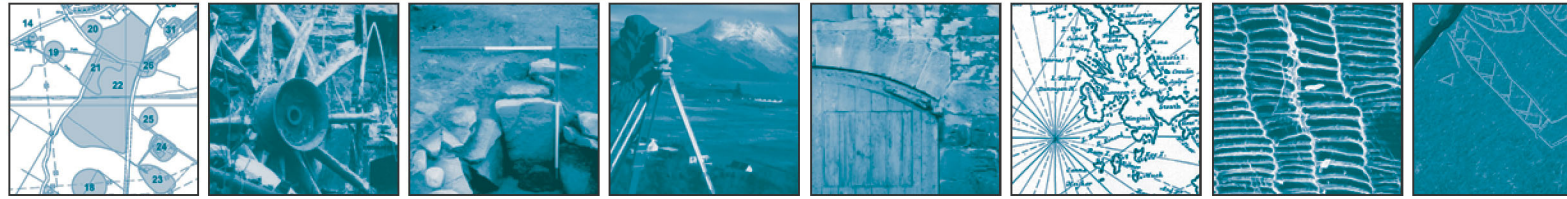


**Project Code: KSG99**  
**Date: September 2000**  
**Client: Kinegar Sand & Gravel**



# **Archaeological Watching Brief at Kinegar Sand and Gravel Pit, Cockburnspath, Scottish Borders**

## **Phase 1**

**Richard Conolly**

## Summary

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during topsoil stripping in advance of an extension to an existing sand and gravel quarry. A number of undated pits were excavated and recorded.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology were commissioned by Kinegar Sand and Gravel to undertake an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping in advance of an extension to their existing quarry near Cockburnspath, Scottish Borders.

Scottish Borders Council required an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during topsoil stripping as a condition of planning consent for the extension to the existing quarry. This is a standard planning condition for aggregate quarries where there are no known archaeological sites.

The fieldwork was carried out on 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August 2000 by Richard Conolly, who wrote this report, and Jonathan Millar. The figures were prepared by Laura Speed.

### 2. SITE LOCATION (see Figure 1)

Kinegar Quarry is located to the south of Cockburnspath, Scottish Borders (NT 770 706).

The area subject to the watching brief took the form of a strip measuring approximately 200m x 45m. This ran along the north-western boundary of a field occupying a gentle north-facing slope.

The field was under cultivation at the time of the watching brief. Areas to the north and west have been extensively quarried since the 1960s.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) contains several entries for the area of the Kinegar Quarry.

Two cist burials have been discovered within the quarry itself (NMRS No. NT77SE 15). The first was found in 1963, and contained a single crouched skeleton, probably of a young adult male, that had been lain on its right side. There were no associated grave goods. The second cist was found in 1982 and contained the bones of two people, possibly a female and child. Again there were no associated grave goods.

Several other cists have been recorded in the vicinity of the quarry. Immediately to the north-west in Clifton Hill Field, a number were discovered in the nineteenth century, however, neither skeletal material nor artefacts were recovered (NMRS No.

NT77SE 9). In 1999 a watching brief conducted during the excavation of a pipe trench on Clifton Hill located a short cist, as well as a ditch, a possible ring ditch and a shallow pit (*DES* 1999, 75).

In 1929 it was recorded that the remnants of a fort were visible in Clifton Hill Field. (NMRS No. NT77SE 17). To the west linear cropmarks have been recorded (NMRS No. NT77SE 53).

#### 4. AIMS AND METHODS

The watching brief was intended to ensure that any archaeological features that were liable to destruction or disturbance by quarrying were dealt with appropriately.

The topsoil was stripped using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, operating under archaeological supervision.

Any archaeological features encountered were to be fully excavated and recorded.

#### 5. RESULTS

An area measuring approximately 200 x 45m was stripped of up to 0.3m of topsoil (001). This overlay natural sand and gravel (002).

Several archaeological features were uncovered and excavated.

A solitary pit [005] was located at southern end of the stripped area (NT 76990 70375). No datable material was recovered from the naturally deposited fills, (003) and (004).

Towards the north-eastern end of the stripped area a cluster of features (centred on NT 77065 70445) was discovered (Fig. 2). This group consisted of three circular pits: [011], [013] and [016]. These measured between 1.3m and 1.55m in diameter. Immediately adjacent to these were three smaller features: [18], [20] and [22]. All of these features had filled in naturally and contained no artefactual material other than rare charcoal flecks. Therefore they could not be reliably dated.

Two modern sheep burials were uncovered at the northern limit of the stripped area, close to the field's boundary hedge.

#### 6. RECOMMENDATION

All features observed during the course of the watching brief were fully excavated and recorded at the time. No further work is therefore recommended. A short report will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context Number	Description	Dimensions
001	Topsoil. Mid to dark greyish brown sandy loam with very common sub-angular gravel <10cm	Depth: 0.3m
002	Subsoil. Light to mid orangey brown sand with abundant gravel <15cm	-
003	Upper fill of pit [005]. Mid reddish brown silty sand with common gravel <5cm	Depth: 0.07m
004	Lower fill pit [005]. Very dark reddish brown to black silty sand with abundant gravel <15cm.	Depth: 0.08m
005	Cut of pit. Circular in plan with gently sloping sides, becoming steeper to the south-west.	Diam: 0.83m Depth: 0.15m
006	Upper fill of pit [011]. Dark reddish brown loose silty sand with common sub angular gravel <5cm and moderate sub angular gravel 5 – 10cm	Depth: 0.37m
007	Fill of pit [011]. Dark brownish grey loose silty sand with sparse sub-angular gravel <5cm with rare charcoal flecks.	Depth: 0.10m
008	Fill of pit [011]. Mid to light yellowish brown fine sand with moderate sub –angular gravel <4cm	Depth: 0.15m
009	Fill of pit [011]. Mid brownish grey silty sand with moderate sub-angular gravel <5cm	Depth: 0.05m
010	Fill of pit [011]. Mid greyish brown silty sand with abundant sub angular gravel <5cm	Depth:0.08
011	Cut of pit. Circular with near vertical sides and a flat base.	Diam: 1.4m Depth: 0.45m
012	Fill of pit base [013]. Very dark greyish brown sand with abundant sub-angular gravel <5cm, rare 10 –15cm.	Depth: 0.06m
013	Cut of pit base. The surviving cut was crescent shaped with moderately sloping sides and near flat base.	Diam: 1.32m Depth: 0.06m
014	Upper fill of pit [016]. Very dark greyish brown slightly silty sand with moderate sub-angular gravel <8cm and rare charcoal flecking	Depth: 0.11m
015	Lower fill of pit [016]. Mid reddish brown fine to medium sand with abundant sub-angular gravel <8cm.	Depth: 0.20m
016	Cut of pit. Circular with steep to vertical sides and near flat base.	Diam: 1.26m Depth:0.31m
017	Fill of pit [018]. Very dark greyish brown silty sand with common sub-angular gravel <15cm.	Depth: 0.25m
018	Cut of small pit. Circular with steep concave sides near straight sides and concave base.	Diam: 0.52m Depth: 0.25m
019	Fill of pit/posthole [020]. Very dark greyish brown silty sand with common sub-angular gravel <15cm	Depth: 0.13m
020	Cut of small pit/posthole. Circular with steep slightly concave sides and concave base.	Diam: 0.30m Depth: 0.13m
021	Fill of pit/posthole [021]. Very dark greyish brown silty sand with common sub-angular gravel <15cm	Depth: 0.13m
022	Cut of small pit/posthole. Sub-ovoid with near vertical slightly concave sides and flat base.	Diam: 0.40m Depth: 0.13m

## APPENDIX 2: PHOTO REGISTERS

<b>Film Type: Black &amp; White</b>		<b>Film no. 1</b>
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	ID Shot
2	SW	General shot of stripped area
3	SW	General shot of stripped area
4	SW	General shot of stripped area

<b>Film Type: Colour Print</b>		<b>Film no. 1</b>
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	ID Shot
2	SW	General shot of stripped area
3	SW	General shot of stripped area
4	SW	General shot of stripped area

<b>Film Type: Black &amp; White</b>		<b>Film no. 2</b>
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	ID Shot
2	SE	North-west facing section pit [005]
3	SE	North-west facing section pit [005]
4	SE	North-west facing section pit [005]
5	NE	General shot of stripped area
6	NE	General shot of stripped area
7	NE	General shot of stripped area

<b>Film Type: Colour Print</b>		<b>Film no. 2</b>
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	ID Shot
2	SE	North-west facing section pit [005]
3	SE	North-west facing section pit [005]
4	SE	North-west facing section pit [005]
5	NE	General shot of stripped area
6	NE	General shot of stripped area
7	NE	General shot of stripped area

<b>Film Type: Black &amp; White</b>		<b>Film no. 3</b>
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	ID Shot
2	NW	General pre-excavation shot of features [011], [013], [016], [018], [020] and [022]
3	NW	Pre-ex shot of pit [011]
4	SE	North-west facing section of pit [011]
5	SE	North-west facing section of pit [011]
6	SW	Pre-ex shot of pit [013]
7	W	East facing section pit [013]
8	SW	Pre-ex shot of pit [016]
9	SE	North-west facing section of pit [016]
10	SE	North-west facing section of pit [016]
11	SE	Pre-ex shot of pit [018]
12	SE	North-west facing section pit [018]
13	SE	North-west facing section pit [018]
14	SE	North-west facing section posthole [020]
15	SE	North-west facing section posthole [022]
16	NE	General shot of stripped area

