

Guildhall Street / Guildhall Place

Guildhall Street was originally the city's meat market.

The line of Guildhall Street probably dates back to at least the C16 when it was called 'Butcher Row' because it held the city's meat market. Houses and stalls originally lined the street, but these have been much altered, particularly in the C20. The current Guildhall

dates largely from the 1930s, although the site has been the centre of municipal administration since the C14. Guildhall Place linked the yards and rows behind Petty Cury since at least the C19 before its line was changed with the building of Lion Yard in 1975.



The Guildhall

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General Overview

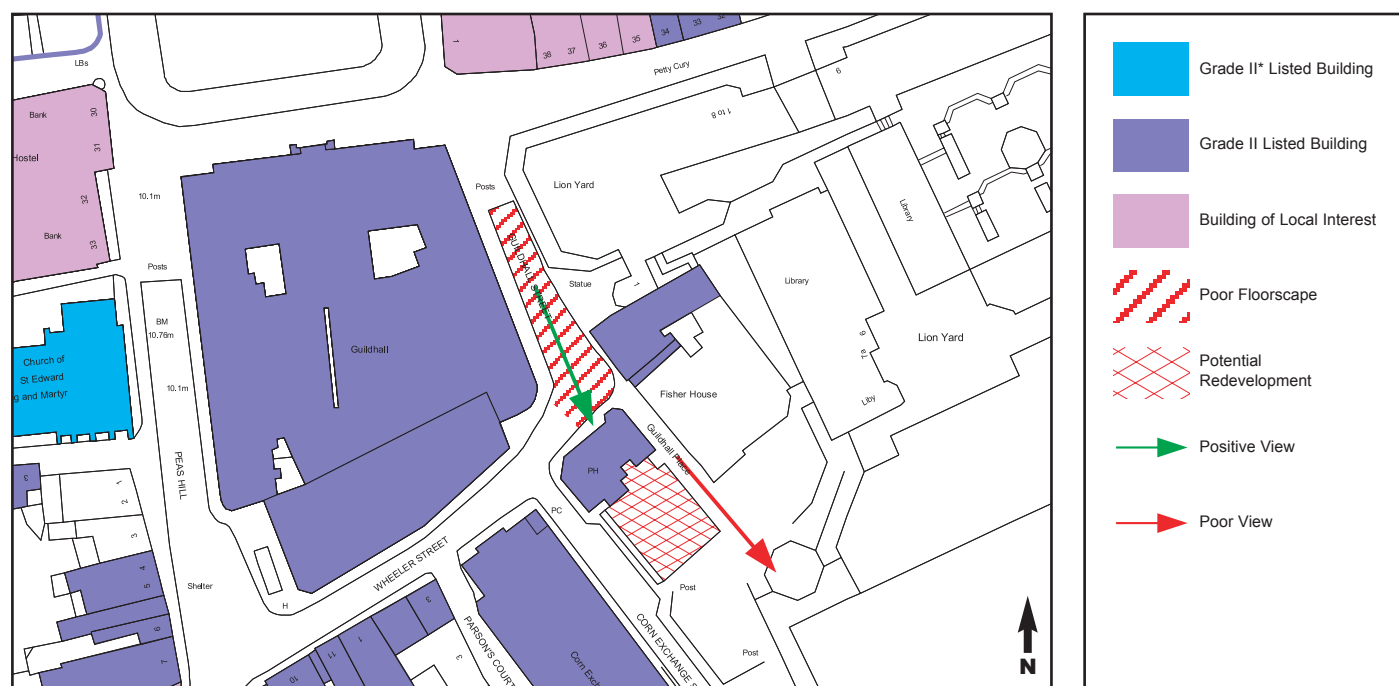
Guildhall Street and Place are important pedestrian routes between Lion Yard and the market. Guildhall Street is also often used for deliveries to the Guildhall which is municipal offices. Lion Yard is a mixture of shops and offices, the Red Cow remains a Public House with a language school above, and the former Job Centre is a bar / nightclub. Fisher House is the city's principal Catholic chaplaincy with some student residential use; it is generally let for antique and book fairs and similar events.



Red Cow Public House



Fisher Hall



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Townscape Elements

- > Scale of buildings give Guildhall Street canyon-like feel.
- > Vistas north from Guildhall Street are of bustle of market; vistas south attractively enclosed by Red Cow and its rich skyline.
- > Guildhall sits on footpath edge; Lion Yard buildings have ground floor colonnade and recess at office entrance.
- > Guildhall Street lacks any landscaping.
- > Buildings along Guildhall Place are all on the back of the footpath; passageway feels uncomfortably narrow.
- > Vista south from Guildhall Place is of the bulk of Lion Yard and unattractive.
- > Statue 'Talos' has a poor setting.



View through Fisher Hall Passage



Statue 'Talos'

Streetscape Enhancement

Adjacent to Fisher Hall is a granite setted square with silver birch trees and cycle parking which tends to be rather gloomy because of the scale and form of the surrounding buildings. With the 'Grand Arcade' development the opportunity should be taken to redevelop this space (see below).

Guildhall Street can be dominated by vehicles despite being a cul-de-sac. It could benefit from resurfacing and traffic restrictions to create a better pedestrian environment and a setting for 'Talos'. Inspiration should be taken from the flagstone paving that still survives.

Very utilitarian bollards stop vehicles entering the market from Guildhall Street. These are very similar to those at the end of Guildhall Place that fail to prevent vehicles driving down this pedestrianised route. Bollard style and siting should be improved.

Cycle parking and notice boards at the north east corner of the Guildhall need to be better integrated.

Redevelopment Opportunities

The former Job Centre is not an attractive building and a sensitive redevelopment could work well with a newly created space (see above) when the 'Grand Arcade' scheme is completed. This would also create a better relationship with the Red Cow Public House.

Archaeology / Historic Topography

Anticipated deposit depth varies from 1.50m over 3.00m.
Potential for prehistory is low
Potential for Roman is low
Potential for medieval is high

Guildhall Street and Place lie close to the centre of medieval Cambridge, just south of the main market

place. Sadly much of the potential for archaeological remains has been detrimentally affected by existing development. A medieval stone bowl was found on the Guildhall site in 1935 and that block is known to have housed the town gaol from 1224 to 1790. Henry III had confiscated the building used as the prison from Benjamin the Jew.

Building No. / Name	Status	Age	Height (storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
The Guildhall	Listed Grade II	1936-9	5	brown brick & ancaster stone	flat	C Cowles-Voysey	job architect: J Brandon-Jones
Lion Yard	none	1975	3	buff brick & concrete	flat	Arup Associates	
Fisher House	Listed Grade II	late C16 / early C17	2 + attics	brick G/F, rest: timber-framed & plastered	tiled		
Fisher House link building	none	C19	1	gault brick	slate		
Fisher Hall	none	1976	2	brown brick	slate	Gerard Goalen & Partner	
Former Job Centre (Coco)	none	1970s	4	brown brick	metal sheeting		
The Red Cow Public House	Listed Grade II	1898	2 + attic	red brick, timber-frame & plaster	plain tile	Richard Reynolds Rowe	Jacobethan Style