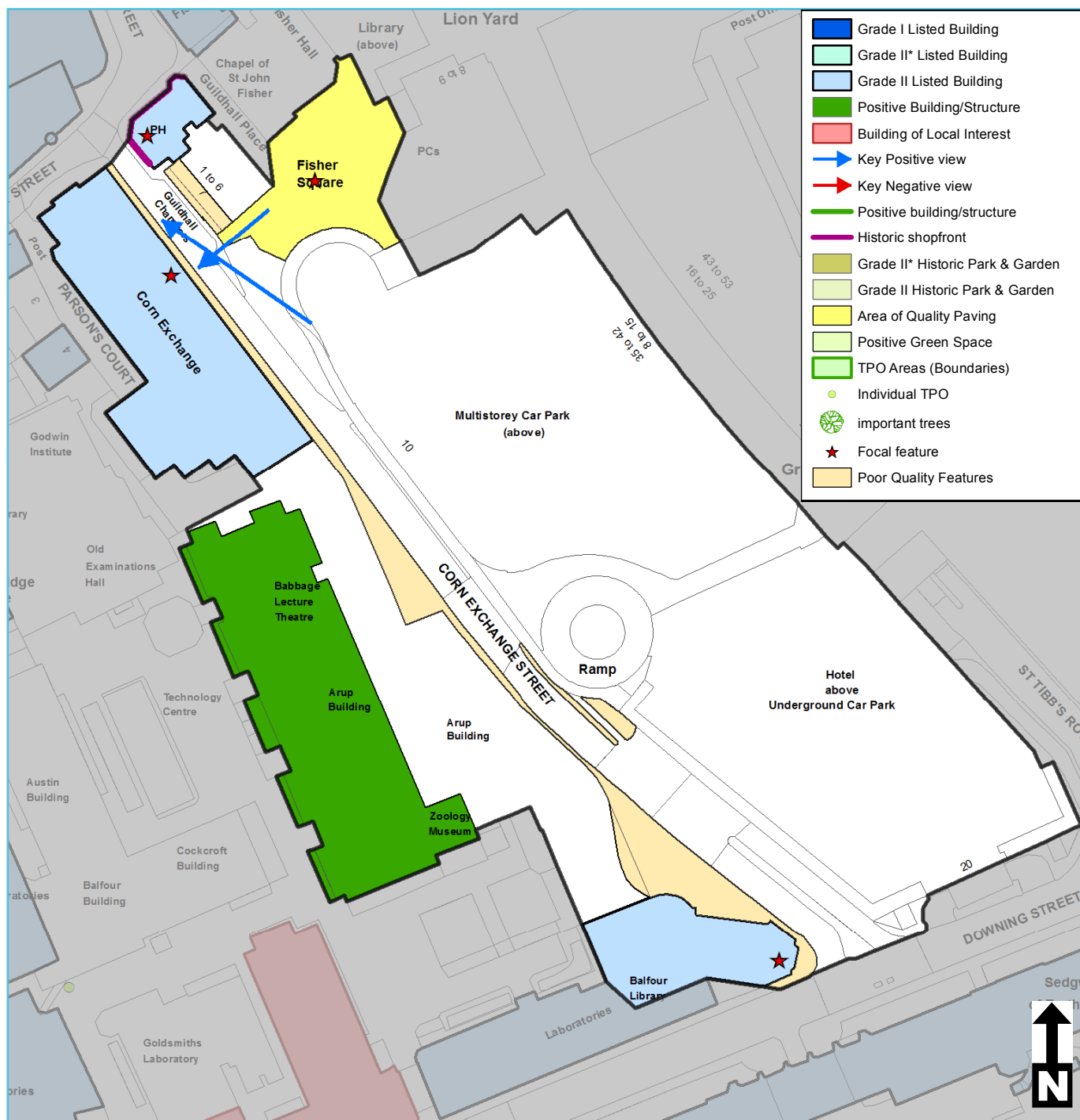
Arcade, Fisher Square has been created as part of the redevelopment of Lion Yard to provide access and an active frontage to the shopping centre. This is enhanced by use of decorative paving surrounding the sculpture 'Between the Lines' by Peter Randall-Page.

