

10.6 Appendices for Chapter 8.0

This appendix contains a brief 'quick guide' for those investigating Iron Age and Romano-British salt-production sites in southern Britain. This includes a collection of simple 'working area' diagrams, as well as the briquetage typologies, photographs and suggested terminology for the recording of sites.

Identifying and Recording Iron Age and Romano-British Salt-Production Sites in Southern Britain

This brief guide contains key information about the character of Iron Age and Romano-British salt-production sites in southern Britain. It is not an exhaustive 'typology', as sites are very diverse, however it does contain useful overviews and can aid in provisional identification and recording.

First of all, an overview of the most common techniques are provided, as understanding the stages of salt-production are key to identifying the archaeological remains. Key information is provided in grey boxes.

Main Stages of Salt-Production

- Stage 1: Water Management** (Settling Sediments, Solar Concentration of Brine/Concentrating of Brine from Ash)
- Stage 2: Artificial Evaporation** (Heating of Brine, Salt Crystallisation)
- Stage 3: Drying of Salt**
- Stage 4: Debris Deposition**

Iron Age and Romano-British Techniques of Coastal Salt-Production in Southern Britain

Technique I

Saltwater supplied to the site by natural saltwater inlets and/or man-made feeder channels

Saltwater supplied to the site by manually retrieving it directly from the sea using containers

1

Saltwater poured into tanks to concentrate into brine using **Solar Evaporation** and to allow sediments to settle at the bottom of the tank



2

Concentrated brine then transferred to clay or metal flat containers and **Artificially Evaporated** over a hearth fire. Crystallised salt removed from the top of the brine



Washing of salt in freshwater and processing for taste and appearance



Wet salt transferred to a rounded container and dried over a gentle heat using a simple hearth



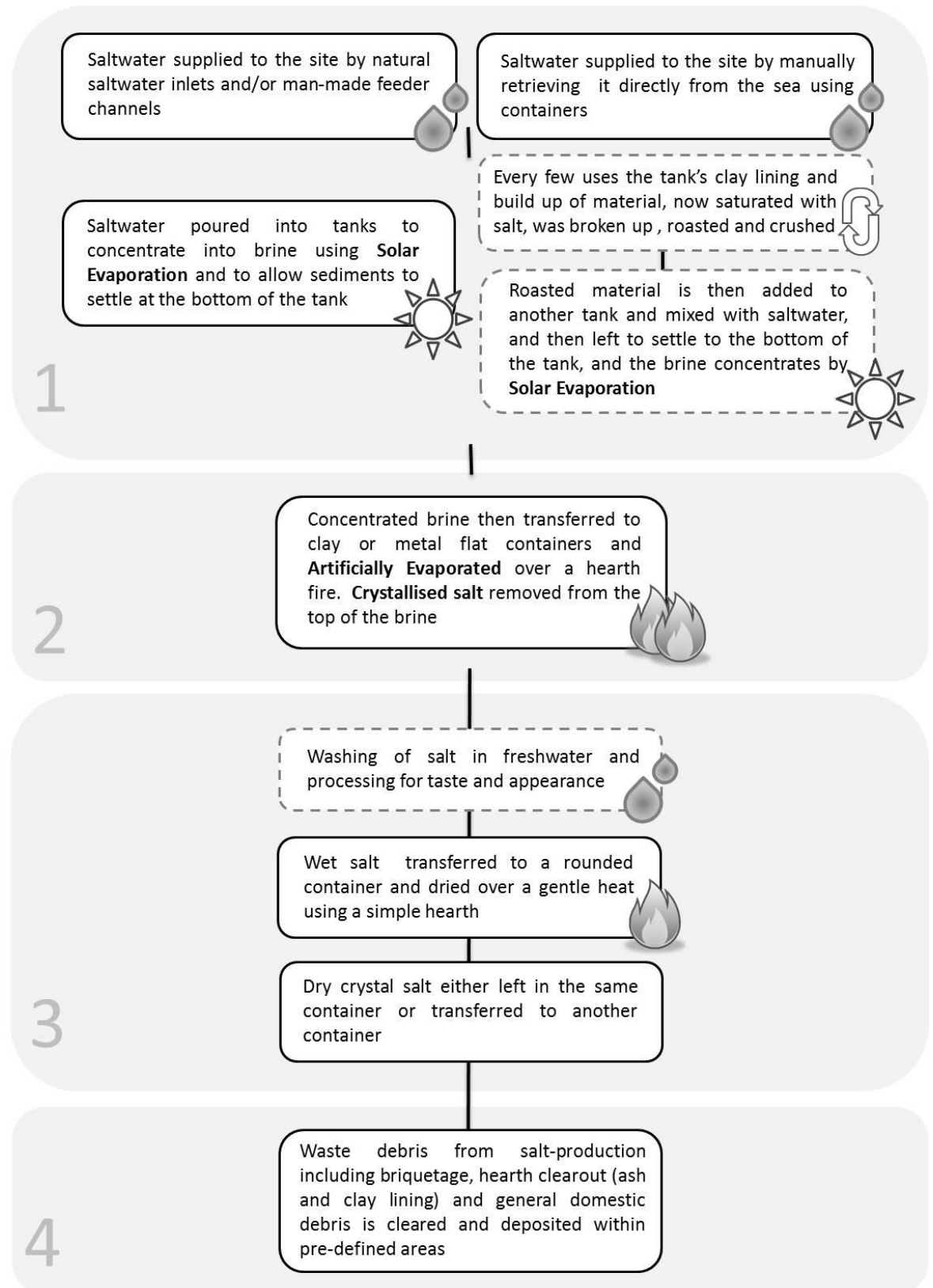
3

Dry crystal salt either left in the same container or transferred to another container and covered

