

A long narrow lane running from Pembroke Street/Downing Street to Lensfield Road with a back lane feel, serving large institutional plots as well as denser low-scale residential frontages.

Tennis Court Road takes its name from the 'real' (i.e. 'royal') tennis court that existed in 1564, as part of Pembroke College. Today the narrow lane mainly runs between Downing College and the University's Downing Site on the east side and a mixture of research facilities focused around the former Addenbrooke's Hospital and the side elevations of Pembroke College, as well as early C19 residential frontages. The

grounds of Downing College and landscaping of the Downing Site provide an attractive green setting with tall trees leaning over or seen beyond the high boundary walls or railings. Views into more intimate spaces, including Tennis Court Terrace and Fitzwilliam Street tie this lane into a denser area of residential development to the west, whilst there are also glimpses in to the ground of Pembroke College.



Street view

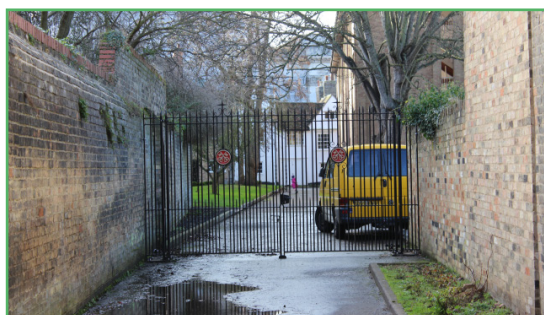
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General Overview

The northern half of the road is recorded on Loggan's map of 1688, when it ran between the grounds of Pembroke College and the Lease (later referred to as Pembroke Leys). It was also the route to the town gaol, which stood at the rear of Pembroke College, possibly as a reuse of the former Tennis Court. It retains much of its character as a narrow back lane, with a footpath on only one side for much its length, running between large institutions in green settings and with occasional glimpses into the rear courtyards and service areas of institutions.



Wrought iron gateway to Downing College



Glimpse into rear courtyard

The founding of Downing College in 1800 formalised the route southward as the boundary of the college property. The long college boundary wall provides definition to the lane, with the roofs of college buildings, as well as greenery of the grounds, seen over it and set back from the road. The many mature trees in the college grounds contribute to the green character of the lane. However, the college does not provide an active frontage to this side of the lane (except for two gateways with attractive wrought iron gates) contributing to its enclosed, back lane character. At certain times of

the day the road can be heavily choked with traffic to the detriment of the area.

To the north, the buildings of the Downing Site provide a more active frontage, directly addressing Tennis Court Road, although set back slightly from it and with high iron railings on a brick dwarf wall providing a strong definition between the private and public spaces, whilst allowing views into the site. The Natural Sciences became part of the university curriculum in 1848 and development of the Downing Site began in 1896 when the university purchased 2 acres of land from Downing College, to the south of Downing Street. This was followed, in 1902, by the acquisition of a further six and a half acres from the college, and 'Downing Site' was named. Trees and other greenery planted between the road and the buildings make an important contribution to the lane's green and attractive character. The buildings are tall, rising



Downing Site buildings



Trees and greenery



The enclosure of northern part of the road

to between two and four storeys originally and now include some rooftop additions, and have long frontages dominating the roadside and contributing to the sense of enclosure of the northern part of the lane.

The Downing Site buildings were constructed in dark red brick with stone dressings, in Baroque or Jacobean revival designs that provide little indication of their function other than as large institutional buildings that formed part of the expansion of the university's research facilities in the early C20. In fact the Hopkins building was built in 1923 and was designed by Sir Edwin Cooper as the first purpose built laboratory for biochemistry in the city. The West Building, just to the north, is equally massive, forming one side of the large courtyard of museums on the south side of Downing Street. The buildings were criticised during the C20 for their lack of originality, although now perhaps their red brick revivalist architecture provides the gravitas that an international centre for excellence in the sciences deserves. The long views through the Downing Site glimpsed between these buildings



Gradual transition to more engaged frontages



Pembroke College's New Court building

reveal the scale of the university's research facilities and illustrate the considerable investment that was made by the university during the early C20. The scale of buildings and gradual transition leads to the more engaged frontages of Downing Street and Pembroke Street just to the north.

