

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report No. 899

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
Flegg High School, Martham**

39855 MTM

Kenneth Penn
January 2004

© Norfolk Archaeological Unit

Contents

Summary

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Geology and Topography
- 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background
- 4.0 Methodology
- 5.0 Results
- 6.0 Conclusions

Acknowledgements

Figures

- Fig.1 Site Location
- Fig.2 Location of trenches

Location: Flegg High School, Martham
Grid Ref: TG 46095 19011
HER No.: 39855 MTM
Date of fieldwork: 22nd December 2003

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Flegg High School, Martham in east Norfolk, in an area where Bronze Age and Roman finds had been previously recorded. Two trenches were excavated in the footprint of proposed new buildings, however, no archaeological features or finds were found.

1.0 Introduction

(Figs 1 and 2)

The area under evaluation lay within the grounds of Flegg High School, Martham. Two trenches were excavated in the footprint of the proposed development on behalf of RG Carter Ltd.

This work was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: DG 21.11.03) and a Project Design prepared by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit (NAU Ref: 1697/JB Dec 2003).

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 — Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

2.0 Geology and Topography

(Fig. 1)

The site lies in the Isle of Flegg, in a region where the natural subsoil is Norwich Brickearth. The site lies at a height of c.20m OD and is currently part of school playing fields and a temporary car park.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Two sites of archaeological interest are recorded on the Norfolk Historic and Environment Record (NHER) in the vicinity of this site.

To the south of the site cropmarks of linear features, possibly of Bronze Age date (NHER 21270) have been recorded, and coin evidence of a later Roman occupation site comes from the same general area (NHER 37081).

4.0 Methodology

(Fig. 2)

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required that two trenches were excavated. Trench 1 measured 4m x 6m and Trench 2 (which lay slightly to the north and east of Trench 1) measured 4m x 8m, both within the footprint of the proposed buildings.

Machine excavation was carried out with a tracked hydraulic 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU *pro forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

Site conditions were moderate, with occasional snow showers.

5.0 Results

Trench 1 was laid out as required. The topsoil was a deep red-brown sandy loam, almost stone free, between 0.40m-0.50m deep. Below this lay the natural subsoil, a yellow brown sandy brickearth. The subsoil was cut by several ploughstripes and an amorphous shallow feature, probably an animal burrow.

Trench 2 was also laid out as specified within the brief. The topsoil and natural subsoil were identical to those in Trench 2. No archaeological features were present.

No finds were retrieved from either trench.

6.0 Conclusions

The absence of significant evidence for cultural activity suggest that this area has remained as ploughed arable, or waste land, throughout its history.

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to RG Carter on behalf of Jarvis Projects for commissioning this work and to the staff of Flegg High School for their interest and access to facilities. The report was illustrated and produced by Maggie Foottit and edited by Alice Lyons.

