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THE ARCHER



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Once upon a time in East Finchley

By Ann Bronkhorst and Tony Roberts

The English Heritage website houses a fascinating archive of aerial photographs and the organisation has allowed *THE ARCHER* to reproduce this view of East Finchley on a summer day in 1926. It's recognisable, but there have been many changes.

East is at the top of the picture. Top left and bottom right are lost green spaces: Coldfall Wood massed behind Durham Road, embracing All Saints' Church and reaching almost to Fortis Green; and a triangle of allotments above the railway (not tube) sidings and Gray's coal yard. East of the allotments is a section of the ancient path called The Walks, now mostly untrace-

able beneath buildings.

There's little moving traffic and the streets look oddly wide and bare without parked cars. A tram heads down the High Road near Baronsmere Road and horses, out of sight, are stabled in the large United Dairies complex opposite the Coliseum cinema, now the Phoenix. Many shops have awnings and, of course, there's no supermarket.

Two streets, Aveton Road (near the sorting office, lower left corner) and Chapel Street (lower left edge of map), have gone; the chapel itself and its little school, too. The tall Congregational church dominating the centre of the picture was demolished in the mid-1960s, but the far older Bald Faced Stag and the National School (later to become Holy Trinity School and now the Bobath Centre) remain.

Britain from Above (www.britainfromabove.org.uk) features some of the oldest and most valuable images of the Aerofilms Collection, a unique and important archive of aerial photographs. You can download images, share memories and add information. By the end of the project in 2014, 95,000 images taken between 1919 and 1953 will be available online.



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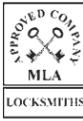


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