



Argyll Sea Kayak Trail  
Slighe Curcachan Earra-Ghàidheil

# Ardrishaig

## ADDITIONAL TRAIL ROUTES & DEVIATIONS

If heading along the canal towards Crinan, there are no additional routes that can be added to this section of the trail.

When starting from Ardrishaig, Loch Fyne becomes accessible. Numerous bays can be explored; Port Ann, Loch Gair, and Minard Bay, as well as Otter Ferry on the eastern shoreline. The Loch extends for over 40 kilometres, so lots of scope for paddling adventures.

## HAZARDS

The main hazard on the canal section of the trail is the other traffic using the canal. As this is a short-cut from Loch Fyne to the Sound of Jura (avoiding navigating around the Kintyre peninsula), numerous sailing and motor craft use the 14km stretch of canal so shorten their journey. All craft should pass port-to-port, but please use common sense when negotiating any other water user; it may be necessary to move right into the edge of the canal to allow others to pass. Please also remember that it may be difficult for the skipper to see the water immediately in front of their boat, so please make yourself as visible as possible.

Lock gates will also need to be negotiated, so some lifting of boats will be required.

The towpath on the north/east side of the canal is part of the National Cycle Network (no. 78), and extensively used by recreational users, so care must be taken on portages and rest stops.

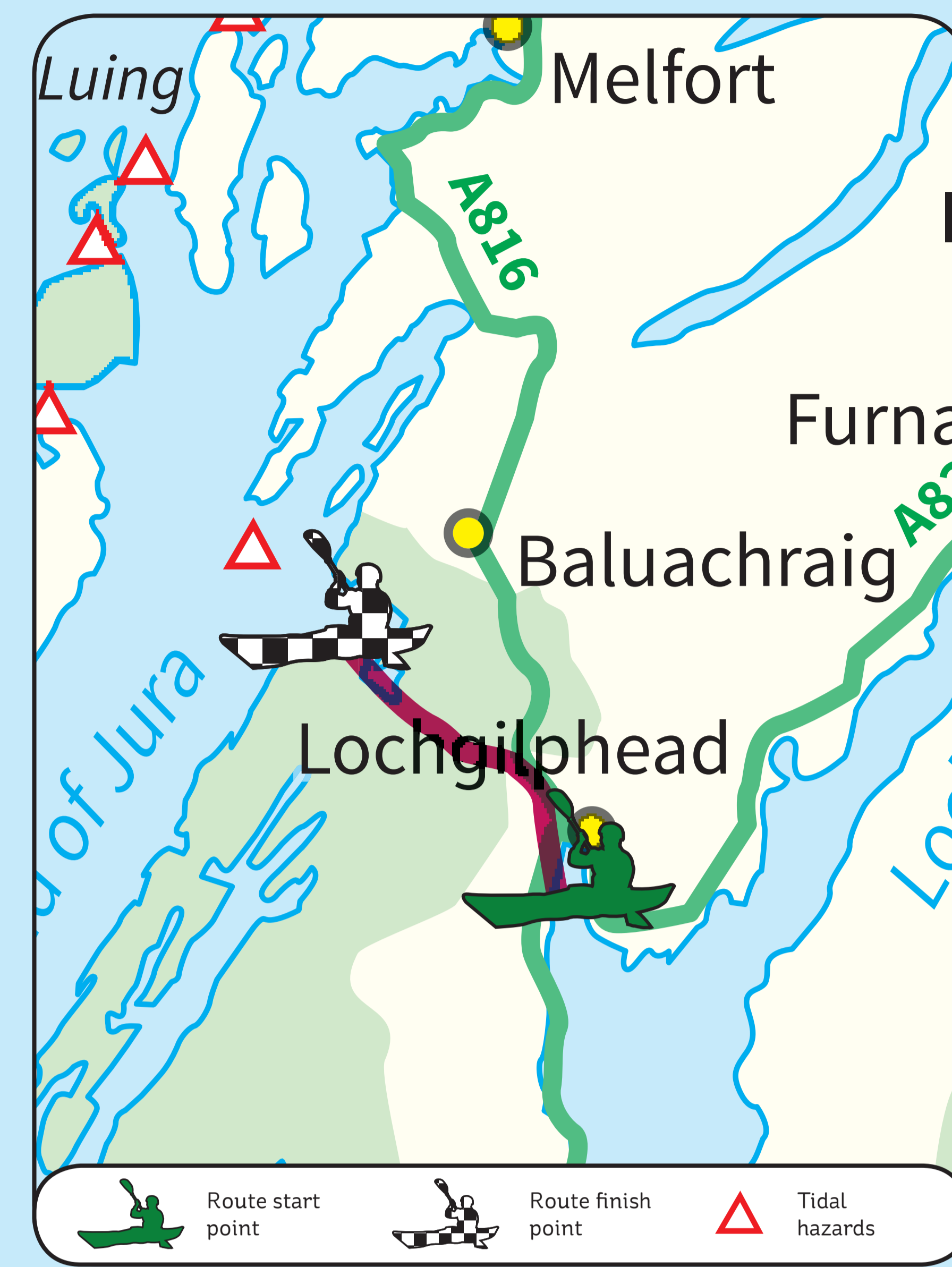
## ARDRISHAIG TO CRINAN - 13km / 7Nm

56°00.915'N 5°26.789'W to 56°05.186'N 5°32.848'W

Grid Reference 853856 to 794938

OS Landranger Map 55

OS Explorer Map 358



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## DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

From Loch Fyne, the slipway is below the public gardens, by the public car parks (Grid ref. 853857). After landing, carefully cross over the road, and follow the path uphill between the shops and the village hall. Once at the top, you will see the canal, and Lock 4 to your right. Continue your portage to the second mooring pontoon past the lock, and on the northern end you will find the smaller access pontoon.

Portage trolleys are provided to assist with the portage, with storage sites at both ends – see maps for locations.

Once on the canal, continue to head north. After a couple of kilometres you will come across Oakfield Bridge, where there

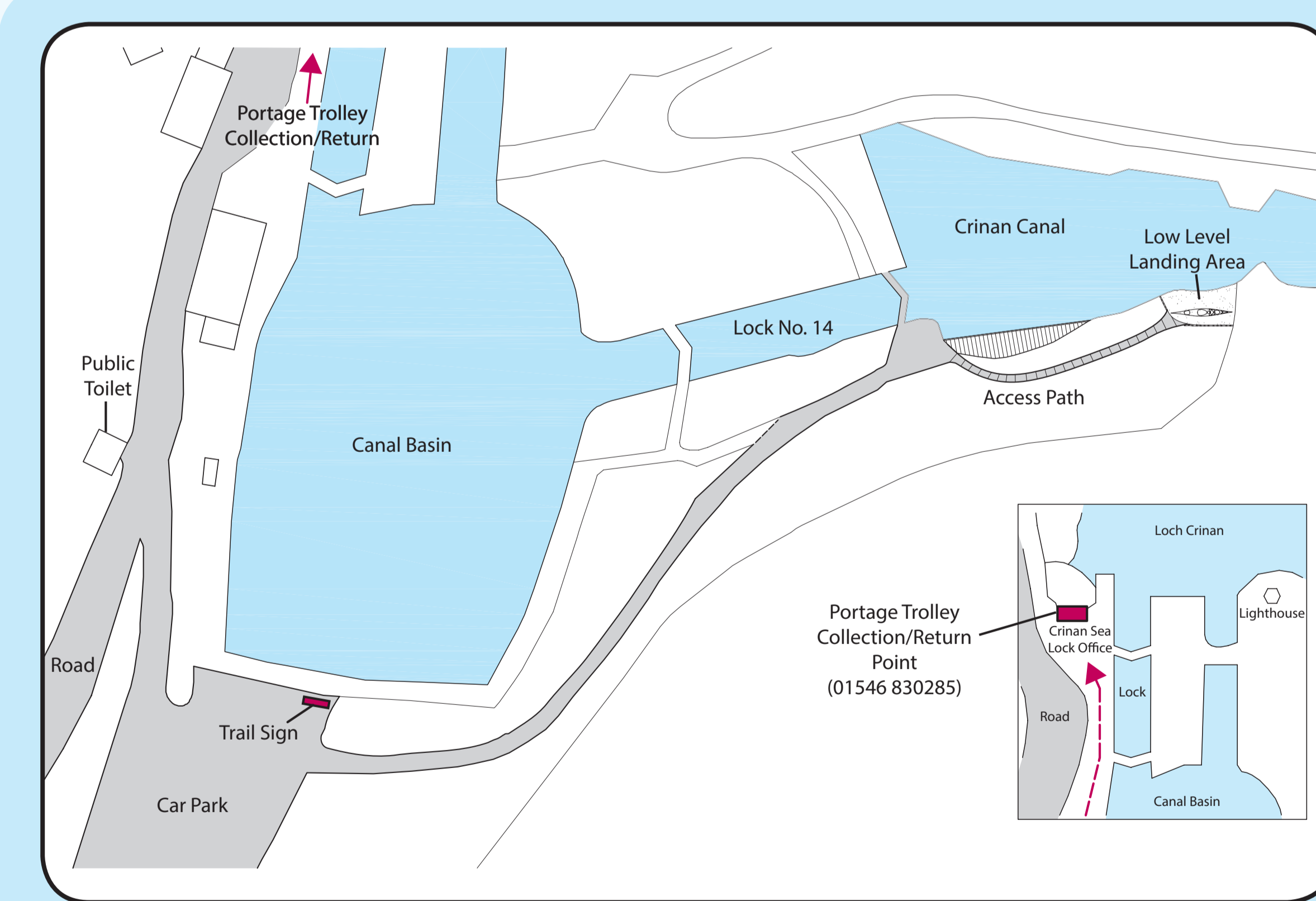
are a number of eye bolts in the wall for securing kayaks/canoes if visiting Lochgilphead to explore or re-stock.

