



## 199 Upton Lane London, E7

### Archaeological Evaluation Report





**199 Upton Lane, London E7**  
**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

LAARC Code is **ULN09**

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**Report reference: 71731.03**

**November 2009**

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**Figure 2**      **Plates**

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**Cover photo**      **General site shot, view from south-west**

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### SUMMARY

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Kanbi and Sons Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 199 Upton Lane, Forest Gate, London Borough of Newham, centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference 540398 184452. The evaluation comprised machine excavation of a single trial trench in an area to be disturbed by the construction of a new building with an underground parking. The fieldwork was undertaken between 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

The features and deposits encountered were dated to 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century and are remnants of works associated with the construction of a Methodist chapel, demolished prior to the evaluation. Buried topsoil, recorded in a small area in the north-west corner of the trench, was possibly associated with fields mapped in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The evaluation demonstrated there is little potential for the presence and survival of archaeological features on site.

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#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Kanbi and Sons Limited for commissioning the project and their assistance during the fieldwork.

The fieldwork was directed by Julia Sulikowska with the assistance of Tomasz Wiśniewski. The report was compiled by Julia Sulikowska and the illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Mark Williams and edited by Richard Greatorex.



# 199 Upton Lane, London E7

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Kanbi and Sons Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 199 Upton Lane, Forest Gate, London Borough of Newham (**Figure 1**), centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) 540398 184452 (hereafter, 'the Site').

1.1.2 Planning permission (08/00625/FUL) was granted for the demolition of 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings and construction of a new building with an underground car park. A programme of historic building recording and archaeological investigation was required as a condition of the planning permission. The building recording was undertaken in May 2009 (Wessex Archaeology 2009a) and, subsequently, the buildings were demolished. Archaeological evaluation was undertaken when minor demolition works were being carried out.

1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2009b) was prepared by Wessex Archaeology Ltd in advance of the fieldwork which specified the strategy, techniques and methods that would be employed by Wessex Archaeology during the evaluation. It was submitted for approval to the Archaeological Advisor of the Local Planning Authority, prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.1.4 The fieldwork was carried out between 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

#### 1.2 Site location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The Site occupies an area of approximately 0.06 hectares and is situated in Upton, Forest Gate in the London Borough of Newham (NGR 540398 184452; **Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The Site comprises a flat, sub-rectangular plot of land, currently undergoing demolition and clearance. It is bound to the west by Upton Lane, to the south by Doris Road, to the east by properties fronting onto Doris Road and to the north by a vacant plot. The Site lies at approximately 10m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.3 The Site was previously occupied by an Methodist chapel (built in 1892), which was later adapted to accommodate a textile factory and, more recently, glass and timber merchants.

1.2.4 The underlying geology within the Site was recorded as Recent and Pleistocene Flood Plain Gravel (terraces of the Thames and Roding) (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 257)..

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

2.1.1 The Site had not previously been subject to an archaeological investigation and, therefore, there was little information regarding any potential earlier archaeological remains on the Site.

2.1.2 The Site lies adjacent to a possible medieval road and a 16<sup>th</sup> century public house is located to the north of it. Until the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Site was occupied by fields/estate grounds. In 1892, a Primitive Methodist Chapel and associated buildings were erected on Site. Since the 1940s, the complex has been used as a textile factory and, more recently, by glass merchants.

## **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **3.1 General**

3.1.1 The objective of the field evaluation, as specified in the WSI, was to expose, plan and evaluate the archaeological resource within a framework of defined aims (see below) to seek a better understanding of that resource, assess the findings and disseminate the results of the work.

### **3.2 Site Specific Aims**

3.2.1 The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- to establish the extent, character and date range of the potential archaeological remains;
- to establish the activities associated with the Site

## **4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI and comprised machine excavation of a single trench. Due to the presence of a cellar in the eastern part of the Site, it was necessary to reduce the size of the trench, which measured 14.50m x 2.30m (**Figure 1, Plate 1**), equating to a 5.5% sample of the Site.

4.1.2 The overburden was removed by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under constant supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist.

4.1.3 Excavation continued to the first archaeological horizon or to the top of the natural deposits, whichever was encountered first.

### **4.2 Health and Safety**

4.2.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

4.2.2 Wessex Archaeology prepared a Risk Assessment, which was read and understood by all staff attending the Site before groundwork commenced.

### 4.3 Recording

4.3.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were hand cleaned and excavated. The recording of the trench was carried out using Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* recording sheets.

4.3.2 A complete drawn record of the Site comprises both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The plans/sections were annotated with OD heights.

4.3.3 Photographs were taken as appropriate, providing the record of excavated features and deposits and of the Site as a whole. The photographic record comprised colour transparencies; black and white negatives (on 35 mm film) and digital photography.

4.3.4 The features were surveyed using a Global Positioning System (GPS) and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.

