

**ABERDEEN COLLEGE
MINTO DRIVE/MINTO AVENUE, ALTENS
ABERDEEN**



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Aberdeen City Council Archaeological Unit were employed by Ricky Connell, Archial Architects Ltd, 5/2 Mercantile Chambers, 53 Bothwell Street, Glasgow, G2 6TS to visit and report on a site at the south corner of Minto Avenue and Minto Drive, Altens, Aberdeen. The contractor, Mansell, had cleared the site and excavated bases for an extension to Aberdeen College prior to the arrival of the archaeologist.



Location plan

Introduction

This site occupies 8600sq m on the south side of the junction of Minto Drive to the north and Minto Ave to the west in Altens Industrial Estate. The surrounding land has been developed into small industrial units in the late 20th century. In the 19th century this was farmland and the site is immediately north of Wester Croft: no evidence of the croft, well or boundary walls survive. The area under development was used for a car and lorry park until 2009.



1867 Ordnance Survey map with site location

A site visit took place by Alison Cameron on Wednesday 15th July 2009. The site had been reduced in level substantially and rectangular bases dug for foundations.

At the north corner of the site (next to the junction of Minto Drive and Avenue) a section had been cut 2.5m deep through the existing ground. The section showed 0.2m of topsoil on top of bands of pink and grey boulder clay. This section shows the remains of the planted bund and the level of the natural boulder clays (see below).



- ← Topsoil on planted bund
- ← Bund
- ← Original ground level/base of bund
- ← Boulder clay natural

Location of section through bund and boulder clay



2006 Aerial photograph showing site as a car and lorry park and location of section recorded

The site had been scarped c. 1m below the original ground level (see section above) and bases dug below that. All bases were wholly dug into the natural boulder clay and no archaeological levels were observed.

Conclusions and recommendations

This site was probably scarped prior to its use as a car and lorry park. The bund around the site consisted of redeposited boulder clay; a layer of topsoil had been placed on the bund and planted. Any archaeological remains surviving at the site were presumably removed at this time.

No further archaeological work is required at this site during this current development (Aberdeen City Council City Development reference no A8/1737).