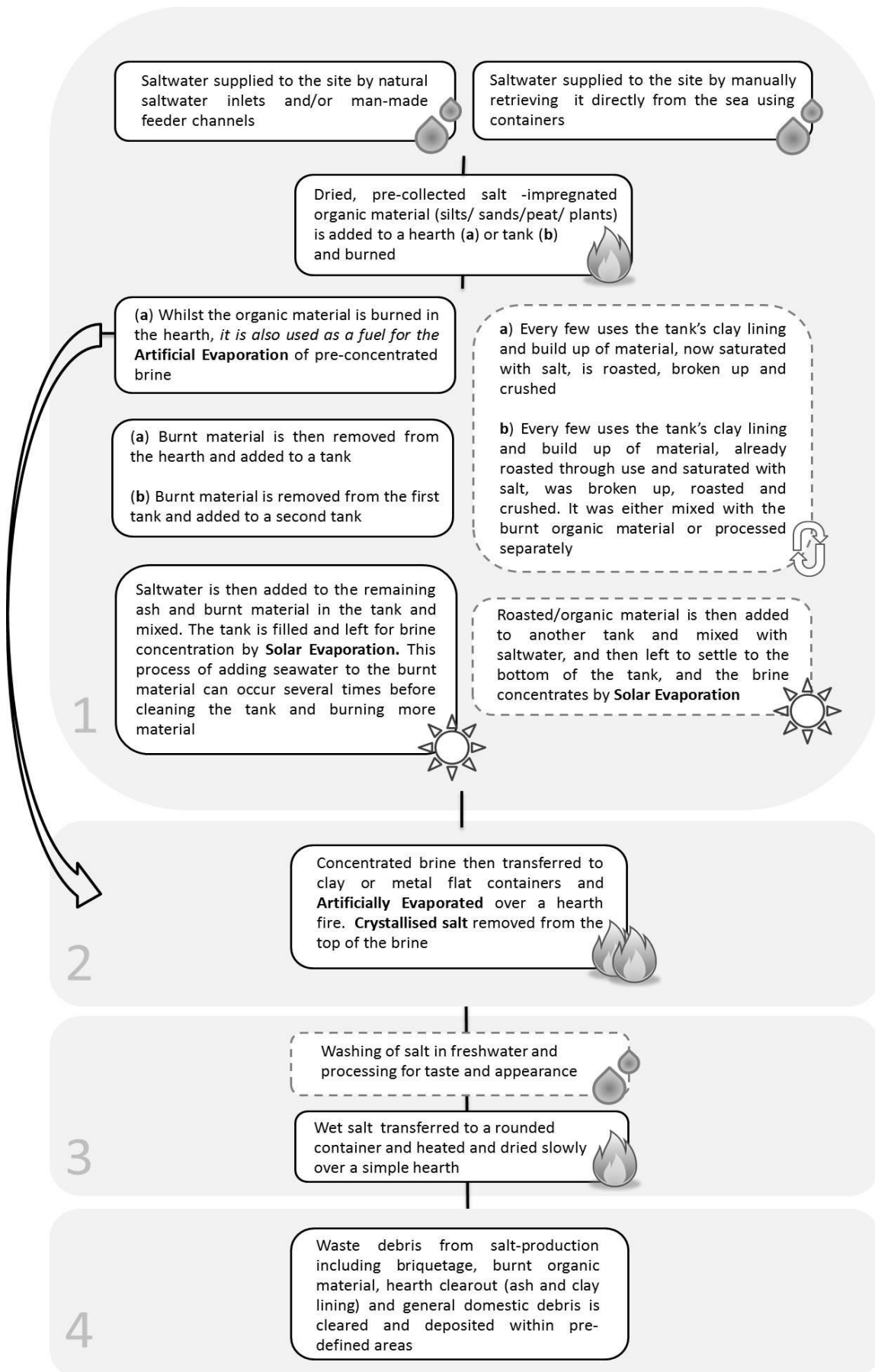
4

Waste debris from salt-production including briquetage, hearth clearout (ash and clay lining) and general domestic debris is cleared and deposited within pre-defined areas

Technique II



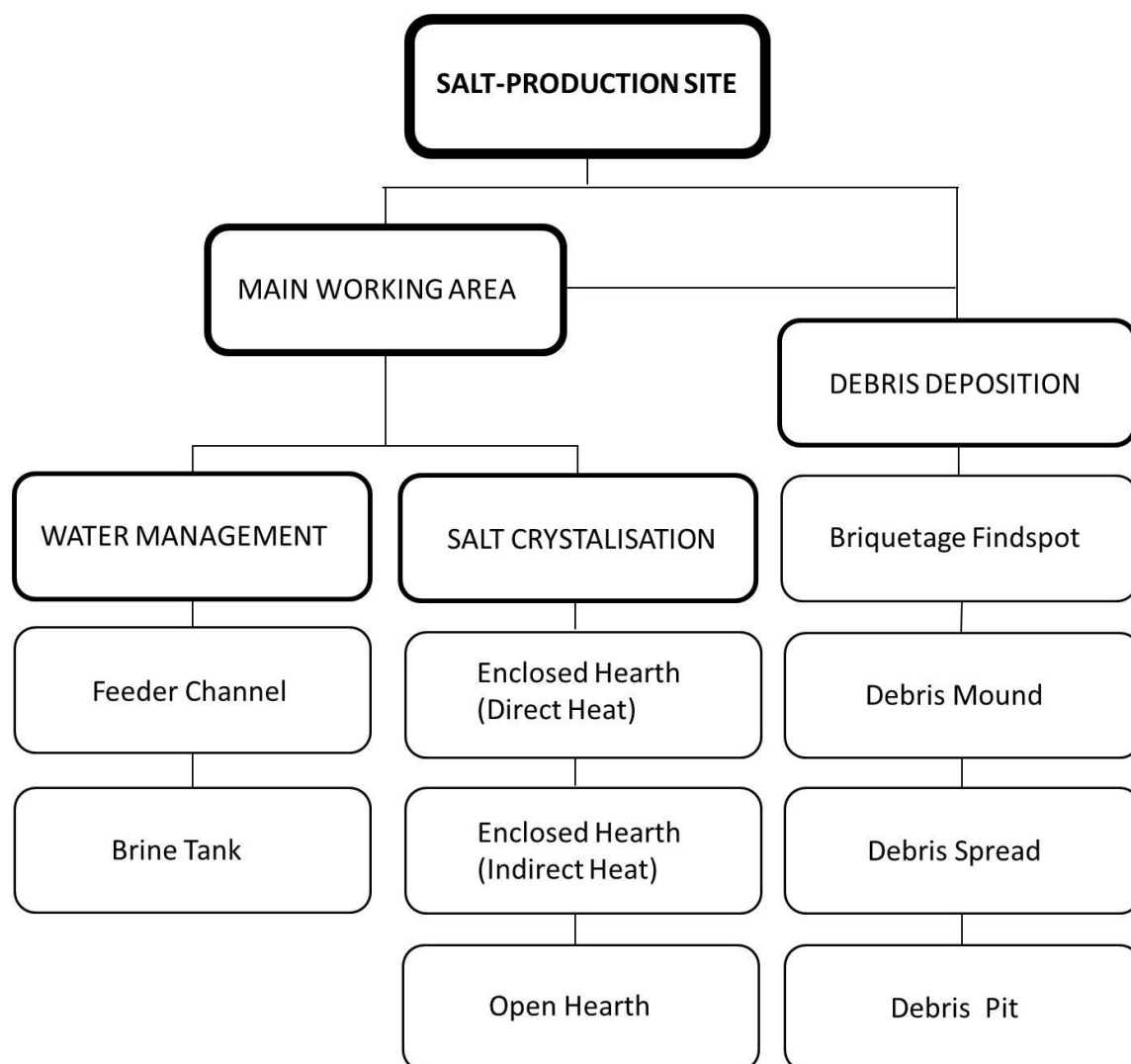
Technique III



Key Archaeological Features associated with Iron Age and Romano-British Salt-Production in Southern Britain