## 5 RESULTS

5.1.1 No archaeological features of pre-19<sup>th</sup> century date were identified in the course of the archaeological investigation (**Plates 1 and 2**). The soil sequence and deposits and features of modern origin are summarised below. More detailed trench and context descriptions are presented in **Appendix 1**.

5.1.2 Modern demolition layer (**101**) covered the whole of the trench. Across the most of the trench, it overlay made ground layers (**103, 104, and 111**), which are possibly associated with works relating to the construction of the chapel.

5.1.3 Two (**110, 113**) of the three features identified below the made ground layers were excavated. They contained fragments of building material, similar to those recovered from layer **111**. The features, **110** being an insignificant linear and **113** the remains of a possible tree throw, appear to have been disturbed as part of the construction process for the Chapel and had contemporary construction debris pressed into them from above

5.1.4 In the north-west part of the trench, layer **104** overlay buried topsoil **105** and subsoil **106**. It is highly possible that they relate to fields/estate grounds that occupied the Site prior to the construction of the chapel.

5.1.5 The natural deposits (**107**) – river gravels – were encountered at the depth of 0.85m – 0.92m below the ground level.

## 6 FINDS

6.1.1 No finds of other than modern origin were recovered during the evaluation. Modern pottery and building material fragments were noted, but not collected.



## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL

7.1.1 No features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1.1 No features and deposits of earlier date than 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century were identified during the evaluation.

8.1.2 The survival of buried topsoil in the northwest corner of **Trench 1** indicates a potential for the preservation of archaeological features beneath it. However, the disturbance recorded across the majority of the trench, and a large cellar located immediately to the east of the trench, suggests that the area, in which the topsoil might have been present, will most likely be truncated for much of its extent..

8.1.3 It is not considered that there would be any value to be gained in requiring a further stage of mitigation. .

## 9 ARCHIVE

9.1.1 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, under the site code ULN09 (project number 71731). In due course, the project archive, including written, drawn and photographic records, together with a summary of the contents of the archive, will be deposited with an appropriate local museum.

9.1.2 The paper archive comprises an A4 ring binder folder with:

- 3 Trench Record Sheets
- 5 A4 Drawings
- 3 Photographic Records
- Day Book
- Survey Book
- A copy of the Risk Assessment
- A copy of the WSI

## 10 REFERENCES

Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) 1976, Sheet 257 – Romford.  
Drift

Wessex Archaeology, 2009a, 199 Upton Lane, Forest Gate E7, London Borough of Newham. Historic Buildings Report, unpublished report 71730.01

Wessex Archaeology, 2009b, 199 Upton Lane, London E7, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation, unpublished report 71731.01

## APPENDIX 1: Trench description

Trench No.	1	NGR	W	540385.58 184450.07	E	540400.20 184451.14
Length (m)	Width (m)	Height Above Ordnance Datum (m) (At Ground Level)				Max. Depth (m) (Below Ground Level)
14.50	2.30	W	10.15	E	10.16	0.98
Context No.	Description					Depth (m) (B.G.L.)
101	Modern demolition rubble					0 – 0.20
102	Made ground – yellowish grey sandy clay loam with common gravel inclusions and demolition debris. Modern					0.20 – 0.30
103	Levelling layer – yellow sand with common gravel inclusions					0.30 – 0.40
104	Hardcore layer – abundant gravel in sandy matrix					0.35 – 0.40
105	Buried soil – mid brownish grey sandy silt loam with moderate gravel inclusions and flecks of building material. Contained post-medieval/modern pottery					0.40 – 0.55
106	Subsoil – mid orangey brown silty clay loam with moderate gravel inclusions					0.55 – 0.85
107	Natural – river gravels, fine to mid sub-rounded/sub-angular pebbles in reddish orange sand matrix					0.85 +
108	Light greyish brown silt with rare gravel inclusions and fragments of post-medieval/modern building material. Deliberate backfill of <b>110</b>					0.88 – 0.97
109	Light grey silty sand with frequent pebble inclusions. Primary fill in <b>110</b>					0.97 – 1.20
110	Linear feature aligned E –W. Shallow concave sides and undulating base. Dimensions: 6.50m x 0.66m. Modern trench?					0.88 – 1.20
111	Layer – light greyish brown silt with sparse pebble inclusions and post-medieval/modern brick fragments. Made ground					0.20 – 0.98
112	Light yellowish brown silt with occasional pebble inclusions and post-medieval/modern brick fragments. Deliberate backfill of <b>113</b>					0.98 – 1.18
113	Sub-circular feature with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Possible tree-throw, backfilled with <b>112</b> . Dimensions: 2.00m x 1.35m. Modern					0.98 – 1.18



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	Date:	09/11/02	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	1:25000 & 1:400	Illustrator:	KL
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Site location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trench 1, view from west



Plate 2: South-facing section of Trench 1

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Scale: n/a

Layout: KL

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