

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION UNDER WAY AT BYPASS



AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL investigation, which is currently under way as part of the New Ross Bypass project, may have unveiled a potential neolithic house in Ryleen.

Just under thirty archaeologists from Headland Archaeology, from Cork and Galway, are currently surveying the Arnestown and Ryleen areas, having been based in the Camblin area for the past number of weeks.

Headland Archaeology were contracted by Wexford County Council and the National Roads Authority to carry out an archaeological investigation of 12 per cent of the overall footprint of the bypass project to include any link in roads.

According to Ross MacLeod (pictured, inset), Director of Headland Archaeology,

a number of fulacht fiadhs have been found which can date from the Bronze Age through to medieval times. Archaeologists also uncovered some cremation pits, which more than likely date back to the Bronze Age, cemeteries and possible burial urns.

However, possibly the most significant find is a potential neolithic house in Ryleen.

'We don't know at the moment. We won't know until we get out dating evidence back,' said Ross.

'Things like fulacht fiadh are very com-



mon in the landscape. Wexford, because of its good soil, doesn't aid the preservation of archaeology well due to the farming nature of the land and working on the soil,' he explained.

It is expected that the archaeological investigation will be ongoing for the next three months.

Ross MacLeod hopes that Headland Archaeology will be able to host an open day to all members of the public during their investigation.

'We hope to do that when we are doing the excavation so people in New Ross see what is in their back garden,' he added.