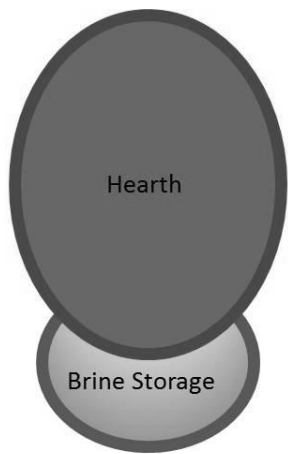
Stage	Archaeological Feature	Definition
1	Feeder Channel	A ditch or gully supplying seawater to a salt-production site
	Brine Tank	A clay lined feature that stored saltwater or brine/enabled the impurities in seawater to settle/partial solar evaporation of seawater to create brine in a salt-production site
2	Enclosed Hearth (Direct Heat)	A simple clay or stone-lined hearth that is created as a fire-pit, and/or has raised walls. Fire is placed directly in the base of the hearth. Feature used to heat brine and crystallise salt
	Enclosed Hearth (Indirect Heat)	A clay or stone-lined hearth that is created below ground surface and/or has raised walls. Stokeholes are used to supply heat from a fire to the main internal area of the hearth. Feature used to heat brine and crystallise salt
	Oven	A combustion structure that is created below or above the ground surface with a covering structure. Heat is controlled by supply flues (indirect heat). Feature used to heat brine and crystallise salt
	Grilled Hearth	Grilled briquetage that is used to create a stack of grids above a surface hearth. Heat rises through the stack. Feature used to heat brine and crystallise salt
	Portable Hearth	Clay lumps that can be used to create a portable hearth on the ground surface and can be removed quickly and moved elsewhere. Feature used to heat brine and crystallise salt
3	Open Hearth	A shallow fire-pit. Feature is used to dry salt
4	Debris Mound	Debris from salt-production deposited within a mound
	Debris Spread	Debris from salt-production deposited within a surface/ buried spread
	Debris Pit	Debris from salt-production deposited within a pit

Suggested Terminology for Recording Iron Age and Romano-British Salt-Production Sites in Southern Britain



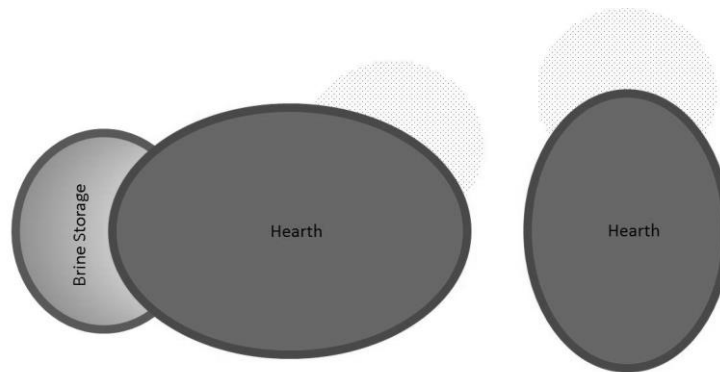
Term	Definition
Salt-Production Site	Whole area used for the production of salt including the main working area, debris deposition areas and any associated structures
Briquetage Findspot	Use for unstratified briquetage or small quantities of briquetage that are not associated with a specific feature
Main Working Area	The main area used to produce salt including main hearth/s and tank/s and/or open hearth
Debris Deposition	Area used specifically for the deposition of waste from salt-production. Use if there are no features associated with salt-production but the waste is within a feature such as a spread, mound or pit

Kent Working Areas I

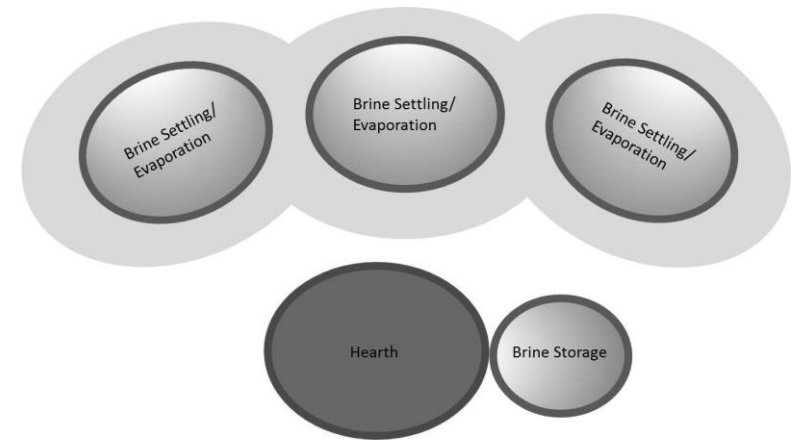


Kent Working Area A

(c. 1st century A.D.)



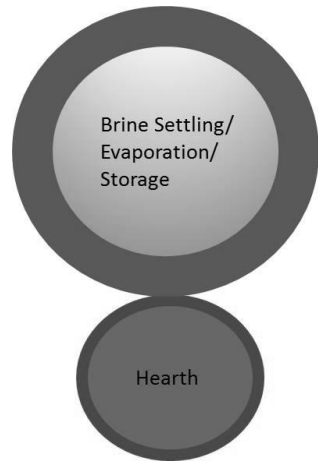
Kent Working Area B :
Original Formation?



Kent Working Area C

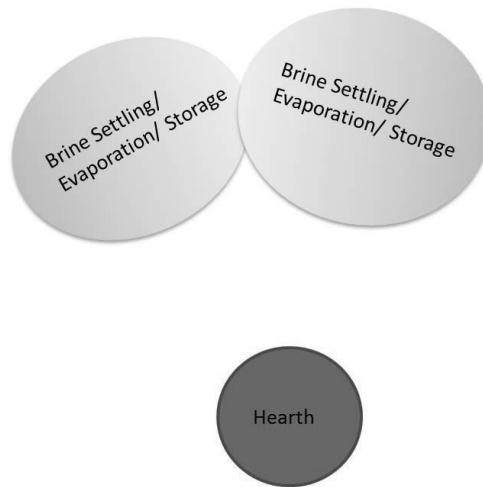
(c. 1st century A.D.)

Kent Working Areas II



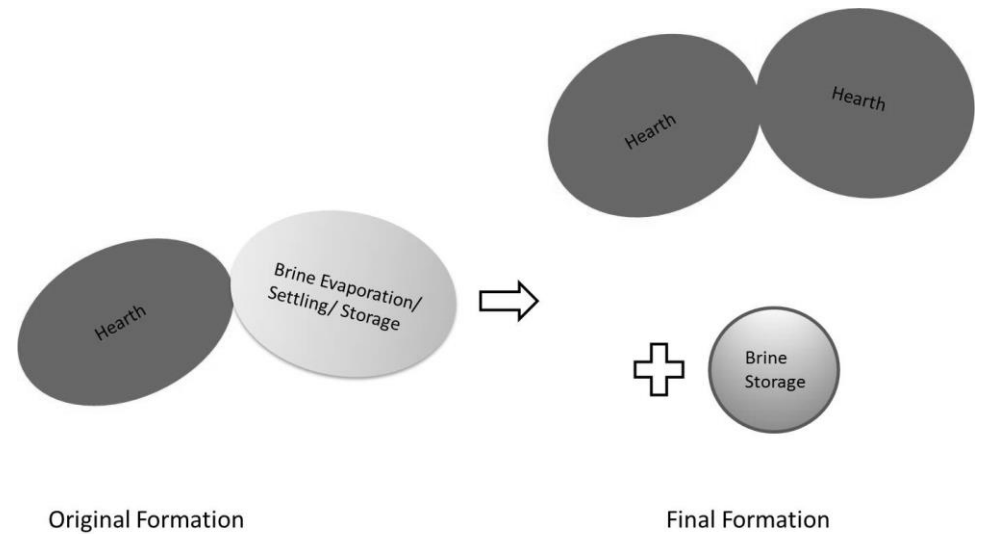
Kent Working Area D

(c. 1st century A.D.)



