

# Senate House Passage

**One of the most atmospheric lanes within the city.**

Senate House Passage has remained virtually unaltered since the 19th century when it was a busy little lane between some of the city's most historic buildings. Today, the passage remains a busy traffic-free lane

linking the city centre to West Cambridge. It is one of the most evocative of Cambridge's narrow lanes and is a popular route for tourists sauntering towards the river.



View west along Senate House Passage

**SIGNIFICANCE • VERY HIGH**

## General Overview

Senate House Passage is heavily used by pedestrians (including tourists) and cyclists as a route out of the city towards West Cambridge and the river and other colleges.

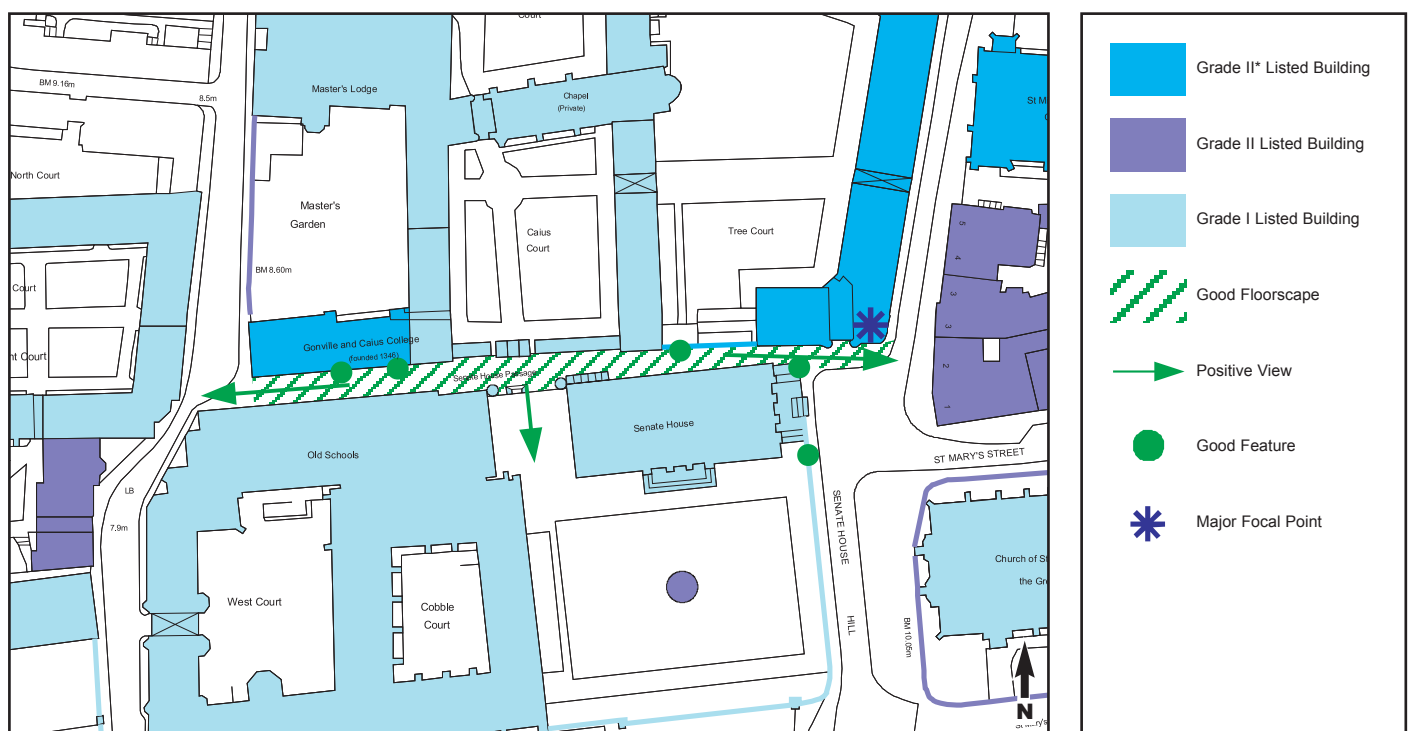
The buildings are all in University or Gonville & Caius College's use.



View east along Senate House Passage



Paving detail



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## Townscape Elements

- > Quite narrow and well enclosed.
- > Buildings and boundaries generally to back of footway.
- > Views up and down passage focus on Trinity Street and Trinity Lane.
- > Tower of Gonville & Caius College: Tree Court important focal point.
- > Varied roofscape to north.
- > No vegetation along street itself, although Senate House lawn visible.
- > Excellent buildings with features in the street such as the Gate of Honour.



View to King's Parade



Gate detail

## Streetscape Enhancements

It is important that the historic floorscape is maintained and repaired and that the historic street lights are not replaced by more modern fittings. Any additional fittings should follow the traditional style of these lanterns.

## Archaeology / Historic Topography

Anticipated deposit depth is generally from 1.50m to over 2.50m.

Potential for prehistory is low

Potential for Roman is moderate

Potential for medieval is high

Pottery from the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods

were discovered at the west end of Senate House Passage during excavations in 1995. Associated features were probably destroyed by later gardening activity. Close to the west end of the passage was located the parish church of St. John Zachary, built around 1453 by Henry VI to replace an original church destroyed by expansion of King's College. Until clearance in the 18th century, domestic dwellings occupied much of the area south of Senate House Passage, between Old Schools and King's Parade. The western edge of this area was marked by the now lost Glomery Lane with University Street running west - east opposite Great St Mary's Church.

## North side (from junction with Senate House Hill)

Building No. / Name	Status	Age	Height (storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
Gonville & Caius: Tree Court: East Range	Listed Grade II*	1870	3 + attic 5 storey tower	ashlar faced	flat-pitched / westmorland slate lead & copper	Alfred Waterhouse	
south side wall			N/A	red brick & stone with stone copings			
Caius Court: East Range	Listed Grade I	C16	2 + attics	ashlar / some red bricks	collyweston stone slate	built to design of Dr Caius	
The Gate of Honour & flanking walls	Listed Grade I	1575	N/A	gate: ashlar; walls: stone & red brick		designed by Dr Caius	
Caius Court: West Range	Listed Grade I	1565	2 + attic	reused ashlar	collyweston stone slate		
Lecture Rooms	Listed Grade II*	1883	2	red brick	hipped / slate	Alfred Waterhouse	

## South and east side (from junction with Senate House Hill)

Building No. / Name	Status	Age	Height (storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
The Old Schools: The Senate House	Listed Grade I	1722-30	appearance of 2	portland stone ashlar	lead	James Gibbs	west end completed in stone 1767-8 James Essex
2 Lampposts at entrance to The Old Schools	Listed Grade II	mid C19	N/A	cast-iron			
Squire Law Library	Listed Grade I	1837-40	3	portland & whitby ashlar faced	slate	C R Cockerell	built on site of Old Hall of King's College