The N8 Rathcormac-Fermoy Scheme is 17km in length and extends from the northern end of the new N8 Glanmire-Watergrasshill Bypass, passing to the west of Rathcormac and to the east of Fermoy, linking into the existing N8 to Cork on Dublin road at Mountrath. An extensive programme of archaeological investigations were carried out in advance of construction. A total of 44 sites were archaeologically investigated. The work was carried out by Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd. (A.C.S. Ltd.) on behalf of the National Roads Authority and Cork County Council.

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1. Neolithic pottery
   Western Neolithic pottery uncovered during excavations at Curraghprevin. (Photo A.C.S. Ltd.)

2. Bronze Age houses
   Three Bronze Age houses uncovered at Ballybrowney Lower. (Photo A.C.S. Ltd.)

3. Fulacht fiadh
   Timber-lined trough from a Fulacht Fiadh uncovered at Fermoy. (Photo A.C.S. Ltd.)

4. Flare kiln
   Post-medieval flare kiln uncovered at Mondaniel. (Photo A.C.S. Ltd.)

5. Corn-drying kiln
   Early medieval corn-drying kiln uncovered at Fermoy. (Photo A.C.S. Ltd.)

6. Corn-drying kiln
   Early medieval corn-drying kiln uncovered at Scartbarry. (Photo A.C.S. Ltd.)

Settlement/habitation
Investigations at Curraghprevin revealed two temporary structures and a number of domestic rubbish pits. One structure consisted of five post and stake-holes, forming a slight U-shaped structure opened to the south. A second, more substantial structure consisted of post and stake-holes with an entranceway to the north. This structure may have been used as a seasonal house. Several hearths and pits were identified nearby. Some of the features were dated to 3090-2580 BC. Finds recovered included Early Neolithic pottery, two flint blades and flint scrapers.

Burnt mound
In the townland of Fermoy, excavations revealed the badly truncated remains of a burnt mound found in association with a pit containing cremated bone and a case of first polish corn. Radiocarbon dating has produced an early date of 3090-2580 BC for this site.

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Published 2005
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bronze age

Settlement/habitation

At Scartbarry, evidence of a possible Bronze Age settlement was uncovered. This consisted of a surrounding ditch enclosed with two circular ditches and a group of 30 oblongs, although an apparent structural plan on topographic survey was deemed to be within the area of lower undulations of lower courses. Pottery and a small stone axe were also recovered. The ditch was dated to 1760-1420 BC.

At Maulane East, near Fermoy, a substantial Bronze Age enclosure was uncovered. This consisted of a burnt mound of heat, a concentration of pits and post-holes, which appeared to have been contemporary. A date of 1760-1420 BC was assigned to the site.

At Ballybrowney, a Bronze Age settlement was investigated. At the northern end of the site, a late Neolithic gap-ditch was exposed. Further to the north-east of the site, a large, stone-flagged hearth was identified. Two entranceways were identified, one to the north-west and one to the south. The entranceways were defined by large planks of stone, which would have held substantial gate posts. Located centrally within the enclosure was a stone-lined slot-trench measuring 1.63m in diameter and 0.17m in depth. The trough was sub-rectangular in plan, measuring 1.63m in diameter. The final trough was sub-circular in plan and had an elongated porch-like entrance to the north. This structure was clearly in use between 1760-1420 BC. At Fermoy, investigations revealed a spread of heat-stationed in association with a trough and five Walton kiln post-holes, measuring approximately 40cm in diameter and 0.70m x 2m were placed horizontally, filling the base of the disused earlier kiln. A third kiln of later date was later modified to produce a smaller kiln within the dished area. A multi-period site was revealed at Ballykelly Lower, which comprised three unconnected Early Bronze Age houses, three Middle Bronze Age enclosures and evidence of Late Bronze Age activity. The first house was circular in plan and consisted of two houses. Two entrances were located to the east, comprising two substantial post-holes. The structure was round in plan and had an angled west-east entrance to the southeast. It was approximately 500 m long. Based on the evidence, the site may have formed part of dwelling floors or occupational surfaces. The partial remains of an internal cobbled area were also identified. The site was dated to 1760-1420 BC.

In the third enclosure, dated to 1710-1560 BC, lay to the east of the second and to the north-east of the first. Approximately half of the enclosure was exposed within the excavation area. The third enclosure has been dated to 1710-1560 BC.

Further to the north, at the western end of the excavation area an undecorated bowl and two post-holes was identified. The bowl was sub-rectangular in plan and had rounded corners and a maximum diameter of approximately 38m. A causewayed entranceway was recorded at the northern end of the site. The causewayed entrance was recorded at the northern end of the site. The causewayed entrance was recorded at the northern end of the site and had an elongated entranceway to the north. This structure was clearly in use between 1760-1420 BC.

Evacuations at Kilmore identified a badly damaged bath (field) consisting of a burnt mound of heat and a large, stone-lined slot-trench. The trough was oval in plan and consisted of fragments of burnt stone. The post-holes were located to the side of the trough. The site has been dated to 1760-1420 BC.

At Fermoy, investigations revealed a spread of heat-stationed in association with a trough and five Walton kiln post-holes, measuring approximately 40cm in diameter and 0.70m x 2m. A causewayed entranceway lay to the north-east of the first. Approximately half of the enclosure was exposed within the excavation area. The ditch was dated to 1760-1420 BC.

Further to the north, at the western edge of the excavation area, archaeologists encountered a spread of heat-stationed in association with a trough and five Walton kiln post-holes, measuring approximately 40cm in diameter and 0.70m x 2m. A causewayed entranceway lay to the north-east of the first. Approximately half of the enclosure was exposed within the excavation area. The ditch was dated to 1760-1420 BC.

Further to the north, at the western edge of the excavation area, archaeologists encountered a spread of heat-stationed in association with a trough and five Walton kiln post-holes, measuring approximately 40cm in diameter and 0.70m x 2m. A causewayed entranceway lay to the north-east of the first. Approximately half of the enclosure was exposed within the excavation area. The ditch was dated to 1760-1420 BC.