Kent Working Area E: Scenario 1 (Site 62)

(c. 2nd-3rd century A.D.)

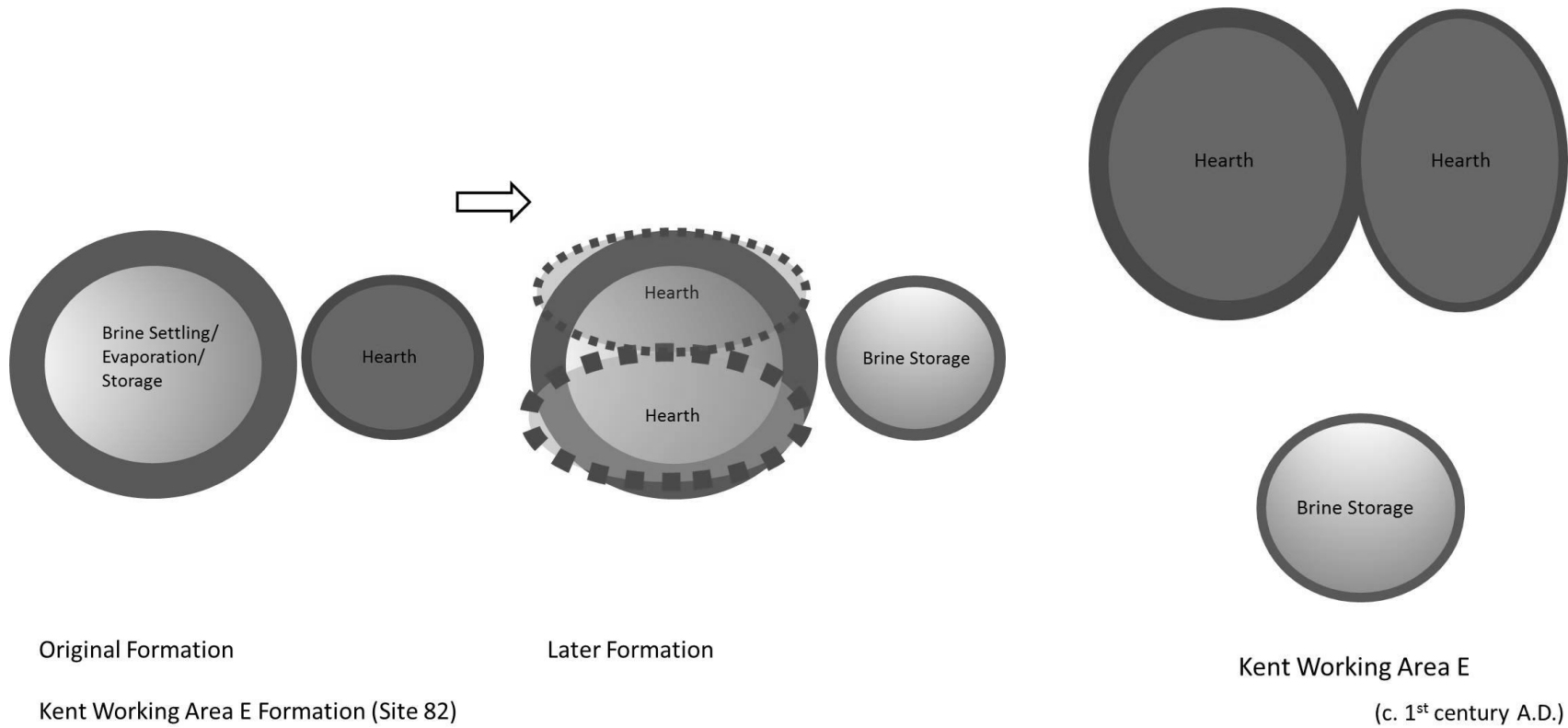


Original Formation

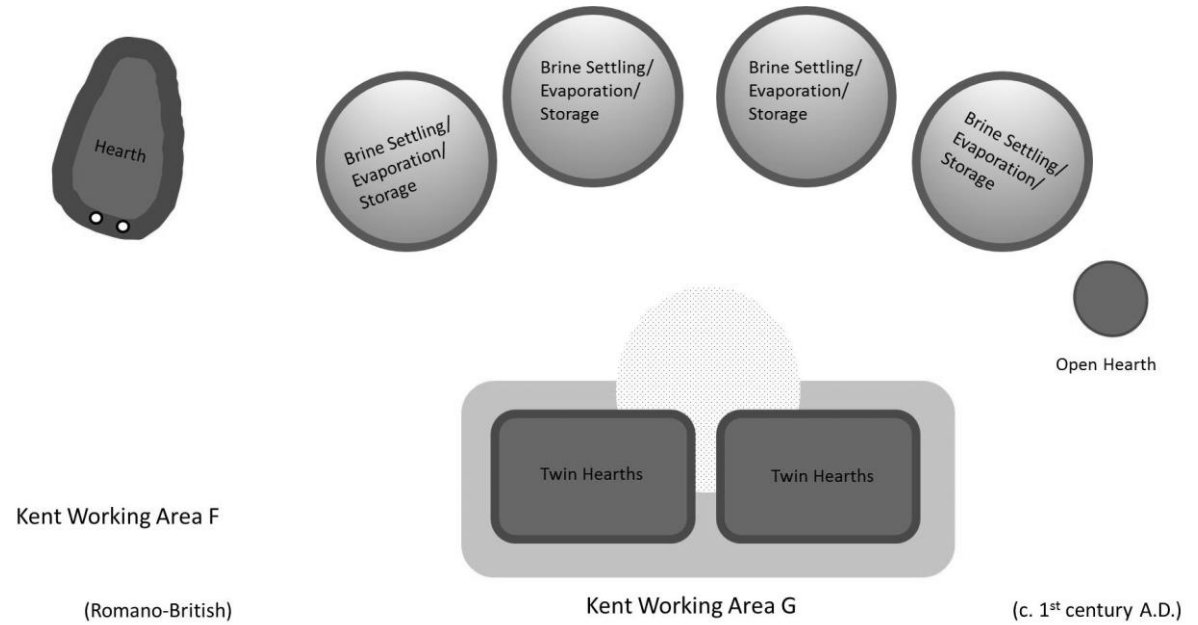
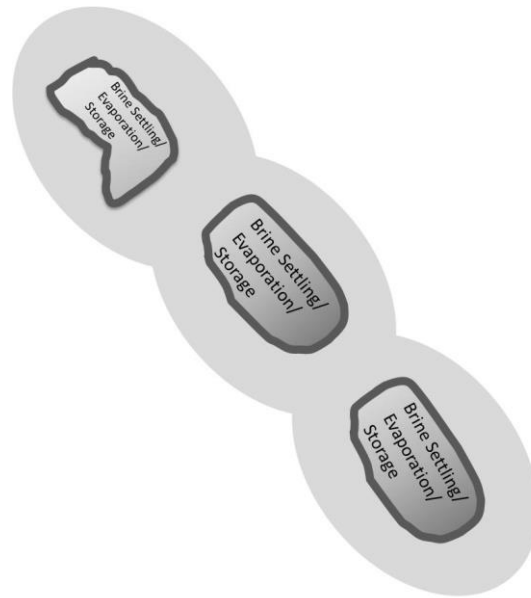
Final Formation

