

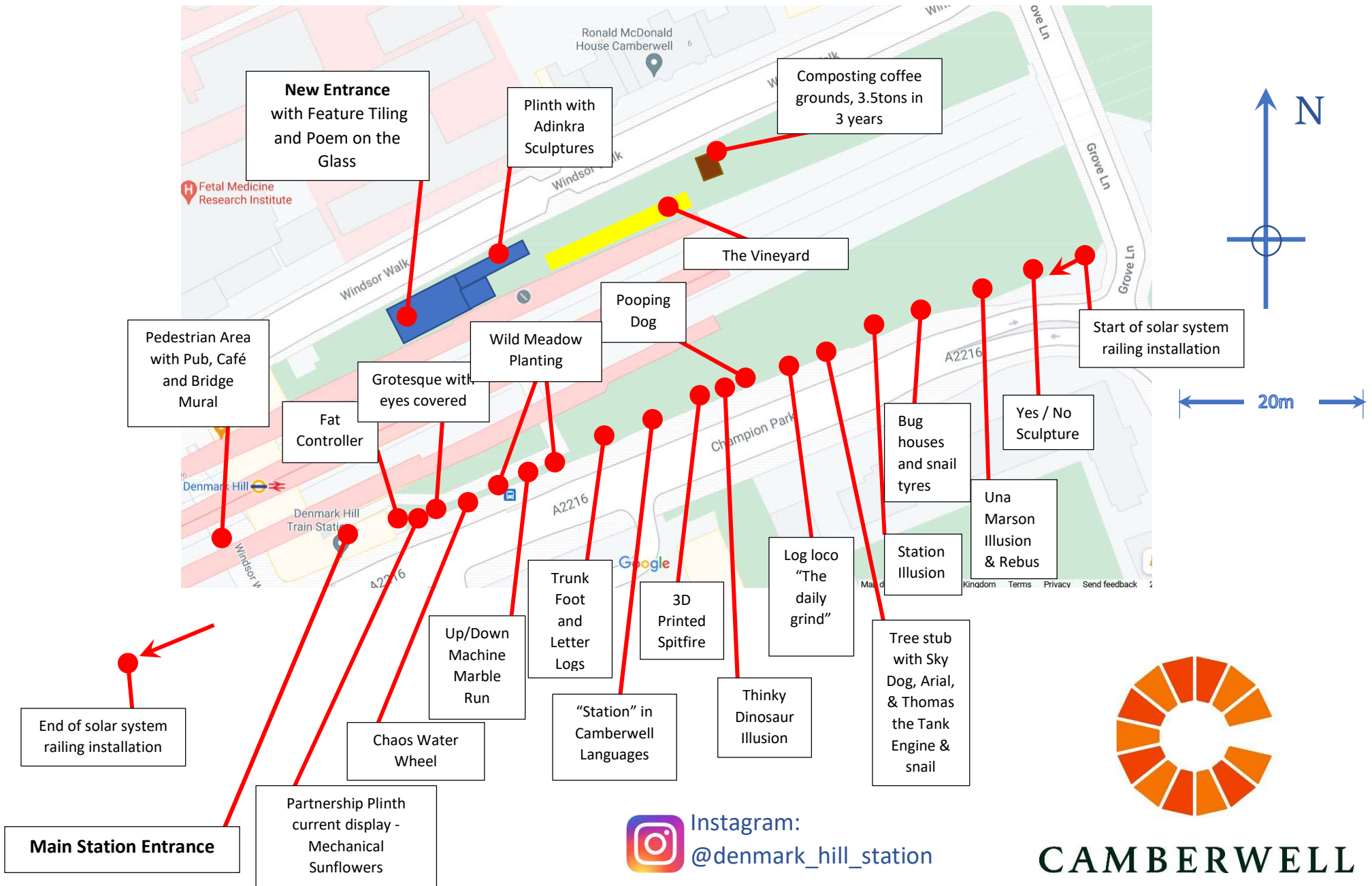


THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY

ART TRAIL AT DENMARK HILL STATION GUIDE



2023 Map of Denmark Hill Station Art Trail, Champion Park, Camberwell, London SE5 8BB



Guide to the Art Trail at Denmark Hill Station

https://youtu.be/vM2xLyY_34Y

1. Arriving at Denmark Hill it is best to use the newer blue footbridge at the eastern end of the platforms. Turning left at the top of the stairs will bring you onto a gently sloping ramp past wild flower plantings and mechanical installations by the Camberwell Society.

