

Free School Lane is a street with a wealth of historic interest, yet is little visited by tourists.

Free School Lane was named after the Perse School, founded in 1615 - it's exterior is today concealed by the Cavendish Laboratory where Lord Rutherford first split the atom. The small area of planting between the laboratory and No. 3 is the last remnant from the original 5 - acre University

Botanic Garden, laid out in 1761. The Garden moved to its present site in 1846; by the mid C19, the lane was a little residential street, housing tradesmen, students, families and their servants. Nos 6-11 and 13 were demolished in 1866 to make way for the New Museums and Cavendish Laboratory.

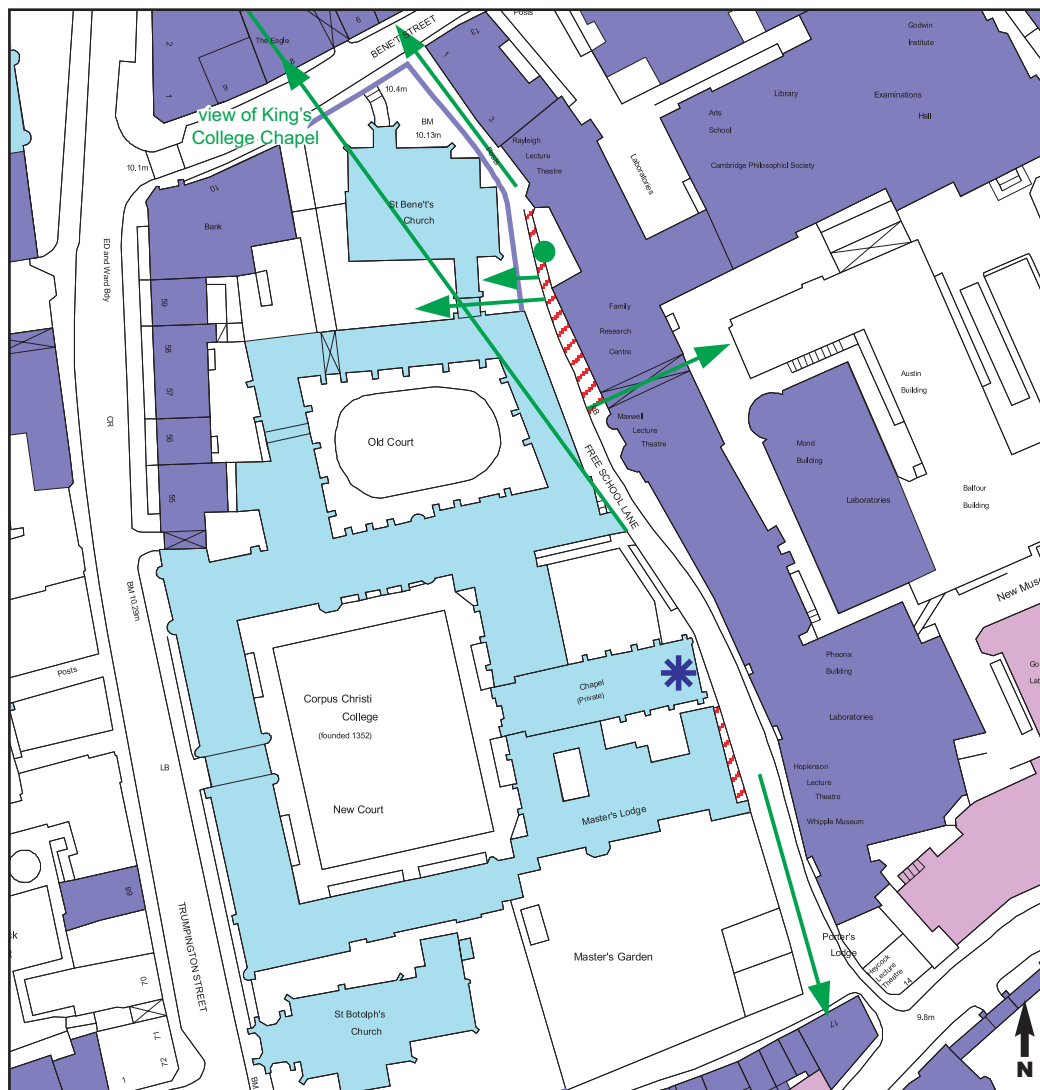


View north along Free School Lane

SIGNIFICANCE • HIGH

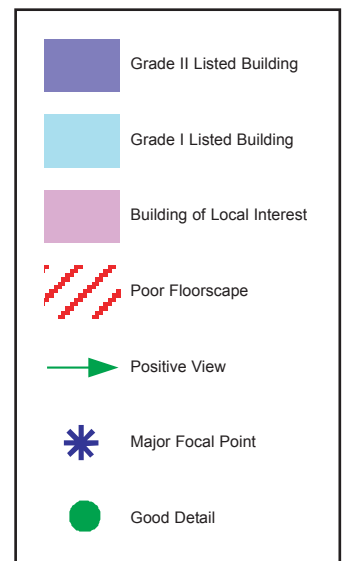
General Overview

Free School Lane is mostly accessed by pedestrians, although there is some vehicular parking along the street. The street is predominantly in College and University use with a small amount of retail and the church.



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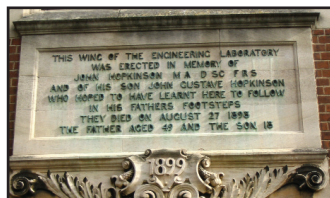
1 : 1,250



Corpus Christi Chapel

Townscape Elements

- > Buildings are on back of footway
- > Breaks occur at:
 - small area of planting at junction between the university buildings and no 3 (former University Botanic Garden)
 - church which is set back behind railings
- > Vista south towards Botolph Lane partially stopped by Botolph House



Above & right: Laboratory of Physical Chemistry

Streetscape Enhancement

The paving in front of the Cavendish Laboratory is predominantly concrete paving slabs which could be replaced with a more traditional material to complement the existing York stone.

The paving in front of the Master's Lodge is broken and loose and needs repairing.

The missing railings between no 3 and the laboratory could be reinstated and the concrete replaced with a more appropriate paving material.

The superfluous barbed wire along the top of the college wall is unsightly and should be removed.

Traffic improvements

The motorcycles and car parking should be removed and the remainder of the lane pedestrianised.

If complete pedestrianisation is not feasible, the double yellow lines should be reduced in width.

Archaeology / Historic Topography

Anticipated deposit depth varies from 2.00m to 3.00m.