Kent Working Area E: Scenario 2 (Site 62)

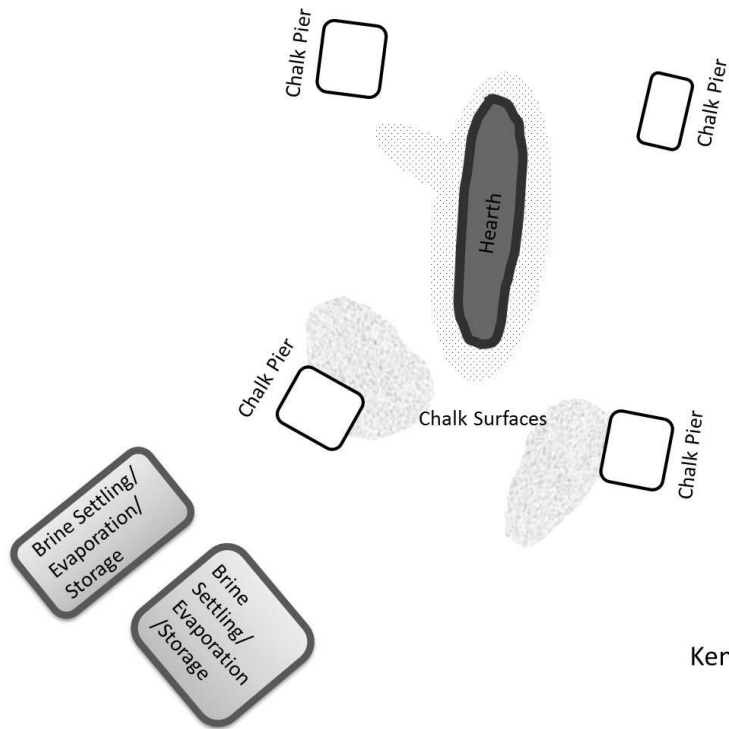
Kent Working Areas III



Kent Working Areas IV

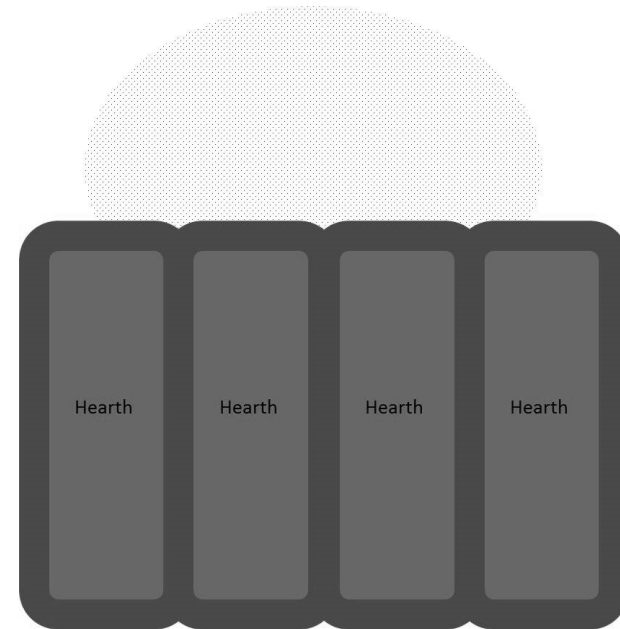


Kent Working Areas V



Kent Working Area H

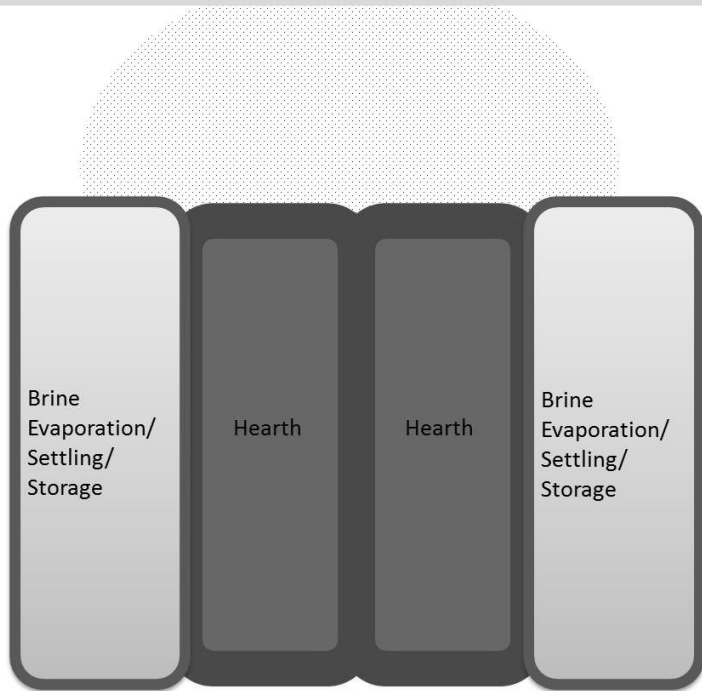
(c. 3rd century A.D.)



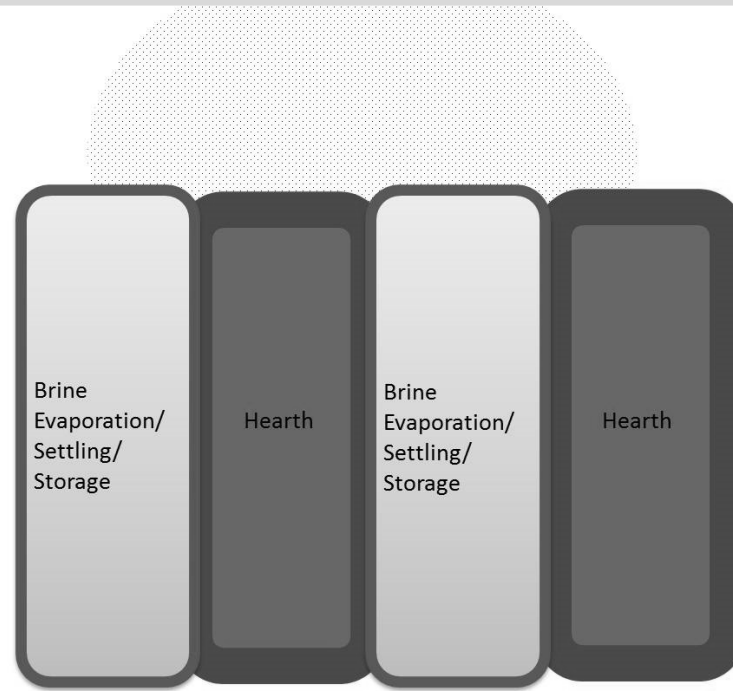
Kent Working Area I

(1st century A.D.)

