

Report on a watching brief CAT Report 355

Site address: 71 North Station Road (the former Globe Hotel),
Colchester, Essex
Date of fieldwork: 21st June 2005-4th June 2006
NGR: TL 99358 25899 (c)
CBC brief?: Yes
Location plan attached?: Yes (Fig 1)
Museum accession code: 2005.67

Archaeological background:

The development site is located outside the walls of the Roman legionary fortress and later Roman town of *Colonia Victricensis*. To the south, substantial structural remains have been recorded of the Roman suburb which existed on the northern approach to the town.

The Roman road leading north out of the North Gate lay several metres to the east of North Station Road, making it likely that the development site had a frontage onto this road.

CAT carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching in the car-park of the Globe Hotel in 2003 (CAT Report 248). Two phases of Roman building were recorded. The later Roman phase featured a large building, the evidence for which was four robbed-out walls running on a NNW-SSE and a SSW-NNE alignment, which appear to match up with other Roman buildings excavated along North Station Road. The exceptionally great width (at least 2.2m) and depth (at least 1.2m) of one of the robber trenches suggests that it was an exterior wall to a Roman public building of at least two storeys. Both buildings appeared to have been of high status, having evidence of tiled roofs, heating systems and painted walls. The watching brief was required to locate more of these features, particularly the robbed-out walls and also the course of the Roman road.

Brief report:

The site of the former Globe Hotel is on the northern side of Colchester town centre, on the eastern side of North Station Road. Planning permission was given (F/COL/05/0576) to demolish the flat-roofed extension to the rear of the hotel and construct a new, larger, three-storey rear extension measuring 10m x 11m for residential use. The 17m x 34m development site is on level ground in a tarmac car-park to the rear of the Globe which is a grade II listed Victorian building.

The watching brief was limited. One borehole was dug, from which one piece of painted wall-plaster was retrieved from between 1.5m and 2m below ground-level. A 450mm-deep trench was later dug by hand to locate a drain. This was dug north to south and east to west within the area to be built upon. This was also monitored by an archaeologist but it only impinged on modern deposits to the car-park. Piles were drilled and ground beams for the extension excavated and concreted without an archaeologist being present, and therefore any archaeological remains exposed were not recorded. According to the ground contractors, the ground beams were 1m deep. At this level, the upper 200-250mm of robbed-out walls to the Roman building should have been encountered. The spoil heap was checked for Roman finds or mortar on two occasions (before and during the removal of the spoil heap), but nothing of archaeological interest was observed.

Reference:

CAT Report 248 2003 An archaeological evaluation at the Globe Hotel, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex, October 2003, unpublished CAT archive report, by Kate Orr

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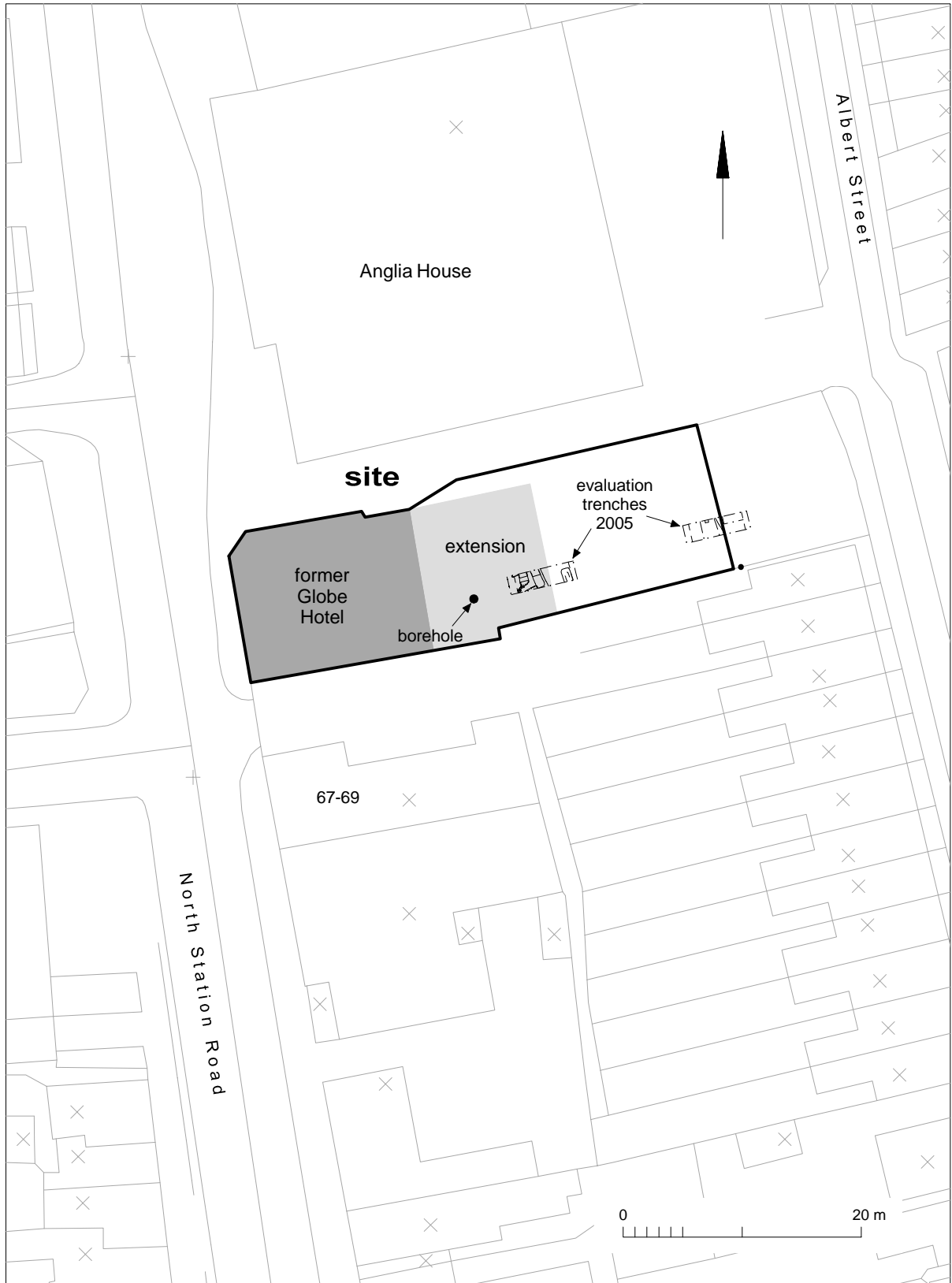
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Fig 1 Location plan.