Salt on the Screen

Alexandra Leigh
Background

- Supervised by Dr Katherine Selby (Department of Environment and Geography) and Dr Debbie Maxwell (Department of Theatre, Film, Television and Interactive Media)
- Originated in collaboration between Dr Selby and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Salt-making in Lincolnshire

- Salt-making carried out in Lincolnshire for at least 3000 years
- Two main periods of production:
  - Late Iron Age/Roman
  - Medieval
- Archaeological evidence is at risk from multiple threats
Aims & Objectives

- Explore new ways to present archaeological, archival and environmental evidence
- Reach new audiences using novel approaches
- Prototype an interactive web-based visualisation
- Present ideas and prototypes to environment and heritage communities
Approach

Desk research

- Secondary literature
- Archival material and artefacts held by LWT

Semi-structured interviews

- Archaeologists
- Environmentalists

Platform design

- Sketching/wireframing
- Implementation
Approach: Desk Research

- Built up a historical narrative and identified key evidence in the history of salt-making
- Familiarised myself with the Lincolnshire landscape
- Explored potential options for available data and media
Approach: Semi-structured Interviews

- Undertook five semi-structured interviews with archaeologists and environmentalists
- Small sample size intended to generate rich, qualitative data
- Interviews generated key themes that helped to choose the narrative arc of the prototype
Approach: Prototype

◦ Lack of media and/or data influenced decision to take a text-based, narrative approach
◦ Initial sketches and wireframes were platform independent
◦ Settled on the idea of a dual narrative exploring two different regions: the fenland and coast
◦ Final choice of platform strongly influenced look of the project
Outcomes

Prototype design for engaging with the history of salt-making in Lincolnshire

End of project virtual event
Reflections

WHAT WORKED WELL?

WHAT COULD BE DONE BETTER?
With thanks to...

Dr Katherine Selby and Dr Debbie Maxwell

Digital Creativity Labs

Mr Tom Lane

The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Dynamic Dunescapes

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