Kent Working Areas VI

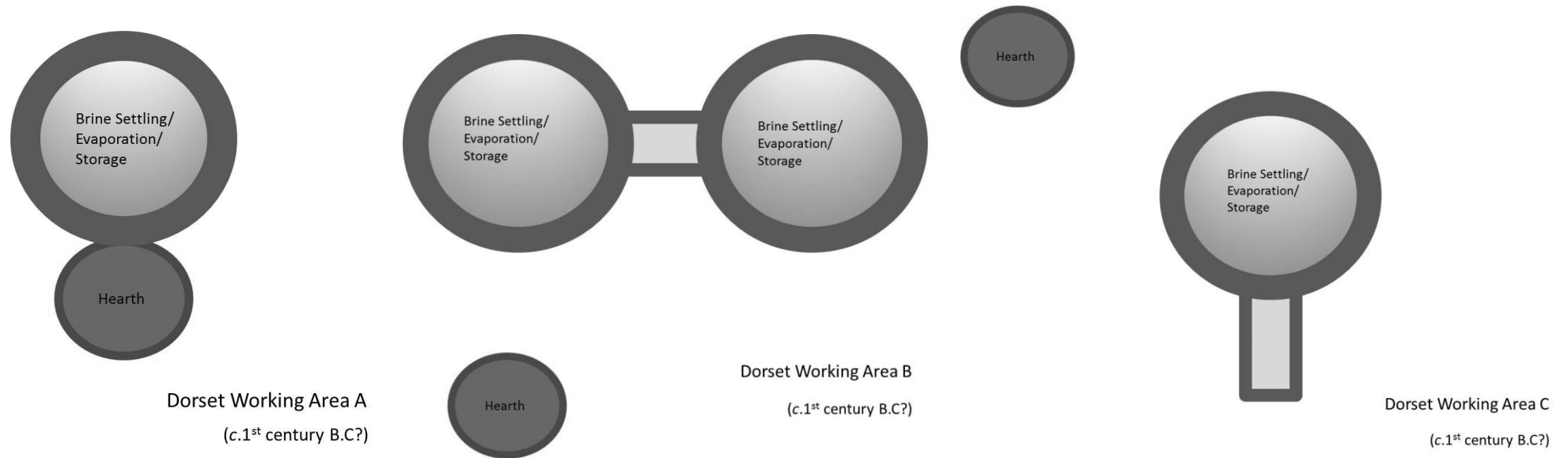


Kent Working Area I: Alternate uses of hearth/brine areas



Kent Working Area I: Alternate uses of hearth/brine areas

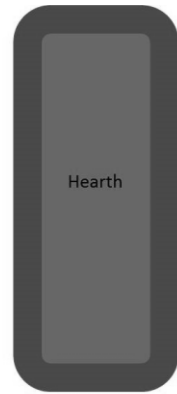
Dorset Working Areas I



Dorset Working Areas II



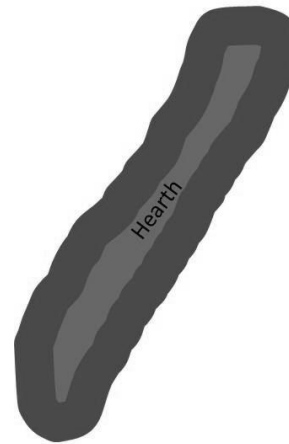
Open Hearth/
Clay Storage



Hearth

Dorset Working Area D

(c. 1st century A.D.)



Hearth

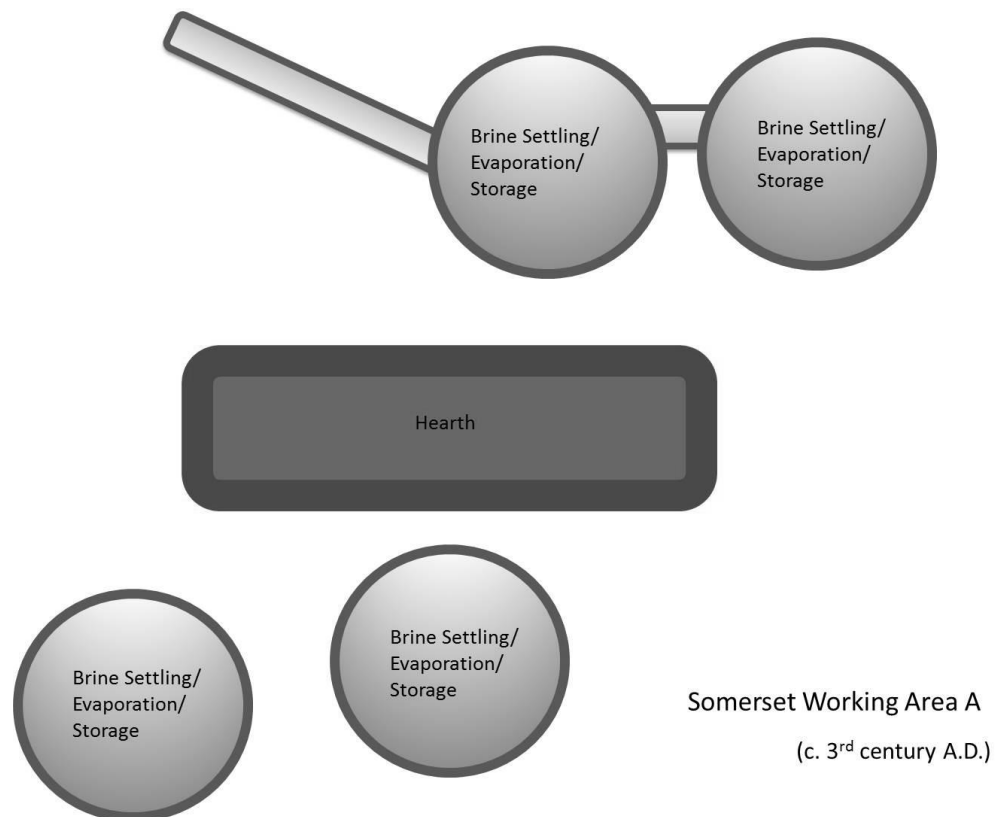


Open Hearth/
Clay Storage

Dorset Working Area E

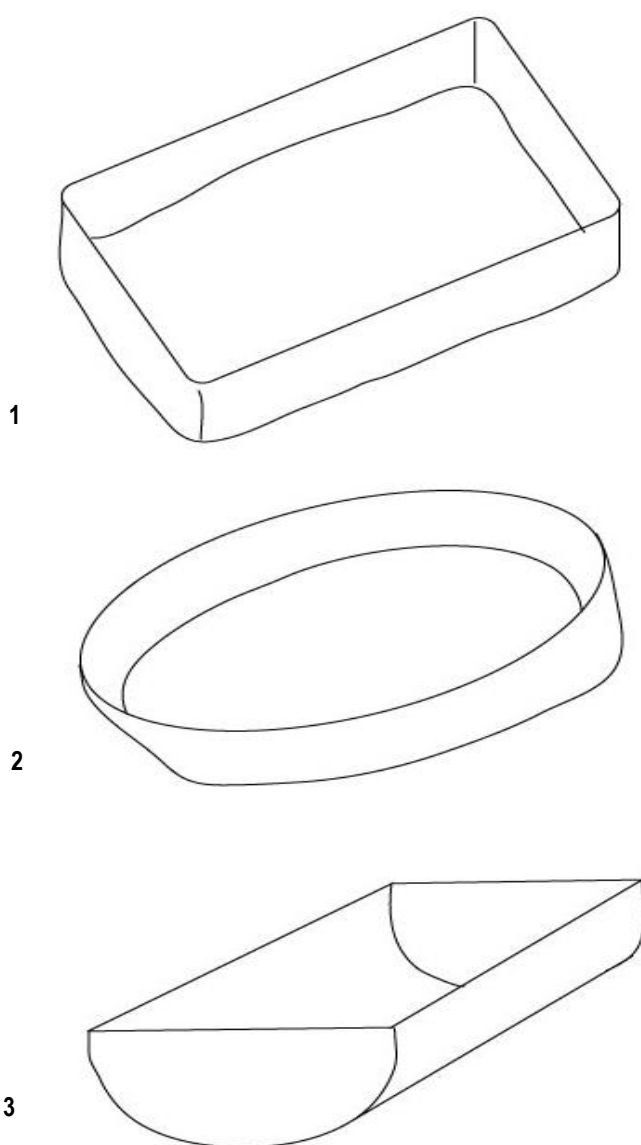
(c. 1st century B.C./1st century A.D.)

