

North Ronaldsay

We hope you find these notes helpful and of interest to you while planning your sailing trip to Orkney. Please note they are not intended to be used for navigation

The tide is slack in the North Ronaldsay Firth approximately 1 hour after Kirkwall. If approaching up the east side of Orkney there can be quite a tide roost of Start Point and the east end of the firth especially at springs and easterly weather. You will find a good eddy in Scuthie Bay both on the flood and ebb.

Like wise the west end of the firth can be very turbulent during westerly weather and ebb tide.

Unless the weather is good and the tide not strong going round the north end of North Ronaldsay is not recommended. Depending on the time of the tide there are several roosts some of which run miles out to sea with tides running at up to 8 knots off the headlands. If you are passing North Ronaldsay on a passage give it a berth of a few miles.

Going alongside the pier at Nouster is not recommended apart from short periods of good weather. Even if conditions are good alongside do not leave your boat unattended as conditions can deteriorate rapidly when the tide turns. Anchoring in the bay off the pier is not very good either. The best anchorage is close inshore in Linklet Bay during W or NW wind.