Potential for prehistory is low

Potential for Roman is low

Potential for medieval is high

Free School Lane marks the western boundary of the precinct of the Augustinian Friary, which occupied the New Museum's Site between 1290 and 1538. Parts of the site were investigated just before WWI, identifying structures and a cemetery. In the 1990s work inside the Old Cavendish Laboratory building found substantial

masonry remains belonging to the friary. The King's Ditch runs across the site, with a bridge at the end of Free School Lane at least by 1629. West of the lane lie Corpus Christi College and St. Bene't's Church. Corpus Christi dates to 1353, the only College in Cambridge founded by a town guild. In the medieval period the College lay towards the back of its present site. Archaeological investigation has confirmed the survival of medieval features at depth. St. Bene't's is certainly pre-Conquest and has features dating to the early 11th century.

Building No. / Name	Status	Age	Height (storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
1	Listed Grade II	early C19	3 + attics	timber-framed & plastered	clay tiles		
2 & 2a					slate		
3	Listed Grade II	late C16	3 + attics	timber-framed & plastered	clay tiles		
Cavendish Laboratory of Experimental Physics	Listed Grade II	1874, 1896 & 1908	3	stone facing	tiled	W M Fawcett	atom first split here by Lord Rutherford 1929
Laboratories of Physical Chemistry	Listed Grade II	1893-4	2 + attics	red brick, stone dressings	tiled	Marshall	on site of Perse School & incorporates its hall of C1600. Listed on this account
Porter's Lodge New Museum Site	none	C19	2	ashlar / red brick	tiled		
Master's Garden & College garage	none	C19	2	gault brick	hipped / slate		Corpus Christi
Master's Lodge	Listed Grade I	1823-27	2	gault brick	hipped / slate	William Wilkins	Corpus Christi
Chapel	Listed Grade I	1823-27	N/A	ketton stone ashlar	slate	William Wilkins (alterations by Sir Arthur Blomfield in 1870)	Corpus Christi
Old Court	Listed Grade I	1352-76	2 + attic	rubble, clunch dressings	tiled		Corpus Christi
St Bene't's Church	Listed Grade I	C11 origin Enlarged C14	N/A	local limestones	clay tile / lead / slate	JP Brandon & AW Blomfield in C19	possibly oldest church in Cambs (Tower C1020)
Churchyard railings & gates	Listed Grade II	C19	N/A	cast iron railings, brick wall			2 pairs of gates