

Abbeygate Street

One of the two principal streets orientated east to west as laid out in the 12th C. This was the street on axis with the original Abbeygate which was centred on it. It was only after the rebellion and demolition of the original gate in the 14th C that the surviving gate was constructed several yards to the south of the original location. Notwithstanding that Abbeygate Street remains one of the principal commercial locations in the town and has traditionally always been the link between the business parts of Bury, based mainly around the market square, and the secular parts of the Abbey, now reflected in the public gardens part of the Abbey site.

The street has become the location of many 'food and beverage' ('F+B') operators in recent years while the 'High Street' type shops have moved rather more to the 'Arc'. Along with pedestrianisation (for most of the day time) this has seen the thoroughfare become quite a place for street activities, with cafes spilling onto the highway in an almost continental manner. These activities take place in a handsome historic environment; only a handful of buildings are not 'listed' and those that aren't are mainly a single block between Angel Lane and Hatter Street, and mostly these are late 19th C. There are, indeed, no 20th C (or later) buildings in the street. Having said that there are few showy historic buildings in the street but rather a general handsome group which were either built as or have had adaptations to retail or 'F+B' uses over a very, very long period, with the west end having several larger buildings which house or housed banks. No 56 is arguably the highlight, a house refronted in the early 19th C but with a history which goes back to the later 15th C with much visible fabric to evidence that date.

The street slopes down to Angel Hill and this gives views of undeveloped land on the skyline to the east. This view out from the town centre provides an important vista and is regarded as a major asset. It obscures views of the eastern expansion of the town which has taken place from the 1970s onwards and merits continued protection from development.



3 Abbeygate Street- Jones

A corner building of the late 19th/early 20th C apparently built as retail premises with residential accommodation above accessed by a discrete door to the west. The three storey building is in a sort of 'Arts and Crafts' style or 'Mock Tudor' with a single gabled tiled roof to Abbeygate street and two gables to Buttermarket. The upper floors have decorative hung tiling. The gables have faux timbering and deep barge boards, with projecting bays above the ground floor shop front which has display windows on each elevation. The shopfront has a deep stall riser, panelled pilasters, and large plate windows with mullions and transoms above which is a deep frieze. All the shopfront appears a later replacement dating from the 1930s or 50s perhaps. The entrance to the shop is set back at the corner where the upper floors are supported by a single column, creating a recessed entrance. The panelled door to the residential accommodation is modern as is the case in which it is located, although there are elements which seem to survive from an earlier incarnation, and there is a plain fan light. Fenestration, otherwise, is wooden casements.

The building adds to the rich mix of styles in the street and makes a positive contribution to the conservation area.



39 Abbeygate Street- Patisserie Valerie

A small early 19th C purpose built shop with accommodation over. The upper storey is in white bricks, with decorative dogs tooth cornice and painted stone lintols and cills to the two window openings. Fenestration is by sash windows arranged in six over one panes. The ground floor shop front appears original with a panelled stall riser, three panelled pilasters, a large plate window below a cast iron decorative grille, above which is the frieze, divided by console brackets supporting a cornice which houses an awning box. To the west is the half glazed entrance door with a plain fan light. All seems original although presumably the plate glass is later 19th C.

A handsome shop building which makes a positive contribution to the conservation area.



40, 41, 42 and 43 Abbeygate Street - Pizza Express, Café Nero, Quest and Scrivens

This is a tall single development dating from the late 19th C and in a sort of 'Queen Anne' style made popular by Richard Norman Shaw and referred to by Osbert Lancaster as 'Pont Street Dutch'. Here there are four gabled bays which define the four addresses, and each has a shop front at ground level. 40 and 42 also have accommodation entrances to their upper floors all of which, almost certainly, would always have been intended for separate residential occupation.

The three storeys, plus attics are in red brick with bands of glazed white bricks and stone mouldings. The gables of Nos 41 and 43 are triangular but the others have cyma profiles with triangular pediments, all have stone dressings. Nos 40 and 42 have similar arrangements of fenestration with an oriel at the attic, paired openings at second floor and tripartite window at first floor. No 41 has a single window at attic level, as does No 43, with a double storey height bay with tripartite windows at second and first floors. No 43 has paired windows at second and first floors otherwise. Attic level windows are all casements while others are all sashed, some of which are replacements being betrayed by ventilation grilles.

Shop fronts are all different, Nos 41 and 42 both have recessed entrances and both seem to be almost entirely original, the latter has an original ornamental cast iron railing above its dentilled corniced frieze and both have very low stall risers. The other two fronts appear to be modern confections with historic influences.

Cast iron rainwater goods.

This is a handsome terrace which was constructed following a fire destroying earlier buildings. It makes a positive contribution to the conservation area.

