

## Crown Street

Any historic town would be proud to have a street such as Crown Street.

A historic street that starts with a brewery and finishes with a Cathedral has to be characterful, but throw in a Medieval grave yard and the second largest Parish Church in the country, and top it off with a collection of historic domestic buildings dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries and there is something very special.

There aren't too many undesigned buildings in the street and there are really very few buildings and elements which do not make a positive contribution to its rich historic mix. Even the least architecturally interesting parts have historic interest: a (relatively) modest house was once the studio of one of the town's most important artists, and robust and uncompromising brewery buildings are on the site of the house which was occupied by the very last Abbot of St Edmundsbury Abbey. These historic sites are rightly acknowledged by commemorative plaques.

Part of the charm of Crown Street is its architectural diversity which reflects the historic uses that still survive. The Greene King Brewery with a range of industrial buildings from the early 19<sup>th</sup> C to modern times and the ecclesiastical from the 13<sup>th</sup> C to, again, modern times continue alongside the residential uses. While common until the 20<sup>th</sup> C, this is such a rare mixture of uses now and all the more valuable for that.

Architecturally it has highlights at the south with the large Victorian (mainly) brewery buildings and in the centre with St Mary's Church, with the Norman Tower just to the north off Chequer Square. To the south the street is narrowly contained, opening out at the junction with Honey Hill to allow one of the best views in the town, that of the south side of St Mary's Church, whilst to the north of the church, the Great Graveyard allows views across to both the West Front of the Abbey ruins and also the Norman Tower and the more recent crossing tower on St James' Cathedral. But linking these highlights are a series of handsome houses of different ages, many of three storeys, especially north of Honey Hill, and many being Medieval, but disguised behind Georgian elevations.

Truly a highlight in the town.



### Green King North Yard Entrance

Arguably the only blot on the Crown Street landscape is this modern entrance to the Brewery yard, with a lorry sized entrance with brick piers and modern steel gates. Not a built form that sits easily into the conservation area but, perhaps, here acceptable as part of this historic use of the site and the variety this brings to the locality. At best, neutral in the conservation area.



### 16, 17 Crown Street

A handsome pair of semi-detached late 19<sup>th</sup> C houses in two storeys of white bricks with red brick dressings and a slate roof with two brick chimney stacks.

Apparently all original sash window and door joinery and, somewhat surprisingly, rainwater goods.

These make a positive contribution to the conservation area.



### 18a Crown Street

This is a late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> C cottage in two storeys and most importantly, was the studio of Bury's most important 20<sup>th</sup> C artist, Rose Mead, now commemorated with a blue plaque.

The house has white brickwork with cement rendered lintols to the openings, and a slate roof. Fenestration, with multi-pane sashes, and similarly half glazed door are presumably later alterations.

In common with its neighbours to the south, the cottage is set behind a dwarf wall, here of late 20<sup>th</sup> C construction.

Particularly because of its historical link with Rose Mead, this building makes a positive contribution to the conservation area.



### 18, 19 and 20 Crown Street

A fine terrace of late Victorian houses in two storeys of white bricks with slated roof and brick chimney stacks. The houses each has a smart hexagonal bay at ground floor level, crowned with cast iron railings, and Portland (?) stone doorcases. Again the original door and window joinery survives with sashes, but the rainwater goods are now plastic.

Dwarf boundary wall to the street with some residual cast iron railings which would have formed screens with (now missing) gates.

These make a positive contribution to the conservation area.



### Brewery Boundary Wall South of No 20 Crown Street

A curious engineering structure in red brick with white brick arches over three narrow and one wide openings, the three narrow ones being blind and the wide one having large boarded wooden gates which would open into the South Yard. This at first appears old, but the stretcher bond brickwork suggests it is mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> C.

As a part of the industrial ambience of the south end of the street it makes a modest contribution to the conservation area.



### Brewery Buildings on the West Side of Crown Street

At the south end of the street there is a long block in two tall storeys, with a ground floor in white bricks and above which is another storey with a stucco finish. This has a concrete tiled roof and a couple of doorways into it off the street. This appears to be early 19<sup>th</sup> C with more recent refinishing. Iron rainwater goods. It has a large pipe connecting to other brewery buildings on the eastern side of the street.

To the north of this is a gabled element perpendicular to the street, with a slated roof but again in white brickwork (red on its north elevation) and three tall storeys. This appears to be contemporary with the element described above and, presumably early 19<sup>th</sup> C.

These two elements are a significant part of the industrial nature of this south end of the street and make a positive contribution to it.

To the north is a white brick wall with piers and shaped brick coping, which appears to date to the later 19<sup>th</sup> C. Behind this are buildings of two periods of construction, that to the north being gabled and a late Victorian red brick structure with a clerestory expressed in the red brick panelled east elevation. This element is redolent of high quality Victorian pumping stations and certainly appears in original condition and, perhaps, it is surprising it is not statutorily listed. It makes a strong contribution to the conservation area.

The other building is more prosaic being post war in three storeys (the ground floor is effectively double storey height) of hard red brick, with a flat roof concealed behind a parapet. A mixture of original steel framed casements and late 20<sup>th</sup> C replacements in aluminium frames. This building only makes a modest contribution to the conservation area and then only because it is part of the brewery complex.

The wall to the street has set in it a stone plaque which explains that the site was that of the house of the last of the St Edmundsbury Abbey Abbots - John Reve. The wall makes a positive contribution to the conservation area and the plaque adds to that contribution.



### 26 Crown Street

This is a late Victorian detached house of singular design. It has two storeys of white brickwork and an attic with wooden clad dormers in a slated mansard roof. It is in a sort of French neo-classical style, being three symmetrical bays with a smart Tuscan order doorcase in stone. It has stone hexagonal bays at ground floor level. The windows at first floor have stone lintols. In addition there is a stone main cornice, below a brick parapet, into which the dormers break. Apparently all original sash window and panelled door joinery and iron rainwater goods.

The house is set back behind a dwarf wall which has lost its original railings, although some survive flanking the path and stone steps to the entrance door.

A house in a style which may divide opinion, but an historic building which has survived much intact and as such makes a positive contribution to the richness of the conservation area.



## Tuns Lane

One of the streets and lanes laid out in the 12<sup>th</sup> C and still linking into the network of paths and thoroughfares. This is a short route between the listed buildings facing Crown Street, with their historic rear garden walls being over-sailed by greenery from hidden yards, and Bridewell Lane where there is a modern house (No 40 Bridewell Lane) at the north western corner. The garden wall to 43 Crown Street is a significant element here. Paved in sealed gravel with modern steel bollards at each end.