The first portage on the canal is 4km further along the canal at Cairnbaan, where eye bolts are present in the stone walls adjacent to the canal for those wishing to secure their boat to explore the area. The portage is approximately 750m long and negotiates the Cairnbaan locks, 5 to 8. Kayaks and canoes are not allowed to pass through the locks, so a walk is necessary.

The second portage is only a kilometre further along the canal, and this time avoids the Dunardry locks, 9 to 13. Specific access pontoons for canoes & kayaks have been installed below locks 5 and 9 and above locks 8 and 13, making access/egress easier for canoes and kayaks. For both of the portages, please use the towpath on the northern side of the canal. Once past the locks, you encounter Mòine Mhòr Nature Reserve (the Great Bog) on the northern-side of the canal, giving an opportunity to stop and admire the wildlife.

Continuing north along the Canal, you pass Bellanoch Bridge, and then Bellanoch Marina. Soon you come to Crinan Bridge (no.11). This is the egress point if heading straight on to the next section of the trail. Using the new jetty immediately before the swing bridge, head through the gate on the path and veer right, down the grass slope to the slipway onto the River Add. If planning to travel all the way into Crinan, pass under the swing bridge and paddle for another kilometre until you come to Lock 14. A purpose made low level landing area is found on the left hand side of the canal before the mooring pontoon for the lock. Once out of the water, follow the path through the woodland, past the lock gates and down to the car park.

More information on the Crinan Canal can be found at [www.scottishcanals.co.uk](http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk)

