

# THE FOUNDATIONS OF BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT IN THE KILMASTULLA VALLEY

The Kilmastulla River Valley is situated between the Arra and Silvermines Mountains in Co. Tipperary. This valley was a focus of activity in the Bronze Age as is demonstrated by numerous Recorded Monuments - barrows, settlement sites and *fulachta fiadh*. Excavations carried out on the N7 Nenagh-Limerick Road Project in 2006/7 have greatly enhanced this picture with a range of excavated sites that, although undated, are typical of the Bronze Age.

This poster focuses on 11 roundhouses excavated by TVAS (Ireland) Ltd.



E2552 Ballynahinch Site 1 House 1

E2552 Ballynahinch Site 1 House 2

The evidence suggests that Bronze Age houses in Ireland were generally sub-circular structures with south-east facing entrances.

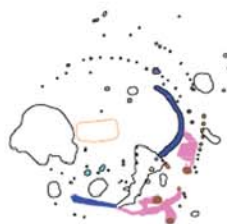


E3327 Carrigatogher (Ryan) Site 3 House 1



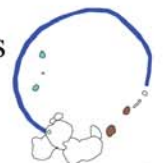
E2552 Ballynahinch Site 1 House 3

Although stone was used in some upland areas, most houses were built of wood, some being entirely post-built whilst others had walls that sat in narrow trenches. Presumably the houses had thatched roofs with insubstantial wattle and daub walls.



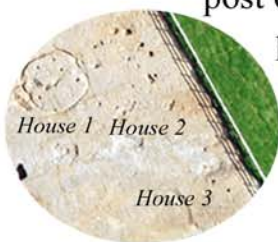
E3327 Carrigatogher (Ryan) Site 3 House 2

The houses illustrated here conformed to this pattern with diameters of 2-9m and, where visible, south-east facing entrances.

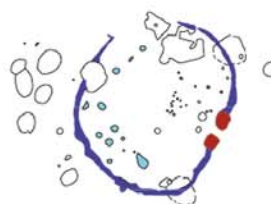


E2479 Ballywilliam Site 1

The houses displayed differences in design and method of construction. Some were simple circuits of postholes, others were more complex arrangements of gullies with internal and external circuits of post or stakeholes. Some examples had what appeared to be porches at the entrances. Internal hearths were the exception and finds were few.



E2285 Carrigatogher (Harding) Site 5



E2287 Carrigatogher (Abbott) Site 1



E2552 Ballynahinch Site 1 House 4

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