Alternatively, if you are based in Camberwell you may want to start at the main station entrance, in which case jump to #6 below. You will have a chance later to view items 2-5 as you finish the tour.

2. The first machine is the Up/Down Machine Marble Run. The original water power concept was based on a funicular railway, but it proved unreliable so it is now powered by a small electric motor. The trolleys lift the marbles on alternate side to run down either slowly down a spiral or quickly down the drop. The trolleys return to the bottom to pick the marbles up and the cycle is continued. The lights make it worth seeing at night also. The installation was created by Tony Coleman.



3. As you continue you pass the Chaos Wheel:



Built during the 2021 lockdown, the wheel promotes chaotic movement by being always top heavy. The concept was created by the US mathematician Edward Lorenz, creator of chaos theory. This wheel is based on the front wheel of a penny farthing, not an antique but a new one made in...yes...Taiwan. The

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| | <p>Camberwell “C” formed of segmented bricks is the logo for Camberwell that was designed by the brand designer Jim Sutherland. The shape of the bricks is that used when constructing a traditional circular well. The installation was created by Tony Coleman.</p> |
| 4. | <p>You are now approaching the Partnership Plinth which, as of September 2023, is displaying a large mechanical sunflower installation. The sunflowers casually turn and turn back but if they detect you passing, they turn to face you, smiling. The installation is changed every 6-12 weeks to keep it fresh. This installation was created by Tony Coleman.</p> <div></div> |
| 5. | <div></div> <p>If you look up you will see Sir Topham Hat (aka the Fat Controller from the Thomas the Tank Engine books). He is checking you have bought your ticket and behaving as you should be on his railway – that’s why he is on top of the security camera. The installation was created by Nick Mair</p> <p>Now exit the station and turn left. You will be walking past the backs of the installations you have just seen but with plenty more to see further on.</p> |
| 6. | <p>Solar system installation, along the railings on your left there is a solar system installation. They can be hard to spot being black panels on the railings. The first panel is earth and moon. They are scaled so that the sun is at the far end of the railings. The scale is approximately 1:1bn, making the earth look very small. Imagine all the space around us. As you walk along the railings you will come across Venus, then Mercury and then the sun. If you want to see the outer gas giants then you should take a minute to head the other way along the railings to ward Denmark Hill.</p> <div></div> |

7. If you look up you can see a **Grotesque hanging** off the tree



Originally found on churches and cathedrals these are used to scare away evil spirits. Many show the sense of humour and skill of the stone masons who made them. This one is having a bad day with his hand over his eyes so has not to scare anyone who might be sensitive.

The Grotesque is 3d printed and then primed and spray painted chrome. The installation was created by Nick Mair

8. **The Leg Log and Log Letters** – next you will come to a leg log with an added shoe! All the pieces along by these railings are the work of Nick and Camilla Mair.

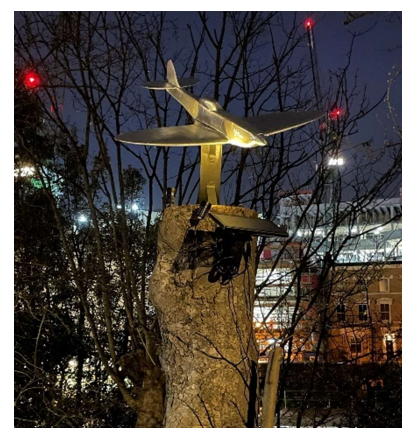






Alongside are sections of tree trunk with the letters Camberwell carved out. These letters are rearranged from time to time to make words from the letters. Words such as embrace, calm, cellar, cream, marble, amble, warble and hundreds more are possible plus many else in other languages. One of the longest anagrams is 'blew calmer'! The installation was created by Nick Mair

9. **Spitfire**

Famous as a World War 2 fighter – but it is actually gracing the tree stump as an iconic design rather than a machine of war. The product of a long series of racing seaplanes it's the marriage of thin elliptical wings and the Rolls Royce Merlin engine – these made it a delight to fly.