The corner of the street with Wheeler Street is formed by the ornate frontages of the former Red Cow Public House, a late C19 public house built with elaborate detailing, including an eye-catching corner turret. The building brings the scale of development down to the two and a half storeys that are found on the adjoining streets.

Corn Exchange Street is a very busy pedestrian and cycle



The former Red Cow PH



route although the form of the street has largely been designed for the convenience of the car. The street is the major vehicle access and exit for the multi-storey car park and can become very busy with queuing traffic. Building uses along the street include a concert hall, university buildings, restaurant, hotel and car park.

Townscape Elements

- The principal townscape features are provided by the narrowness of the street and the height of the surrounding buildings.
- This is one of few streets in the city where the



Views to the north

position on a slight hill is noticeable.

- The C19 buildings at the north end of the street help to confirm that this is part of the city's historic street grid, as well as adding architectural interest through their decorative detailing. Views to the north are focused on the Guildhall, which acts as an end-stop to these views.
- The Zoology Laboratory building at the southern end of the street provides an attractive corner and illustrates the development of the area in the late C19 for the expansion of the teaching and research in the natural sciences. The channelled view south takes in the Sedgwick Museum, illustrating the corresponding development of the human sciences.
- The confined urban character of the highways environment and modern street surface is a negative feature. The single tree and lack of greenery in the street scene is relatively unusual in central Cambridge.

Redevelopment Opportunities

> Grand Arcade

Prior to the development of the Grand Arcade Shopping Centre circa 2007, Corn Exchange Street was one of the most unpleasant streets within the central area, particularly for pedestrians. The construction of the car park as part of the



Street views of the Hilton Hotel

Grand Arcade development has created a more aesthetically pleasing frontage, and a much more attractive and safer pedestrian route through the creation of the high level walkway. However, the street is still unwelcoming for cyclists and has a generally inactive built frontage except for the entrance to the car park and the gap at Fisher Square.

> Gap Site

The former 'gap site' has been redeveloped as Fisher Square, providing an approach to the Grand Arcade and an active public open space set back from the busy road. However, the rear of 6-7 Corn Exchange Street remains an unsightly feature backing onto the street due to the large capacity bins being stored in this location.

Streetscape Enhancement

The works undertaken as part of the Grand Arcade development include improvements to the public realm such as the creation of Fisher Square, to make this street more appropriate for its position in the heart of the city centre. However, areas of footways remain as concrete slabs with brick pavers. The street surfaces are currently a mixture of buff and brown pavers on the footways with black-top on the road surfaces which are dominated by yellow lines and other road markings. Highways signage has been effectively minimised. Streetlights are building mounted and generally unobtrusive, although the CCTV camera pole at the south end of the street is very prominent due to the slope of the street.

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
The former Red Cow Public House	Listed Grade II	1898	2 + attic	red brick and timber-frame and plaster	plain tile	R. Reynolds Rowe	
6-7 Corn Exchange St	none	1970s	2 + roof storey	red brown brick	lead		changed use from Job Centre in 1990's
Grand Arcade Car Park	none	c.2007		Buff yellow brick and concrete			
Hilton Hotel	none	c1991	4 + attic	buff brick, applied render		JT Design / Build	
Zoology laboratory	Listed Grade II	1900-4	3 + basement	ashlar	flat	E.S. Prior	
Zoology extension	BLI	1934	4 + basement	yellow brick	flat	Murray Easton	
David Attenborough Building (formerly the Arup Building)	none	1971	4 tower - 10	concrete, lead and brick	flat	Philip Dowson and Arup Associates	Refurbished 2013-4
The Corn Exchange	Listed Grade II	1875	2 + attics	grey Gault brick, tiled bands	glass and cast-iron	R. Reynolds Rowe	