

The Ray Sand

Arguably several centuries ago the Ray Sand Channel was the main exit from the Crouch. In 1900, 12 foot of water was reported. In 1920 charts showed a fathom and a half and in 1956. In his first edition of East Coast Rivers, Jack Coote reported “a minimum depth of only two or three feet in the southern entrance”. By 1988 it was “little or no water”!

The chart overleaf is a result of soundings taken on **19th May, 2011**. There is no obvious complete channel and in consequence passage using this route is only possible when there is sufficient height of tide. However, many local yachts and motor yachts use this route.

Notes:

- **The drawing overleaf was produced from soundings taken on ordinary yacht equipment and reduced to a datum using publicly available tidal data. Whilst every care has been taken in its preparation, it is only a guide to what might be expected.**
- The contours on the drawing are hand drawn in order to help make sense of the soundings and may suffer in places from a lack of data.
- The Ray Sand buoy (approximately 51°39'060N 000° 59' 270E) is difficult to see as it is much lower than the adjacent River Crouch Buoyage



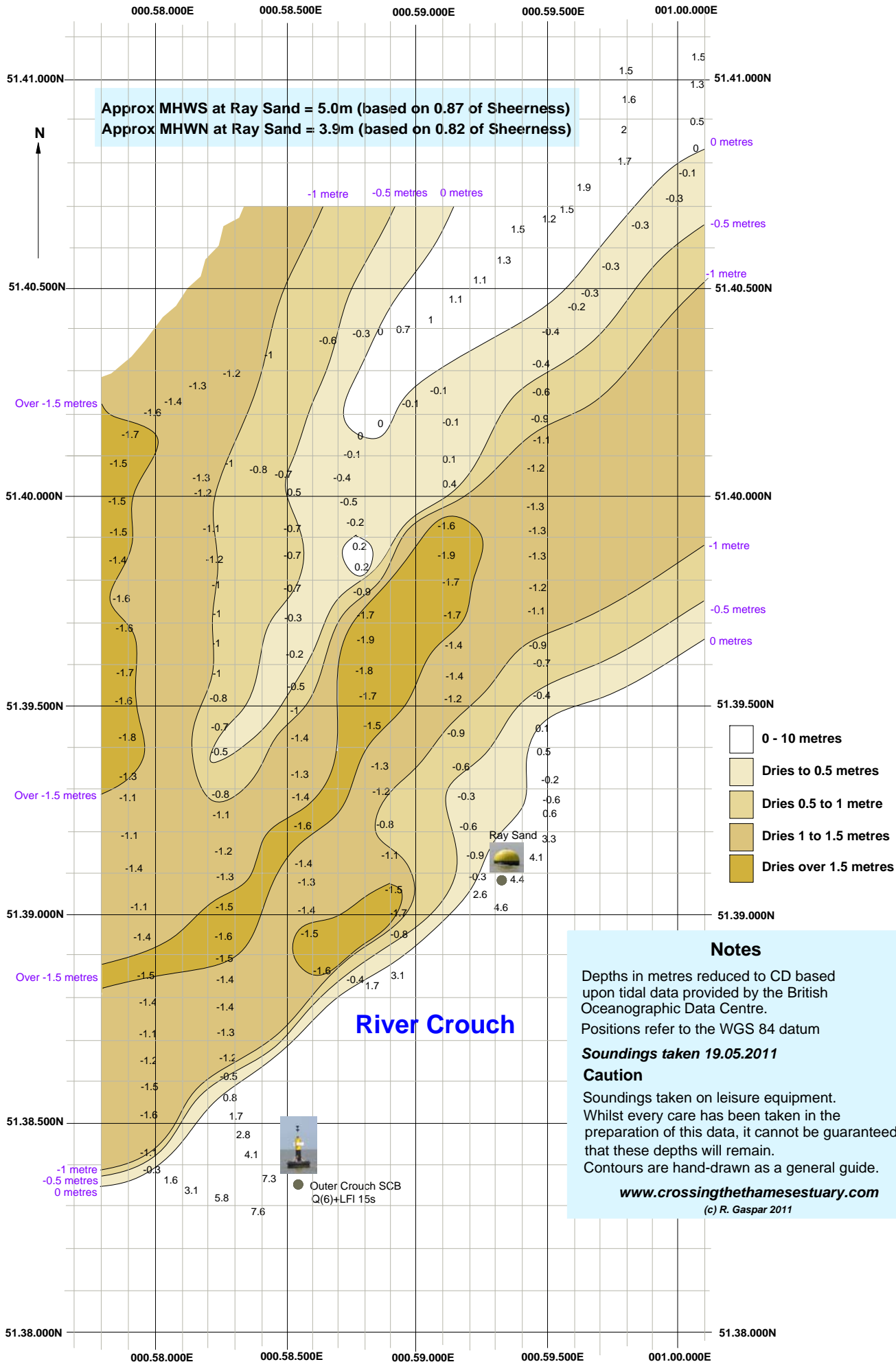
- We are expecting the new River Crouch buoyage on or about 11th July, 2011 when the Outer Crouch SCB will change for a lateral mark placed nearby. As soon as firm information is available, the chart overleaf will be amended.
- The only other useful mark on route is the Buxey Beacon (unlit) at 51°41'139N 001°01' 335E



Transit along the 1°E Meridian

- For vessels leaving the Crouch for the River Blackwater on a rising tide, the most obvious route once clear of the Ray Sand Channel is to follow the 1°E Meridian due North (T). Whilst this virtually dries at CD (depths as low as 0.1m), if there was enough water to cross the Ray Sand, there will be enough water to get to the River Blackwater.
- For such vessels crossing on a falling tide, it will be necessary to consider the remaining height of tide but the Knoll Swatchway remains a deeper option.
- Vessels crossing from the River Blackwater will need to ensure sufficient height of water but for shallow draft vessels it is a passable half tide route.

Ray Sand Channel



Approx MHWS at Ray Sand = 5.0m (based on 0.87 of Sheerness)
 Approx MHWN at Ray Sand = 3.9m (based on 0.82 of Sheerness)

- 0 - 10 metres
- Dries to 0.5 metres
- Dries 0.5 to 1 metre
- Dries 1 to 1.5 metres
- Dries over 1.5 metres

Notes

Depths in metres reduced to CD based upon tidal data provided by the British Oceanographic Data Centre.
 Positions refer to the WGS 84 datum

Soundings taken 19.05.2011

Caution

Soundings taken on leisure equipment. Whilst every care has been taken in the preparation of this data, it cannot be guaranteed that these depths will remain. Contours are hand-drawn as a general guide.

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River Crouch