

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

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

**Phase 8**

Richard Conolly

## PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (KSG 99)

<b>Client</b>	Kinegar Sand and Gravel Ltd
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NT 773 701
<b>Project Manager</b>	Stephen Carter
<b>Project Supervisor</b>	Richard Conolly
<b>Text</b>	Richard Conolly
<b>Illustrations</b>	Tom Small
<b>Schedule</b>	
Fieldwork	8 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> May 2003
Report	October 2003

### Summary

Headland Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping at Kinegar Sand and Gravel Quarry, Cockburnspath, Scottish Borders. Four archaeological features, all pits, were identified and recorded in the course of the watching-brief. No artefacts were recovered from any of these features, though a single sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from topsoil.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Headland Archaeology Ltd was 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 eighth 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 2002-3 under the present consent (Conolly 2002b and 2002c and Conolly 2003).

The work was carried out on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May 2003 in variable 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 of the watching brief is a roughly L-shaped parcel of land to the south of the top of a knoll stripped in earlier phases.

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). These clusters of features were all identified some distance to the north-west of the present site and only two undated pits have been identified within the current application area. Both these features were identified in Phase 6 of the watching brief and one, Pit 229, lay adjacent to the current area.

## **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)

An area totalling approximately 5600 m<sup>2</sup> was stripped of up to 0.4 m of topsoil. The subsoil was predominantly medium to fine sand, becoming increasingly coarse and gravelly to the south of the strip.

Four pits were identified. Three of these (Pits 231, 233 & 235) were located to the east of the brow of the hill. These were less than 0.1 m in depth and contained no datable artefacts, although a single sherd of early prehistoric pottery was recovered from the topsoil near by.

An isolated pit (139) lay to the south of the hilltop. This was considerably deeper (0.25 m) and more regular than the other features identified but, again, contained no datable artefacts or indicators of function.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

The results of this phase of the watching brief are once again consistent with low level prehistoric occupation of this area, probably dating to the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

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.
- Conolly, R J 2003 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Kinegar Sand and Gravel Pit, Cockburnspath: Phase 7*. Unpublished report of Headland Archaeology Ltd.

**APPENDIX: FIELD REGISTERS**

**Context Register**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
1-229	Used in previous phases
230	Fill of shallow Pit 231. Dark greyish brown to black and mid reddish brown slightly silty sand with rare gravel <2 cm and single large sub-angular stone. Common charcoal flecks.
231	Cut of shallow pit. Sub-ovoid with shallow to moderate concave sides and irregular concave base.
232	Fill of shallow Pit 233. Dark greyish brown to black and mid reddish brown slightly silty sand with rare gravel <2 cm. Common charcoal flecks.
233	Cut of shallow pit. Sub-ovoid with shallow concave sides breaking gently to slightly concave base.
234	Fill of Pit 235. Mid reddish brown firm coarse sand.
235	Cut of shallow pit. Sub-rectangular with rounded ends and corners and shallow concave sides breaking gently to near flat base.
236	Upper fill of Pit 239. Reddish brown slightly silty sand with common gravel.
237	Fill of Pit 239. Dark greyish brown to black sand with sparse charcoal flecks.
238	Basal fill of Pit 239. Mid reddish brown sand with sparse gravel.
239	Cut of sub-circular pit with steep near straight sides breaking sharply to near flat base

**Photo Register**

Film numbers 1 – 24 were used in previous phases. Film 25 not used.

**Film no. 26**

Film Type: Colour Slide and Colour Print

<b>Shot no.</b>	<b>Direction Facing</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	-	ID shot
2	SW	Post ex shot Pit 231
3	W	Post-ex shot Pit 233
4	S	Post-ex shot Pit 235

Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
5	NE	General view
6	E	General view
7	SE	General view
8	S	General view
9	SW	General view
10	E	Post-ex view of Pit 239

### Drawing Register

Drawing Number	Description
1-115	Used in previous phases
116A	South-west facing section Pit 231
116B	Post-ex plan Pit 231
116C	East facing section Pit 233.
116D	Post-ex plan Pit 233
116E	North facing section Pit 235.
116F	Post-ex plan Pit 235.
116G	West facing section Pit 239.
116H	Post-ex plan Pit 239.

### Finds Register

Context Number	Description
1	Single sherd prehistoric pottery. Undecorated body sherd (9 x 7 x 1.5 cm).

