what we found

in brief:

Some of the findings at Cashel.

1. Flint Knife
   Neolithic flint knife from Owen’s and Bigg’s Lot.

2. Pottery
   Bronze Age Beaker pottery uncovered during excavations at Windmill.

3. Flints
   Two Early Mesolithic flint blades from Farranamanagh.

4. Coins
   Coin from a hoard of 18 silver pennies from the reign of Edward II 1307-1327 uncovered during excavations at Cooper’s Lot.

5. Pottery
   Rim sherd from a medieval pottery vessel uncovered at Monadreela.

6. Flints
   Neolithic Flint scraper found beside a flat cist cemetery at Owen’s and Bigg’s Lot.

background

The intricacies of designing a modern road through the rich archaeological landscape that surrounds Cashel were immense. Only one Recorded Monument was impacted upon; an ancient highway the ‘Rian Bo Phadriag’ or ‘Track of Saint Patrick’s Cow’ which was later discovered to have no archaeological significance. The bypass begins 3km northwest of Cashel at Gortmakellis, skirting Ballyknock hill, and meets the existing Tipperary road west of Cashel. No archaeological works took place north of the Rock of Cashel, within the ancient ‘Plains of Cashel’. Ten potential archaeological sites identified were investigated through a programme of test excavation undertaken by Mary Henry Archaeological Services Ltd., in 2001. The results confirmed archaeological material dating from as early as the Late Neolithic period. A programme of the first test excavations and resolution was undertaken by Judith Carroll Network Archaeology Ltd. in 2003 along the entire route. All of the archaeological work was carried out on behalf of the National Roads Authority and South Tipperary County Council.

The archaeological sites discovered spanned the entire 7km length of the bypass and the 1.9km length of the Link Road. These included the first discovery of its kind from Cashel, and the first evidence for rural medieval settlement in Cashel. A programme of the first test excavations and resolution was undertaken by Judith Carroll Network Archaeology Ltd. in 2003 along the entire route. All of the archaeological work was carried out on behalf of the National Roads Authority and South Tipperary County Council.
Two small flint blades (known as microblades) were recovered from a linear feature found in Farranamanagh townland. The find is not related to Cashel and these finds represent the earliest human evidence for the area.

A Neolithic flat cremation cemetery consisting of over twenty cist burials was discovered south of Cashel at Owen’s-and-Bigg’s-Lot townland. This unique site was situated on the east-facing slope of a prominent hill, atop which lies the well-known Windmill Leper Hospital, which is a surprising discovery in the Cashel area.

The close relationship of the ring-ditch site and Kilkeeley-Cashel suggests an interesting period of interaction between these two sites. The Kilkeeley-Cashel site was likely the focal point for a larger settlement, with the ring-ditch site serving as a defensive feature.

The Kilkeeley-Cashel site was situated on a prominent hill, and the ring-ditch site was likely a defensive feature. The Kilkeeley-Cashel site was likely the focal point for a larger settlement, with the ring-ditch site serving as a defensive feature.

The Kilkeeley-Cashel site was situated on a prominent hill, and the ring-ditch site was likely a defensive feature. The Kilkeeley-Cashel site was likely the focal point for a larger settlement, with the ring-ditch site serving as a defensive feature.