The N25 Waterford City Bypass scheme is located in east County Waterford and south County Kilkenny. The total length of the scheme is 30km and it runs through agricultural land suitable for tillage and grazing. The topography is dominated by the River Suir which forms the provincial boundary between Munster and Leinster. Almost unique to road projects is a considerable part of the scheme runs along the bank of a river. Archaeologically, the area is dominated by Waterford City itself, founded by Vikings in the 10th-century.

A programme of archaeological test excavation was carried out along the entire length of the scheme. A total of 110 previously unknown sites of archaeological potential were identified as a result of this work. The excavation of these sites took place in 2003-2005 and analysis of the excavation results is ongoing. The archaeological work was carried out by Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd. (A.C.S. Ltd.), Archaeological Development Services Ltd., (A.D.S. Ltd.) and Headland Archaeology Ltd., on behalf of the National Roads Authority, Waterford County Council and Waterford City Council and Kilkenny County Council.

Some of the findings in on the N25 Waterford City Bypass:

1. Sword pommel
   Sword pommel found during excavations at Woodstown.

2. Decorative mount
   Decorative mount uncovered during excavations at Woodstown.

3. Silver ingot
   Silver ingot found during excavations at Woodstown.

4. Neolithic axe and arrowhead
   Neolithic stone axehead and arrowhead found during excavations at Newrath.

5. Standing stones
   View of standing stone and post-holes at Kilmurry after excavation. (Photo A.D.S. Ltd.)

6. Neolithic objects
   Neolithic objects scraper (left), knife (middle) and arrowhead (right) found during excavations at Newrath.

7. Watermill
   Aerial view of the vertical watermill uncovered at Killoteran. (Photo A.C.S. Ltd.)

8. Watermill
   Aerial view of the vertical watermill uncovered at Killoteran. (Photo A.C.S. Ltd.)

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mesolithic

Mesolithic activity and later prehistoric/medieval trackways, Newrath townland, County Kilkenny

This site was located on the eastern edge of a wetland area, Mesolithic deposits were located on a probable existing terrace now covered by recently cut grass. At the base of organic deposits in two areas, Mesolithic activity was encountered on the underlying boulder clay. Flint blades (‘Bann Flakes’) of Later Mesolithic date were found on the original dry land surface under 2-3m of peat. This area was subject to periodic inundation throughout prehistory. It is likely simple hurdles and brushwood trackways that were discovered here, were constructed to access dryer land in the marsh, for hunting, tending and breeding. Radiocarbon dating has shown that construction of these trackways took place in the Bronze Age, the Iron Age and the medieval era.

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Archaeological Discoveries: The N25 Waterford City Bypass, Counties Waterford and Kilkenny

N25 WATERFORD CITY BYPASS, Counties Waterford and Kilkenny

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**Neolithic**

The remains of a Neolithic house were identified in Granny. The house was formed by substantial wooden posts in a roughly square plan and excavations have uncovered evidence of a Neolithic house at Knockanagh Hill, overlooking Knockanagh, County Kilkenny. Other features under the mound suggest that this site could have been used for some sort of symbolic/ritual cleansing we will probably never know. The roofing material is unknown but we know that the structure was roughly square in plan.

**Bronze Age**

A small cist (stone-lined pit) was found at Kilmurry townland, County Kilkenny. The structure was roughly square in plan and excavations have uncovered evidence of a Neolithic house at Knockanagh Hill, overlooking Knockanagh, County Kilkenny. Other features under the mound suggest that this site could have been used for some sort of symbolic/ritual cleansing we will probably never know. The roofing material is unknown but we know that the structure was roughly square in plan.

**Early Medieval**

The earliest vertical watermill in Ireland was discovered in Knockanagh, County Kilkenny. Radiocarbon dates of AD 410-650 and AD 340-600 were associated with stone artefacts and pottery. This covered a central stone-lined cist containing a trough of a fulacht fiadh. The site was abandoned c. AD 1050, for reasons as yet unknown. The site was abandoned c. AD 1050, for reasons as yet unknown. The site was abandoned c. AD 1050, for reasons as yet unknown.