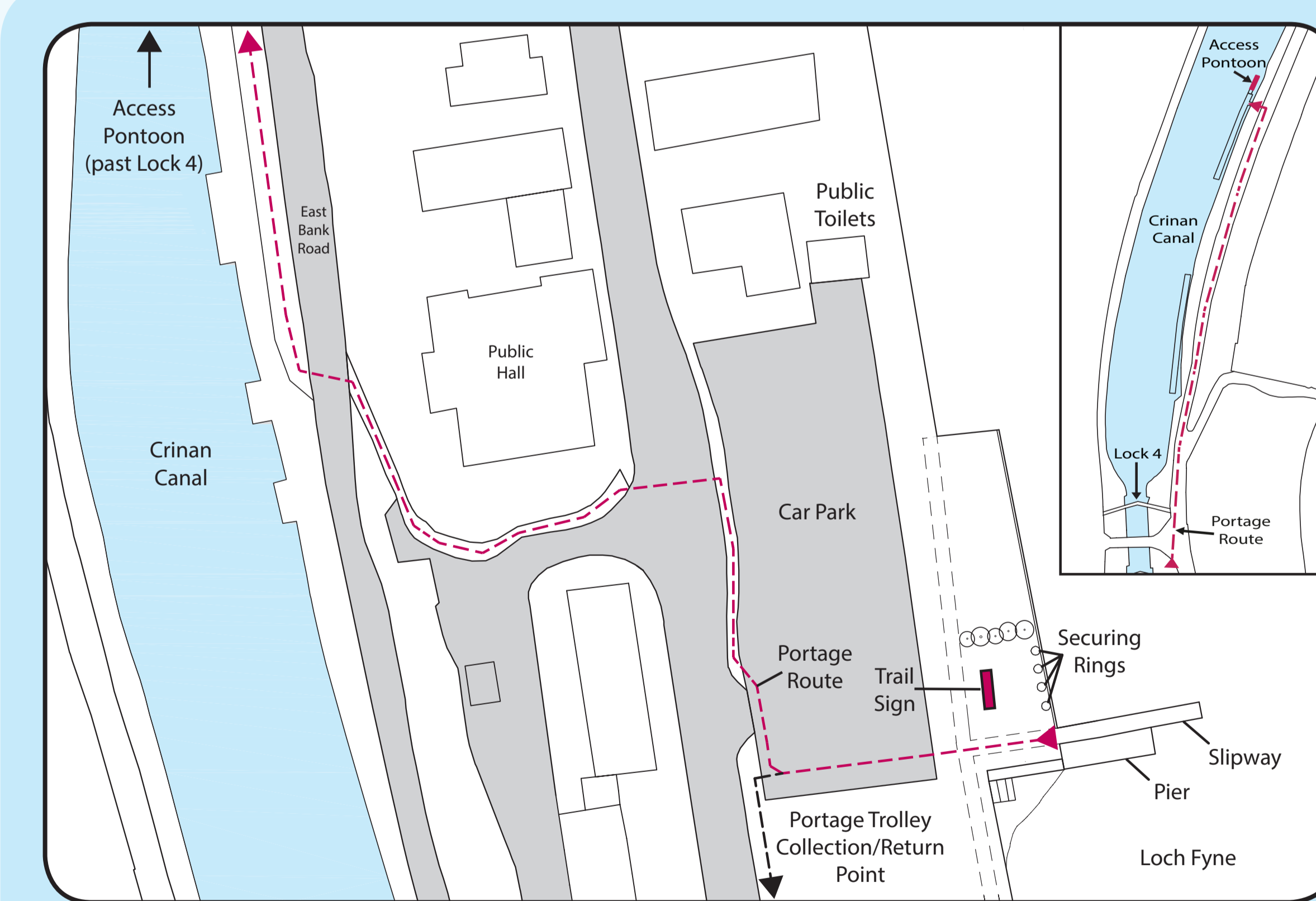


## Crinan

### LOCAL FACILITIES

- Accommodation
- Chandlery
- Coffee Shop (April to October)
- Public Toilets
- Other facilities available along the Crinan Canal (visit [www.scottishcanals.co.uk](http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk) for further information)

Working in partnership with Scottish Canals



## Ardrishaig

### LOCAL FACILITIES

- Accommodation
- Bank/Cash Point
- Food & Drink
- Public Toilets
- Shops
- Further facilities are available in Lochgilphead when leaving kayaks secured at Oakfield Bridge

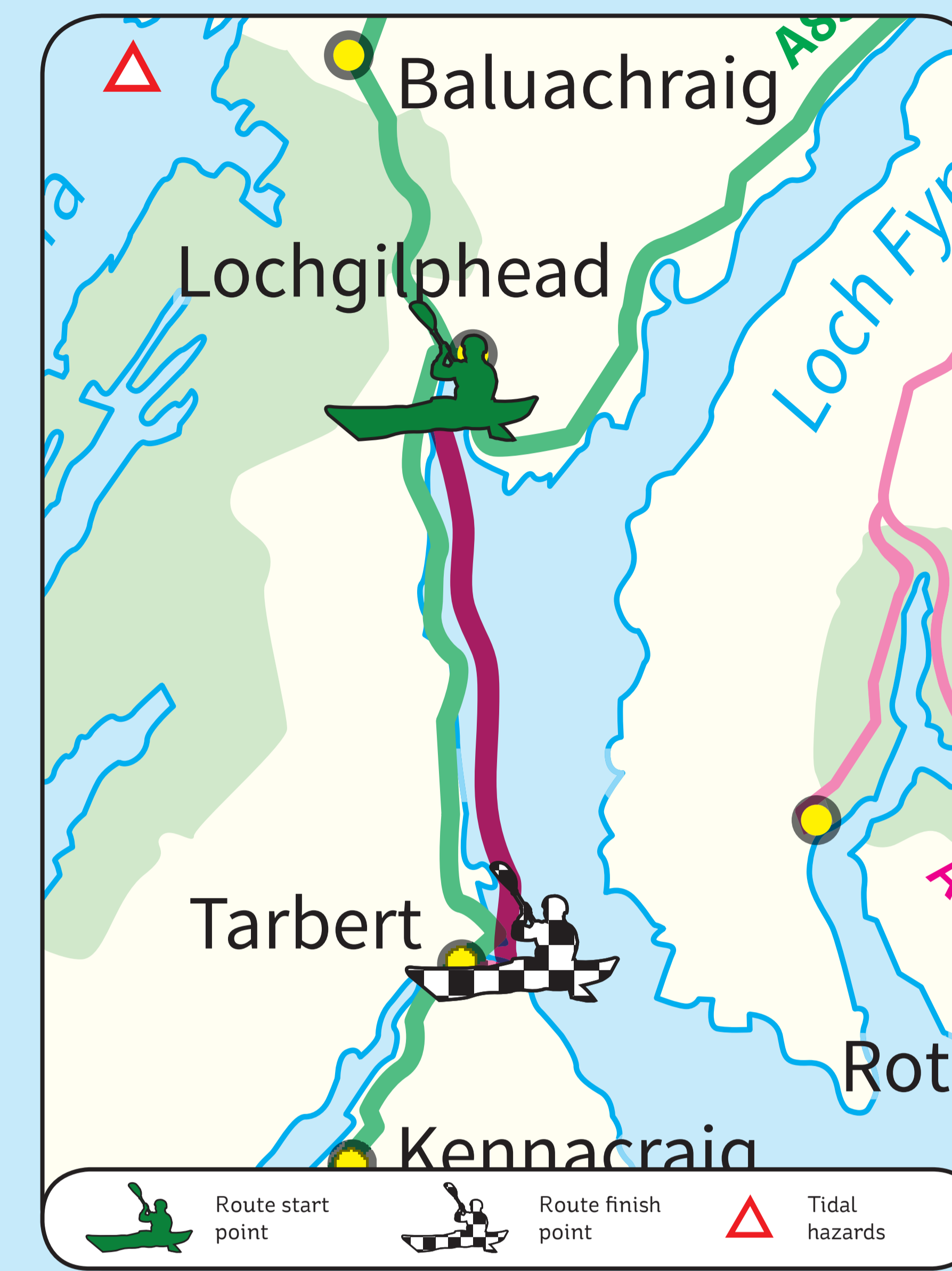
## ARDRISHAIG TO TARBERT - 19km / 10Nm

56°00.915'N 5°26.789'W to 55°51.974'N 5°24.254'W

Grid Reference 853856 to 871689

OS Landranger Map 55 & 62

OS Explorer Map 358 & 357



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## DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

Leaving the slipway in Ardrishaig and heading south, care must be taken to avoid any traffic entering or leaving the entrance to the canal system. Once clear of all the small craft moored in the bay, this section of the trail follows the coast down to the next access point. After passing Invermeill, and a potential rest point, the landscape becomes steeper at Creagan Beag for about 6km, before easing again as you pass Sloc nam Fearna, and on around Barmore Island (with its north and south bay's providing an opportunity for a rest stop).

Once past the two islets at Sgeir Port a' Ghual, Tarbert soon appears as you enter East Loch Tarbert. Keeping adjacent to the northern shoreline, continue until you are opposite the ferry

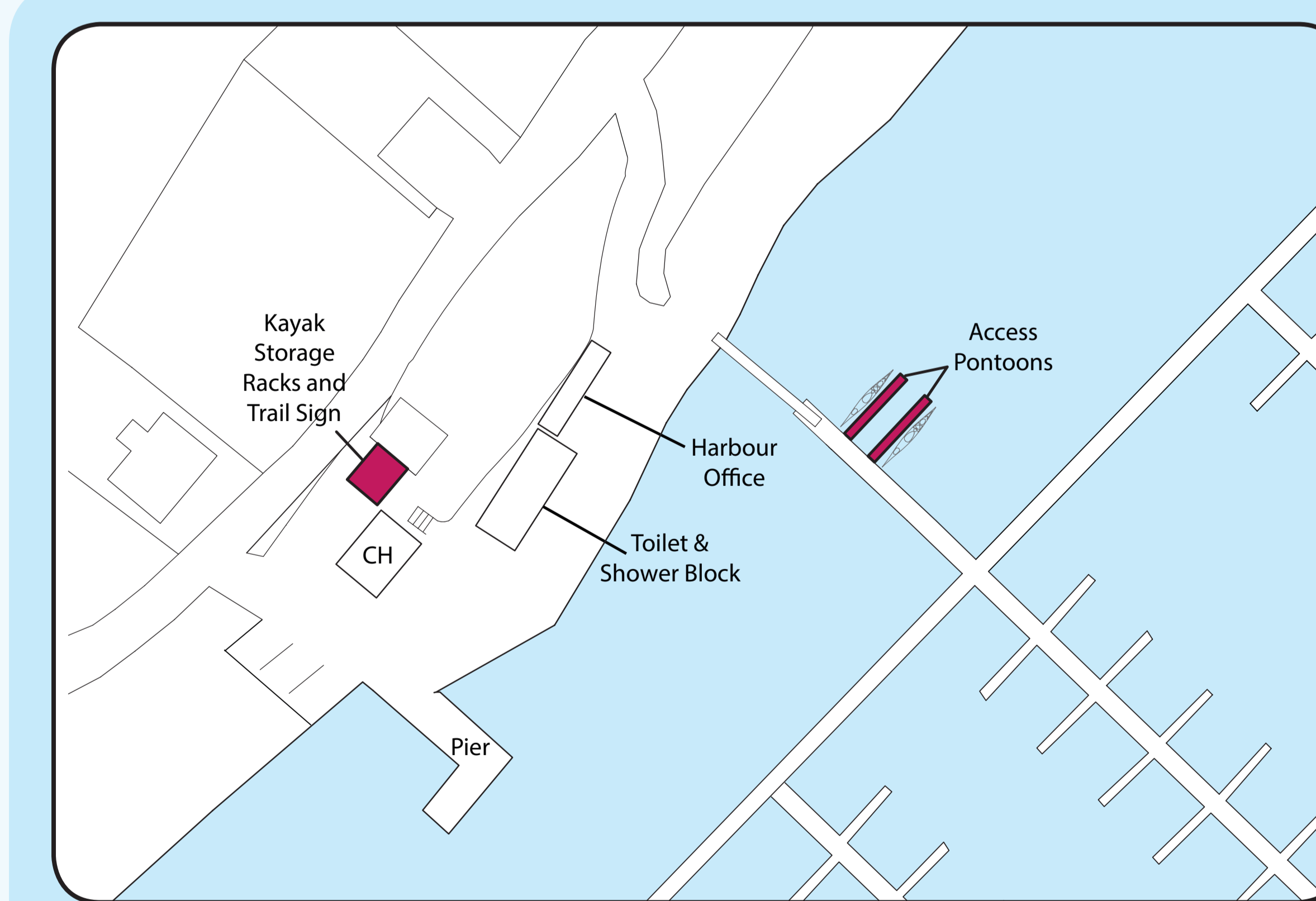
terminal on the southern shore, and then cross over to the yacht club when safe to do so. The access slipway becomes visible as you paddle around the rocks.

