

Date: April 2003
Client: Kinegar Sand and Gravel Ltd
Project Code: KSG99

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

Phase 7

Richard Conolly

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (KSG 99)

Client	Kinegar Sand and Gravel Ltd
National Grid Reference	NT 773 701
Project Manager	Stephen Carter
Project Supervisor	Richard Conolly
Text	Richard Conolly
Illustrations	Jonathan Millar
Schedule	
Fieldwork	6 th – 7 th March 2003
Report	April 2003

Summary

Headland Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping at Kinegar Sand and Gravel Quarry, Cockburnspath, Scottish Borders. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were identified in the course of the watching brief.

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 seventh phase of watching briefs at Kinegar, following on from strips monitored in 2000 (Conolly 2000) and 2001-2 (Conolly 2001a, 2001b and 2002a) under an earlier consent and 2002 under the present consent (Conolly 2002b and 2002c).

The work was carried out on the 6th and 7th March 2003 in good weather conditions.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION (FIGURE 1)

Kinegar Quarry is located to the south of Cockburnspath, Scottish Borders (NT 773 701). The area stripped in this phase lies to the south of the areas monitored previously, on the moderately sloping south-west side of a pronounced knoll.

The field was under cultivation at the time of the watching brief.

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 2002a). Two undated pits were recorded in Phase 6 of the watching brief, immediately adjacent to the present phase.

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 totalling approximately 3100 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.

6. CONCLUSIONS

No archaeologically significant deposits or features were identified during the watching brief.

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Conolly, R J 2000 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Kinegar Sand and Gravel Pit, Cockburnspath*. Unpublished report of Headland Archaeology Ltd.
- Conolly, R J 2001a *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Kinegar Sand and Gravel Pit, Cockburnspath: Phase 2*. Unpublished report of Headland Archaeology Ltd.
- Conolly, R J 2001b *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Kinegar Sand and Gravel Pit, Cockburnspath: Phase 3*. Unpublished report of Headland Archaeology Ltd.
- Conolly, R J 2002a *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Kinegar Sand and Gravel Pit, Cockburnspath: Phase 4*. Unpublished report of Headland Archaeology Ltd.
- Conolly, R J 2002b *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Kinegar Sand and Gravel Pit, Cockburnspath: Phase 5*. Unpublished report of Headland Archaeology Ltd.
- Conolly, R J 2002c *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Kinegar Sand and Gravel Pit, Cockburnspath: Phase 6*. Unpublished report of Headland Archaeology Ltd.

APPENDIX 1: PHOTO REGISTER

Film numbers 1 – 23 were used in previous phases.

Film no. 24		Film Type: Colour Slide and Colour Print
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	ID shot
2	NE	General shot
3	N	General shot
4	N	General shot
5	NW	General shot

