

DUBLIN CITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARCHIVE

Reference Code	DCAA.01.09
Title	Spencer Dock, Dublin 1 (03E0654)
Creation Dates	2003-2004
Level of Description	Collection
Extent and Medium	2 boxes, 1 outsize folder
Creators	Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.
Administrative/Biographical History	Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd., Rath House, Ferndale Road, Rathmichael, Co. Dublin, is a professional archaeological company founded in the early 1980s. The company has carried out numbers of archaeological excavations and development-led investigations arising from the requirements of development control and planning process, in line with legal provisions of the Planning and Development Acts (2000) and the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004) and Amendments Acts. The Spencer Dock Collection is one of many site archives that has been generated through these development-led excavations.

The excavation of the site under the licence 03E0654 was carried out for Spencer Dock Development Company Ltd. Monitoring and excavation were carried out on the site of Building C, Spencer Dock, between January and September of 2004. Three principal phases of activity were uncovered. Monitoring on the site of a northern block (RSTUV) was also carried out. To date (2004), 19th-century foundation remains have been uncovered.

Phase 1 was Late Mesolithic and relates to fishing and other activity carried out when the Liffey estuary occupied the south of the site. The remains of wooden fish traps, stake rows and miscellaneous pieces of worked wood were preserved in the waterlogged silts. A semicircular wicker structure or fish trap comprised stakes and a series of smaller upright rods, around which rushes had been woven. A radiocarbon date of 6090-5840 cal. BC was returned for this feature. Along the shoreline to the south-west of the fish trap was a deposit of horizontally set roundwoods, radiocarbon dated to 6070-5890 cal. BC. In the south of the site was a row of 36 stakes aligned northeast/south-west; a date of 5920-5720 cal BC was obtained for one of these stakes. Along the western shoreline, to the north of the western stakes, were the remains of a wicker-basket-type structure and a group of stakes, dated to 5990-5750 cal. BC. On the west of the site were two rows of rods and stakes, a horizontal panel of wicker (dated to 6100-5970 cal. BC) and a fragmentary wicker fence. The fish traps were constructed mainly but not exclusively of hazel and were in a good state of preservation.

Phase 2 was the reclamation of land from the estuary and its floodwaters. Artefacts recovered from these reclamation deposits have been dated to the 18th and 19th centuries.

The third phase was the development of the reclaimed land. From the later 18th up to the 20th century a series of structural remains were founded on the reclamation deposits and the site was drained by a series of brick culverts cut into these deposits. In the south of the site, were the remains of a circular masonry structure. Its location roughly corresponds with the windmill at North Wall Quay, which burned down late in 1810. The western wall of a warehouse was uncovered, partly overlying, and post-dating, the windmill wall.

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To the north, west and south of the windmill structure were a series of 19th- and 20th-century walls and basement floors. A series of five arched vaults was uncovered along the street front and extending under the road. These vaults were filled in and remain in situ.

Archival History

Transferred by Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd. To Dublin City Archives, 25 September 2009

Scope and Content

This collection contains archaeological excavation records from the site Spencer Dock, Dublin 1, by Melanie McQuade. Includes notebooks, feature sheets, timber sheets, wooden stake sheets, registers, reports, administrative material, floppy discs, plans, drawings and photographs.

Appraisal destruction and scheduling information

Accruals

Arrangement

Collection processed and box lists created by Niamh Collins. Arranged according to document type.

Access Conditions

Available for public research 25 September 2012. During closure period available for research to Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.

Reproduction

The terms of the Copyright and Related Acts (2000) allows DCLA to provide photocopies of material for research purposes only. Researchers wishing to publish will be obliged to write to Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd. for permission to do so.

Language

English

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

Floppy disc drive required

Finding Aid

Box list in reading room and below

Existence of copies/originals

Related Material

DCAA, particularly DCAA.01.20 (also Spencer Dock Material)

Publication Note

Database of Irish excavations reports, www.excavations.ie

Notes

This collection is 1 of 2 collections of Spencer Dock material. The other collection is DCAA.01.20

Archivist's Note

Niamh Collins

Rules or Conventions

ISAD(G): General International Standards Archival Description. 2nd ed. Ottawa: International Council on Archives, 2000

Dates of Description

04-06/10/2010