



CURRAGHACORR type house, Bronze Age





The houses built at this time are much more permanent than those of earlier times. The Neolithic house builders chose the site of their homes very well; they needed to be close to water, good arable land, land for animals to graze on, with building materials such as wood nearby also. The remains of the house found at Lough Gur provided enough evidence for archaeologists to extrapolate what the whole house would have

looked like. Reconstructions of Neolithic houses can be seen at the Ulster History Park, Omagh, Co. Tyrone and also at Lough Gur, Co. Limerick.



The earliest examples of pottery found in Neolithic times are plain not over decorated bowls with a 'shoulder' or a 'neck' to separate the top from the containment area. A variety of colours of pottery came about due to different clay used and different firing methods. In the later Neolithic the pottery becomes more decorative. Most pottery has been found at the excavations of burial sites, remains were cremated and the burnt bones buried along with the urns. Some of the later decorated pottery was probably used as status symbols by the leaders of the communities.





This left them more time to create artworks and decorated utensils. The decorated macehead found at Knowth is one of the most beautiful pieces of art that has come down to us from Neolithic times. It would have been used for ceremonial purposes.



**Decorative Jewellery in the form of beads and pendants were produced by the Neolithic peoples. They were made from stone, and bone and even the teeth of animals, as in the example from Annaghmare, Co. Armagh of a bear's tooth pendant. There are no examples yet of amber or jet beads from this time period.**