The plane is 3D printed from over 30 separate parts. The lighting, as with all installations is this part of the display, is solar powered. The installation was created by Nick Mair



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| <p>10.</p> | <p>‘Stations’ in Camberwell Languages</p>  <p>Next comes a board of direction signs showing the way to the station written in 9 of the most widely spoken languages in Camberwell and in binary! The installation created by Nick Mair</p> |
| <p>11.</p> | <p>Speedy Snail</p>  <p>What could be more natural than to see a snail on a tree? Even if it is 3D printed and chrome coloured. The installation was created by Nick Mair</p> |
| <p>12.</p> | <p>The Pooping Dog</p> <p>Further on is a dog doing its business in the bushes. The loudspeaker was thrown into the station – we salvaged the bottom portion as it says ‘sub-woofer’ which seemed appropriate. The cat is a local celebrity and frequently seen sunning itself on the installations. Not often you see a cat using a dog as a scratching post. The installation was created by Nick Mair</p>  |
| <p>13.</p> | <p>Thinky the Dinosaur</p> <p>This is an optical illusion based on the ‘hollow face illusion’. People think the dinosaur is following them but it’s an optical illusion created. Your brain tricks you by assuming the face of the dinosaur is ‘normal’ but actually it’s concave (=hollow). This is why the illusion works. To allow you thinking time the brain makes assumptions about shapes – some of which are incorrect – but time saving!</p> <p>The illusion was created by magician Jerry Andrus and Thinky is produced in memory of creative educationalist Martin Gardner. The installation was created by Nick Mair</p>  |

14. **Le Train-Train de la Vie**

This train is chainsawn from the felled trees in the woodland.

The title is a French joke – ‘le train-train’ means the daily humdrum existence – sadly the lot of many London commuters. The installation was created by Nick Mair



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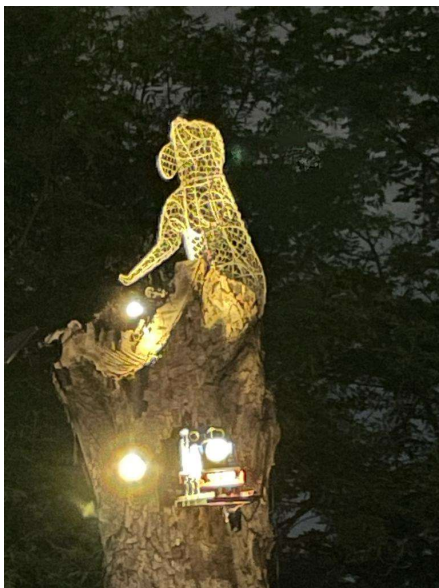
Thomas the Tank Engine visits Camberwell





No station should be without their own steam train – so Thomas puts in a welcome appearance at Denmark Hill. Look out for Sir Topham Hat by the ticket office. The installation was created by Nick Mair



16. **Stumpy the Tree dog**

A kind resident donated the wire frame used as a frame for a topiary dog. Clearly a majestic figure he deserved a prominent look-out spot. Stumpy was donated by Liz Allen and installed by Nick Mair.




















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| 17. | <p>Ariel / Aerial</p> <p>Ariel is made entirely out of objects people have thrown into the station as litter – the T shirt, Baseball cap, and TV aerial. Stanger litter objects have included a cricket bat, a hospital crutch along with the more boring traffic signs, beer crates and general litter. He changes shape as something weirder is thrown into the station. Road cones make good planters! The installation was created by Nick Mair</p> <div data-bbox="228 360 1410 855">  </div> |
| 18. | <p>Bug Houses and Tyre Snails</p> <div data-bbox="217 969 665 1243">  </div> <p>These bug houses were made by Year 7 students from a local school from reclaimed wood. Pollinators are threatened and everything we can do to promote them is welcomed. A lack of pollinators poses a serious threat to food supplies. A favourite is ‘Casa de bug’ – though ‘bug’ is not actually a Spanish word.</p> <p>Tyre Snails</p> |
| 19. | <p>The Camberwell Constrictor</p> <div data-bbox="217 1290 461 1608">  </div> <p>A large branch had fallen from a tree above – and looked like the sinuous body of a snake working its way through the trees. All it needed to complete the image was a 3D printed head to complete. The installation was created by Nick Mair</p> |
| 20. | <p>Rubbish meal</p> <div data-bbox="204 1655 461 1966">  </div> <p>A table place laid at the station and made from rubbish thrown into the station. Not perhaps the healthiest meal... We have also retrieved: several crutches (King’s Hospital obviously cures their patients), loudspeakers, car batteries, traffic cones, entire wardrobes, credit cards, travel cards, birthday cards.....the list goes on. The installation was created by Nick Mair</p> |
| 21. | <p>Next you come to a station sign but with a difference, can you decode it?</p> <p>Most people look at the black lines (ie normal writing), Look at the spaces. Best to start at the back with the ‘N’, rather than the front which is an arrow. The installation was created by Nick Mair</p> |



