

The “Briquetage de la Seille” (France, Lorraine): A “proto-industrial” Salt Production of the European Early Iron Age

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A pluri-disciplinary research project, devoted to the study of the « Briquetage de la Seille », a huge complex of salt production sites dating to the Iron Age and located in Lorraine, has been carried out from 2001 to 2017. Extensive geophysical surveys have revealed the internal structure of the workshops, which cover up to several tens of hectares. Archaeo-environmental studies have provided evidence of a strong impact of such a « proto-industrial » activity on the natural milieu. The field survey has revealed substantial evidence of Iron Age funerary features in the immediate vicinity of the salt production workshops. Analysis of the individuals present within these cemeteries indicates they most likely represent the groups controlling the salt-producing community.