



**Ref: 21/2455/L: Bowater Road, Westminster Industrial Estate, Charlton  
Riverside, Woolwich, SE18 5FT**

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society (LAMAS) promotes London's archaeology, local history, and historic buildings. The LAMAS Historic Buildings and Conservation Committee reviews planning applications relating to important historic buildings and seeks to ensure a sustainable future for vital aspects of London's built heritage.

We note that the Royal Borough of Greenwich wants to see the Siemens factory buildings developed to provide more housing. Our committee is **opposed** to this, as the factory area is designated as the Bowater Road Conservation Area and is therefore designated for its **industrial** heritage value. In particular we are opposed to the proposed upward extensions to the Grade II listed Building 37.

The view from Maryon Park shows the simple but elegant south façade of Building 37, an important aspect in the setting of the Conservation Area.

The proposed extensions comprise an extra floor, set back from frontages above the south façade and on the east and west façades. Above this, two more floors are proposed on the east and west wings with their elevations aligned with the façades of the original building. These extensions would seriously harm the appearance of Building 37.

The other factory buildings, of a similar height to Building 37, are also proposed to be extended upwards by three storeys. If it is decided that these extensions are to be built, then the two extensions on the east and west wings of Building 37 would give balance to the ensemble.

In this case we suggest that their south facing ends do not have an angled facing or balconies, as currently proposed, but a subfusc plain appearance. We further suggest that if the cladding is to be of copper that it should be allowed to weather to a green colour.

The surviving buildings of the Siemen's factory are rare survivors, typical of the buildings of other contemporary telecommunication factories, now lost, around Britain, and is therefore of national importance. Our committee reiterates its opposition to the proposed works.

Vicki Fox (Hon. Secretary)

**LAMAS – Historic Buildings & Conservation Committee**

**8 May 2024**