Somerset Working Areas



Basic Briquetage Typology for Iron Age and Romano-British Salt-Production Sites in Southern Britain

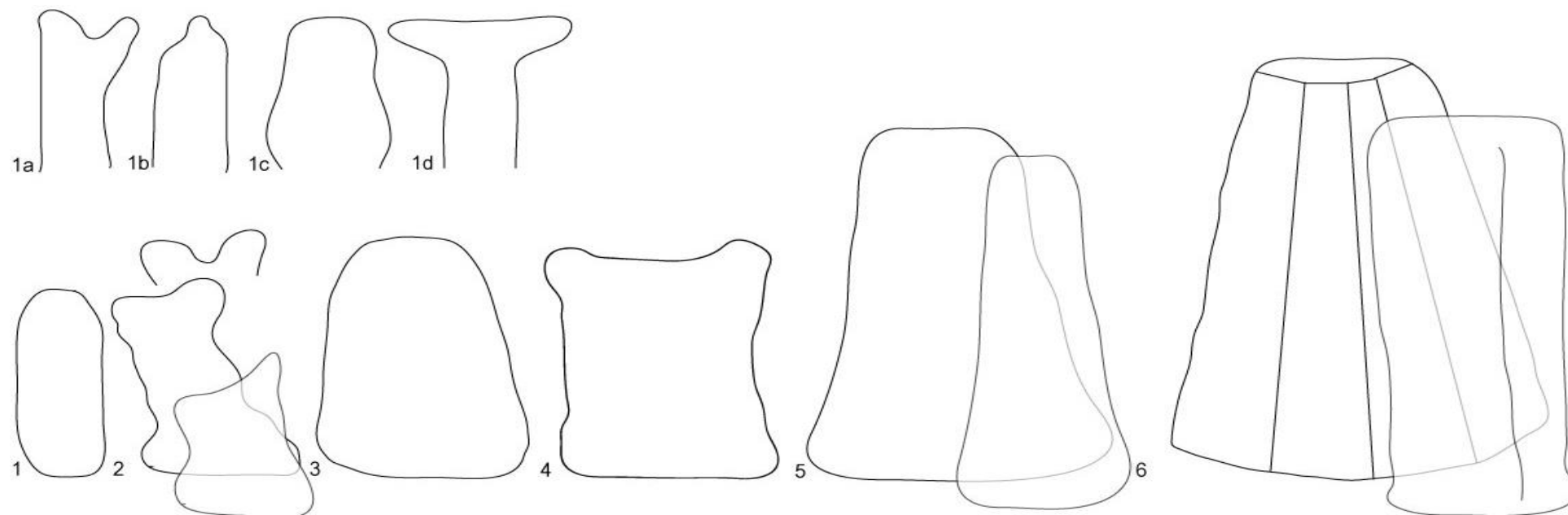
Briquetage Containers



KEY

1. Rectangular/Sub-rectangular Flat-Based
2. Oval/Round Flat-Based
3. Cylindrical/Trough

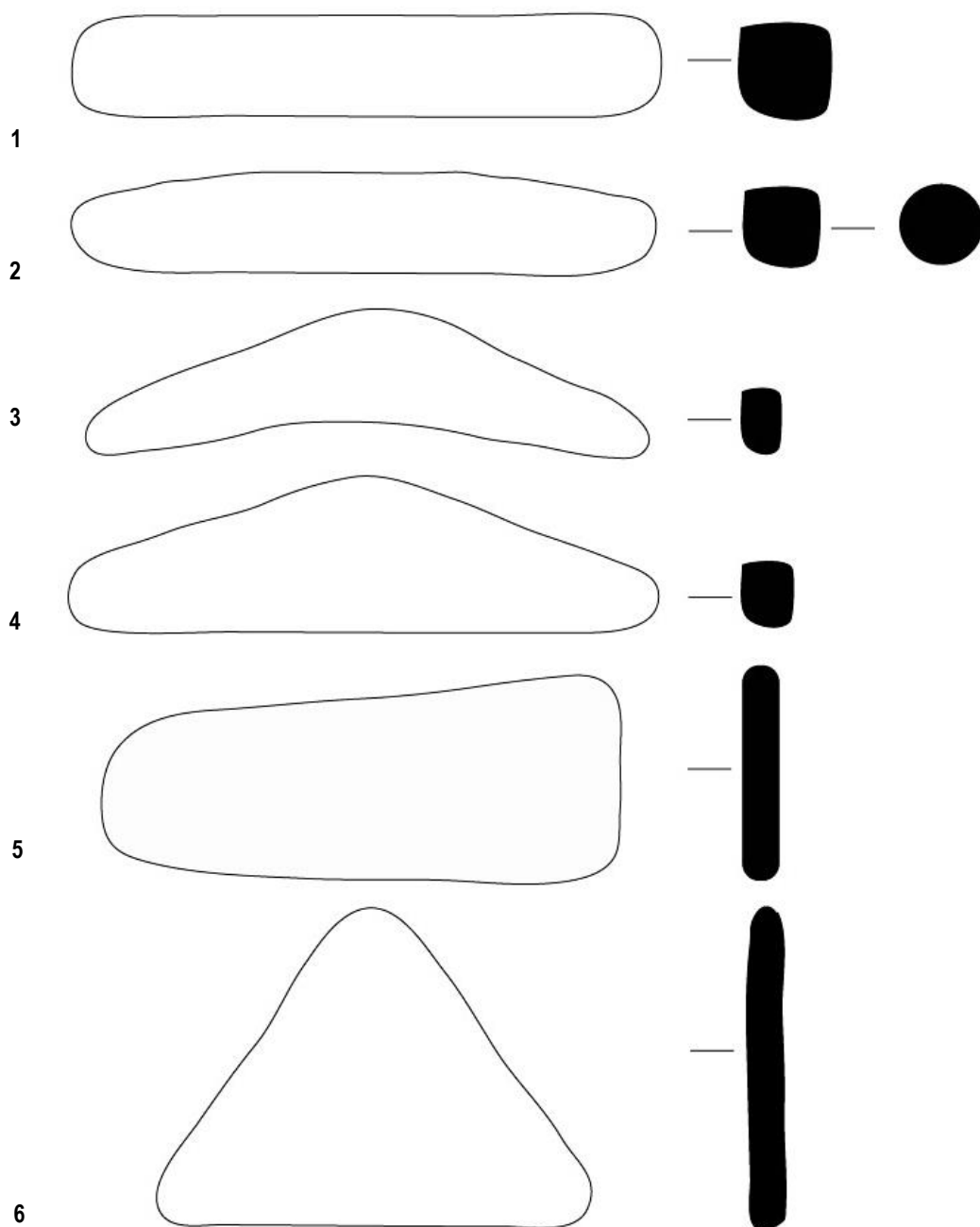
Briquetage Pedestals



KEY

- 1** Plain rounded 'cigar-shaped' pedestal
- 1a** Round pedestal with forked or notched top
- 1b** Rounded pedestal with pinched top and/or base
- 1c** Rounded pedestal with 'skittle' shape
- 1d** Rounded pedestal with T-shaped top and/or base
- 2** Twisted, 'squashed', squat pedestal often with a right angled, curved or notched top and finger impressions
- 3** Larger, robust 'brick or block' style pedestal
