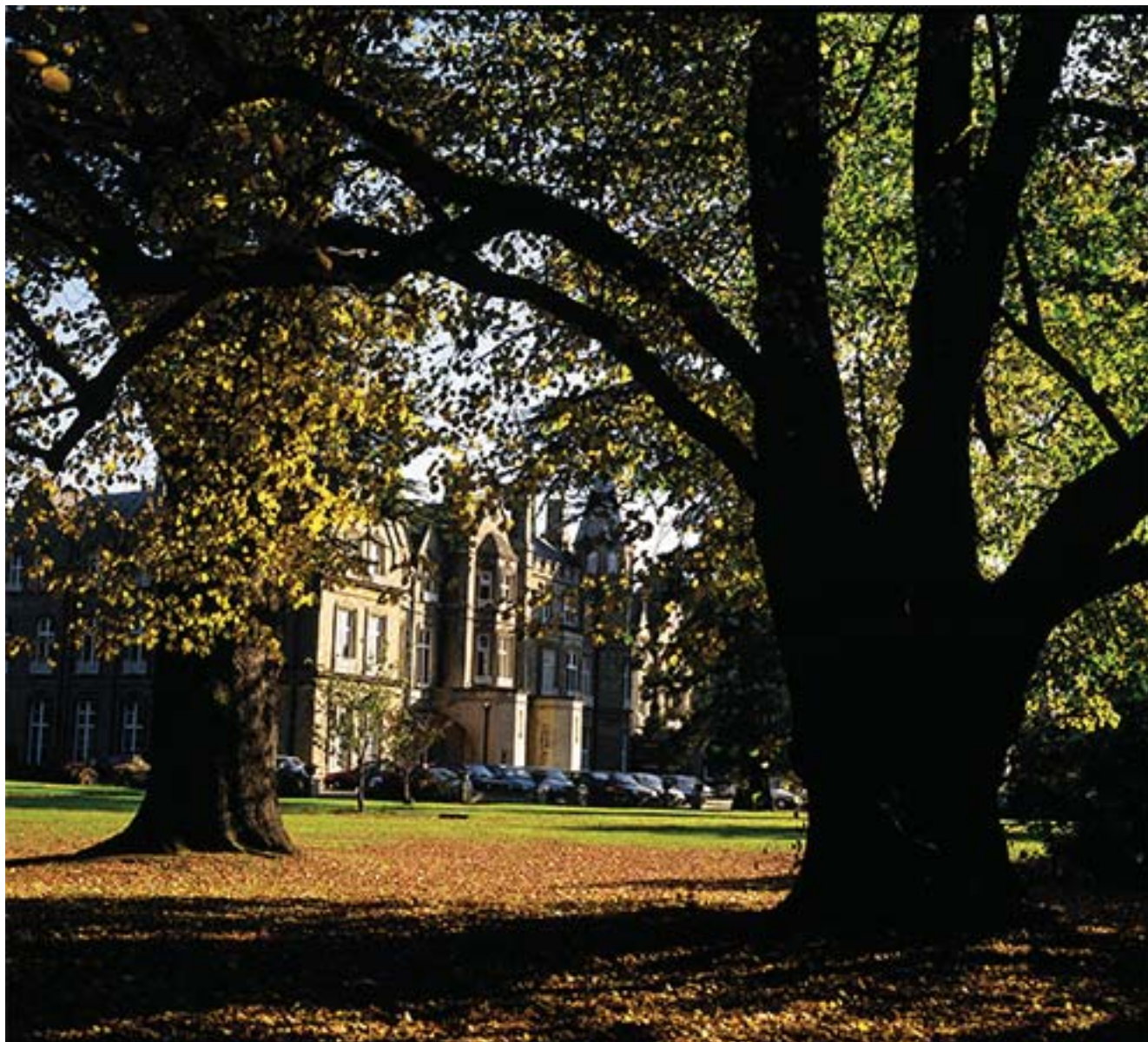


Runnymede campus to Magna Carta Centre

B50
16

Start	Runnymede campus — TW20 0JY
Finish	Magna Carta Centre — TW19 5AE
Distance	1.67km
Duration	20 minutes
Ascent	3.2m
Access	Bus near start of section. Bus near end of section.
Facilities	Café at end of section.

161	Runnymede campus	0m
16.2	W on Cooper's Hill Lane; L to St Jude's Road; cross, and take L pvt downhill for 200m; cross and take footpath E; path curves round to L; pass traffic barrier onto NT land; descend via JFK memorial to meadows; diag L to gatehouse; cross road to reach river at Magna Carta Centre.	1630m



*President's Hall,
Runnymede campus*

16.1 This section begins at the western end of Cooper's Hill Lane, Englefield Green, at the gateway to the former Runnymede campus.

The Runnymede campus became part of the University in 1980, but it goes back much earlier into history. The main building was built in the 1860s for Albert Grant, a wheeler-dealer promoter of companies which had a tendency to collapse at the expense of their shareholders: the architect was Sir Matthew Digby Wyatt, who had been IKB's architect for Paddington Station.

The property was bought in 1870 to be the site of the Royal Indian Engineering College, a private institution set up to teach civil engineering, and later telegraphy, for the India Office: the college lasted until 1906, by which time students had been creamed off by the foundation of engineering departments in established universities (Oxford, for instance).

In 1911, Baroness Cheylesmore purchased the property as a family home, but personal tragedy marred the use of the house by the family. It was subsequently purchased by the London County Council in the

late 1930s, and during the Second World War, it served as an Emergency Training College.