Secure kayak racks are available if needed. Turn left off the main access bridge (from the pontoons), and walk past the Harbour Office, Toilets/Showers and up the steps to the storage racks (see site map).

## TIDAL DIFFERENCES

HIGH WATER TIMES

East Loch Tarbert -0005 HW Greenock



## Tarbert

### LOCAL FACILITIES

- Accommodation
- Bank/Cash Point
- Food & Drink
- Shops
- Showers (at Harbour, fee required)
- Toilets
- Tourist Information

A portage trolley is provided to move kayaks to the kayak storage racks. Please enquire in Harbour Office, 01880 820344. Please note the Harbour opening times:  
Monday - Friday Normal office hours  
Saturday - Sunday Summer - extended hours  
Winter - closed

Working in partnership with Tarbert Harbour Authority

## PARKING

Public parking is available at Crinan, Ardrishaig and Tarbert.

## LITTER

Paddlers visiting any of the access points on the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail are asked to follow the Leave No Trace principle.

Please use litter bins where provided, and remove all rubbish and dispose of responsibly where not.

## SAILING

The Argyll Sea Kayak Trail follows the Argyll coastline, used extensively by sailing vessels. Please be mindful of other water users at all times, and act responsibly.

## Please follow the seven Leave No Trace principles

- 1 Plan Ahead and Prepare
- 2 Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- 3 Dispose of Waste Properly
- 4 Leave What You Find
- 5 Minimize Campfire Impacts
- 6 Respect Wildlife
- 7 Be Considerate of Other Visitors

The member-driven Leave No Trace Centre for Outdoor Ethics teaches people how to enjoy the outdoors responsibly. This copyrighted information has been reprinted with permission from the Leave No Trace Centre for Outdoor Ethics:

[www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org)

## HM Coastguard

Maritime & Coastguard Agency - [www.dft.gov.uk/mca](http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca)

Stornoway 01851 706796

Operational Area: Cape Wrath to Ardferrn (Mainland) including South to and including Isle of Mull, Luig and Scarba, Barra Head to Butt of Lewis and St Kilda

Belfast 02891 463933

Operational Area: Mull of Galloway to Ardferrn, including the Islands (North to and including Jura and Colonsay)

## Useful organisations and contact details

Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code - [www.marinecode.org](http://www.marinecode.org)  
Providing guidelines and advice when watching wildlife in Scotland.