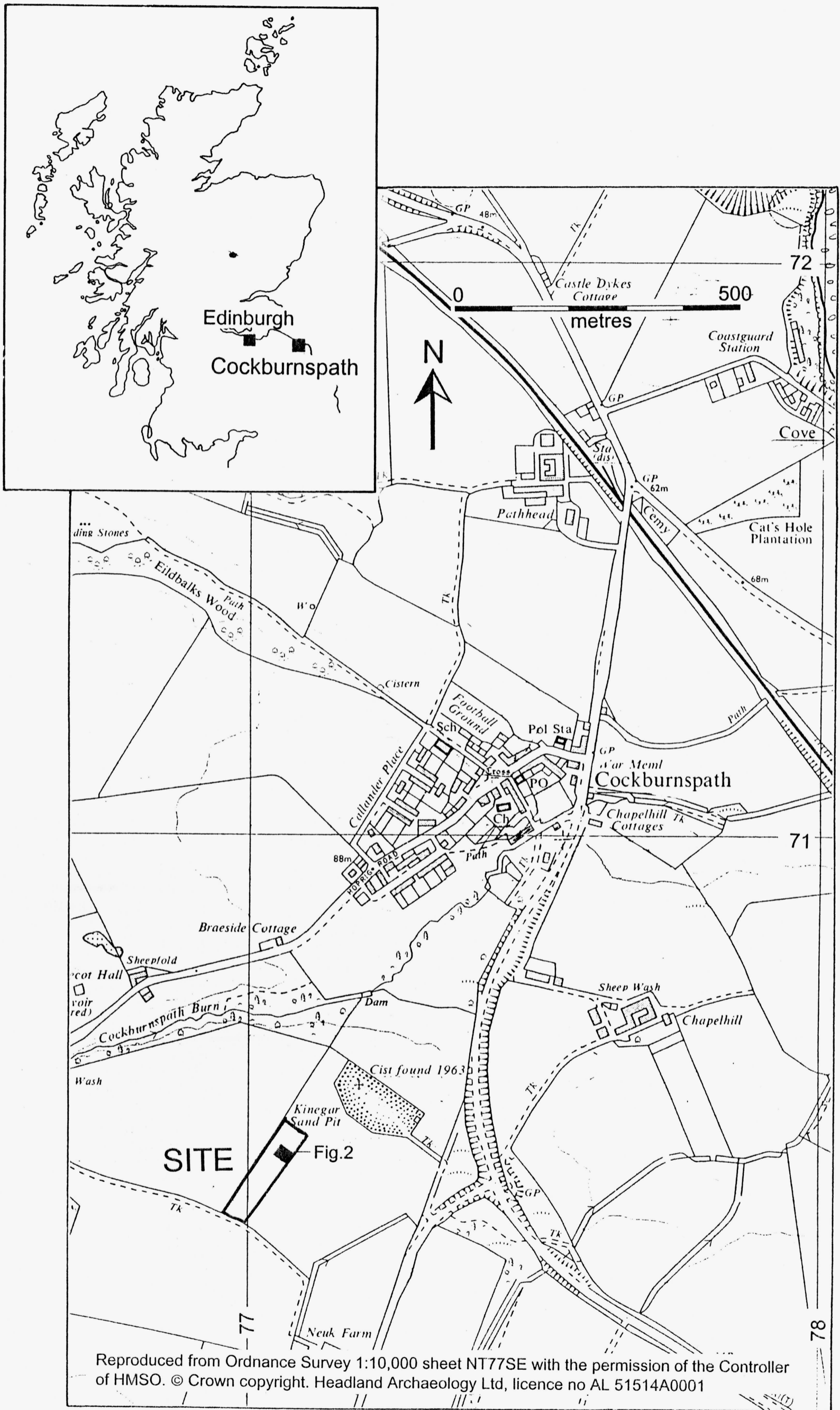
<b>Film Type: Colour print</b>		<b>Film no. 3</b>
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	ID Shot
2	NW	General pre-excavation shot of features [011], [013], [016], [018], [020] and [022]
3	NW	Pre-ex shot of pit [011]
4	SE	North-west facing section of pit [011]
5	SE	North-west facing section of pit [011]
6	SW	Pre-ex shot of pit [013]
7	W	East facing section pit [013]
8	SW	Pre-ex shot of pit [016]
9	SE	North-west facing section of pit [016]
10	SE	North-west facing section of pit [016]
11	SE	Pre-ex shot of pit [018]
12	SE	North-west facing section pit [018]
13	SE	North-west facing section pit [018]
14	SE	North-west facing section posthole [020]
15	SE	North-west facing section posthole [022]
16	NE	General shot of stripped area

<b>Film Type: Black &amp; White</b>		<b>Film no. 4</b>
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	S	General shot of stripped area.
2	W	General shot of stripped area.

