

Excitement as Medieval Altar Kerb discovered

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Highland Archaeology Services workers were delighted when their excavations revealed a carved stone thought to be of 14th or 15th century origin.

Cait McCullagh, the company's medieval carved stone expert was called to site and immediately spotted the embossed cross and long sword that indicate that it was once a gravestone that has been cut in half to form the altar kerb at the west end of the church.

So - it looks as though the hole in the wall is indeed an aumbry.

The kerb continues under the central stone slab pathway - which is going to

have to come up as part of the church floor renovations - everyone is on tenterhooks to see if this too is carved.



The central stone slab pathways are being taken up in order to give a sound base for reflooring. This interesting carved stone fragment was found in the north aisle, and shows lions rampant - suggesting an association with the Ross family. From its depth it looks as though it would have been a memorial or house datestone. It is hoped that more fragments will be revealed as more of the paving is lifted.



Conservation work inside the church has been delayed by all this exciting - and very necessary - archeological work. When it begins there will be high level scaffolding and boarding fixed to allow access to the ceiling coombs. The lathe and plaster will be removed at the edges of the coomb in order to survey the ends of roof beams to assess the level of damage or rot.