

Runnymede Access Statement

Windsor Road, Old Windsor, Surrey, SL4 2JL

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Introduction

Runnymede (300 acres) and Ankerwycke (200 acres) comprise a 500-acre countryside site including flood meadows, hillside, parkland, and woodland straddling the Thames. We acknowledge that this can make access limited for those with restricted mobility. With the help of a Heritage Lottery Fund and in line with the Disability Discrimination Act main paths at Runnymede have been upgraded so everyone can enjoy the historical and cultural importance of the site. Access elsewhere across the landscape may be limited for those with mobility difficulties for the following reasons:

1. Owing to its countryside setting, much of the access at Runnymede and Ankerwycke is across uneven terrain without constructed paths. These routes can become muddy and waterlogged in poor weather. Accessible paths have only been constructed the entire length of the site next to the Thames and on the low level to the south side of the site from the Magna Carta Café to the Writ in Water
2. Due to the use of some of the land by cattle, many of the access points between fields are by means of kissing gates, pinch points and stiles.

Please also note the following:

1. Mobile phone access is generally good across the property but can be patchy in some areas. In an emergency, if visitors have a problem whilst at the property they should telephone 01784 432891 (option 2) or 01784 479571 (Magna Carta Tearoom).
2. Dogs are welcome throughout the year. They should be kept on a lead in the tearoom and in areas of the site where allowing them to run free might pose a risk to themselves or others e.g. close to the road or to grazing cattle.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. The main entrance to Runnymede is situated at the edge of the Runnymede meadows a quarter of a mile outside Old Windsor on the A308. There are brown tourist signs at both the Egham and Old Windsor ends of the site, and at the entrances to the National Trust car parks.
3. There are 2 designated spaces for disabled visitors in the Memorials car park. These are adjacent to our tearoom and toilet facilities.
4. The Memorials car park surface is tarmac; our overflow and seasonal car park facilities are on the grass.
5. There is a small parking area for Ankerwycke on Magna Carta Lane which is part concrete, part-gravel.

WCs

1. There is an accessible disabled toilet situated approximately 5 metres from the designated disabled spaces in our Memorials Car Park (ramp access).
2. The accessible toilet is approximately 1.35m by 2.10m
3. The accessible WC is left-hand transfer
4. The accessible toilet is lit by a mixture of artificial and natural light via LED bulbs and a window.
5. All WCs have automatic hand driers and a mixture of artificial LED and natural lighting.
6. There is a pull-cord emergency alarm system in the disabled toilet. There is a reset facility available outside the disabled toilet.
7. There is a nappy disposal bin available in the toilet; baby change cubicles and nappy disposal bins are available in marked cubicles in the gents and ladies' toilets.

Visitor Reception

Runnymede currently has no formal visitor reception area. Through the Heritage Lottery Fund interpretation, signage has been installed in the tearoom to improve the visitor experience. Staff in the tearoom are happy to help you make the most of your visit. Staff offices are located in 'North Lodge' adjacent to our Riverside car park and opposite the Magna Carta Tearoom, accessed at the front via steps and at the back via a ramped accessible path.

Catering

1. The Magna Carta Tearoom is adjacent to the Memorials Car Park.
2. The main tearoom entrance door is via a ramp near to our two disabled parking bays.
3. The door is 1 metre wide, opens inwards and has a motorised opening mechanism which can be operated via a push button at wheelchair height to the left of the door as you enter the tearoom and another button at the same height to your right as you leave it.
4. The surface of the path outside the Tearoom is tarmac. In addition to the ramp access, there is a secondary entrance to the Magna Carta Tearoom via four steps and through a door facing the A308 and North Lodge. The steps vary in height with a maximum height of approximately 155mm. There are two metal handrails at a height of approximately 1000mm fixed alongside the steps to assist with visitor access.
5. The secondary door facing the main road is opened manually; the width is 875mm. The entry door opens inwards. Staff and volunteers may be able to assist with opening the door if required.
6. The Tearoom has wooden parquet flooring and there are no soft furnishings so the hard surfaces may cause sound echoes.
7. The Tearoom has windows admitting natural light and LED artificial lights.
8. To facilitate access for visitors in wheelchairs, the service counter in the Tearoom is set at a height of 850mm, with a stainless steel tray 800mm above floor level.

9. An induction loop is available at the counter.

10. There are eight benches for café users outside which are wheelchair accessible as well as a further six in the paddock area adjacent, and five on the river side adjacent to North Lodge for picnic use

Countryside

1. There is a map of Runnymede and Ankerwycke showing suggested walks to areas of interest in the landscape. Many areas are currently not easy to access in a buggy, scooter or wheelchair due to uneven surfaces, steep slopes, steps and kissing gates. For families with prams and buggies and for those with mobility difficulties, the Riverside path and the Memorials path are all-weather access. The Jurors, wicker figures and the Magna Carta Memorial are accessible in good weather, but the access routes are largely unsurfaced and can get muddy and slippery in poor weather.

2. The A308 which runs through Runnymede can be safely crossed at the western end via a pelican crossing. There are also central refuge islands set at intervals along the road.

3. DDA compliant paths run along the riverside (part of the Thames Path National Trail), and the across the meadows from the tearoom to Writ in Water. Both paths are linked by DDA compliant landscaping around the Lutyens Lodges. This enables year-round access to many key areas and features.

4. There are no further National Trust toilet facilities at Runnymede. However, municipal toilets and refreshment facilities are available at the Runnymede Pleasure Grounds (not National Trust) adjacent to our land at the Egham end of the A308.

5. There are numerous benches along the riverbank; seating is also available near or at the memorials and artworks. Interpretation panels are also distributed along the access paths at key locations. Audio guides are accessible via QR codes on the panels or via the web site search for Runnymede in Sound

Ankerwycke

1. The main entrance to Ankerwycke is via Magna Carta Lane, a local road accessed from the B376 between Wraysbury and Staines.

2. Ankerwycke has free parking facilities for approximately 12 cars adjacent to Magna Carta Lane approximately 70 metres from the B376 junction.

3. The parking facilities are on a mixture of gravel and concrete.

4. Ankerwycke does not possess any reserved disabled spaces or adapted facilities. There are no toilets or refreshment facilities at Ankerwycke.

5. Ankerwycke is patrolled and managed by National Trust, but there are no manned staff facilities on site.

6. The terrain at Ankerwycke is uneven but not sloped. Tracks across the land are mostly unsurfaced and often become muddy and waterlogged in wet weather. Boardwalks and improved paths have been installed around the Ankerwycke Yew to make the site more accessible.

7. Most of the land at Ankerwycke is grazed by cattle, and access between fields is via kissing gates and stiles.

8. Ankerwycke is not currently suitable for access with wheelchairs, mobility scooters, buggies or prams.

Contact details for more information

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Runnymede map: <https://nt.global.ssl.fastly.net/documents/maps/1431729783043-runnymede-and-ankerwycke.pdf>