St Edward's Passage

An intimate passageway with interesting shops and coffee bars.

St Edward's Passage originally linked the fish market (Peas Hill) to King's Parade and it's form has been the same narrow, y-shaped passage since at least the C16 and probably earlier. Today the narrow passageways are one of the few areas where the cheek-by-jowl nature of the early town can be appreciated.

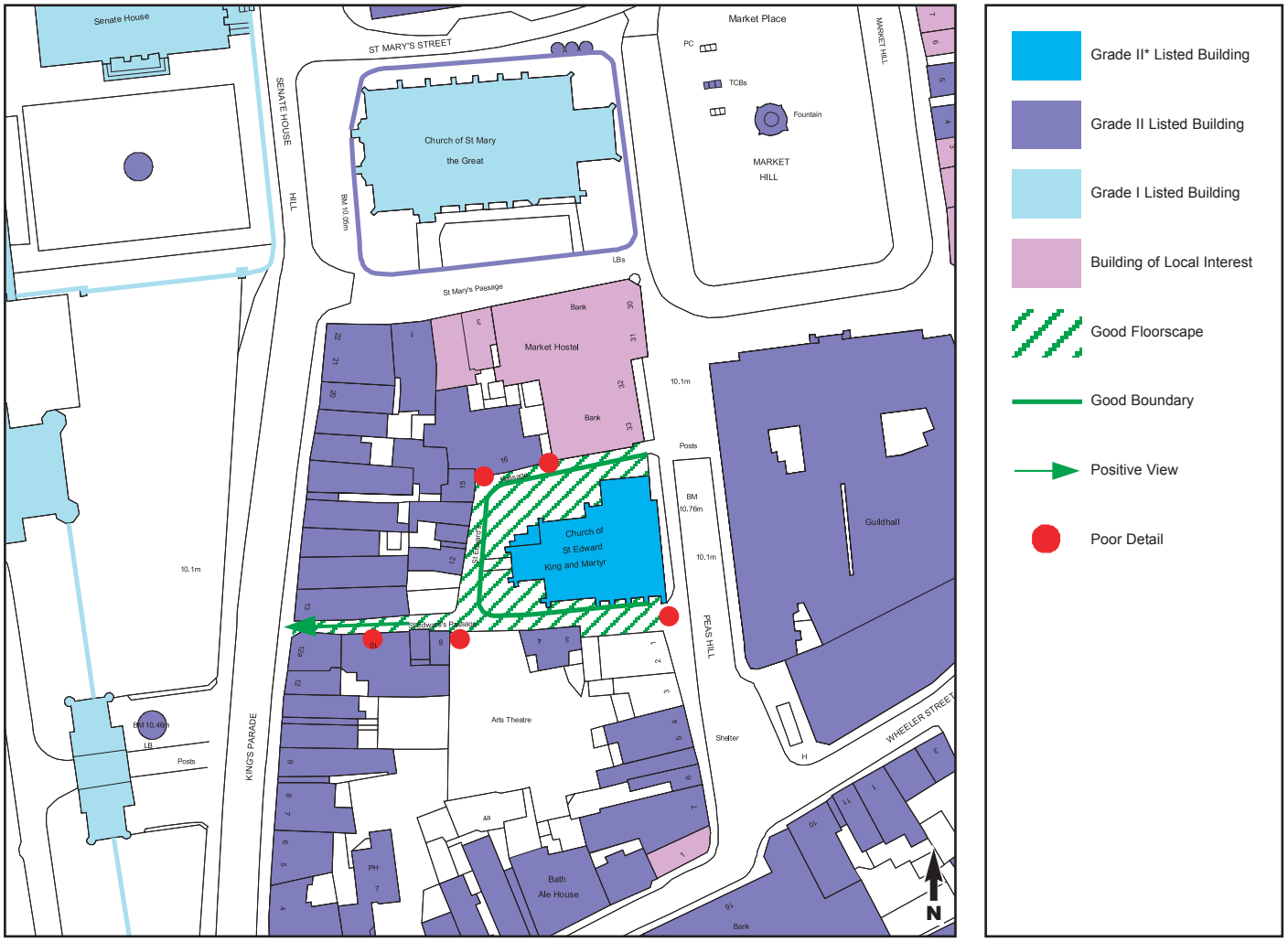
View west along St Edward's Passage

SIGNIFICANCE • VERY HIGH

General Overview

The street can be a popular pedestrians-only cut-through between the market place and King's Parade. Although it's narrow nature means that it can become congested when equipment is brought down the passage into the theatre. It is a pleasant space and in fine weather, a small number of tables and chairs are set outside the café. It can, however, appear gloomy on winter nights.

The passage has an interesting mix of uses including student accommodation, offices, crèche, theatre, cafés, hairdressers and shops.



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1 : 1,250

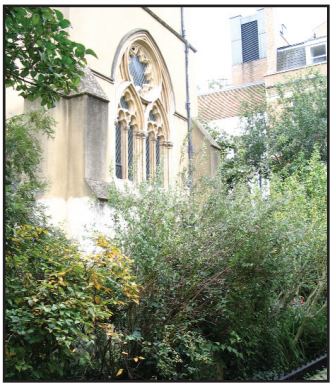
Townscape Elements

- All buildings except church set on back of footway.
- Church set back behind low wall and railings.
- Narrow, blinkered lane.
- Views towards King's Parade show wonderful juxtaposition of scale and formality between college and vernacular buildings.
- Mature and attractive landscaping of church grounds is green oasis in confined passageway.

Streetscape Enhancement

There is little scope for redevelopment of buildings, but improvements could be made to the loading doors on some properties and to the streetlights and other street furniture. The streetlights are utilitarian and the large access doors to some properties have a 'backstreet' look about them.

Church of St Edward King and Martyr



Church of St Edward King and Martyr

Church railings

Corpus Christi Playroom

Archaeology / Historic Topography

Anticipated deposit depth is generally from 1.50m to 2.50m.
Potential for prehistory is low
Potential for Roman is low
Potential for medieval is high
Excavations adjacent to the southern leg of St. Edward's Passage in 1995 indicate that it was established by the 13th century, perhaps contemporary with the nearby church. There was no indication that the churchyard extended to the south. Features survived beneath the 18th and 19th century cellars of the demolished buildings. Similar dating was indicated in excavation west of the Art's Theatre, with evidence of extensive gravel quarrying from at least the 13th century. Any earlier evidence had been removed by the gravel pits. The west tower of the church itself dates to the 13th century with the nave and aisle rebuilt c. 1400. North of the northern leg of the passage investigations on the site of the (now) HSBC bank revealed medieval walls and several Saxon and medieval pits.

Building No. / Name	Status	Age	Height (storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
Church of St Edward, King & Martyr	Listed Grade II*	C13-C15	N/A	stone rubble, cement rendered with some barnack stone dressings	lead & tiled	restored 1858-60 G. G. Scott	
1 Peas Hill	none	early C20	4 + attic	brown brick	mansard / slate		
3 & 4	Listed Grade II	early C19	2 + attics	brick	parapet / tile		
Arts Theatre	none	C19, largely redeveloped in 1990s	3 + attics	buff brick with stone dressings	mansard / slate	1990s redevelopment by Bland, Brown & Cole	
8	Listed Grade II	early C19	2 + attics	lime-washed brick	tile		
9	Listed Grade II	late C18	2	lime-washed brick	tile		
10 Corpus Christi College Playroom	Listed Grade II	early C19 G/F altered later	3	grey gault brick	parapet		built as the Church of England Young Men's Society
12-15	Listed Grade II	late C18 / early C19	2 + attics	lime-washed brick	mansard / tile		
15A-16	Listed Grade II	late C18	2 + attics	whitewashed brick	mansard / tile		
33 Market Hill Market Hostel King's College	BLI	1960-2	4	tan brick with slate bands	copper	Architects Co-Partnership	