22. Una Marson Poem Rebus

Una Marson was a poet and activist from the 1940's. She was the first black woman programme maker at the BBC. This installation represents one of her poems in a mixture of pictures and words. Some words are still words, others are pictures – sometimes with a spelling clue. The installation was created by Nick Mair

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|---|---------|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|----------------------|
|  | am | in |  | with | the | 1 +ders | of |  ght +fe | | |
| Aye, | in |  | with | the | st +  + le | the | b +j  | h  | the | pe +fe |
| for | the |  u  + s | of |  + s | of |  | h  | of |  | |
| of | poetry, |  | h  |   | are | ours | I am in love with the wonders of life Aye, in love with the struggle the joy and the strife For the beauties of river of love and of flowers Of poetry, music and moonlight are ours | | | |

Una Marson featured as a Google splash screen in the month following our installation.



23. **Una Marson Morphing Illusion (anamorphic installation)**

Emilio Nunzi and Timur Sardafian are A level Art students at a local school. They painted this anamorphic illusion of famous Camberwell resident Una Marson.



24. **YES / NO morphing installation**

Towards the end of the railings, you will see the No/Yes, also built by Nick Mair. When you look one way it says “No” but from the other direction it says “Yes”. The installation was created by Nick Mair



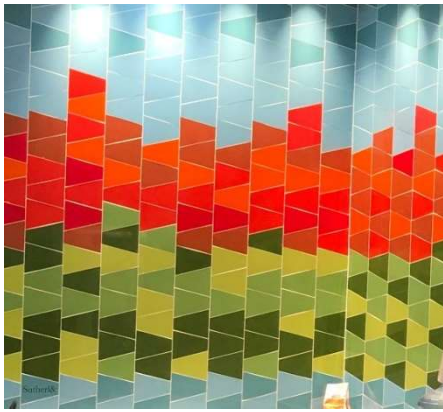
25. **Solar System Walk**



You have now walked all the way from the earth to the sun! The answer to the question would the earth fit through the flare is yes, 20 earths would fit through stacked on top of each other. You can check out the scale sized earth on the railings at the partnership plinth if you missed it. The installation was created by Tony Coleman.

To continue the trail, turn left onto the bridge and walk down the slope and take the next turning on the left again into Windsor Walk. Walk west down the road with the wall to your left until you reach the new entrance of the station.

26.

New Station Entrance

The new entrance is branded with the Camberwell C etched on the glass. The feature tiling uses the Camberwell branding colours which together portray a townscape. Sadly, at the moment, the view is somewhat blocked by redundant works that are waiting to be removed. The white tiling is also branded in the shape of the Camberwell key stones.

The Camberwell C and Camberwell Colours were developed as the brand for Camberwell Identity by Jim Sutherland who undertook the branding for the Natural History Museum.

In the entrance hall you can also see Una Marson's poem the Test

engraved on the windows:

The test of true culture
Is the ability
To move among men,
East or West
North or South,
With ease and confidence,
Radiating the pure light
Of a kindly humanity.

Una Marson

After reflecting on Una's words you will need to talk nicely to the lovely station people and they may let you through the barrier to finish the trail. In front of you are stairs leading up to the plinth with the Adinkra sculptures. Instead of the stairs, you may choose to go up by the ramp to your left where you will find Interpretation panels relating to the work.

27.