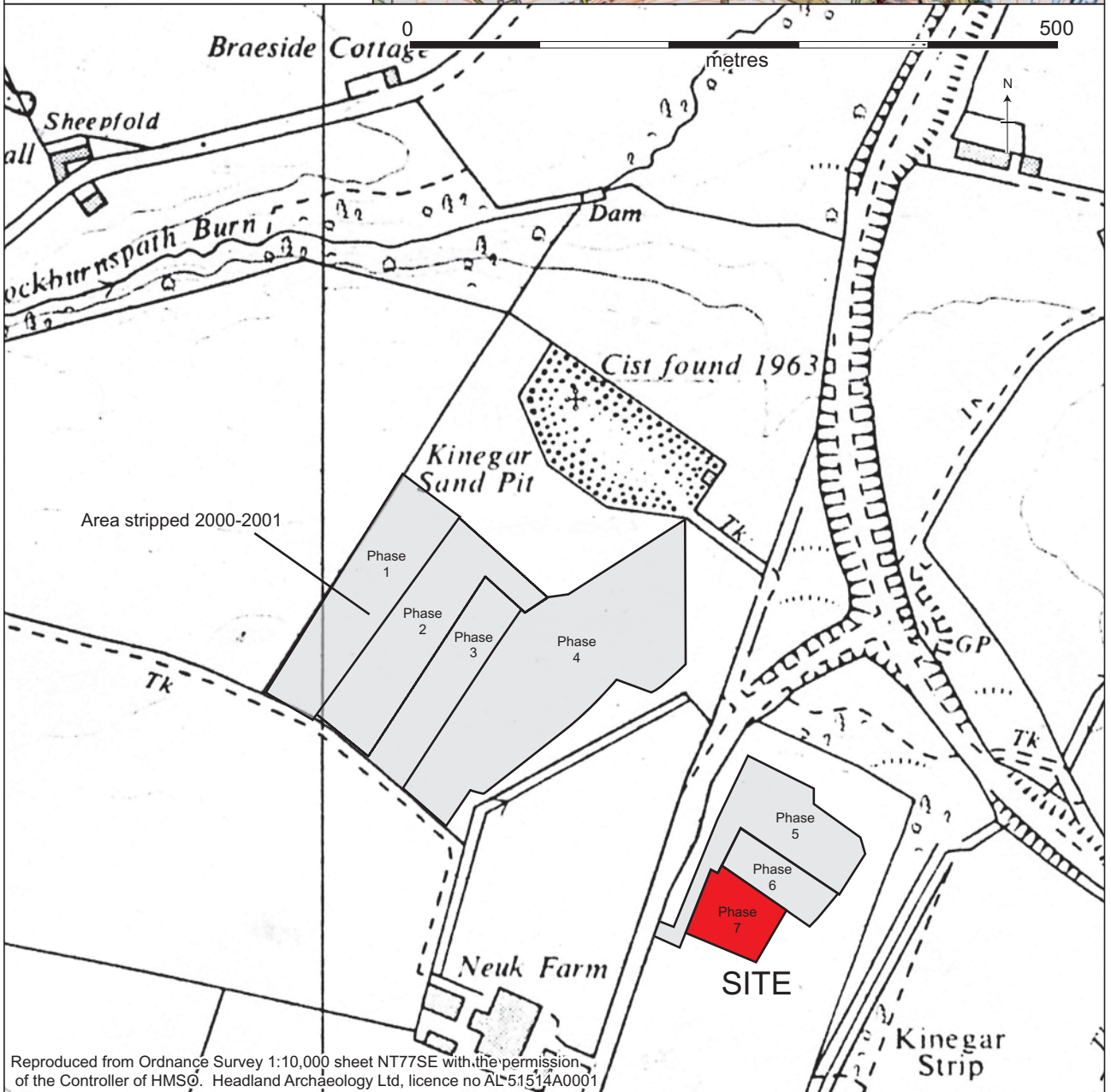
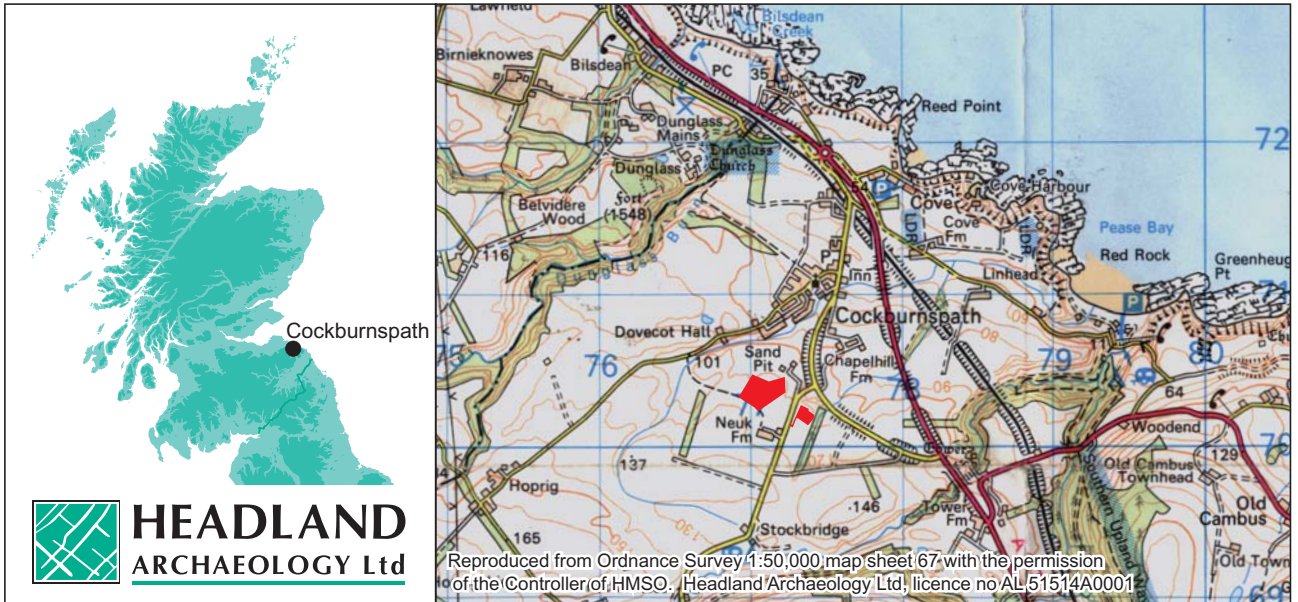


Figure 1. Kinegar Sand and Gravel: Site and Feature Location