



HIBERNO ⊕ NORSE ⊕ WIRRAL

pottery & ceramics

Pottery & Ceramics were an important part of everyday life for the local Hiberno Norse. Pottery vessels can be used in a wide variety of items from food storage to weights for weaving.

The knowledge use of clay and firing methods showed the craftsmanship that went into pottery creation.

The choice of clay utilised depended upon what the craftsman could obtain and the quality of the clay in regard to its strength and structure. Different firing methods can be used to harden the pottery to give it strength. These firing methods depended upon the region they were fired in.

Ceramic items could be used for cooking, transporting food and liquids and as other items like bowls and jugs. The shape and decoration reflected the different cultural motifs of the location and time.

The vikings were known for trade and a large variety of pottery styles have been found showing this unique trade.

The clay was usually quarried locally from places like river banks and processed to remove stones and impurities. It would be gently washed and rolled to remove air bubbles that could cause fractures during firing.

Coarse-clay materials were ideal for larger, stronger vessels such as storage vessels and cookware. Fine-clay materials, were used for finer, decorative pieces. After processing the clay they would make coil pots or use moulds to make decorative shapes that they could then fire in open fires or more complicated kilns of wood or peat.

