Resistivity Survey at Quartermile Lane, Homerton. London Borough of Hackney.

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Introduction.

A resistivity survey was conducted on the 17th. of February 1994 as part of the archaeological assessment programme for the M11/A12 project, by members of the Passmore Edwards Museum field staff.

The site consisted of a grassed area bounded to the north-west by the Eastway, to the east by Quartermile Lane, and to the south-west by Temple Mills Road, forming a grassed triangle between these roads. The survey consisted of two transects to cover the area of disruption (Fig. 1).

The grass on the survey area was short, having been recently mown, with trees to the south of the area. A bank bordered the site on all three sides. The transects were sited to avoid these obstructions. The ground surface appeared to be dry and well drained. Examination of contractors ground works immediately to the south of the first grid showed a mid grey brown sandy silt topsoil and sub-soil, containing frequent brick and rubble inclusions.

Grids 1 - 3 were surveyed in the south-eastern corner of the site, at the corner of Quartermile Lane and Temple Mills Road. The transect was oriented roughly north to south.

Grids 4 and 5 were surveyed to the west of the first transect at the corner of Eastway and Temple Mills Road.

The Survey.

The survey was conducted using a Geoscan RM15 Basic resistivity meter, with 0.5m. separation twin array, and the results were processed using Geosoft software. The instrument was set at a current of 1mA, with a gain of x10. Readings were taken on 20m. x 20m. grids at 1m. sample intervals, with a 1m. zig-zag traverse. Grid information was recorded on Museum pro-forma sheets.

Results.

The processed plot shows large amorphous areas of both high and low resistance anomalies. These however have no coherence to them, and probably relate to dumped material on the site, the high resistance areas probably being deposits of rubble.

A small sub-round feature of low resistance to the west of grid 4 is in all likelyhood the remains of a tree. This was visible on the ground.

No features of archaeological interest are visible.

Interpretation and Conclusions.

The plot shows the high probability that the entire survey area has been extensively built-up with dumped material, probably during the 20th. century. The plot shows no features of either high or low resistance. This does not necessarily preclude the presence of surviving archaeological deposits on the site, however. If archaeological deposits do survive on the site they are likely to be buried under a significant depth of modern dumped material.