

Wassail (2018)

Permanent public sculpture. Commissioned by Berkeley Homes.

Commissioned by Berkeley Homes to be sited around their 'Vista' development on the Nine Elms, Battersea, the specific focus of the commission was to create way markers for the site. The logic to my approach was that anything can act as a way marker – a tree-stump, a bent lamppost – essentially anything that's specific and unique to a site. Seven works were developed for the site, to be set in to the hardscaping at specific points, each of which was thematically developed from research in to the history of the borough. An eighth work was also commissioned to be sited on a railway arch at the rear of the site. This was developed, thematically, from the same research that was undertaken in to the history of the borough. The specific things being referenced through the works are:

- Battersea formerly being a lavender-farming area, pre-industrial revolution.
- Pink Floyd's classic 'Animals' album cover, featuring a pig flying between the chimneys of Battersea Power Station (which is directly to the rear of the site).
 - The work of Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.
- The formation of the Workers Educational Association in a terraced house in the borough in 1903.
- The aviation history of the Short Brothers, formerly based on the gasworks the rear of the Vista site.
- The filming of The Clash's 'London Calling' video on a pier of Battersea Park.
- The presence of the 'Pleasure Gardens' in Battersea Park during the 1951 'Festival of Britain'.
 - The discovery of the Seax of Beagnoth in the River Thames at Battersea – a 9th Century Anglo-Saxon knife containing the only known complete inscription of the twenty-eight letter Anglo-Saxon runic alphabet.

Further documentation

<https://www.smarkgubb.com/wassail>

Further Evidence/Information

Berkeley Homes Cultural Strategy:

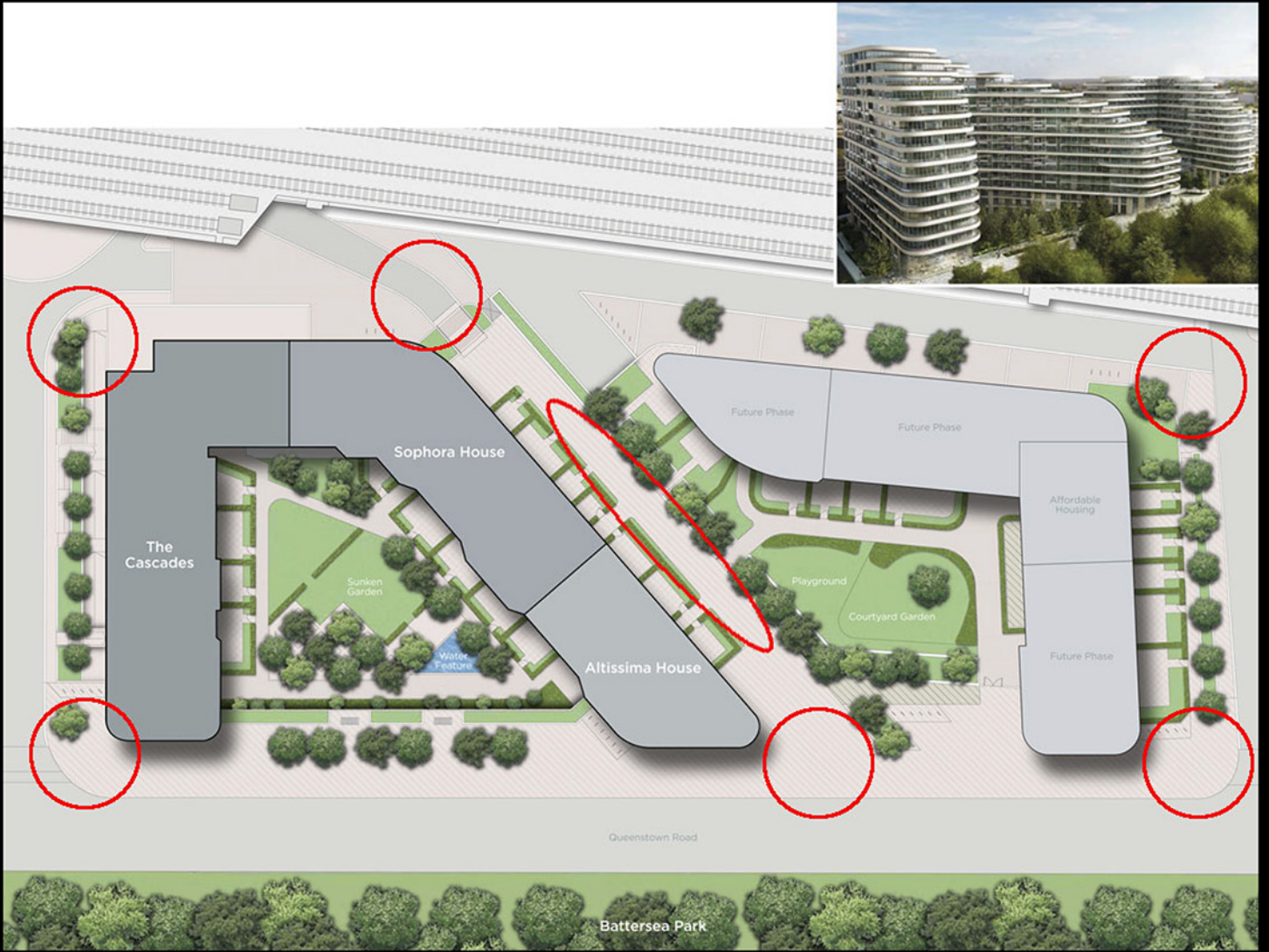
<https://www.berkeleygroup.co.uk/media/pdf/e/r/Cultural-Strategy-Info.pdf>

