

2.3. Site History

2.3.1. Former Brick & Tile Works (Plot 4)

The first recorded development on Plot 4 was the Trefynant Fire Clay Works, which is indicated on the 1873 – 1875 historical maps for the area. The Trefynant Works were owned and operated by J.C. Edwards from the mid to late Nineteenth Century until 1963 when it was demolished and the land bought by Flexsys. The demolition was preceded by the sale of J.C. Edwards in 1956.

There is understood to have been two manufacturing sections of the Trefynant Works, the first manufactured salt glazed pipe and the second manufactured decorative adamantine and glazed tiles. The majority of the clay used for pipe and tile manufacture was sourced at the J.C. Edwards clay extraction facility in Pen-y-bont.

Historical maps corresponding to the period of operation of the Trefynant Works depict several large buildings concentrated towards the eastern half of Plot 4. The buildings appear to be served by two railway sidings from the main railway line that were formerly located adjacent to the south eastern boundary of this area. Spherical features potentially indicating kilns are also indicated in the north eastern half of this area.

A former clay pit is indicated in the south-western corner of Plot 4 on early (1873 – 1875) historical maps, as well as two mine shafts in the centre of Plot 4. The clay pit appears to have been infilled on subsequent historical maps by 1912. This may correspond with a historical landfill that was also identified in the area licensed to the former J.C. Edwards Brickyard for the deposition of waste including inert, industrial and household waste. During the Site walkover undertaken immediately prior to the drilling works, a large number of red roof or floor tiles were observed in this area.

A historical aerial photograph which is understood to have been taken in the late 1970s (see also URS Phase I TEDDA report) indicates a small area in the southeast of Plot 4 which is understood to have been used historically for sulphur storage up until the mid/late 1960s and later for chemical and drum storage until the mid-late 1980s.

Plot 4, like Plot 4B, currently comprises a succession of scrub and deciduous woodland. Areas of brick and tile spoil are present in southwest of the Site with building walls, foundations and roadways of the former brickworks still visible in the eastern portion.