The corner of Tennis Court Road and Pembroke Street is marked by George Gilbert Scott (Junior)'s New Court building for Pembroke College of 1883, which was built in a Baroque Revival style in limestone creating a strong contrast with the red brick of the Downing Site buildings opposite. Nevertheless it rises to a similar three storey scale and stands at the back of the pavement, contributing to the enclosed feel of the entrance to the lane. The Orchard Building to the south stands back from the road and is partially screened from view by the tall boundary wall but is of sympathetic materials. Further south, the more recent buildings of Foundress Court are of a lower scale. This provides a greater sense of openness to the lane. They are remarkable for the glimpsed view into the

small Japanese garden enclosed by a high wall with a viewing window for pedestrians, as well as for the large sundial carved into the south facing elevation. Between these two blocks the view through the large wrought iron gates provides a rare glimpse into the tranquil green space of the college grounds, which is generally hidden from the street.

The development of high status housing on Lensfield Road to the south and smaller houses along short

streets to the west in the early C19 provided impetus for development along Tennis Court Road: the terrace at Nos. 4 – 12 was built by Charles Humfrey circa 1825. They provide a domestic frontage to the lane that contrasts with the many large institutional buildings to create a more intimate setting. They are well preserved, retaining six-over-six sash pane sash windows and semi-circular heads to door openings, which are distinctive of the architecture of Cambridge in the 1820s and 30s.

The university also has a large presence on the east side of the street. The redevelopment of the C18 Addenbrooke's hospital as the city's main hospital, including major expansion works in 1866, extended the site back from its frontage on Trumpington Street up to Tennis Court Road. Some of what were nurses hostels standing on Tennis Court Road represented part of this expansion. Later in the C20 it expanded southward too, occupying much of the Tennis Court Road frontage south of Fitzwilliam Street. After the hospital need outgrew the available space, the site was used by the university and, in 1996, redeveloped with John Outram Associates as architects for the Judge Business School. This included reuse and embellishment of some of the existing buildings, rebuilding of others and the construction of three new buildings, of which the 'Castle Building' is particularly



The former Addenbrooke's Hospital



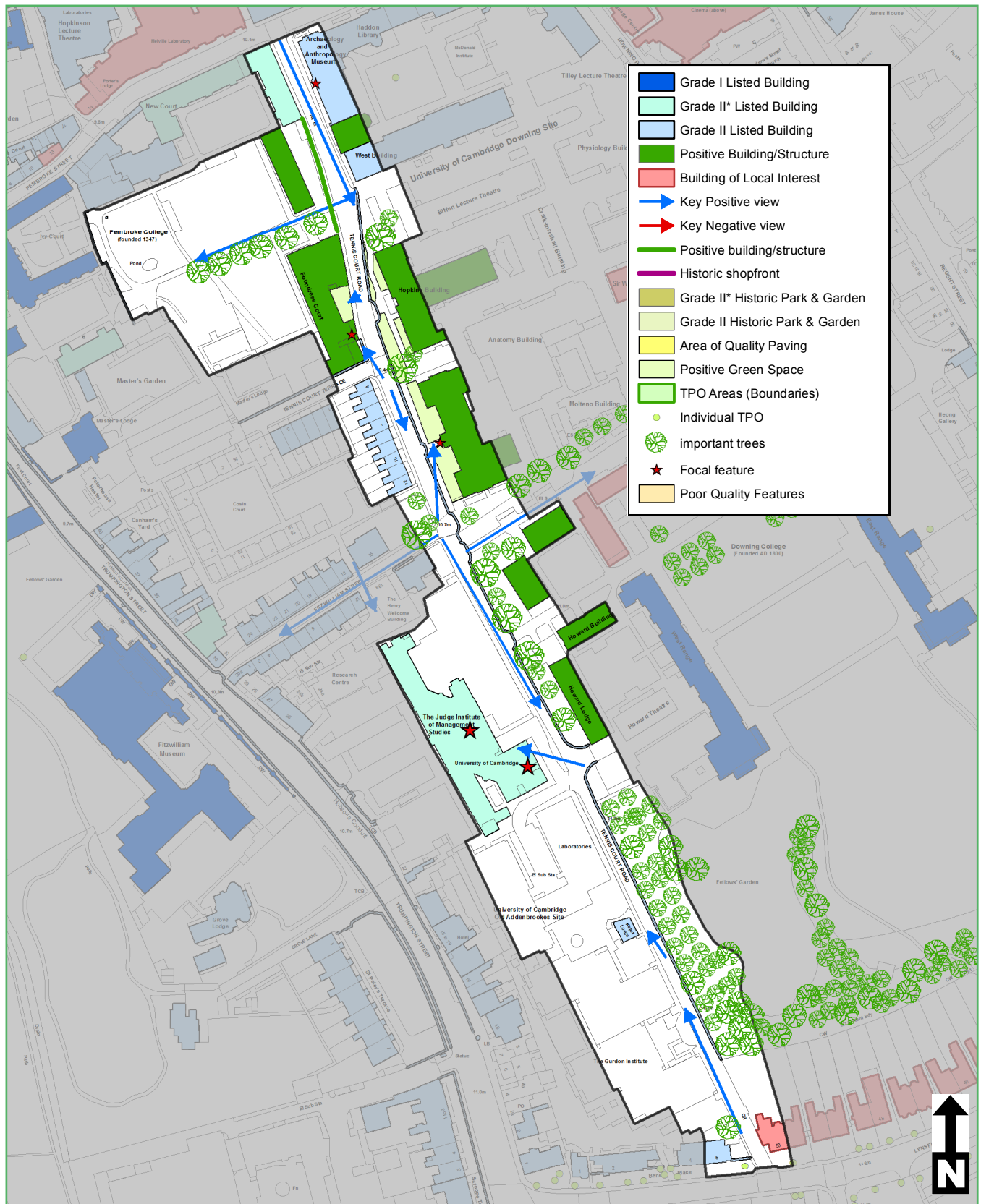
Buildings on the back of the pavement with long institutional frontages

