

PROPOSED CONTAINER LOCATION

AT RHYDYMWN VALLEY SITE

INTRODUCTION

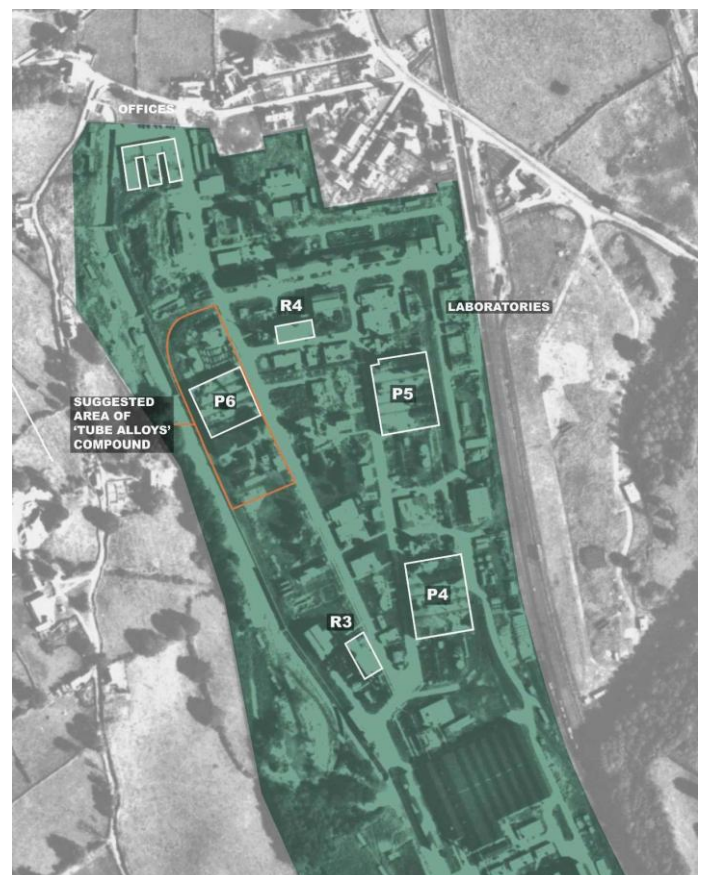
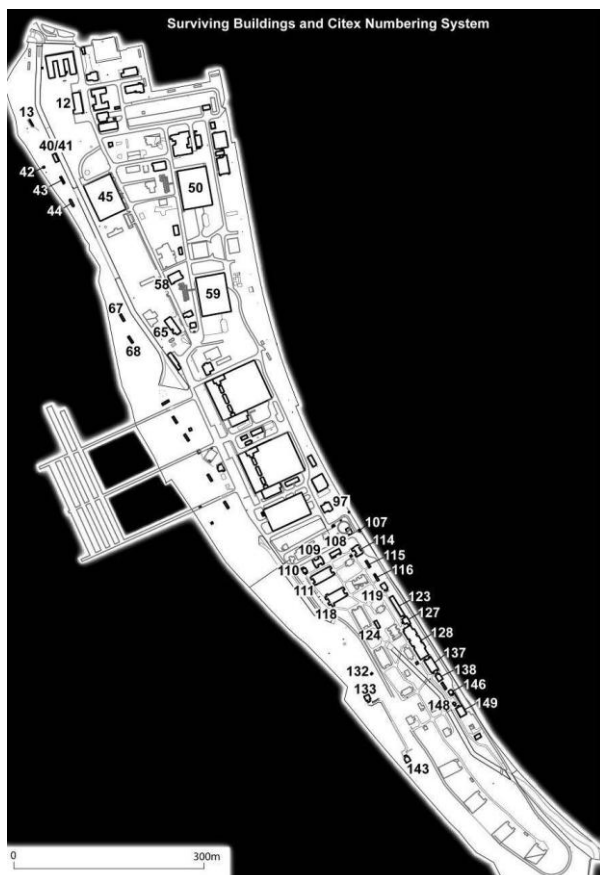
The Rhydymywn Valley History Society (RVHS) have requested approval to keep a storage container at the Valley Site. DEFRA have no objection and this paper is to show the proposed location.

OUTSIDE OR INSIDE

The proposal is for a second-hand 40 foot container of the standard shipping variety, whose external dimensions are approx 40 x 8 x 8½ ft. Location outside would be seen as detracting from the natural beauty of the site however the local planning authority, Flintshire County Council, have confirmed that if it were to be within one of the listed buildings then no planning consent would be needed.

THE SITE

The site has a number of unused buildings with varying degrees of historical significance.



