

13th or 14th century house found

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Archaeologists Asa Carlsson and Fiona McAuliffee (Tobar Archaeological Services 2004) examining some pottery uncovered at a site on the main street in Kilmallock, Co Limerick.

Photograph: Sean Curtin Press 22

Foundations of a medieval house dating back to the 13th or 14th century have been uncovered in the town centre of Kilmallock, Co Limerick.

Tobar Archaeological Services uncovered the foundations of the house after the developers of a retail and residential site at the junction of Sarsfield Street and Emmet Street were required to employ archaeologists before any building could commence. An early cobbled laneway has also been uncovered and there is evidence of a timber fence predating the laneway.

Ms Annette Quinn, head archaeologist for Tobar Archaeological Services, said: "Kilmallock is probably one of the best preserved medieval towns in the country in terms of its upstanding remains'. The walled town was constructed in the 13th century."

The team dug two metres deep and at the back of the site there is a ditch predating the houses where the residents discarded their domestic refuse. Shoes with well-preserved soles and pottery were found as well as other artefacts including leather, thousands of pieces of animal bones, a decorated stick pin of copper alloy, cess pit, wooden awl, stone mortar, sharpening stones and metal cauldron leg.

Kilmallock was inhabited by Anglo-Normans who would have lived on the excavation site.

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