<b>Film Type: Colour Print</b>		<b>Film no. 4</b>
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	S	General shot of stripped area.
2	W	General shot of stripped area.

### **APPENDIX 3: DRAWING REGISTER**

Drawing number	Description	Scale
1	North-west facing section pit [005]	1:10
2A	North-west facing section of pit [011]	1:10
2B	East facing section pit [013]	1:10
2C	North-west facing section of pit [016]	1:10
3A	North-west facing section pit [018]	1:10
3B	North-west facing section posthole [020]	1:10
3C	North-west facing section posthole [022]	1:10
4	Post-ex plan pit [011] and pits/postholes [20] & [22]	1:20
5A	Post-ex plan pit [18]	1:20
5B	Post-ex plan pits [13] & [16]	1:20



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Figure 1. Kinegar Sand and Gravel: Site location



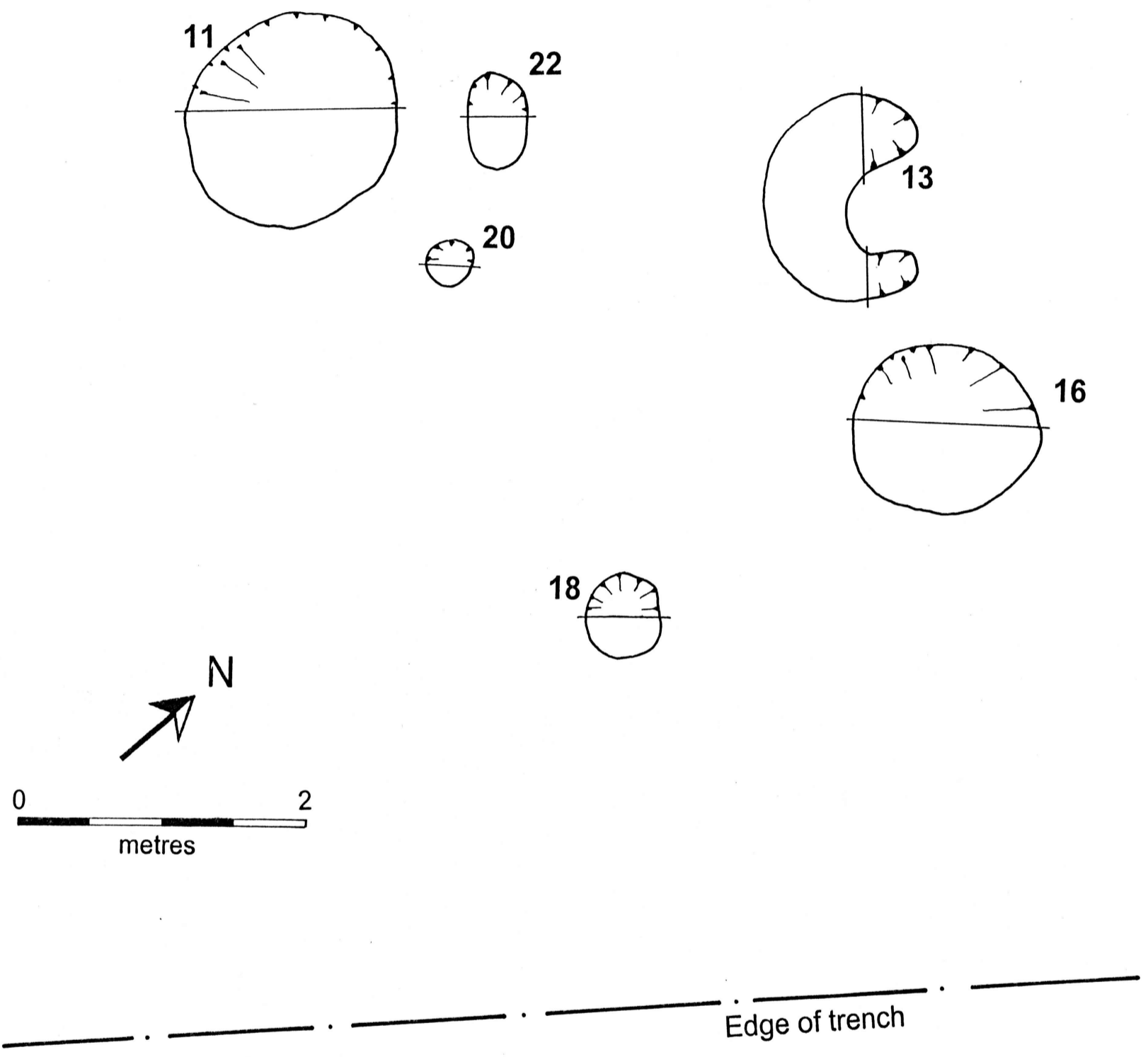


Figure 2. Kinegar Sand and Gravel: Plan of features 11 - 22