

Honey Hill

Despite being somewhat dominated by traffic at the western end at certain times of the day and backing onto the Greene King Brewery, Honey Hill remains one of the prestigious addresses in the town and it has only a handful of buildings which are not statutorily protected by listing. In fact, there are just five: a short terrace between Nos 12 and 16 (built and designed by Fenner Builders) and 'Brewsters' a new Georgian style house on the corner of Sparhawk Street at No 10. (This was designed by Brown and Scarlett Architects and the site included the premises of a former commercial garage - 'Brewsters Garage' - from which the new house takes its name). All of these properties are of recent construction and it is still perhaps too early to speculate how the future will judge these late 20th C houses. The other unlisted building (16 Honey Hill) is the only property which certainly seems to have historic fabric and this is assessed below.



Otherwise this (for Bury) steeply sloping street has all listed buildings which form a rich mix in a setting which includes the south elevation of St Mary's Church and views of the Great Churchyard. The street contains the Grade 1 listed George II Manor House, one of the grandest houses in the town and other handsome buildings ranging in dates from the late medieval to early 20th C in the form of the former Magistrates Courts. The view to the east is terminated by the former council offices ('Shire Hall') in Raingate Street, a mid/late 20th C office building not without quality and now occupied as a hotel.

The west end of the street is happily dominated by the (largely) 15th C St Mary's Church which is a most powerful presence, particularly after dark when illuminated. Its handsome railings and charming garden also add to and enhance the street scene.

Asphalt paving to the road and Yorkstone to the north side of the street, while the south has to make do with concrete pavings. A few modern cast iron bollards to constrain parking cars and smart modern street lamps on standards.

This is an attractive built environment with a mix of almost entirely high-quality buildings with the setting of the open space to the east and St Mary's Church to the west.

16 Honey Hill

This appears to be an early 19th C stucco rendered building which at one time may have been used as a part of the brewery's working premises but is now in residential use and forms part of the white brick Grade II listed building on the corner of Crown Street (No 9 Crown Street) although it is wholly different in appearance and character. It is detailed as the rear wing of No 9 in the listed building description of that property. The street elevation has two storeys of stucco rendered brickwork with a simple slated roof with white brick stack. There are three windows on the first floor and two and the entrance door on the ground floor. At the eastern end there is a large passage opening with close boarded doors at ground floor and above this is what appears to have been an upper floor access with shiplap boarding. Within the latter, is another window with an external shutter again with close boarding.



The fenestration is all with multipane sashes, which apparently are early 19th C, as presumably is the flush panelled door. Iron rainwater goods. Mounting stone (18th C?) outside at the eastern end.

This building seems to have had a fairly comprehensive restoration, but it still retains something of its service building persona and this helps narrate the story of the location and, along with the building's aesthetic, makes a strong positive contribution to the conservation area.