

“In Writ in Water, the use of reflection to make the text legible plays against the idea of a law written in stone.”

– Mark Wallinger

Visitor information

Writ in Water is open seven days a week and is free to enter. Please do use the benches inside to sit and spend some time inside the artwork.

Its location is a 10 minute walk across the meadow from the memorial car park and café, past *The Jurors* along the meadow footpath to the gate in the far corner. Pass through the gate into the meadow adjacent to the ABA memorial to Magna Carta. (There may be cattle in this area, **please ensure gates are closed behind you**). Bear left and you will see **Writ in Water** ahead of you, which can be accessed through a final gate.

To find out more about **Writ in Water** please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/runnymede

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Writ in Water was commissioned in association with Situations as part of Trust New Art, National Trust's programme of contemporary arts inspired by the places we look after.

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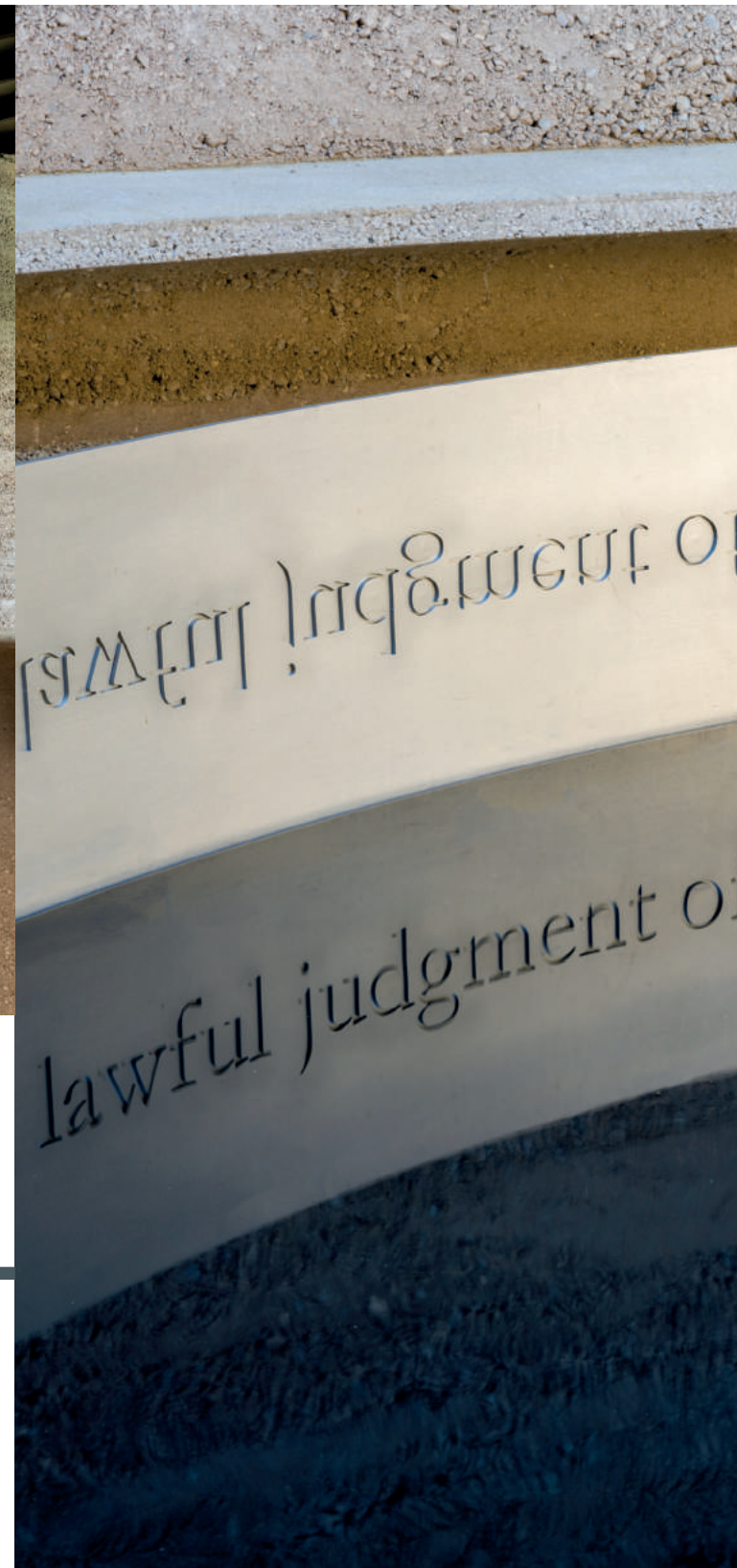


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Trust



Writ in Water

A major architectural artwork by
Mark Wallinger in collaboration with
Studio Octopi, which celebrates the enduring
legacy of Magna Carta at Runnymede.



Writ in Water is a major architectural artwork by Mark Wallinger in collaboration with Studio Octopi, which offers an immersive space for reflecting on the founding principles of democracy at Runnymede.

Over 800 years ago, Runnymede witnessed the feudal barons forcing King John to seal Magna Carta - a founding moment in shaping the basis of common law across the world.

A gathering space at the heart of this ancient landscape, **Writ in Water** reflects upon the founding principles of democracy through a meeting of water, earth, sky and light, creating an immersive space for reflection and contemplation.

Mark Wallinger has drawn inspiration from Clause 39 of Magna Carta and the fundamental principles of justice it embodies.

'No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land.' – **Clause 39, Magna Carta**

Mark Wallinger is one of the UK's leading contemporary artists. He is known for his engagement with ideas of power, authority, artifice and illusion, that interweave the mythological, the political and the everyday.



An architectural artwork

Commissioned by National Trust in association with arts producers Situations, Mark Wallinger developed **Writ in Water** in collaboration with London-based architectural practice Studio Octopi.

The large-scale architectural artwork appears to emerge from the hillside, sitting in a meadow which is flanked by the River Thames on one side and an ox-bow lake on the other. Responding to this feature of water in the surrounding landscape, **Writ in Water** takes its name from the inscription on John Keats' gravestone, which reads, *'Here lies one whose name was writ in water'*.

On entrance, a simple labyrinth opens out into a central chamber. Here the sky looms through a wide opening above a pool of water, as reflective as a still font. The sides of the pool are inscribed on the inner side, the water reflecting the reversed lettering of Clause 39, an invitation from the artist to move around the pool and discover its words.

Writ in Water is a public artwork created in response to the history and landscape at Runnymede that celebrates the enduring legacy and significance of Magna Carta today.

If you would like this information in an alternative format please call us on 01784 432891 or e-mail runnymede@nationaltrust.org.uk