

## The road through 'The Backs'.

Queen's Road was named after visits by Queen Victoria to Cambridge in 1842 and 1847. Until 1724 when the Gibbs Building was built at King's College, the colleges had turned their backs on the river. Queens' College was the first

college to access the west bank by erecting a bridge in 1749. Since the C18, there has been more development as the colleges expanded their accommodation, but the road retains a bucolic feel.



View north along Queen's Road

## SIGNIFICANCE • VERY HIGH

### General Overview

Queen's Road forms part of the inner ring road and contains a number of car and bus parking spaces, and is, therefore, a very busy vehicular route. It is also frequently busy with pedestrians and cyclists crossing to college or university buildings, or (particularly in summer) enjoying The Backs.

All the buildings along Queen's Road are in college use. Occasionally, some of the lawn areas are used for overspill parking by the colleges at 'May Ball' times.



View to Queen's College



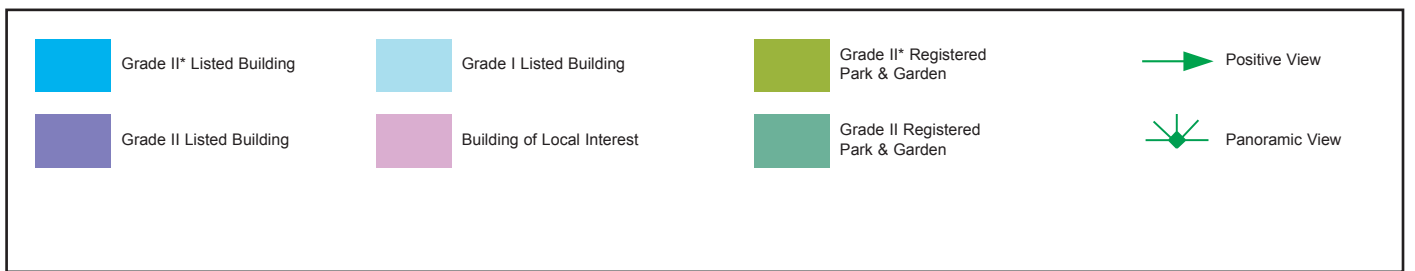
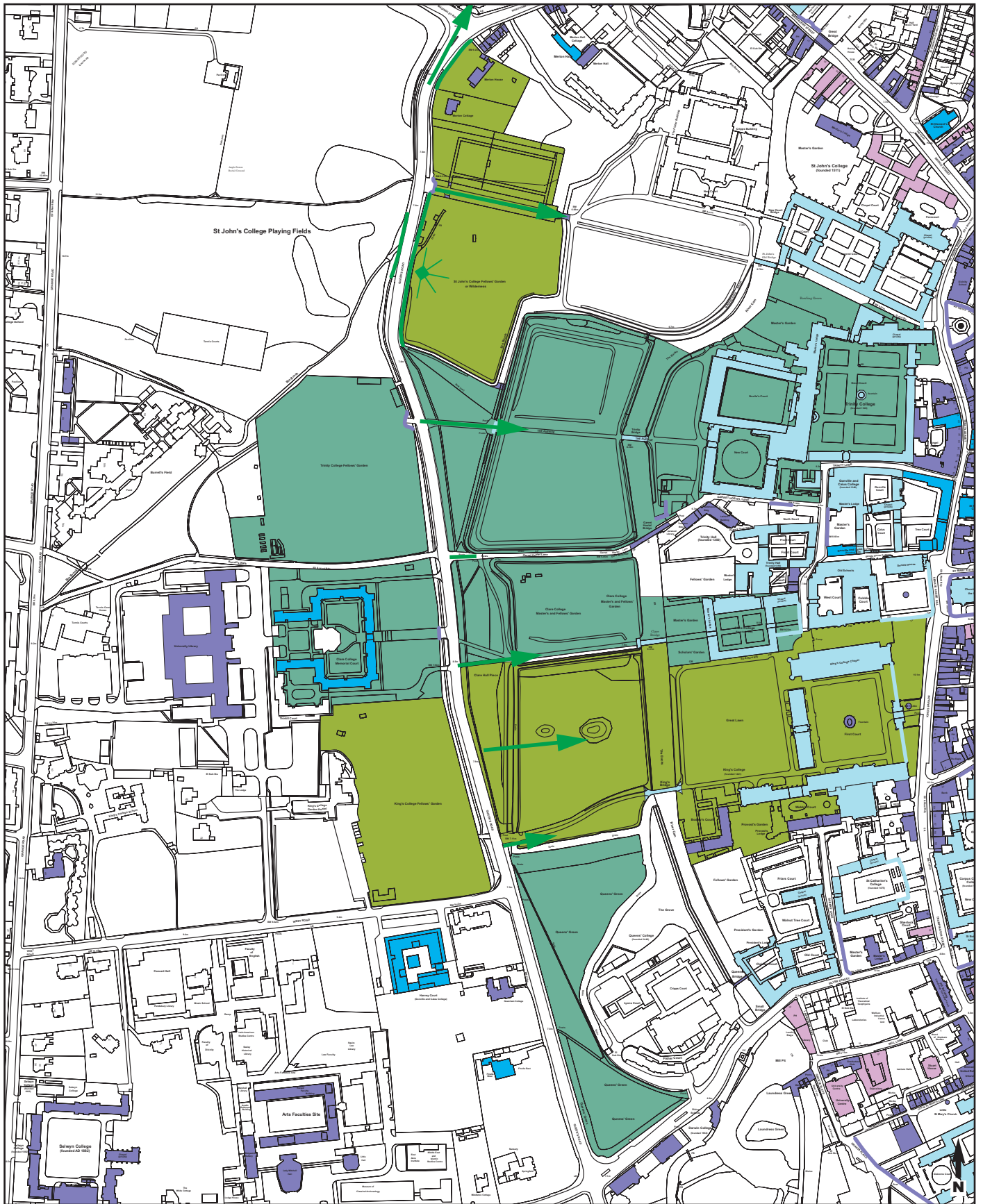
View to Clare College



View to King's College



Clare College Memorial Court



## Townscape Elements

- > Buildings set back behind extensive landscaped gardens.
- > Westminster College provides a striking end point at north end.
- > St John's College important focal point from east side of street through tree-lined gateway.
- > Enduring impression is of greenery - expanses of grass / mature trees / shrubs with buildings framed by verdant settings.
- > South end of street becomes more urban in feel emphasised by increase in street furniture.



View east along Garret Hostel Lane

## Traffic Management

The key challenge is to maintain the ring road whilst reducing the impact of vehicles and associated signage on the character of The Backs. Particular care should be taken in the location and design of signs and other paraphernalia.



St John's College gate



St John's boundary wall



St John's College Fellows' Garden (the Wilderness)

## Archaeology / Historic Topography

Anticipated deposit depth generally varies from 0.50m to 1.50m, but with the probability of depths over 3m towards the river

Potential for prehistory is low

Potential for Roman is low

Potential for medieval is moderate

Stray finds of pottery from Roman, early medieval and medieval time have been made on the Backs, enough to hint that this was not an entirely empty area in the past. Immediately west of Queen's Road, at the junction with Madingley Road, was a large Roman and later Anglo-Saxon cemetery on St. John's playing fields. Similar discoveries have been made in recent times near the

University Library, and Saxon settlement remains have been found on the Sidgwick site. The line of Trinity Head Conduit crosses the road obliquely opposite Trinity College. An old headland/causeway crosses the road opposite King's College. Remnants of this can be seen as the two "mounds" on the meadows in front of the College, west of the river.

## East side

Building No. / Name	Status	Age	Height (storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
Merton House	Listed Grade II	early C19	2	gault brick			
garden wall	Listed Grade II	early C19	N/A	grey gault brick			

Building No. / Name	Status	Age	Height (storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
Merton Cottage	Listed Grade II	c1820	2	grey gault brick			
St John's Scholars' Garden	Registered Grade II	C20	N/A	divided into 2 east: open lawn west: specimen trees & shrubs			
St John's College Fellows' Garden or 'Wilderness'		by late C18	N/A	informal, landscaped design with grove of trees			
field gate	Listed Grade II	1822 to C17 design	N/A	stone piers & wrought iron gates			
boundary wall between Field Gate & Bin Brook	Listed Grade II	early C19 (probably contemporary with Field Gate, 1822)	N/A	red stone, brick-capped			
'Wilderness' Fence	Listed Grade II	C19	N/A	cast-iron			
Trinity Pieces	Registered Grade II		N/A	informal lawn with specimen trees			
field gates to Trinity College	Listed Grade I	erected 1733, but of earlier date	N/A	wrought iron			from Horseheath Hall
Clare Hall Piece	Registered Grade II	mid-late C20	N/A	laid to lawn with lines of alders & beeches			
gateway to Clare Hall Piece	Listed Grade II*	1691	N/A	ashlar piers			
		early C18 (probably 1714)		wrought iron gate with overthrow			
gateway to King's College	Listed Grade II*	1818	N/A	rusticated stone & wrought-iron gates		William Wilkins	
Queens' Green	Listed Grade II	C16	N/A	open area of grass - Registered Common Land			

## West side

Building No. / Name	Status	Age	Height (storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
St John's College playing fields	none	C20		open expanse of grass laid to rugby / football, etc. pitches and bounded by trees and hedges			
gate of Trinity College Fellows' Garden	Listed Grade II	mid C18	N/A	wrought iron gates between modern stone piers			from Rectory Manorhouse, Enfield, Middlesex
Trinity College Fellows' Garden	Registered Grade II	1873		bounded by an informal belt of trees & shrubs through which winds a perimeter path encircling a lawn containing several island beds		W Broderick Thomas	
Clare College Memorial Court	Listed Grade II	1922-33	3	grey brick	pantile	Sir Giles Gilbert Scott	built as Memorial of 1914-18 War
screen & gates	Listed Grade II	c1930	N/A	buff brick piers with stone caps & wrought iron screen & gates		probably Sir G. G. Scott	
grounds	Registered Grade II	c1930		lawns with mature shrubberies flanking gravel drive, steps to central archway & gates			
King's College Fellows' Garden	Registered Grade II*	c1850 or earlier	N/A	rectangular garden, perimeter belts of shrubs & trees, several large specimen trees, informal lawn & informal shrub beds			
1 West Road	none	C19	2	gault brick	hipped / slate		
Newnham Cottage	Listed Grade II	c1805	2	grey gault brick	slate	William Wilkins, Snr	
Finella	Listed Grade II*	c1840	2	colour-washed brick	hipped / slate	decorated internally by Raymond McGrath 1927-9. Significant 'modern movement' interior	
Springfield	none	C19	2	gault brick	hipped / slate		