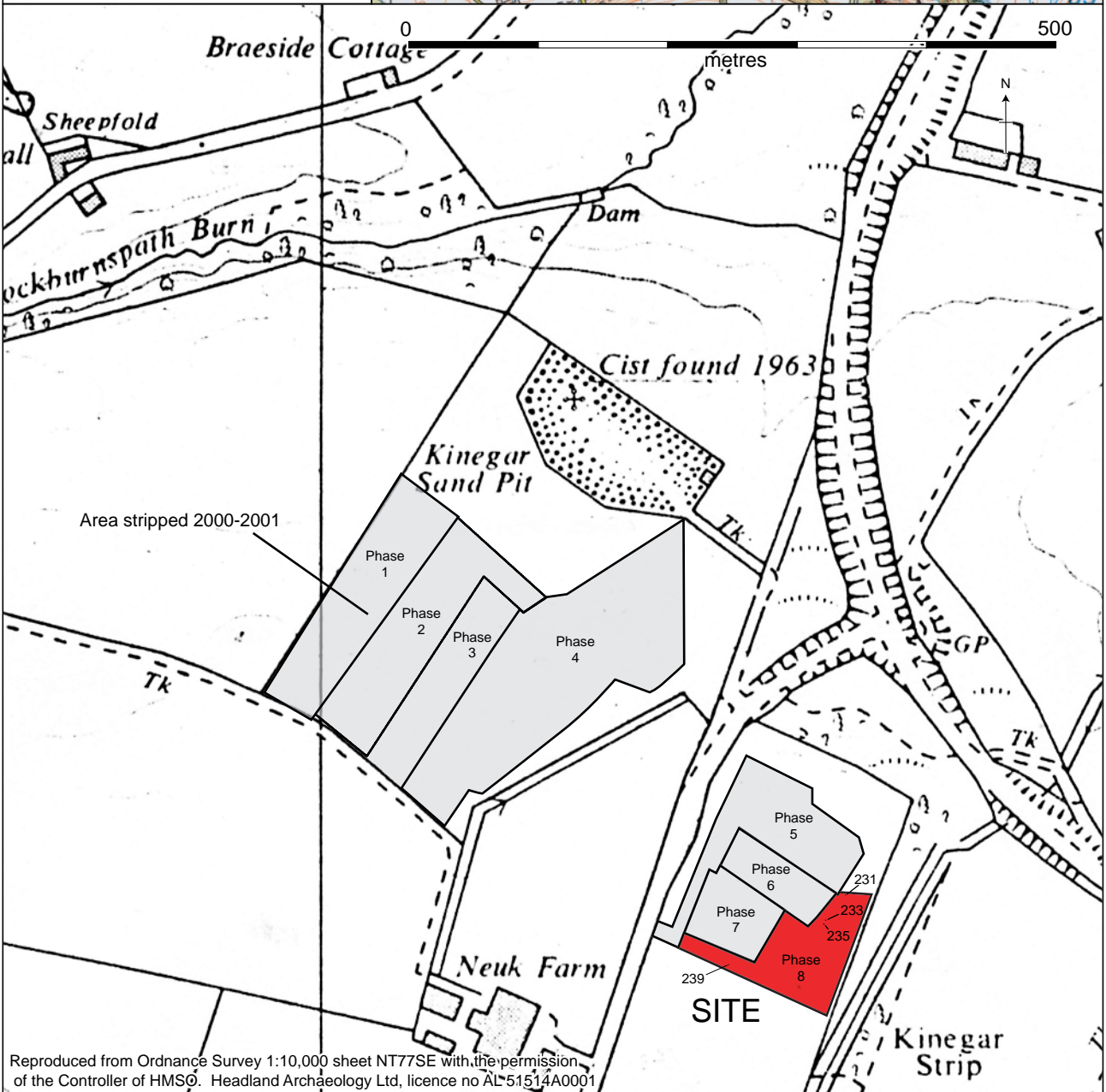
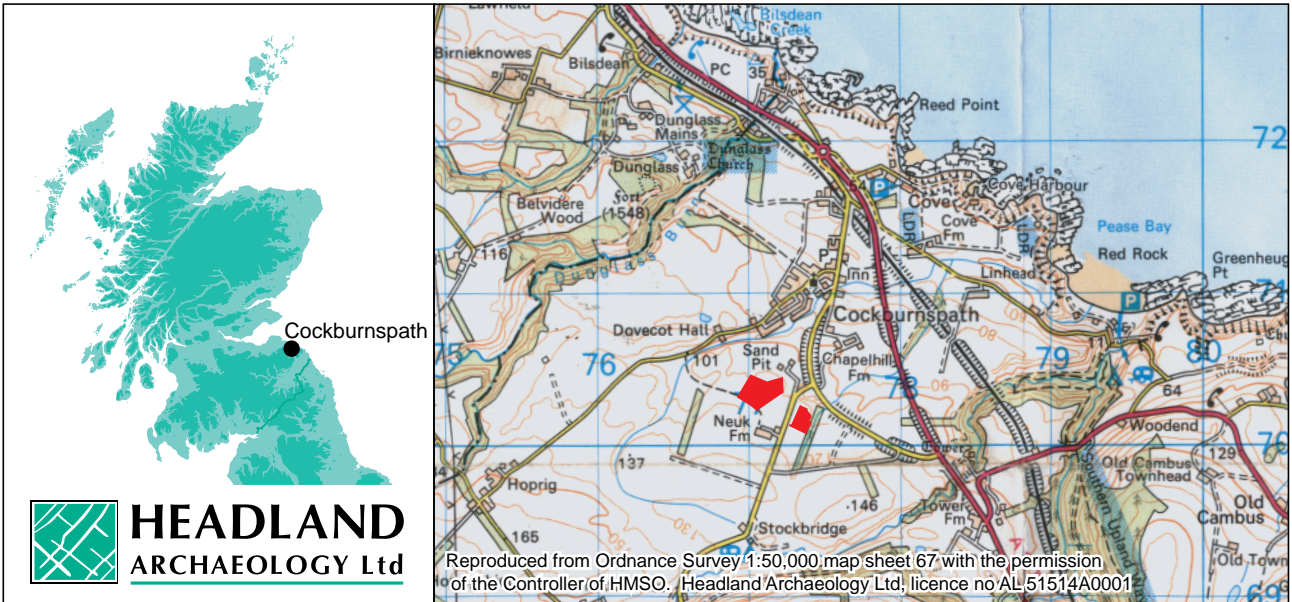


Figure 1. Kinegar Sand and Gravel: Site and Feature Location