A NEW book detailing the archaeology of the Limerick Southern Ring Road has been launched in King John’s Castle by Mayor Kathleen Leddin.

River Road charts the history of the architecture which lines the Southern Ring Road, which takes in Rosbrien, and a number of other places throughout Co Limerick.

Mayor Kathleen Leddin emphasised the importance of all the archaeological work which preceded the construction of the link road.

She said it successfully struck the balance between “safeguarding sites of heritage and historical importance and continuing with the development of transport and infrastructure projects that seek to improve the quality of lives for those who live here.”

“River Road is testament to the expertise and efforts of the archaeologists involved in these projects,” Mayor Leddin added.

Representing Limerick County Council, Cllr Mary Jackman added: “The launch of this new publication this evening not only celebrates Limerick’s varied and rich past, but it also puts into context the significant changes that have occurred in this city during recent years.”

Nora Bermingham, Frank Coyne, Graham Hull, Fiona Reilly and Kate Taylor worked on the book.

Cllr Jackman praised these people, saying: “By producing this book you have helped to record important archaeological sites and in the course of doing so, provide a valuable reference resource for future generations to acknowledge, appreciate and understand Limerick’s rich heritage.”

Paul O’Keefe, NRA archaeologist spoke on behalf of the NRA, and expressed the authority’s thanks to all involved in the project, in particular the authors.

He also drew attention to the fused glass sculpture by artist James Egan, NRA, Sarah McCutcheon, Limerick County Council and Ronan Swan, NRA, at the launch of the book in King John’s Castle earlier in the evening.

To launch River Road, Dr Pat Wallace, Limerick man and former director of the National Museum, gave a talk, encompassing many subjects, from the forthcoming merger of Limerick City and County Council to the historical significance of roads.

He took the opportunity to praise the NRA for publishing the book, which he described as “informative and brilliant.”

To get a copy of the book, contact Paul O’Keefe at 084-496800.