



'La Ride' to Ryde... Ryde then and now

A settlement called 'La Ride' was first recorded as a small fishing village sprawled along the seafront here in 1300. In this study you are going to investigate:

- ✓ Why the original **site** for the **settlement** of 'La Ride' was chosen
- ✓ The **situation** of the settlement
- ✓ How the settlement has grown, and the changing **settlement pattern**
- ✓ Ryde's **function** today.



Get your thinking caps on, because these are the things you are going to be investigating!

Activity 1: Match them up!

There are several key words in bold above, linked to the study of settlements in geography. Match up the key terms with their correct definitions...

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Site	A place where people live
Situation	The shape of a settlement; linear, nucleated or dispersed. Early settlement were influenced by physical geography, e.g. relief
Settlement Pattern	The actual point where a settlement is located.
Function	The location of a settlement in relation to its surrounding features, e.g. other settlements, communication routes.

Activity 2: Why reside in 'La Ride'?

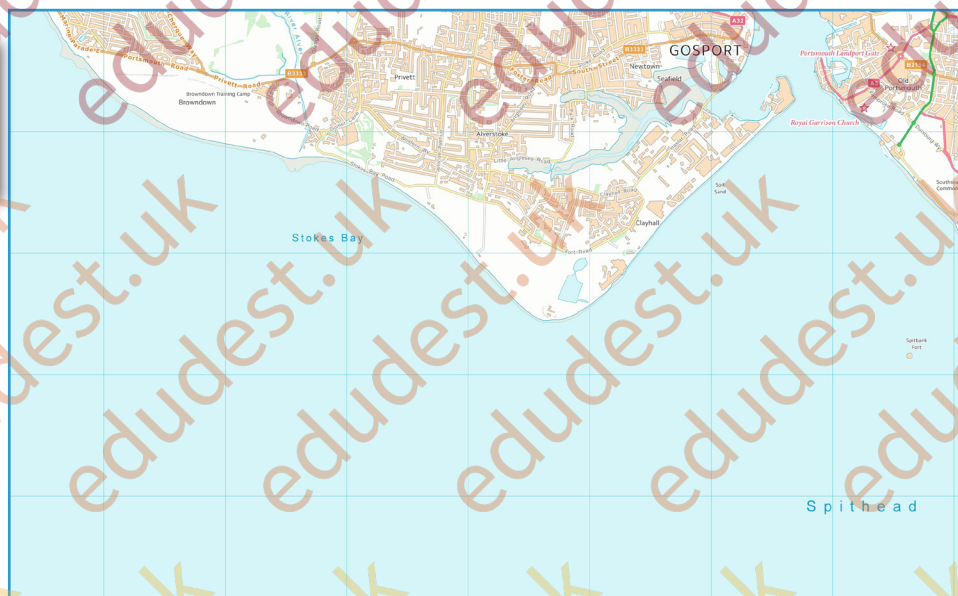
So, imagine that you are an early settler. Why was this site chosen for the early settlement of 'La Ride'? On page 2, you have a map to study, and below you have some secondary information (information obtained from an existing source, in this case the good old internet!).

Use all of the information, and also your own observations of the settlement, to complete the table.

Figure 1: Secondary information about the early settlement

- ▶ A large hill slopes down to the north and east – this steep land would have been hard to build on.
- ▶ A pronounced bank ran east-west and dropped steeply down to a narrow strip of flat land along the shoreline. This bank formed the back-drop to the early settlement.
- ▶ When the settlement first developed here, there was a marshy inlet formed by a stream, now called the Monktonmead Brook.

Figure 2:
Map of
the area

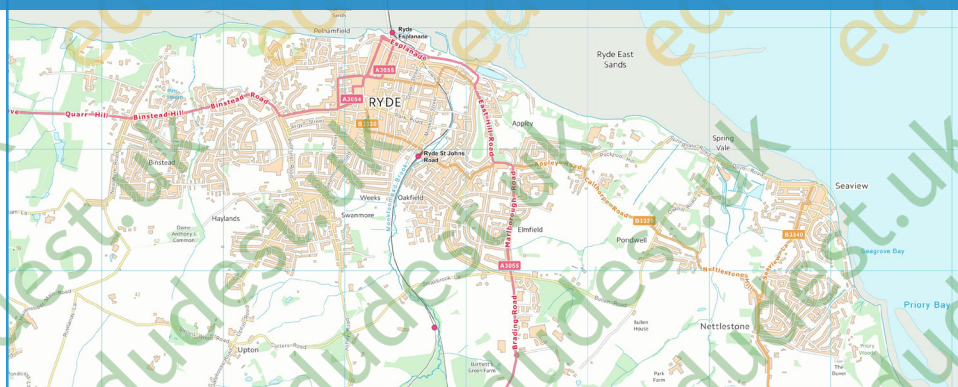


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Reasons why this site was chosen for the early settlement	Evidence (use the secondary source, map and your own observations)

Activity 2: What a good situation to be in!

So, the early settlement developed here because it was a good site. As time went on, it became clear that the settlement's situation was also rather good. Can you fill in the gaps in the paragraph below to explain how Ryde's situation has enabled it to grow and develop?

The distance between Ryde on the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth _____ is about _____ miles. The proximity of Ryde to the mainland and to the growing _____ at Portsmouth enabled _____ links to be established. Later, it has also allowed people to make the journey easily, either using the Wightlink _____ service connecting Ryde Pier Head with Portsmouth Harbour and _____ to _____, or the Hovercraft to Southsea. Also, Ryde has become an important transport interchange for Island trains and _____. The train line runs 14km to _____, connecting some of the main towns on the Island. A major bus _____ is the second busiest on the Island, with _____ buses to many of the Island's towns and villages.

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Activity 3: All change!

Ryde's situation has enabled it to grow and develop. As it has done so, its shape has changed. Look at the series of maps below, which show how the settlement has grown, and how its shape has changed. Write a caption to go with each, or a summary at the end, to describe the changes that have taken place.

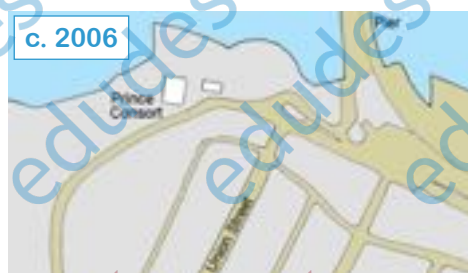
Maps © Rob Martin. Reproduced with kind permission. Supporting information found at: <http://www.ihistory.org.uk/RM/minorforts/ryd.htm>











Activity 4: Ryde today...

You are going to carry out a simple land-use survey to assess Ryde's main function(s) today.

As you learned earlier, the function of a settlement is the main activities, role or 'job' of the settlement. Main functions include residential, commercial, agricultural, industrial, mining, religious, administrative, recreation/tourism (destination), defensive, market centre and transport centre. You are going to find out which of these are Ryde's main functions.

Walking along the A3055 (Esplanade), and then along the North Walk (beach side of the lake), make a tally of each type of land-use that you observe in the table below. The pictures give you some idea of what to look out for!

You will then use it to decide on Ryde's main function(s).

Land Use Category	Tally
Residential (housing)	
Industrial (e.g. factories)	
Shops	
Food Outlets	

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Based on my land-use tally, I think that Ryde's main function(s) is/are...

...because