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Memory, graffiti and The Libertines: A walk down 'Up the Bracket Alley'

Benjamin Halligan

I had wanted to visit 'Up the Bracket Alley' (see Figure 7.1) since it had become something of an unofficial heritage site. The 'alley' itself is an unremarkable concrete stretch between Grove Passage and Hare Row (see Figure 7.2), off Cambridge Heath Road in Bethnal Green in the East London borough of Tower Hamlets. The alley doesn't appear on all maps, is difficult to find and possibly even dangerous to visit. But nearby graffiti for 'Up the Bracket Alley' pointed me in the right direction. In fact, it's graffiti that has renamed this stretch, an alley that once serviced the garden exits of the houses that are now rundown shops, takeaways and fly-by-night small businesses.



Figure 7.1 Up the Bracket Alley in 2012.