

Further in, the Birch Islands form the west side of this channel, at the distance of nearly 2 miles from Large Island; the east side of the Outer Birch is quite bold, and the shoal water extends only 150 fathoms off the east end of the Inner Birch Island.

Middle Reef Channel.

THE OUTER AND INNER BIRCH ISLANDS lie to the northward of the Middle Reef, and in a line from it towards the west side of Harbour Island. The channel between the Outer Birch Island and the Middle Reef is almost a mile wide, and 30 fathoms deep, and the shoal water extends only 150 fathoms from the south point of the former. But there is a very dangerous reef off the west side of the Outer Birch Island extending 650 fathoms from the shore. The channel between the two Birch Islands is 300 fathoms wide, but the ground is all foul, and not more than $3\frac{1}{2}$

Birch Islands.

fathoms could be carried through by a stranger. The Outer Birch Island is about a mile in diameter, and about 300 feet in height, and it has a remarkable flower-pot rock on its S.W. point. The Inner Birch Island is rather larger; its N.W. point is long and low, extending half a mile to the westward from the body of the island, with a curve to the S.W.; off this point there is a reef running out half a mile to the westward, and having 12 fathoms within a cable's length of its edge.

Hulk Rock.

Half a mile to the S.W. of the same point, there is a small low islet, close to the south point of which stands a very remarkable rock, called the Hulk Rock, from its resemblance to the hulk of a wrecked vessel. The reef of flat limestone, dry at low water, which connects this islet and rock to the low west point of the Inner Birch Island, extends 300 fathoms off the rock to the S.W., and also 200 fathoms to the westward.

Tides.

The flood tide sets out to the S.W. between the Birch Islands, and also between them and the Middle Reef.

Birch Channel.

Birch Channel, between the Birch Islands and Mingan Island, is the best by which to proceed to Mingan Harbour with westerly winds. It is 3 miles wide, and all deep water.

Mingan Island.

Mingan Island, $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles to the westward of the Inner Birch Island, is nearly 2 miles long, in a N.N.E. direction: and, including two small islets close to its west side, nearly a mile broad. It is about 100 feet in height, and bare of trees. The shoal water does not extend above 300 fathoms off its south point, but to the S.W. and west the reefs, including the islets, run out nearly 600 fathoms. The island is bold on its north and east sides.