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.
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**

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

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

3. 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

4. Washing of salt in freshwater and processing for taste and appearance

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

4. 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

1. Saltwater supplied to the site by natural saltwater inlets and/or man-made feeder channels.
   - 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 Artifically Evaporated over a hearth fire. Crystallised salt removed from the top of the brine.

3. 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.
   - Dry crystal salt either left in the same container or transferred to another container.

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 III

1. 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
   Dried, pre-collected salt-impregnated organic material (silts/sands/peat/plants) is added to a hearth (a) or tank (b) and burned
   a) Whilst the organic material is burned in the hearth, it is also used as a fuel for the Artificial Evaporation of pre-concentrated brine
   b) Every few uses the tank’s clay lining and build up of material, now saturated with salt, is roasted, broken up and crushed
   (a) Burnt material is then removed from the hearth and added to a tank
   (b) Burnt material is removed from the first tank and added to a second tank
   Saltwater is then added to the remaining ash and burnt material in the tank and mixed. The tank is filled and left for brine concentration by Solar Evaporation. This process of adding seawater to the burnt material can occur several times before cleaning the tank and burning more material
   Roasted/organic material is then added to another tank and mixed with saltwater, and then left to settle to the bottom of the tank, and the brine concentrates by Solar Evaporation

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

3. Washing of salt in freshwater and processing for taste and appearance
   Wet salt transferred to a rounded container and heated and dried slowly over a simple hearth

4. Waste debris from salt-production including briquetage, burnt organic material, hearth clearout (ash and clay lining) and general domestic debris is cleared and deposited within predefined areas
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Archaeological Feature</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Feeder Channel</td>
<td>A ditch or gully supplying seawater to a salt-production site</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brine Tank</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Enclosed Hearth (Direct Heat)</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enclosed Hearth (Indirect Heat)</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oven</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grilled Hearth</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Portable Hearth</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Open Hearth</td>
<td>A shallow fire-pit. Feature is used to dry salt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Debris Mound</td>
<td>Debris from salt-production deposited within a mound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Debris Spread</td>
<td>Debris from salt-production deposited within a surface/buried spread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Debris Pit</td>
<td>Debris from salt-production deposited within a pit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Suggested Terminology for Recording Iron Age and Romano-British Salt-Production Sites in Southern Britain**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salt-Production Site</td>
<td>Whole area used for the production of salt including the main working area, debris deposition areas and any associated structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briquetage Findspot</td>
<td>Use for unstratified briquetage or small quantities of briquetage that are not associated with a specific feature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Working Area</td>
<td>The main area used to produce salt including main hearth/s and tank/s and/or open hearth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debris Deposition</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Kent Working Area E: Scenario 2 (Site 62)

Final Formation
Kent Working Areas III

Original Formation
Kent Working Area E Formation (Site 82)

Later Formation

Kent Working Area E
(c. 1st century A.D.)
Kent Working Areas IV

Kent Working Area F  (Romano-British)

Kent Working Area G  (c. 1st century A.D.)

Hearth

Open Hearth

Brine Setting/\nEvaporation/\nStorage

Twin Hearths

Twin Hearths
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 Area A
(c.1st century B.C?)

Dorset Working Area B
(c.1st century B.C?)

Dorset Working Area C
(c.1st century B.C?)
Dorset Working Areas II

Dorset Working Area D
(c. 1st century A.D.)

Dorset Working Area E
(c. 1st century B.C./1st century A.D.)
Somerset Working Areas

Hearth

Somerset Working Area A
(c. 3rd century A.D.)
Basic Briquetage Typology for Iron Age and Romano-British Salt-Production Sites in Southern Britain

Briquetage Containers

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

KEY
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
KEY
7. Gridded Bar
 Heavy Sooting
KEY
1. Rectangular/Sub-Rectangular or Square/Sub-Square Slab
2. Oval/Round Slab
3. Slotted Lumps
Structural Briquetage

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