TO LEARN MORE
Of How Our Ancestors
Lived

CO. LIMERICK EXCAVATIONS

EVIDENCE of a mediaeval house
built on top of a high mound
or rath is being uncovered in the
course of an excavation near
Ballylanders, Co. Limerick.

Owing to the kindness of Mr.
James Gubbins, the owner of the
land, the interesting Down
stony encampment is being
investigated by Mr. John Hunt,
of Lough Gur, assisted by students from Dublin
and America. A number of local men are employed in the work.

OBJECT OF EXCAVATION

The object of the excavation is
to discover the date of the Rath,
and learn something more of the
customs and way of life of our
ancestors. For this purpose broken
pottery and household
implements are more useful and informative
than coins or articles of value,
which may, have been treated for
generations before use, finally
which may, therefore, give an incorrect impression of the
date of the structure.

So far excavation has brought to
eight evidence of several successive
houses, each built over the remains of the previous structure.

DATING LATEST PERIOD OF
HABITATION

The work has not progressed
sufficiently far enough to
determine the date of the Rath,
but interesting and instructive fragments of pottery have already
been found, together with pennies of Edward I, thus dating the latest
period of its habitation to
the early fourteenth century, when it
is known from historical records that there was a large Norman
settlement in this area.

Prominent scholars and archaeologists who have visited the site
include Professor S. P. O. Riodain, the
doyen of Irish archaeologists, who is at the moment conducting
important excavations in Lough Gur and Professor O’Kelly of Cork, who is excavating at
Skibbereen.

Keen interest in the work is
being shown by farmers and
others from neighbouring parishes,
who have assisted by drawing attention to local rocks and monuments,
and by the local clergy.

BROOCH OF TARA SPECIES

Last week a brooch, with a
diameter of approximately 11 ins.
was unearthed. It had a long pin
attached and the find has gone away to be cleaned. The brooch is
of the Tara Brooch species.