

KSG 99

**Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief at Kinegar
Sand and Gravel Pit, Cockburnspath, Borders: Phase 5**

Client: Kinegar Sand and Gravel

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CONTENTS

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Site Location and Description**
- 3. Archaeological Background**
- 4. Aims and Methods**
- 5. Results**
- 6. Conclusions**
- 7. Acknowledgements**

Summary

Headland Archaeology were commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping in advance of an extension to Kinegar Sand and Gravel Quarry, Cockburnspath, Scottish Borders. No archaeological features were identified.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd were commissioned to carry out an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping for an extension to Kinegar Sand and Gravel Quarry, Cockburnspath, Scottish Borders, in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent. This report details the results of the fifth phase of watching briefs at Kinegar, following on from strips monitored in 2000 (Conolly 2000) and 2001 (Conolly 2001a, 2001b and 2002) under an earlier consent.

The work was carried out on the 4th and 5th April 2002 in thick fog.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION (Figure 1)

Kinegar Quarry is located to the south of Cockburnspath, Scottish Borders (NT 770 706). The area stripped in this phase lies to the south-east of the areas monitored previously, on the moderately sloping north-east side of a pronounced knoll. The land immediately to the north was quarried some time ago and it is thought that a strip along the northern limit of the field has also been quarried. Consequently, this area was not stripped.

At the time of the watching brief, the field was under grass, but had previously been used for growing potatoes.

The underlying geology is sandy gravel and sand overlying boulder clay.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The quarry is situated in an area where several prehistoric cist burials have been discovered, including two within the quarry itself, and a number of cropmark sites are also known, one of which lies at the southern end of the current application area.

Previous phases of the watching brief have identified several clusters of small pits, with Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery being recovered from several features (Conolly 2000, 2001a & b and 2002).

4 AIMS AND METHODS

The watching brief was intended to ensure that any archaeologically significant deposits that would be destroyed by quarrying operations might be appropriately recorded.

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

Any potential features identified during the strip were hand cleaned, investigated and recorded appropriately.

5 RESULTS (Figure 1)

A rectangular area and haul road totalling approximately 7165 m² was stripped of up to 0.3 m of topsoil. The limits of the rectangular part of the strip roughly followed the breaks of the knoll's slope. The subsoil was predominantly medium to fine sand, becoming increasingly coarse and gravelly to the south of the strip. Towards the top of the slope the upper 0.1 m of the subsoil had been heavily disturbed by ploughing. A small charcoal patch was identified at the southern end of the haul road, but this was extremely shallow and did not survive cleaning.

6 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeologically significant deposits or features were identified during the watching brief. This is not entirely surprising as the slope of the stripped area would be unattractive for settlement.

The full archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The fieldwork was carried out by Richard Conolly. A curatorial role was provided by John Dent for Borders Council. The illustrations were prepared by Laura Speed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Conolly, R.J., 2000 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Kinegar Sand and Gravel Pit, Cockburnspath*. Unpublished report of Headland Archaeology Ltd.
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- Conolly, R.J., 2001b *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Kinegar Sand and Gravel Pit, Cockburnspath: Phase 3*. Unpublished report of Headland Archaeology Ltd.
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APPENDIX 1: PHOTO REGISTER

Film numbers 1 – 21 were used in previous phases.

Film no. 22		Film Type: Colour Slide and Colour Print
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	ID shot
2	SW	General view of haul road
3	SE	General view of stripped area

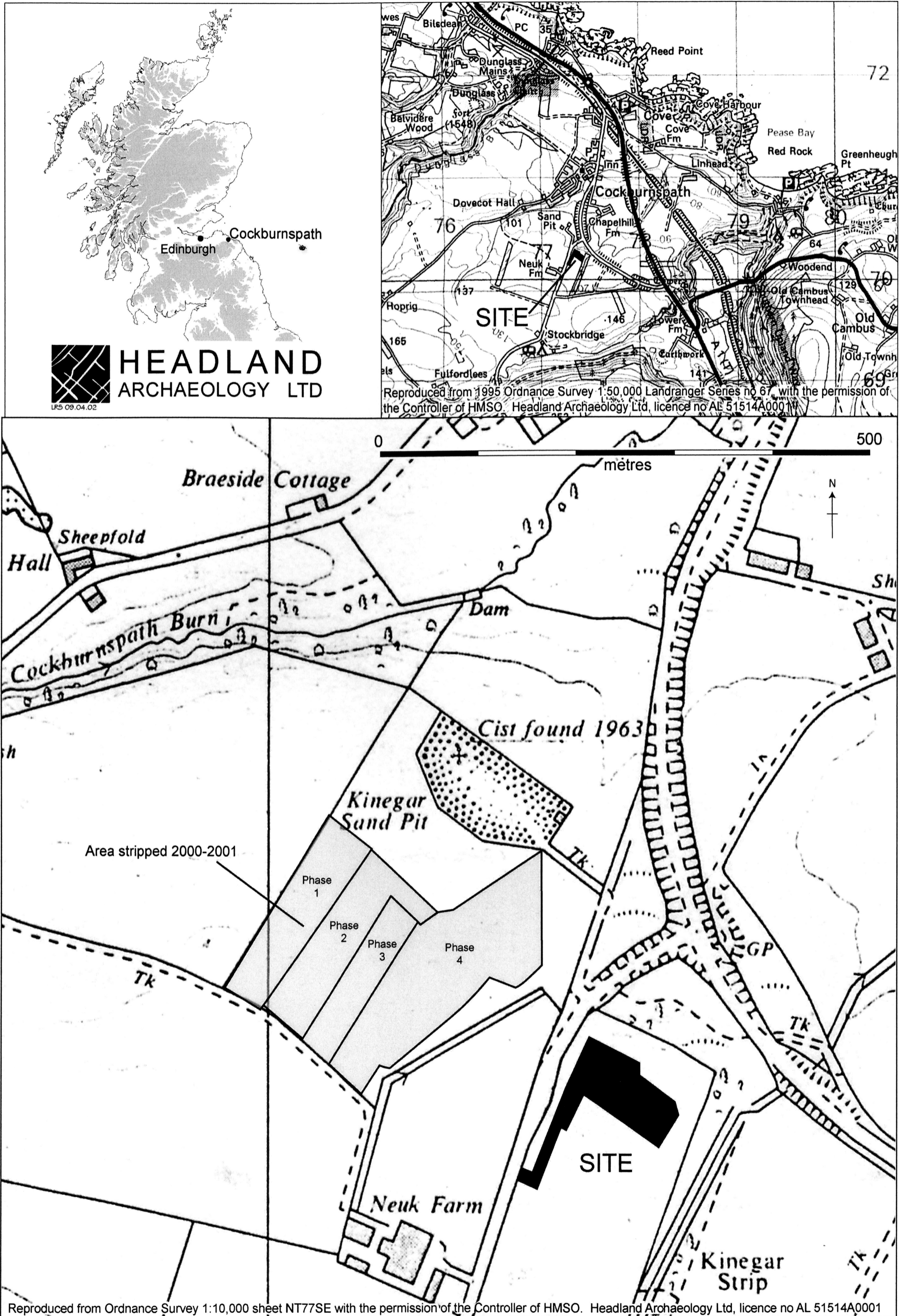


Figure 1. Kinegar Sand and Gravel: Site location