- 4** Large squat pedestal with curved top (could also be a central support from a pottery kiln)
- 5** Tall, slim or more robust rounded pedestal with flanged base
- 6** Large squared or multi-faceted 'building column' style pedestal

Briquetage Bars I



KEY

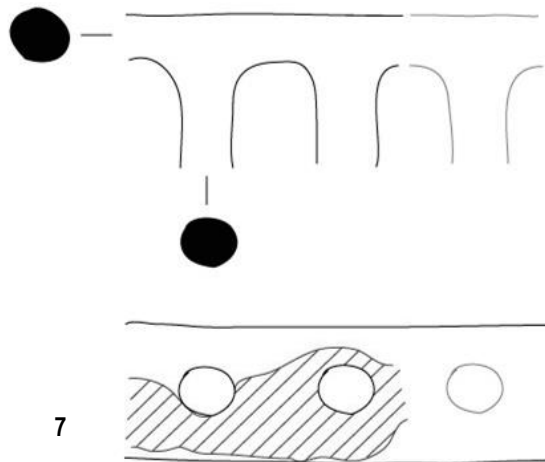
1. Square/Rectangular Bar
2. Circular Bar
3. Boomerang Bar
4. Triangular Bar
5. Tongue-Shaped Bar
6. Wedge

ctd

Briquetage Bars II

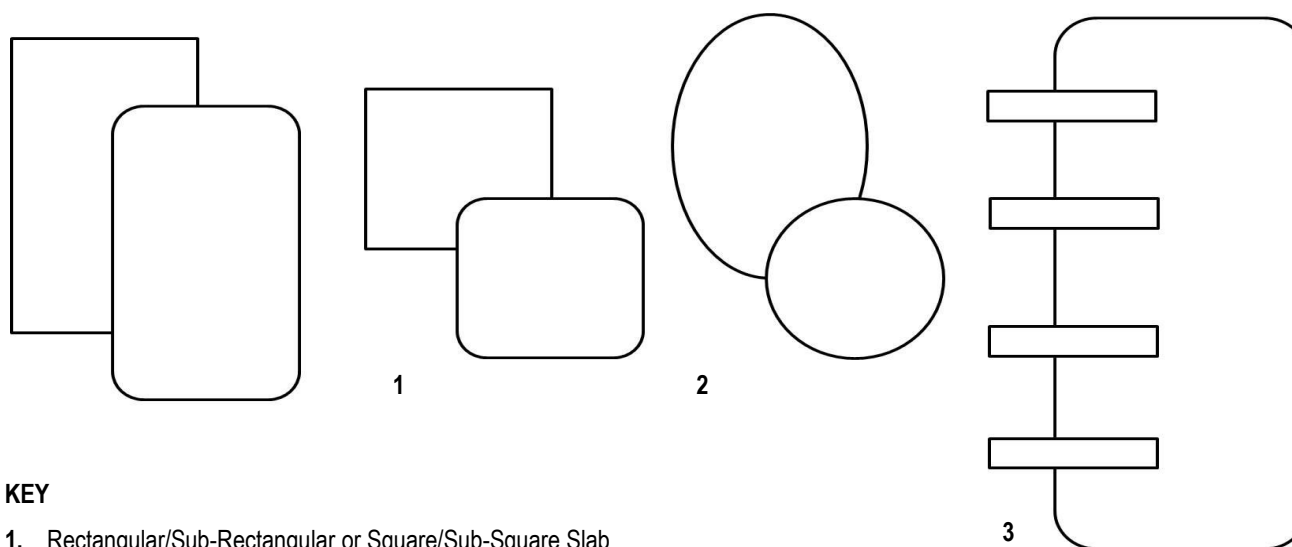
KEY

7. Gridded Bar
Heavy Sooting



7

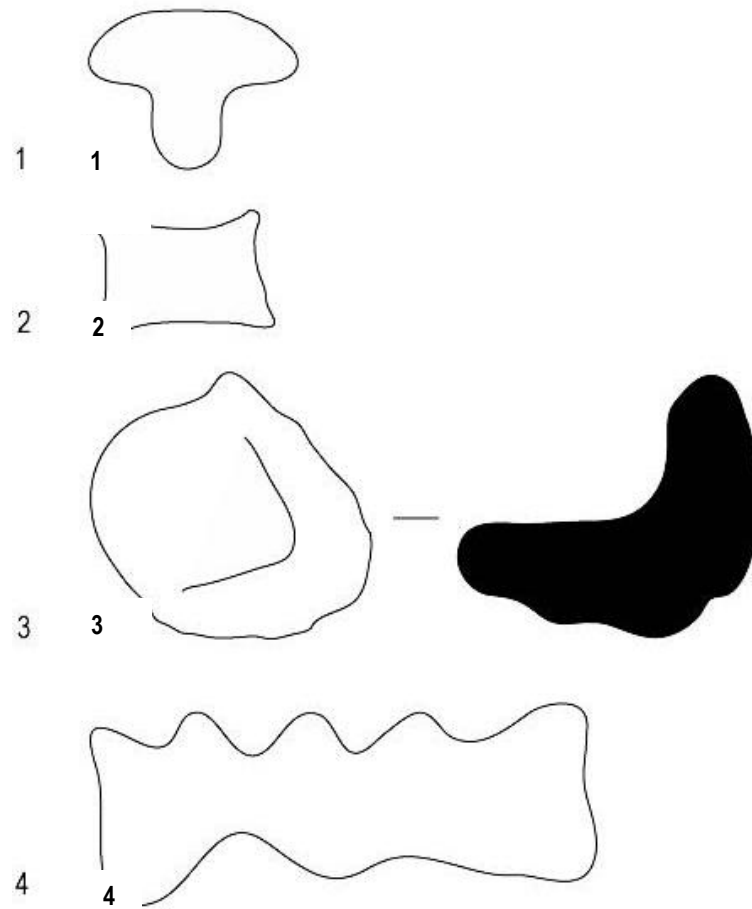
Briquetage Slabs



KEY

1. Rectangular/Sub-Rectangular or Square/Sub-Square Slab
2. Oval/Round Slab
3. Slotted Lumps

Structural Briquetage



KEY	KEY
1 Stat	1. Pinch-Prop
2 Stat	2. Spacer
3 Plat	3. Platform
4 Vari	4. Rod