attractive in views from the street. Outram's designs are some of the most innovative in late C20 Cambridge, seeking to develop an entirely original order of architecture that reflects the innovation of the scholars and researchers housed within it. It is characterised by giant order engaged and clasped pilasters to a frontage of highly polychromatic brickwork which, in part, acts as a four-storey plinth to support a colonnaded glazed atrium or basilica set back behind a roof garden. The rear of the site is being redeveloped with further extensions by Stanton Williams architects. The adjacent biochemistry research laboratories appear pedestrian by comparison.

The buildings of the Addenbrooke's site run up to the back of the pavement, contributing to the enclosure of the lane and creating an intimate, overshadowed character but also frame numerous courtyards and service areas which are seen from the road and provide a rather mixed standard of frontage to it.

Views south along Tennis Court Road from the northern entrance are channelled by the long institutional frontages and the trees in the Downing Site that stand at a slight bend in the road. Further along the lane the long, straight and narrow course of the lane provides a high quality vista to the tall institutional buildings with the overarching trees in the Downing College site providing additional enclosure and attractive greenery and filtered light. The glimpsed views to the rear of the Judge Business School are notable for the attractive and vibrant finish of the building and its exceptional and innovative architecture.

Tennis Court Road is a major vehicular route to the city centre multi-storey car park and is the main access for the Downing Site and Pembroke College from this side of the city. The street can be busy with pedestrians



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and cyclists which conflicts with the high level of vehicular usage. Views to the space and greenery of Downing College campus make an important contribution to the character of Tennis Court Road as a narrow lane running between the green open spaces of the colleges and research institutes.

Townscape Elements

- A narrow enclosed lane running between major institutions with a green character due to the attractive college grounds that are generally hidden from view but sensed beyond high boundary walls. Buildings and high boundary walls provide enclosure, whilst there are numerous glimpsed views into college grounds and the university's research sites.
- The over-riding impression of the lane's architecture is of the richness of the variety of ages, styles, uses and abundance of detail. The juxtaposition of buildings of different age and scale, such as the early C19 Kellett Lodge and the late C20 Judge Business School Castle Building are striking and provide a narrative of the area's development from a quiet residential area into a focus of university research institutes.
- Greenery includes the mature trees rising up behind college boundary walls, as well as areas of planting in the street frontage that stand on prominent bends in the road.
- College buildings at Downing College and Pembroke College are glimpsed over boundary walls and include C19 buildings as well as those built in the late C20 and early C21.

- Views into less well managed service areas or areas of cycle parking are less positive.

