

Carrowkeel Pots



Item: Carrowkeel Pots

Date: 3350-3110 B.C.

Find Location: Tara – The Mound of the Hostages

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

The passage tomb named ‘The Mound of the Hostages’ or *Duma na nGiall* (sometimes *Dumha-na-Ngiall*) positioned on the north-south ridge of the Hill of Tara. Carrowkeel pottery is found in a number of Neolithic burials, usually in a broken form. It takes its name for the Carrowkeel Passage Tombs in Sligo. Middle Irish Neolithic Carrowkeel ware is an open, decorated globular bowl of coarse fabric and is possibly best suited for food and drink, rather than just storage. The occurrence of complete Carrowkeel pots in the Mound of the Hostages and Knockroe passage tombs does suggest that they may have been originally deposited intact. Carrowkeel pots are generally decorated on the whole outer surface of the vessel. The dominant decorative devices comprise either a series of looped rows of indentations, as is found on the examples from the Mound of the Hostages. Carrowkeel ware is associated with cremation and burial as great quantities of ashes are found buried under the passages, chambers and recesses of these monuments.

Further Information:

Duma na nGiall, The Mound of the Hostages, Tara Muiris O’Sullivan.

http://www.knowth.com/tara_book.htm

https://www.ucd.ie/news/mar06/030306_mound_of_the_hostages.htm

www.undergraduatelibrary.org/system/files/2226.pdf

Knowth Macehead



nef

Item: Macehead

Date: 3300-2800 BC

Find Location: Knowth

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

This flint macehead, found beneath the eastern chamber tomb at the passage tomb at Knowth, is one of the finest works of art to have survived from Neolithic Europe. A piece of very hard pale-grey flint, flecked with patches of brown, was carved on all of its six surfaces with diamond shapes and swirling spirals. At the front they seem to form a human face, with the shaft hole as a gaping mouth. Measuring 7.90 cm in length and weighing approximately 324 g, the macehead has a cylindrical perforation towards its narrower end, which would have held a wooden handle. An object of exceptional craftsmanship the mace-head was probably a prestigious symbol of religious or political authority. It was discovered in 1982 during an excavation carried out by Dr George Eogan. It was discovered by Liam O'Connor, who found it sitting on the old ground surface between two large stone jams that defined the entrance into the northern recess of the tomb.

Further Information:

Eogan, G. & Richardson, H. 1982 'Two Maceheads from Knowth, Co. Meath' in *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Vol. 112, pp. 124

Waddel, J. 1998. *The Prehistoric Archaeology of Ireland*, Galway University Press, Galway, p. 74

Eogan, G. & Richardson, H. 1982 'Two Maceheads from Knowth, Co. Meath' in *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Vol. 112, p. 123

<http://www.knowth.com/knowth-mace-head.htm>

<http://irisharchaeology.ie/2013/02/the-knowth-macehead/>

<http://www.newgrange.com/knowth-macehead.htm>

Phallic Stone



nef

Item: Phallic Stone

Date: Neolithic Period 3300 – 2800 B.C.

Find Location: Knowth – near the entrance to western passage

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland, Dublin.

Description:

A long, thin stone, with a groove along one side and ribs along the other, terminating in a headpiece with three engraved ovals. Generally described as a phallic object, it may have been used as a sight piece for making astronomical observations, a measuring device or as a holder for a stringed pendulum. As a phallus-shaped stone it might suggest that fertility rituals were part of this mystique. Discovered in 1970 in a small depression outside the western tomb entrance at Knowth.

Further Information:

George Eogan 1984, Excavations at Knowth 1, Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.

George Eogan 1986, Knowth and the passage-tombs of Ireland, Thames & Hudson, London.

Neolithic Period - Meath Virtual Museum – Noel French

Amulet Loughcrew



Item: Axe Amulet

Date: 3300-2800 BC

Find Location: Loughcrew

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

This amulet axe has a sharp edge but was most likely a ritual object. Found at the passage graves in Loughcrew.

Further Information: