

Briquetage Crib Sheet

Platforms – are flat, two parallel-sided ceramic 'boards', smoothed on both sides (the finger-smearing is often visible). Some have evidence of salty brine splashes on both sides, confirming their upright/vertical position within the hearth or oven. Sometimes these are confused with 'Slabs', the latter usually smoothed on one side only and are used to lay over the flue of the heating structure.

Platforms provide edges on which the 'Containers' in which the brine is crystallised, rest.

Platforms were held in place by a specific type of Pedestal, a Grooved Pedestal, which was large and contained a groove along one edge into which the Platform slotted. Very few of these have been found so their full dimensions are not known.

In addition to the Platforms the Containers were held in position by an array of Pedestals and Clips including:

Cylindrical Pedestals – these are simple hand-squeezed lumps of clay which are used to further secure the Containers in position. Most are used as wet clay lumps but become fired during the heating of the brine. Cylindrical Pedestals are common finds on salt making sites in Lincolnshire.

Clips – usually there are multiple Containers within the hearth or oven. These are clipped together with lumps of wet clay to further stabilize the arrangement and prevent lateral movement. These tend to fuse to the rims of the Containers. Many are found with container rim fragments where they were clipped on to the rim and were broken off after the firing.

Containers – the ceramic trough or pan in which the salt was crystalised are generally called Containers. Many were broken in deconstructing the hearth or oven and these often survive only in small pieces. The most complete examples found were from Ingoldmells. They were all broken but enough survived to be able to estimate that they were originally in the region of c.600mm long. One end was wider at c.260mm than the other, which was c.160mm. The wide end was deeper at c.75mm than the narrow end which was little more than c.50mm deep.

Written by Tom Lane for *Old Salt*