

ABBREVIATIONS

- CDI—Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland, 1171—1307. 5 vols. London 1875-
 CLAJ—County L^o Kilkenny Archaeological Society
 Curtis—Calendar of Kilkenny Archaeological Society
 Dublin, 1932—43, edited by Edmund Curtis.
- JCHAS—Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society.
 JGAS—Journal of the Galway Archaeological Society.
 JRSAI—Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.
 LPK—Liber Primus Kilkenniensis, ed. and trans. J. Othway-Ruthven, Kilkenny, 1961.
 NMAJ—North Munster Antiquarian Journal.
 OKR—Old Kilkenny Review.



THE DISCOVERY OF A PORTION OF 13th CENTURY WALL AT KILKENNY CASTLE

CLAIR FOLEY

IN October and November 1973, during the preparation of ground for a new boiler house at the South East Corner of Kilkenny Castle, an archaeological investigation was undertaken by the Office of Public Works under the direction of C. Foley. It was hoped that foundations of an early corner tower would be found. Excavation in the area 8 x 14 metres, revealed a portion of a wall 1.80m. wide, which though not complete was standing to a height of 1.45m. This appears to have been a portion of an outer curtain, or bawn wall. It was not running parallel to the present South Castle wall, but at an angle to it on a N.W./S.E. axis. Twenty five sherds of 13th century pottery, and an assortment of nails were found in a layer of occupation debris lying at the base of this wall. This layer extended Northwards towards the present Castle Wall and averaged 60 cms. in thickness. It was blackest in the area next to the discovered portion of wall, becoming increasingly greyer towards the present Castle. It was overlain by a layer of soft mortar and small stones. This appears to be the debris of a collapsed building. Lying over this was an average of 4.50m. of redeposited boulder clay which has brought the old ground level up to the ground-floor window level of the present Castle.