



HIBERNO ⊕ NORSE ⊕ WIRRAL

Fishing

Fishing was a major part of life for the local Hiberno Norse of Wirral. What is interesting is the different forms that took.

Although we do not have direct evidence it is assumed that boats were used for coastal fishing from places like meols. Used from Roman times the area would have boats pulled up on shore after a day of net fishing.

The flow of water at high tides through what is now the Birkenhead docks area. (Once a mile wide inlet), and the inlet at Meols and Hoylake suggests the use of nets to capture fish that frequented the area. The nets would be placed to capture any fish as the tide brought water into the 'Inland Sea' area. A large area of Wirral would flood at high tide allowing fish to be easily caught.

Core samples taken inland show the marshy area as it once was with a small reminder of the past in the area around Bidston Moss.

Eels were a popular food source for the local population maybe caught in bucks or baskets.

The Domesday Book had a large number of locations with Eel rents put on them. In England in the 10th / 11th Century there were 221 Eel agreements to pay a total of 539,785 Eels to King William.

Curiously a lot of these grants are for inland landlocked locations suggesting access to a local river network or Eel ponds and fishing ponds at these locations, including Upton, landlocked but with an eel rent of 1000 eels every year.

