

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Consultees Addr:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2015/3316/P	Richard Simpson for Primrose Hill CAAC	12A Manley Street London NW1 8LT	03/07/2015 19:36:00	OBJ	<p>ADVICE from Primrose Hill Conservation Area Advisory Committee 12A Manley Street, London NW1 8LT</p> <p>1 July 2015</p> <p>44, 44A Gloucester Avenue 2015/3316/P</p> <p>We note the report, but question its completeness in addressing the contamination history of the site. We formally object to the application to seek to ensure that a full investigation is completed.</p> <p>The report states that historical maps show that the site was used in the nineteenth-century as a store, but this is not certainly exclusively true. The detailed account of the electric telegraph, Steven Roberts, <i>Distant Writing: A History of the Telegraph Companies in Britain between 1838 and 1868</i> (2012) states at p. 46 that the Electric Telegraph Company, who owned the property at 44 and 44a Gloucester Avenue before nationalization and transfer to the GPO in 1870, transferred</p> <p>‘... its stores for instruments, wire, poles and cable for the rest of its existence to a yard on the London & North-Western Railway at 44 Gloucester Road, Camden Town, in north London, right opposite the northern end of the very first, experimental line of telegraph. Under Muirhead’s management the Company built its own large Factory for batteries and instruments in 1858 around a courtyard at Gloucester Road. As well as developing the Company’s Factory Muirhead devised many improvements in cell technology and other apparatus.’</p> <p>The 1875 OS map, as well as archival evidence of property ownership suggests that this factory, too, was at 44 Gloucester Avenue, while the existence, until c. 1985, of an industrial chimney at the north-east of the site also suggests that manufacturing processes had taken place on the site. Clearly nineteenth-century battery technology implies potential sources of chemical use, and contamination, which the current assessment does not appear to address.</p> <p>Richard Simpson FSA Chair</p>
