

# ACCESS AUDIT PROPOSAL

Ryde Town Council  
29<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Jan Brookes MSc

JB Accessibility | 22, Greenway, Ryde, PO33 3ST

## Introduction

JB Accessibility has been asked to provide a proposal to undertake an accessibility audit of Ryde town centre, to ensure that the environment is as accessible as reasonably possible for disabled people, including those with chronic illnesses. Any improvements will also benefit people with prams or pushchairs.

There is an obligation and responsibility to ensure the environment is compliant with relevant legislation like the Equality Act (2010).

The report highlights any barriers to access and is used to determine what reasonable adjustments can be made for improvements. It allows the Town Council to plan and budget for improvements.

## What is included in an audit?

An audit takes into account the needs of people with all disabilities. The report will contain the following, including photographs where appropriate:

1. A detailed study of the environment, including roads, pavements, public spaces, street furniture, signage, provision of toilets etc.
2. A study of the provision of public services
3. Identification of barriers to access
4. Practical and achievable recommendations for improvements.
5. Highlighting current accessible features.

## The benefits of an audit

As well as fulfilling obligations and responsibilities under The Equality Act (2010), there are other benefits.

### Increased tourism

Once the audit has been completed, it is important that the Town Council informs people of the accessible features in the town. This will be covered in the recommendations of the report.

“If I can’t easily find information on how accessible a location/venue/accommodation is, it tells me one of two things:

- a) You’re not accessible, or
  - b) You are accessible and you can’t be bothered to tell me about it.
- Either way, I’m not coming”.

The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) reports that “accessible tourism is a game-changer for improving mid and low season performance, and it’s customers are extremely loyal”.

## Improved economy

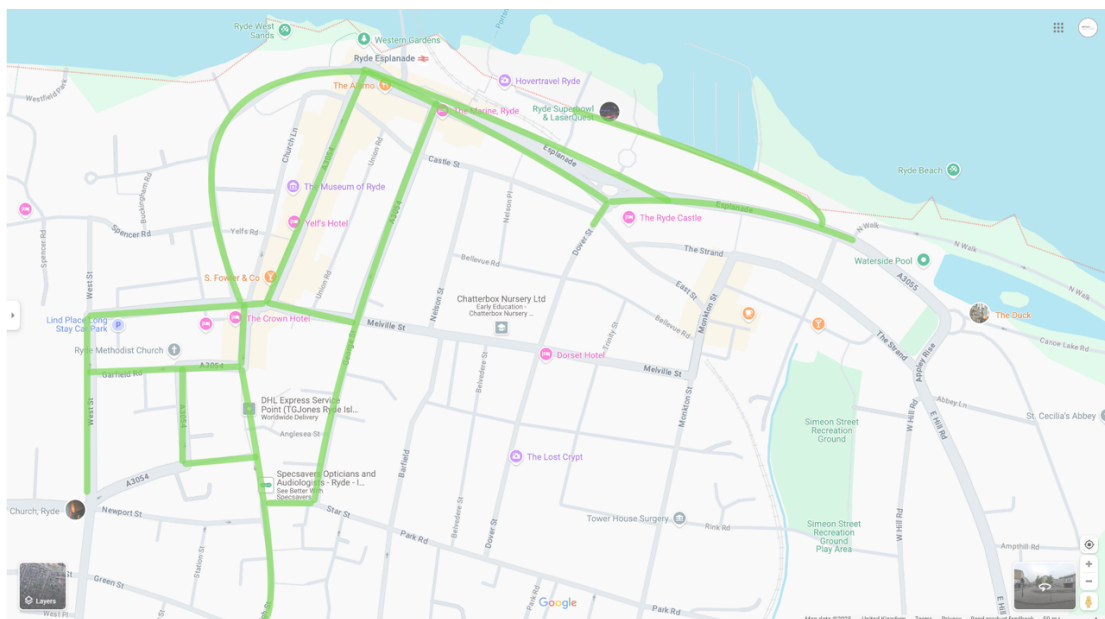
Visit England suggest that day and overnight spending in England by domestic tourists with a disability in 2023 was £14.1 billion (visitbritain.org).

## Inclusive and Accessible town

The audit will contribute towards Inclusive and Accessible town status.

## What areas are included in the audit?

The map below shows the areas to be included



1. Union Street, the High Street and Upper High Street
2. The Esplanade. The south side from Union Street to Dover Street. The North side from the bus station to the sand park.
3. George Street
4. Lind Street and Cross Street
5. West Street, from Ryde School to Lind Street.
6. Garfield Road, John Street (from Fiveways to the High Street), Victoria Street and Star Street

The audit will take 5 days to complete and 5 days to complete the report. On completion of the audit a report will be presented to the Council within 28 days.

## **Cost**

My daily rate is £250/day however, I am happy to offer a discount. The cost will be £2,000.