

Sunningdale to Windsor - Alternative ending via Runnymede and Thames Path to Staines

*This alternative afternoon route diverts through fields and along quiet lanes and tracks to the historical Magna Carta site at Runnymede meadows and then follows the Thames Path to Staines. It starts from the suggested lunchtime stop at the **Savill Garden Restaurant**, and offers an alternative lunch stop nearby for those preferring a pub lunch.*

1. Continue on the tarmac path past the Savill Building (or turn left onto the path if you have stopped for lunch at the Savill Garden Restaurant).
2. In 70 metres turn right through a gap into the Savill Gardens coach park and exit past the vehicle barrier onto a road, where you turn left.
3. Proceed with care along the road, which has no pavement, for 650 metres to reach **The Sun** pub, an alternative lunchtime stop.
4. Just past the pub, ignore Kings Lane to the right, and turn right up Prospect Lane, an unmade road. At its end, continue straight on through a wooden kissing-gate onto a footpath between hedges.
5. In 300 metres go through another kissing-gate and where the footpath bends right, turn left through a third kissing-gate into a field. Here the OS map shows a wood immediately on the left, but this no longer exists.
6. Go across the middle of the field, where there is no clear path, aiming slightly to the left of a white turreted building visible in the middle distance above the trees.
7. At the far side of the field, go through a wooden kissing-gate beside a green metal gate and turn sharp right through another kissing-gate onto a car-wide track.
8. In 350 metres go through a kissing-gate to continue on the track which soon becomes a tarmac lane (Ham Lane), arriving at a road junction in 250 metres. *Just before the junction, over large entrance gates to the right, you can glimpse the striking white turreted and castellated building that you saw earlier. This is the large Grade II listed 18th century mansion, Castle Hill, which is in private ownership.*

9. At the junction with Bishopsgate Road, go straight across into Castle Hill Road. In 300 metres you come to a main road, the A328. *Here you could take a no.71 bus to Windsor (bus stop to the left) or to Staines (bus stop across the road to the right). Buses run half-hourly Mon-Sat and hourly on Sunday.*
10. Turn left along the pavement of the A328, and in 180 metres turn right through a white gate onto a driveway, following a public footpath sign downhill, passing a rather neglected campus of Brunel University to the right.
11. At the end of the drive, continue straight ahead on a footpath into woodland, entering the National Trust's Runnymede site. The path descends and emerges into the open at the John F Kennedy Memorial, situated on an acre of ground given by the UK to the USA to commemorate the assassinated US president.
12. Descend uneven cobbled steps to reach Runnymede meadows where there is an information board about the memorial. Turn right for 150 metres along the edge of woodland to reach the Magna Carta memorial, erected "to commemorate Magna Carta as a symbol of freedom under law."
13. Cross the meadows below the memorial, and then the main road (A308) to reach the banks of the Thames. Across the river is Magna Carta Island, where the charter is reputed to have been sealed by King John in 1215.
14. Here you can follow the Thames Path for about 3.5km either left, to Windsor, or right, to Staines. The path towards Staines soon follows the bank of the river around the edge of Runnymede Pleasure Ground, and later passes a lock and weir before going under the M25.
15. At the first bridge you come to, follow the Thames Path sign to cross the bridge into Staines and then resume the riverside path on the other side. Leave the path just before it passes under a railway bridge and join a main road which diverges from the river at this point.
16. In 200 metres turn left up Gresham Road to reach Staines rail station in 600 metres.