THE THREE PRINCIPLES

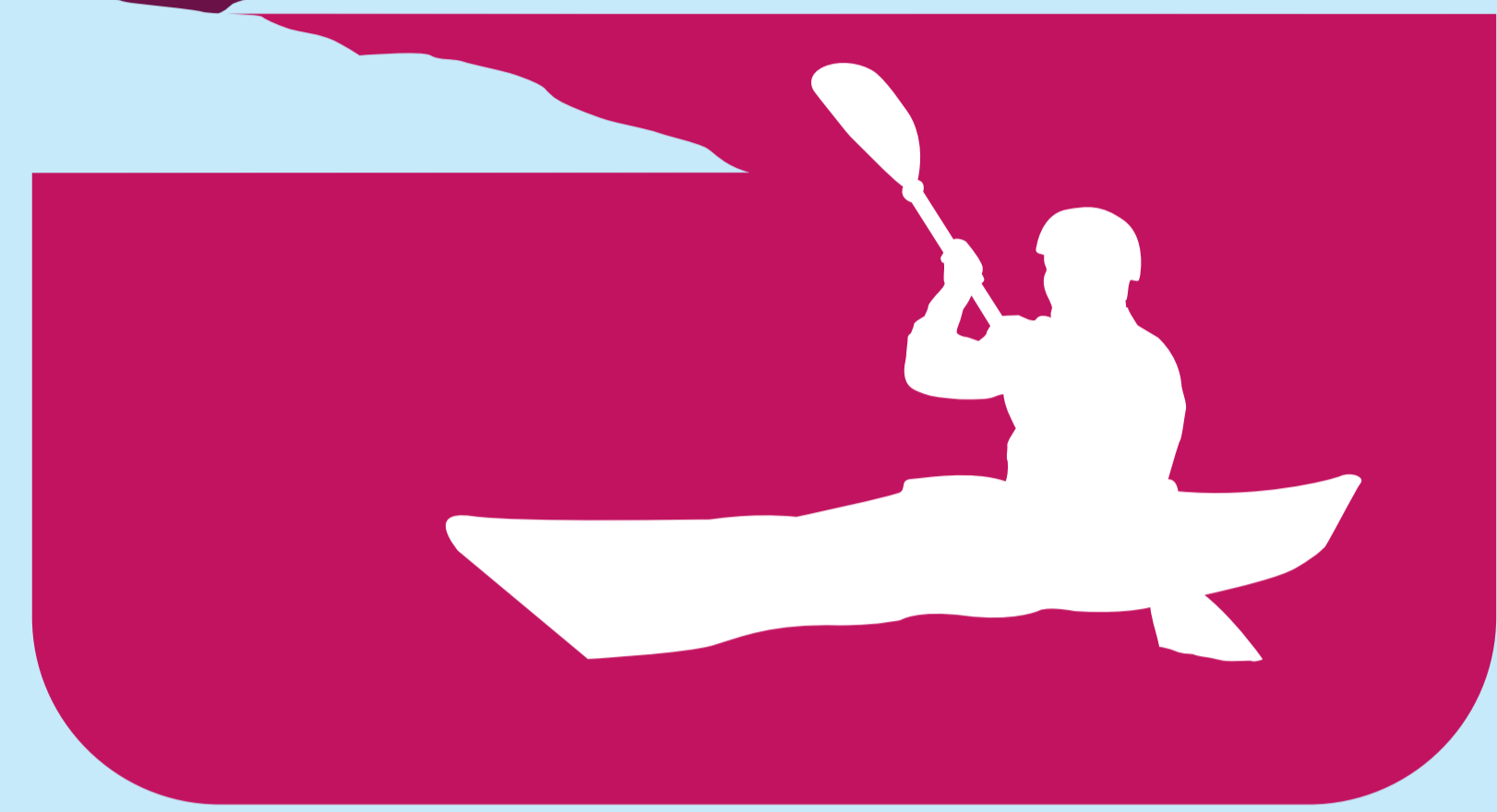
- 1 Be Aware by learning as much as you can about the animals
- 2 Take Responsibility for your actions
- 3 Have Respect for other people, wildlife and the environment

Marine Conservation Society, the UK charity for the protection of our seas, shores and wildlife  
[www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, pollution hotline  
0800 80 70 60  
[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)



# Argyll Sea Kayak Trail



## Ardrishaig

Argyll Sea Kayak Trail - Slighe Curcachan Earra-Ghàidheil

This access site is part of the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail.

The 150km trail runs between Ganavan and Helensburgh, incorporating ten access points and the Crinan Canal. It has been provided for all people to enjoy the waters around Argyll, whether for a day of fun, or a multi-day expedition. If you wish to make a comment about any aspect of the trail, please use the contact us page on [www.paddleargyll.org.uk](http://www.paddleargyll.org.uk). You will also find information about other associated trails on the web site.

The table below details the routes, their distances, and potential time required to complete them based on personal ability and fitness levels. Times provided are based on totally flat conditions, and do not take into account tidal or weather conditions encountered, which can greatly affect them.