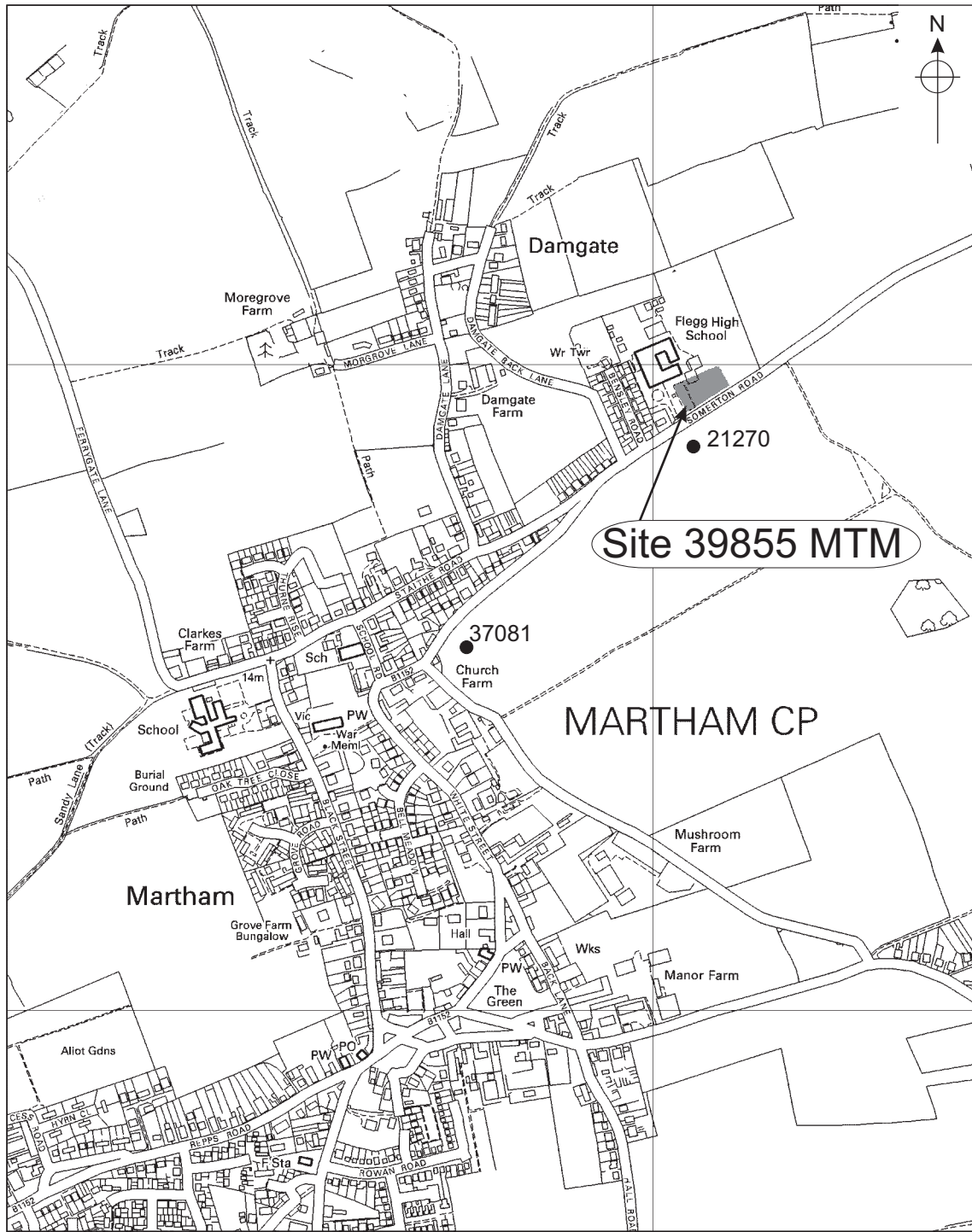
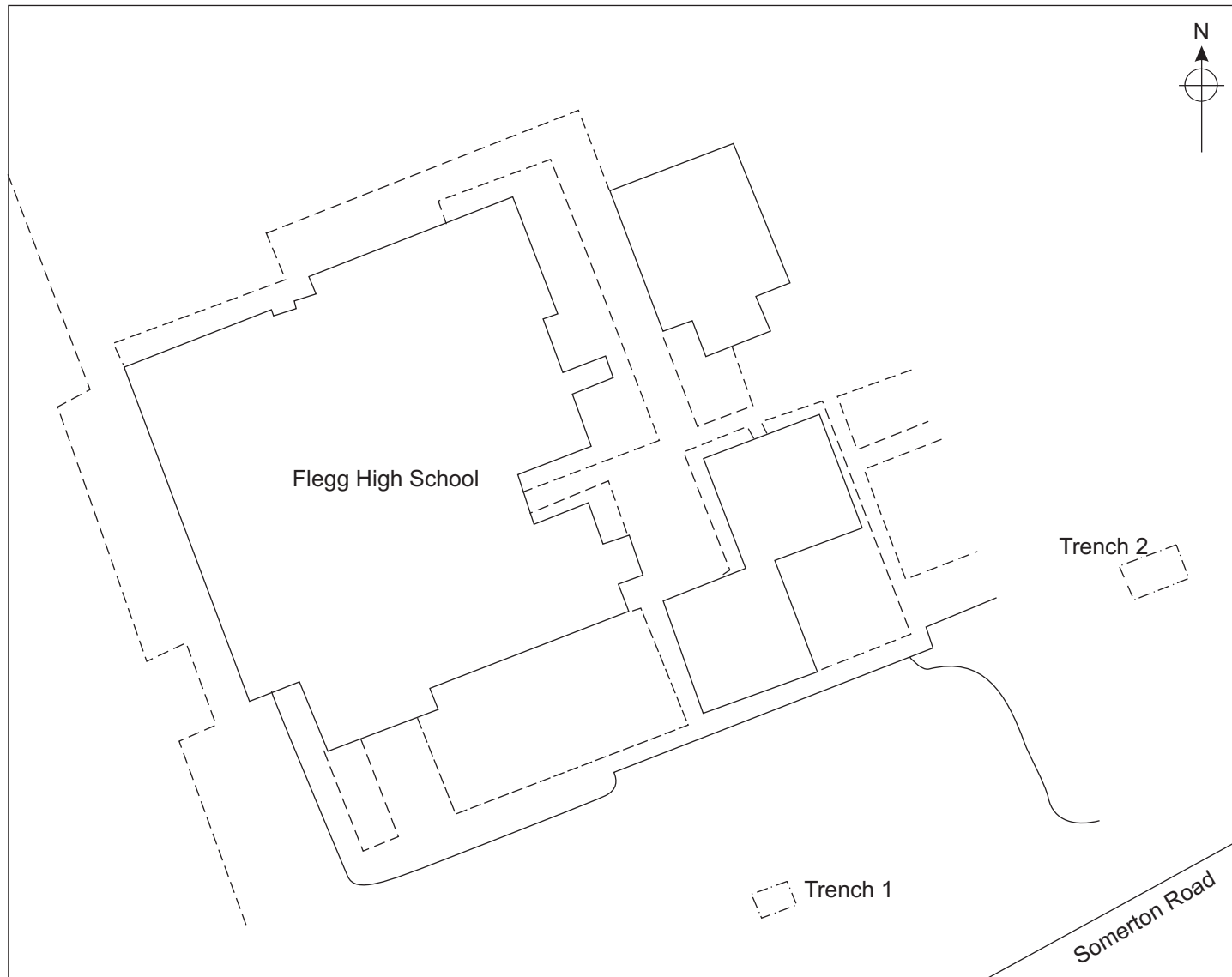


Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000



0 10m

Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:100