The N7 Nenagh–Limerick road scheme passes through the undulating pastureland of the Kilmastulla river valley of north Tipperary, flanked to the south-east and north-west by the Silvermines and Arra Mountains respectively, and crosses three substantial wetlands.

It will provide a dual carriageway connecting the N7 Limerick Southern Ring Road to the N7 Nenagh Bypass, a distance of 27.8 km. The scheme will also involve the upgrading of the N7 Nenagh Bypass to dual carriageway (c. 10 km) and the provision of a link road connecting the mainline to the village of Birdhill on the existing N7.

The Environmental Impact Statement for the scheme was prepared by Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd in 2003. Townland boundaries and watercourses crossed by the scheme were surveyed and recorded, as were all upstanding structures. Test trenching of the route was carried out by Aegis Archaeology Ltd and Judith Carroll & Co. Ltd in 2006.

Excavation of the 150 archaeological sites identified, undertaken by Aegis Archaeology Ltd, Headland Archaeology Ltd, TVAS (Ireland) Ltd and the Archaeological Services Unit Ltd (UCC), was completed in July 2007. Post-excavation analysis is currently underway.

All of the archaeological works were carried out on behalf of the National Roads Authority and Limerick County Council in conjunction with North Tipperary County Council.
Excavations in 2006 on a gravel mound in Tullamore, on the outskirts of Nenagh, revealed that it had been partly enclosed by a palisade during the Neolithic period. The structure of the palisade fence was also identified, as well as evidence for the later addition of another mound, the introduction of internal layers of gravel. The artefacts recovered included TC was an important source of Early Neolithic pottery and reveal new context for the area in Tullamore. The likely site of the large house was discovered in the vicinity of the town.

Ballynahinch, 100 m to the east, an extensive man-made gravel mound was also discovered. Although as yet undated, it is possible that the platform was related to the nearby Neolithic site in Tullamore.

The remains of two roughly oval-shaped structures were discovered, as well as evidence for the later use of iron woodworking tools. An early medieval site on the outskirts of Nenagh was also identified, with a primarily industrial purpose associated with either a massive palisaded enclosure or a large medieval enclosure.

The discovery of numerous quern-stone fragments and the presence of metal artefacts indicate the possible internal and external palisade trenches.

Potential detection survey recovered 5th to 12th-century coins, bucket-handle pots, iron and possible lead slag. This site was probably a 17th-century settlement and was an important discovery for the archeological community and interpretation of settlement and conflict sites from this period in Ireland.