The new Loughrea Bypass extends around the north side of this historic town. It will relieve traffic congestion on the existing N6 Galway to Dublin road, which currently passes through the town, and will greatly enhance the environment of the town itself. In 2004, An Bord Pleanála approved the design of the road and also approved an order by the Council to make a compulsory purchase of the lands required to build it. Construction of the bypass was underway by the Autumn of that year to be completed by the end of 2005.

A programme of archaeological investigations on the route of the Loughrea Bypass was completed by the end of 2004 prior to the construction of the road by archaeologists funded by the National Roads Authority and Galway County Council.

**background**

**in brief:**

Some of the findings at Loughrea.

1. Male skeleton
   - An adult male skeleton from Tullagh Upper - one of four individuals buried in a wayside ditch during the incessant warfare of late 16th-century.

2. Penknife, spoon and halfpenny
   - A penknife, spoon and halfpenny (1742) from the excavated 18th-century house site at Tullagh Upper.

3. Field oven
   - An earthcut ‘field oven’ in Fairfield contained wood charcoals and deer antler.

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were literate and could buy in that period. The lake became a prosperous market and was not an empty land when De Burgo recorded another. His castle is long gone, but the geophysical survey has a long history. When the land was first inhabited, it was 2000 BC to 500 BC. This occurred in a low-lying, wet area that was once covered by a bog. Archeologists have dated hunting and fishing tools from crannógs and other places of that time. A crannóg or lake dwelling was considered a superior dwelling. Several small islands on the lake are remains of crannógs of the Uí Máine and Uí Neill dynasties. These islands were the common dwelling places of that time. A crannóg or lake dwelling was considered a superior dwelling. Several small islands on the lake are remains of crannógs of the Uí Máine and Uí Neill dynasties. These islands were the common dwelling places of that time. A crannóg or lake dwelling was considered a superior dwelling. Several small islands on the lake are remains of crannógs of the Uí Máine and Uí Neill dynasties. These islands were the common dwelling places of that time. A crannóg or lake dwelling was considered a superior dwelling. Several small islands on the lake are remain..