**Health and Wellbeing, by local artist Godfried Donkor**

Godfried won an open tender held by the Camberwell Society to create a sculpture for the plinth at the new station entrance. His sculpture is a selection of Adinkra that speak to the theme of "Health and Wellbeing". To select the Adinkra he held workshops with Sacred Heart School, Dog Kennel Hill play scheme, CAMHS, and Love Walk Residential Home. Adinkra originate from the Akan people in Ghana and West Africa. They are shapes and images that represent different human values and character.

The sculpture was installed at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic and is dedicated to the bravery of the public facing workers everywhere who worked through the pandemic, especially those working on the railway.

The installation was made possible through the generosity of local individuals and businesses whose names are to be found of the interpretation panels.

There are 5 adinkra sculptures:



Ahoden, (Energy) With energy and strength, you can make it through any situation in life



Aya (the Fern) “I am not afraid of you”, symbolising endurance and resourcefulness



Denkyem (The Crocodile) The crocodile lives in the water but breathes the air, symbolising versatility



Ananse Ntontan (The Spider’s Web) Symbol of wisdom, creativity and the complexities of life



Sankofa (The Bird), Turn back and fetch it, or learn from the past

You will also see on the tiling around the plinth



Odo Nyera Fie Kwan, Those led by love will never lose their way home, symbolising the power of love

Now look left as you pass over the bridge and you will see a steeply sloping area of land behind the canopy of platform 4. This is the vineyard.

28.



Vinyard

Making wine is clearly an art form and a vineyard has been developed at the station. It is understood to be the first vineyard at a station in the UK. A co-funded grant from Community Rail and another from GTR allowed the area to be terraced and planted. But it may be a while (perhaps 2026) before bottles of Chateau Denmark Hill Station can be produced.

The slope is ideally situated being well drained and with over the 8 hours of sun a day needed for grape growing, well, some summers. The variety vitis vinifera Bacchus is being planted, the third most commonly grown grape for white wine in England. The installation was created by Tony Coleman.

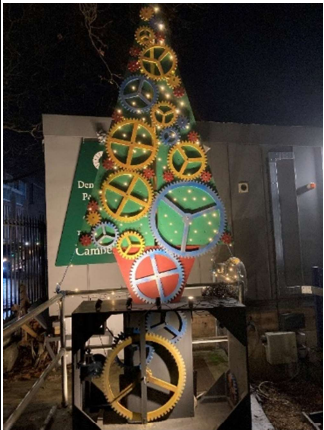




Now cross the footbridge and go back up past the mechanical installations and exit through the main entrance. You may have to talk nicely again to the gate attendants. At the entrance turn right and right again to come round the front of the original Victorian booking hall.

29.

The Camberwell C Bridge Mural

The bridge mural was painted by Lionel Stanhope in 2019, you might recognise the Camberwell “C”. In the background is the intensive care unit at King’s College hospital with its rooftop helipad for the air ambulance.



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| <p>30.</p> | <p>Refreshments</p> <p>You are at the end of the trail and you may wish to quench your thirst at the coffee bar or at the Phoenix pub (so named because it was rebuilt having been burned down by arsonists). You can rest your legs and reflect on what you have seen.</p> <p>It is hoped that you have enjoyed the tour. New things are always being installed so check back regularly. Please also tell your friends and follow the station on Instagram at Denmark_Hill_Station</p> |
| | <p>The Plinth exhibits usually change every 6 weeks. Past exhibits include:</p> <div data-bbox="220 544 544 972">  </div> <p>Christmas Tree</p> <div data-bbox="560 544 884 972">  </div> <div data-bbox="967 544 1425 987">  </div> <p>Sit UP Santa automaton</p> <div data-bbox="220 1025 884 1391">  </div> <p>Marble run</p> <div data-bbox="954 1093 1476 1391">  </div> <p>3 times size deckchair</p> |
| | <p>Coffee grounds to compost</p> <p>There are lots of construction projects in Camberwell – and so lots of pallets. There are also a lot of coffee shops - and so lots of coffee grounds. We recycle 25kg of coffee a week as well as unbleached cardboard and vegetable peelings. As a result we have produced well over three and half tonnes of coffee (Sept 2023). The installation was created by Nick Mair who also hauls the coffee grounds every week and makes the compost</p> |



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THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY

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