

## Runnymede Access Statement

Windsor Road, Old Windsor, Surrey, SL4 2JL

T: 01784 432891 (option 2)

E: [runnymede@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:runnymede@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### 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. Our aim is to make available these historical sites to as many people as possible and are currently improving access with the help of a Heritage Lottery Fund and in line with the Disability Discrimination Act. Soon, everyone will be able to enjoy their historical and cultural importance. Currently, access across large parts of the landscape can be limited for those with mobility difficulties for the following reasons:

1. Owing to its countryside setting, most of the access at Runnymede and Ankerwycke is across uneven terrain without constructed paths. These routes can become muddy and waterlogged in poor weather.
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 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.
2. There are two speedbumps located inside the Memorials Car Park entrance gate intended to slow incoming traffic to a safe speed; these are approximately 25mm in height.
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 \* 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 fluorescent bulbs and a window onto the ladies' toilet.
5. All WCs have automatic hand driers and a mixture of artificial 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, though with the aid of the Heritage Lottery Fund, we are aiming to create a better welcome and improve the visitor experience. In the meantime, staff will be happy to help you make the most of your visit. Staff offices are located in 'North Lodge' adjacent to our seasonal car park and opposite the Magna Carta Tearoom, accessed at the front via steps and at the back via a gravel path.

## Catering

1. The Magna Carta Tearoom and shop are adjacent to the Memorials Car Park.
2. The main tearoom entrance door is via a ramp adjacent 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 artificial lights including fluorescent tubes.
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.

## 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 river bank path and The Jurors 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 are scheduled to be constructed along the Thames Path and across the meadows to Writ in Water by the end of August 2020, facilitating 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.
5. There are numerous benches along the riverbank; seating is also available at the memorials and artworks.

## 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. A new ferry crossing is planned to make crossing the river easier.
5. Ankerwycke does not possess any reserved disabled spaces or adapted facilities. There are no toilets or refreshment facilities at Ankerwycke.
6. Ankerwycke is patrolled and managed by National Trust, but there are no manned staff facilities on site.
7. 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, however, the long-term plan is to lay boardwalks and improve paths to make the site more accessible.
8. Most of the land at Ankerwycke is grazed by cattle, and access between fields is via kissing gates and stiles.
9. Ankerwycke is not currently suitable for access with wheelchairs, mobility scooters, buggies or prams, though the Trust aims to improve this with long term plans for accessibility.

### Contact details for more information

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