Streetscape Enhancements

Some of the footways, gateway entrances and other floorscape areas, which are a mixture of granite kerbs, pre-cast concrete slabs and bitmac, could be improved with better surfacing and edging. The pavement in front of the former hostel has granite kerbs with concrete surfacing in need of repair.

There are opportunities for screening unattractive areas, for example the service yard behind Downing College kitchens.

The landscaped area outside the Pharmacology Building, with its clutter of cycle stands and trees could be improved.

The modern, unpainted aluminium street lamps are unattractive and do not reflect the overall high quality of the environment and should not be set in the middle of the footpath.

The street remains busy with points of conflict between pedestrians and traffic.

West side (from north)

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
Pembroke College: New Court	Listed Grade II*	1883	3 + basement	stone	pitched/ Collyweston slate	G.G. Scott (Junior)	Gabled dormers + balustrade
Orchard Building	Positive building	1957-58	3	brick / stone	copper sheet	Marshall Sisson	
Foundress Court	Positive building	1997	3	limestone ashlar	flat with parapet + shallow pitched zinc + lantern light	Eric Parry Architects	Note the attractive Japanese Garden and prominent sundial
4-12	Listed Grade II	c1825	2	Gault brick	slate	Charles Humphrey	built largely to house Pembroke College servants
King's College Hostel	Positive building	C19	4	Gault brick	slate-hung mansard		former nurse's hostel
Sainsbury Wing of Judge Business School	Under construction	C21	4	Gault-type brick	Flat roof	Stanton Williams	Part of Judge Business School

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
Ark & Castle Buildings	Positive building	1990s	4 + basement	polychrome brick & coloured concrete	hipped / copper	John Outram Associates	rear extension of Judge Business School (Listed Grade II - see Trumpington Street)
Department of Pharmacology	none	1989	4	dark red & buff brick + artificial stone bands	slate	J T Design & Build	
Department of Biochemistry: Sanger Building	none	1995-97	3	brick & sheet metal panels	tiled	R H Partnership	front court with trees
Kellett Lodge	Listed Grade II	c1825	2	Gault brick	hipped / Welsh slate		
Wellcome Trust Laboratory & Gurdon Institute	none	2003/4	3 + basement	buff brick, artificial stone detailing	slate	R H Partnership	front court with trees
No. 5 Bene't Place, Lensfield Road	Listed Grade II	c1820	2	Gault brick	hipped / slate		Nos. 1-5 Bene't Place form a group

East side (from north)

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology	Listed Grade II	1904-11	3 + attics	purple brick, stone dressings	plain clay tiled	T.G. Jackson	stone floral swags
Infill building	none	1992	4 + attics + basement	purple brick and stone	flat	Casson, Conder & Partners	extended fine iron railings
Botany Building	Listed Grade II	1930s	4	red brick	flat + modern lead-clad extension		corner block adjoining 1904 block by W C Marshall
Fence & gates to Downing Site	Listed Grade II	early C20	N/A	Gault brick stone capped wall, wrought iron fence, red brick piers		pantile roofed bicycle sheds behind	
Department of Genetics	Positive building	1909-26	3	brick & stone	parapet + plain clay tiles	Arnold Mitchell	pronounced eaves detail
Department of Biochemistry	Positive building	1924	2 + attics + basement	red brick & stone dressings	mansard / pantiles + dormers	Edwin Cooper	neo-classical doorcase + stone eagles
Department of Pathology extension	none	1990s	4	red brick & glass	shallow pitched metal		
Department of Pathology	Positive building	1927	4	red brick / stone	parapet + modern roof extension		neo-classical doorcase + university crest
Downing College: Fitzwilliam gate	Listed Grade II	early C20	N/A	Gault piers & flat capstones, cast-iron college arms, wrought-iron gates			
Kenny gate & screen walls	Listed Grade II	early C20	N/A	Gault curved wings & main wall; stone quoins, plinths & cap; brick piers; wrought-iron gates		small pedestrian gate to side	
Kitchen Yard gate	Positive structure	late C20	N/A	timber vehicular access gates		neo-classical buildings & squash courts behind	
boundary wall	Listed Grade II	1822-34	N/A	Gault brick with poor brick-on-edge coping			
58 Lensfield Road	BLI	c1902	2 + attic	red brick / stone dressings	gabled dormers / slate		Small tower with 1909 plaque fronting Tennis Court Road