

Summary Description

Lying off the north east corner of the Isle of Wight Ryde Roads takes advantage of sheltered conditions. It is adjacent to the main Naval anchorage at Spit Head and has a strategic view over the Eastern Solent and approaches to Southampton Water.

Sea Surface

The sea surface features frequent ferry services, in addition to being traversed by a range of shipping both large and small. There are seven anchorage areas designated, two of which are near shore anchorages. Recreational sailing is supported through marinas and ancillary structures.

Due to the density of shipping there are frequent navigational markers within the area. This is particularly evident in the approach to the town of Ryde, where the pier is a dominant feature of the seascape.

Seabed Surface

The coastal zone is lined with sandy beaches and supported by groynes, breakwaters and a sea wall. Sandy deposits continue offshore where Ryde East and Ryde West Sands are located.

The maritime archaeological resource is reflected through the charged records of 15 wrecks and obstructions. One of these is a well known recreational dive site: the *Duddon* an old lighter sunk in 1924.

Seabed Subsurface

Traces of submerged prehistoric landscapes have been identified through a program of geophysical survey. These prehistoric landscape deposits are linked to the development of the Old Solent river into a fully marine tidal waterway. Such deposits are revealing important evidence of sea level and climate change and the environment used by early human populations.

Coastal

The resort of Ryde is a major holiday centre and has a prominent pier that was built in 1814. There are a range of Regency and Victorian buildings within the town. The hovercraft from Portsmouth also docks at Ryde.

The area is renowned for its sandy beaches. The nearby village of Seaview is known for its safe swimming.

Archaeological Potential

Offshore the archaeology of this area is dominated by the shipwreck resource. However, the potential for the survival of submerged prehistoric landscapes should be highlighted. Such deposits can reveal important evidence of sea level and climate change and the development of Britain as an island. The potential to encounter the remains of crashed aircraft must also be considered, with many recorded losses which date to the Second World War.

References & Links

Cheverton, R.J. *Memories of old Seaview*. Newport: Richards, [ca.1978].

Searle, Adrian. *Seaview Pier: the case history*. Newport, I.W.: Isle of Wight County Press, 1981.

Wheeler, Jack. *The first hundred years : the parish of Ryde, All Saints', 1867-1967*. Ryde: the Author, 1967.

Ryde Development Trust - <http://www.rydedevelopmenttrust.org/>

Ryde Social Heritage Group - <http://www.rshg.org.uk/>

Ryde Harbour - <http://www.rydeharbour.co.uk/>

Seaview Regatta - http://www.iwight.com/news_events/event_search3_c.asp?Ev_ref=2767

Sailing in Seaview - <http://www.seaviewmermaids.co.uk/>



Images



IoE number:	417474
Character Area:	Ryde Roads
Description:	Ryde – The Promenade Pier
Photographer:	Miss Claire Pearce
Date Photographed:	21 October 2003
Date listed:	04 March 1976
Date of last amendment:	04 March 1976
Grade	II



ENGLISH HERITAGE



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Centre, Southampton**
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NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL