

The story of salt making in Wales can be found at three main sites - a new producer, a salt marsh and an archaeological site. You can visit the Anglesey Sea Salt Company on the Menai Strait at Brynsciencyn and buy direct from the producer. The history of salt making at Traeth Maelgwyn is found in documents while the salt marsh and the birds it attracts can be visited at the RSPB reserve at Ynys-Hir. The best surviving example of a brine reservoir can be found at Port Eynon on the Gower peninsular.

Anglesey Sea Salt Company



www.halenmon.com
Anglesey Sea Salt Company at Brynsciencyn makes its Halen Môn salt crystals from waters drawn from the Menai Straits. Halen is Welsh for salt. Halen Môn welcomes visitors to this quiet location situated in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the Anglesey Coastal Footpath.

Traeth Maelgwyn, Ceredigion



www.coffein.gov.uk/en/site/506291/details/Traeth+MAELGWYN+SALT+WORKS/
A short-lived saltworks was set up here in the 1560s, by German experts. Seawater was concentrated in solar ponds before being boiled in large panhouses. Earthworks survive on the marsh.

Port Eynon, Gower, Swansea



On the south coast of the Gower peninsular this C16th salt works collected sea water for evaporation in pans to make white salt. Impressive stone building with storage tanks. Excavations uncovered a brine pump for raising the sea water.

Photographs by Flintshire Museum Service, St Fagans Museum and Andrew Fielding

Wales - Post-medieval Salt Works, Refineries and Halen Môn

Other sites have different stories to tell. Sites at Mostyn, Flint, Holyhead and the Gnoll Estate, Neath have been destroyed by later industrial developments.

At Laugharne the saltmarsh has been reclaimed, and the last remains of the saltworks are now on private farmland, but Acts of Parliament in 1704 allowed it and Ynys Halen (Salt Island), Holyhead to use rock salt to strengthen sea water. The story of how salt was imported is told at the Tudor Merchants House, Tenby and industrial and cultural stories are told at Mold, Swansea, Cardiff and St Fagans Museums.

Tudor Merchant House, Tenby



www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tudor-merchants-house/
Step into the world of a successful C16th merchant and his family. Discover the merchant's shop and working kitchen on the ground floor. At this time salt was being imported to Wales through harbours like Tenby from France and Spain.

St Fagans, Cardiff



www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/stfagans/
One of Europe's most popular open air museums. There are over 40 original buildings from various historical periods recreated in 100 acre parkland. Houses such as Nant Wallter, from Taliaris, Carmarthanshire have 'salt box' niches built into the wall next to the fire.

Buckley Museum, Flintshire



www.peoplescollectionwales.co.uk/Item/54673-buckley-pottery-model-dog
The Buckley Pottery is famous, but perhaps not so well known for its production of salt glazed wares. The local salt works at Flint and Mostyn are now destroyed, but the salt glazed ceramics still live on. There is a collection on display at Buckley Library, Mold.

