Cheshire, Merseyside & Lancashire - Rock Salt Mines, Open ECOSAL **Pans and Refineries**

In north Lancashire there was extensive saltmaking around Morecambe Bay where sleeching was probably the main method. So far as we know there was little medieval coastal saltmaking south of the Ribble, probably due to the dominance of transported Cheshire salt.

In Cheshire, the 'wich' towns can trace their salt heritage

back to before the Roman conquest. Middlewich and Northwich thrived on the transport advantages from the use of the Weaver Navigation and the Trent and Mersey Canal (1777) for carrying in coal and exporting white salt and rock salt.

The use of wild brine pumping and collapsed rock salt mines



have left legacies that now provide a diverse wildlife environment that is used for recreational purposes between Frodsham and Nantwich for instance at Ashton and Neumans Flash. The Anderton Lift links the river and canal, and other arts and heritage of the area can be found at the Weaver Hall Gallery, Northwich.

The Dungeon



www.btinternet.com/~m.rovden/ mrlhp/local/salt/dungeon.htm 17th century salt refinery site near Speke on the River Mersey which operated until the mid 1840s Underground brick storage tanks remain and the sandstone walls forming the guayside. Accessible from the coastal footpath linking Hale with Garston.

Hilbre Island



www.deeesuarv.co.uk/hilbre/index.htm Short lived 17th century salt refinery site located on Hilbre Island on the River Dee accessible during low tide. Rock cut features on beach for collecting sea water survive and earthworks on the island identify locations of pan house and storage cisterns. Consultation of tide tables and crossing times essential.



Fleetwood Museum



The museum has a replica rock salt mine and descriptions of both brine pumping and rock salt mining. The more environmentally acceptable and led to the halting of wild

www.fleetwoodmuseum.co.uk/



The Lion Salt Works was a traditionally run family, open pan salt works until its closure in 1986. It is under restoration by Cheshire West and Chester Council. Northwich has a rich heritage linked to the salt and chemical industry.

Middlewich



heritage.org.uk Artefacts from Roman salt making sites are on display at the library. There are plans to establish a heritage centre featuring the electric brine pump at the former Murgatrovds Salt Works. Vacuum salt is made today in the modern multiple-effect evaporators of British Salt beside the Trent and Mersey Canal.

Lancaster Maritime Museum



www.lancashire.gov.uk/acs/ sites/museums/index.asp The museum, housed in an 18th century warehouse on the waterfront, includes a display on salt making around Morecambe Bay. where sleeching survived later than in other areas and was described by 16th, 17th, and 18th century writers.

Winsford



mine.co.uk/ Winsford is the location of the UK's main rock salt mine. The winding shafts can be seen either side of the river. There is no public access below ground but the web site has lots of

www.winsfordrocksalt

information.

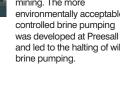
Nantwich



Nantwich Museum has salt making artefacts from the town's Roman and medieval past including a lead salt pan and a 'salt ship'. The town promotes local food and cheese at annual fairs. The local swimming pool has retained its outdoor, heated brine bath

www.nantwichmuseum.org.uk

Photographs by Lancashire Museum Service, Roy Forshaw and Andrew Fielding



www.lionsaltworks.org

www.middlewich-

