

Skinner Street

Arguably one of the most visually interesting (and least walked) streets within the town centre. Its principal features are the narrowness of the street scene, confined by the rear elevations of significant two/three storey listed properties (with frontages to The Traverse and Buttermarket) and the cambered and undulated cobbled road surface gently rising from Abbeygate Street towards the market square in Cornhill. This is one of the few areas of granite sett surfacing in the town centre and should be retained for historical interest. The properties that back onto Skinner Street are all listed except for No 5 The Traverse and at the very north east corner, No. 44 Cornhill. The street provides excellent access to the relatively commercially untouched rear elevations of many historic buildings with some oversailing upper floors, all providing a real sense of history.

The street scene is sadly diminished by the widespread use of the pavement by occupiers for the storage of commercial refuse bins and other business detritus. In addition, several buildings have had additional security measures installed to ground floor windows and doors including 20th C security bars or metal sheeting which detract from their appearance. There is much to commend in the street scene which could be significantly enhanced especially by the removal of the refuse bins.

Rear of Nos. 6, 7 & 8 Buttermarket

Comprising a single storey rendered extension to an otherwise listed building with painted metal staircase and balustrading over, providing fire escape egress for a number of upper floors to buildings fronting Buttermarket. Whilst neutral to the street scene it provides a hint to the complexities of ownerships of these buildings and occupiers efforts to comply with modern regulations.

Rear of No. 5 The Traverse

A Victorian building with a three storey brick façade incorporating timber sash windows at first and second floors. Upper floor windows appear modern replacements. The ground floor painted metal window with 24 lights has an unsightly vent installed into its upper part. A recessed modern door provides access to upper floor flats. The building overall makes a positive contribution towards the street scene.

Return Frontage No. 44 Cornhill (See also Cornhill)

A two storey late 19th C building in a medieval revival style with full height timber return shop front to Skinner Street which may have original elements but which has had major interventions in the 20th C. There is a rendered first floor elevation incorporating sash windows in dormers and, clay tiled roofs – matching and continuing the style of adjoining building.

A building of some charm which makes a positive contribution to the conservation area.