Nine Elms London 'Winter Highlights':

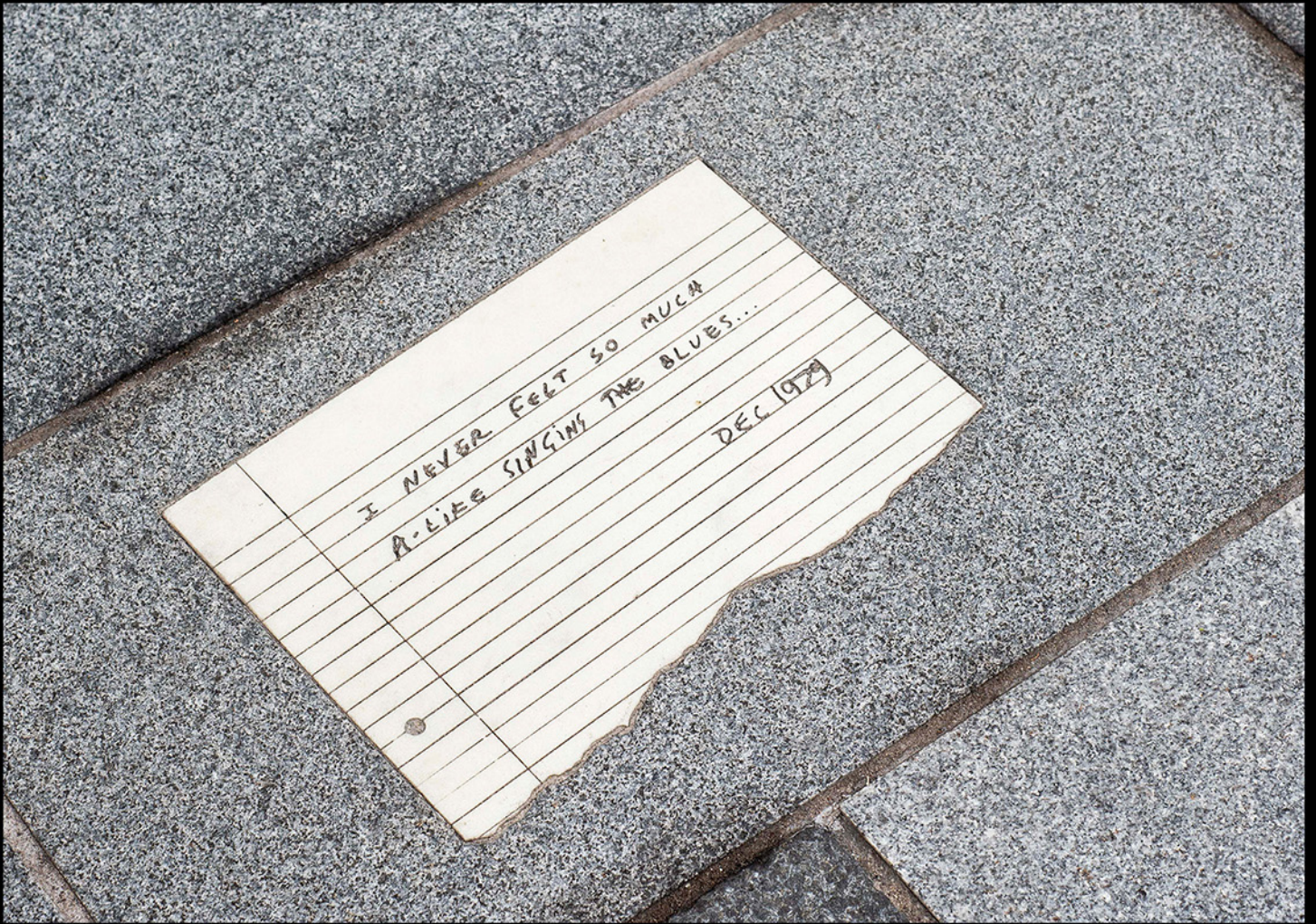
<https://nineelmslondon.com/features/highlights-from-winter-in-nine-elms/>

Public Talk Event/Information:

<https://nineelmslondon.com/events/winter/up-project-artist-commissions-launch-event-in-nine-elms/>



Positions of the seven works set in to the hardscaping around the Vista development, Nine Elms, Battersea, London (2018)



Singin' the Blues (2018)
Laser-etched white marble set in to a granite plank, Vista development, Nine Elms, Battersea, London



Pleasure Gardens (2018)
Engraved text in granite plank, Vista development, Nine Elms, Battersea, London



Weight of the Stone (2018)
Stainless steel letters set in granite planks, Vista development, Nine Elms, Battersea, London



A Dog Needs a Home (2018)
Stainless steel letters set in granite planks and dog paw prints in concrete slab,
Vista development, Nine Elms, Battersea, London



Balloons for Sale (2018)
Engraved granite blocks, Vista development, Nine Elms, Battersea, London



2s 6d (2018)
1903 coins set in granite slab, Vista development, Nine Elms, Battersea, London



Lavender (2018)
Neon and powder-coated metal case,
Vista development, Nine Elms, Battersea, London



Wassail (2018)
Stainless steel letters set in granite plank,
Vista development, Nine Elms, Battersea, London