All buildings within the old danger area in the southern portion of the site, buildings 100 to 149 in the above diagram, are too small and only have doorways of insufficient height. The northern "Process Area" is shown below in green. Suitable buildings would be 45, 50 and 59, otherwise identified as buildings P6, P5 and P4.

The Pyro Plants P4 and P5

Originally it was planned to have three buildings devoted to the production of Pyro mustard at Valley. However, in around 1942, production was scaled down, and only two plants were dedicated to Pyro production. In actual fact P5 appears to have only heat treated Pyro mustard produced elsewhere rather than making any its own, and P4, was a fully operational back-up plant. P6 was the centre of the atomic research programme.

Each plant was housed in a large rectangular building; P4, P5 and P6 have a reinforced concrete frame, with arched concrete roofs spanning the central five bays and a flat roof section over the north and south end bays. The flat-roof sections and the first springing of the arches were probably cast in situ, but a clear constructional break in the arches suggests that these were cast separately either in situ, or elsewhere and lifted into position. There is also a concrete tower over the second bay from the west, at the northern end of each building (apart from P6, which while identical in plan has been rotated through 180 degrees).

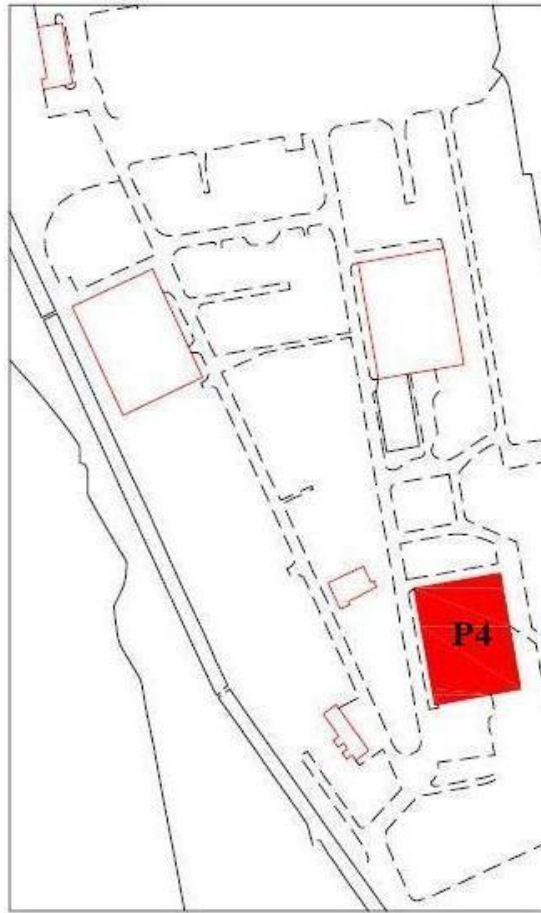
The concrete frame defined 7 bays internally from north to south and five bays from east to west, although externally the north and south facing walls have seven concrete posts. P4 and P5 have two large (11½ ft x 14 ft high) vehicle access ways into their south faces.



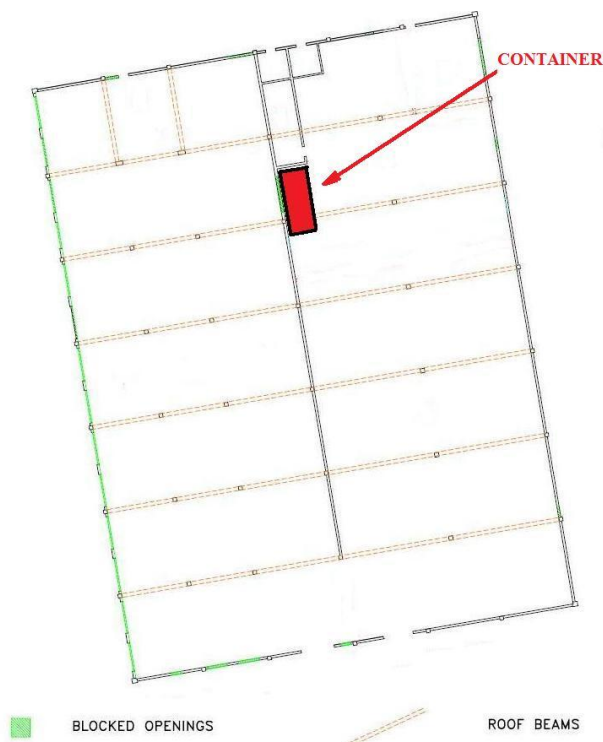
South Face

BUILDING 59 (P4)

The preferred option would be P4 in view of its superior vehicular access and lesser historical significance.



A suggested location for the container within P4 is indicated below



The container would need to be mounted on bricks, blocks or railway sleepers to allow the doors to open cleanly. This would make the overall height around 9 ft to 9 ft 6".