In 1951, the site became home to the Shoreditch Training College, a teacher training institution that had grown out of an aim to provide teachers of handicrafts in London, but which was by then too big for its premises in the East End. The College remained on the site until its merger with Brunel in 1980. In early 2007, the site was sold by the University as part of the rationalisation onto a single campus, and teaching moved to Uxbridge.

16.2 With the former gateway now on your right, follow Cooper's Hill Lane westwards, then bearing left to reach the main road at the summit of Priest Hill. Do not follow the "no through road" straight on: it only leads to houses. Turn right, then find a suitable place to cross to the other side of Priest Hill near (and preferably to the right of) its junction with Castle Hill Road and Ridgemean Road. Start off down the hill. You will pass (the backs of) three road signs on your right: a large one, a small one, and finally, a triangular one. Just beyond, on the right, a public footpath sign points the way down a tarmac lane.

Cross the road, and follow this lane all the way downhill. A green metal fence accompanies you on the right: keep a lookout on your left for a brief glimpse of Windsor Castle in the distance. Ignore a turning off to the right: just descend with the tarmac until you reach some buildings. Pass to the left of the buildings where, at a National Trust sign and a vehicle barrier post, the metalled path ends. The route is now an unmade track, still descending but now through woodland. Once again, ignore routes leading off to your right. You will soon come down alongside the President John F Kennedy Memorial stone on your left.

Runnymede's historic meadows, and the Cooper's Hill Slopes above them, have become a site of memorials: the act of memory is drawn to the site where, in 1215, King John sealed the Magna Carta. The Air Forces' Memorial, which is described above, claims the top of the slope; the various commemorations of Magna Carta itself appear below; and here on the half-slope stands a memorial to an assassinated President: all of these draw on fundamental concepts of freedom and human rights.

JFK memorial, Runnymede

The Kennedy Memorial occupies an acre (about 0.4ha) of land given by the United Kingdom to the people of the United States of America for the specific purpose of containing the memorial. The land remains, however, the sovereign territory of the United Kingdom, so there is no point in your attempting any sleight of hand relating to sanctuary, tax haven status, or any other transnational acts of magic. Symbolism pervades the site. Adjacent to





Setts of individuality to JFK memorial, Runnymede

the memorial stone grow two planted trees — a hawthorn to represent Kennedy's Roman Catholicism, and an American Red Oak, whose leaves turn a deep red around the date of the anniversary (on 22 November) of Kennedy's death. The staircase path which rises from the meadows is made of no fewer than sixty thousand irregular stone "setts of individuality". These are deliberately laid in a non-uniform manner so that the climb is made more arduous than it might be (as a reminder that life is not all plain sailing) —

echoes here of the *stolpersteine*, or 'stumble-stones', which are placed on the pavements in many cities throughout Europe (and beyond) to recall those who were taken from their homes during the Holocaust. Fifty steps lead up to the monument from the meadows, each in a different conformation, representing the fifty states in their variety.

Descend the stepped path to reach Runnymede meadows — having contemplated the late President Kennedy's life and legacy, you will emerge symbolically from darkness into light as you leave the woods behind.

Off to the right lies the American Bar Association's polite memorial to Magna Carta, marking the charter's 750th anniversary in 1965: it only requires a small detour along the meadows to visit the ABA rotunda.

The route of the Brunel50 Path now leads leftwards across the grass on a bee-line towards the nearer of the two lodges which mark the western edge of the meadows, and which straddle the A308 road which crosses the land ahead.

Out in the middle of the meadows, a sculpture of twelve chairs is placed around a missing table — this is *The Jurors*, by Hew Locke. This was unveiled at the octocentennial celebrations for Magna Carta in June 2015: each chair is inscribed with symbols of (perceived?) injustice, both past and present: the individuals who sit in the chairs become the jurors who weigh the cases.

The lodge nearer the riverside forms the estate office for the National Trust on Runnymede Meadows. The Trust acquired the land in 1929, in memory of Urban Broughton, sometime Member of Parliament for Preston and a civil engineer. The two lodges (one on either side of the A308 Windsor Road), along with the adjacent Broughton memorial pier block, were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, who designed the Cenotaph in Whitehall, and part of New Delhi. He also designed the refurbishment of Lindisfarne Castle in Northumberland.

The National Trust property encompasses the meadows and slopes bounded by the A30, the A308, and Cooper's Hill, along with a sliver of

land between the A308 and the river. The meadows are technically two: Runnymede is the broader meadow closer to Egham, while the area below the Kennedy and ABA memorials is Longmede. The Trust owns land on the other side of the River Thames at Ankerwycke, including Magna Carta Island. At the Egham end of Runnymede meadows, there are two pepperpot kiosks, one on each side of the A308. In similar style to the lodges at the west end of the meadows, these kiosks were also designed by Lutyens.

As well as an information centre, the National Trust lodge on the meadows side (farther from the river) houses a tea shop. There are also public toilets on the west side of the lodge, and a car park adjacent (access from east of the lodge).

Cross the road just beyond the lodge by way of the pedestrian crossing. The building ahead on your left is the Brunel Magna Carta Centre, which was formerly the University boathouse.

If you exit the Meadows and turn left at the mini-roundabout (onto Priest Hill), you will reach a stop on the left (uphill) for the 71 bus to Heathrow Terminal 5: on the downhill side, there is a stop for the 71 bus towards Windsor and Slough. These buses do not accept Oystercards.