From ‘The Safeguard of Sailors’ or ‘The Great Rutter’ 1594

Pg 43:

'Item, when Wight beareth northwest from you, and

that you are foure leagues from the land, there you shall

have 35 fatham, and the ground is great rough stones.

He that will saile in at the east end of Wight, let him

take heed of the Owers, and fetch the sholding of the west

side of the deapth before saint Ellins Church, and there

he may ride at seven or eight fatham. And he that will

saile in, let him bring the Lime Kill that lies above

Porchemouth, and the steeple of Porchmouth in one, and

so sale in, keeping two third parts of the chanell on the

Larboard side, and sail in so to Calshot.'



 French chart of the eastern entrance to the Solent about 1750. Note the anchorage off

St Helens (still used today) as are the names and positions of the sea buoys (Warner,

Dean Elbow, Horse etc).

'At the east end of Wight, a northwest moone makes the

entrie of the first quarter of the floud.

He that will saile in at the west end of Wight, he must

looke well to the tide, for the floud sets verie sore upon the

Needles, and the ebb likewise westwards upon the Swin-

gilles, and chalkie rocks, which lies westwards of the

Needles, and is very narrow betweene the Needles and the

Swingilles, and let him directlie saile with the Needles, e-

ven till he come fast by them, and saile in verie neere them,

and when he is once within the Needles, then let him keepe

off from the land before him, bicause of the rockes called

the Wardens, which lies on Wight side neere the shore.

And he that will ride under the Beachy which lies on

the other side, let him ancker at seven fatham, and if he

will go anie farther in, let him keepe two third parts of the

channell towards the maine land, and saile so in till hee

come before the village of Yermouth, where the new bul-

warke stands upon Wight side. And if he will saile up to

Raushot, then he must saile on till he may see the towne of

Hampton appear without the Abbey, and ancker nearest

to the west part of Raushot.

He  that will ride without Hurst by the Needles, let him

beere in and ancker before the village in the north cha-

nell, at three fatham at lowe water, and he shall have the

needles south southeast from him, and at a deepe tide, the

floud doth not rise there above one fatham.'