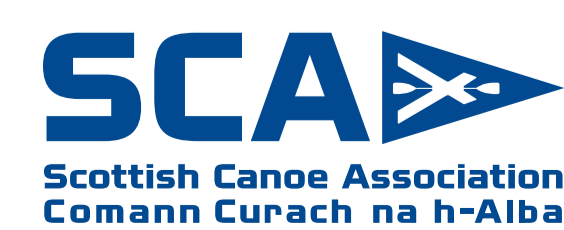
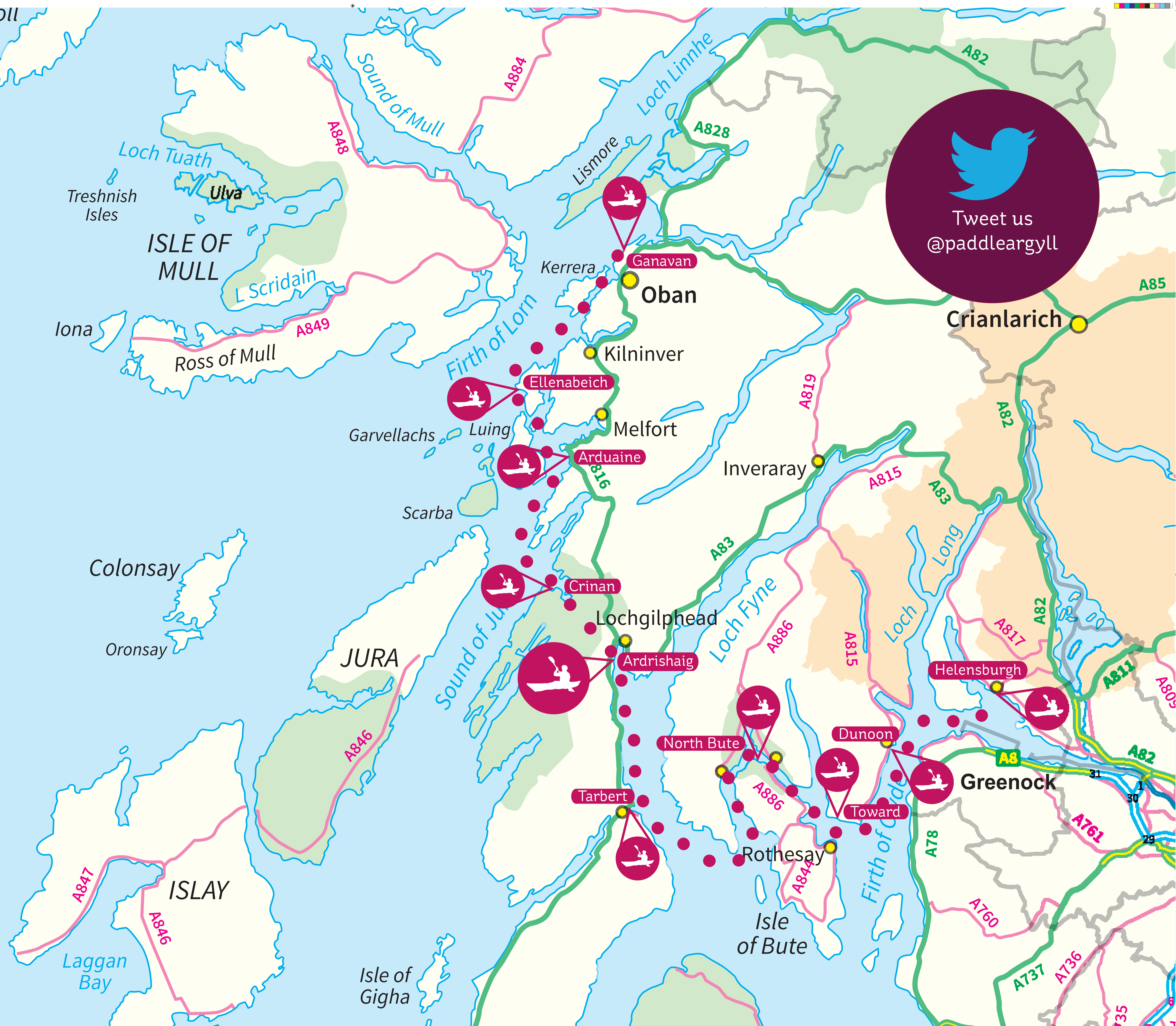
Route	Distance	Beginners	Intermediate	Advanced
Ganavan/Ellenabeich	21km	7hrs	5 hrs 15 mins	3 hrs 30 mins
Ellenabeich/Arduaine	11km	3 hrs 40 mins	2 hrs 50 mins	1 hr 50 mins
Arduaine/Crinan	19 km	6 hrs 20 mins	4 hrs 15 mins	3 hrs 10 mins
Crinan/Ardrishaig	13 km	4 hrs 20 mins	2 hrs 50 mins	2 hrs 10 mins
Ardrishaig/Tarbert	19 km	6 hrs 20 mins	4 hrs 15 mins	3 hrs 10 mins
Tarbert/North Bute	29 km	9 hrs 40 mins	6 hrs 25 mins	4 hrs 50 mins
North Bute/Toward	13 km	4 hrs 20 mins	2 hrs 50 mins	2 hrs 10 mins
Toward/Dunoon	13 km	4 hrs 20 mins	2 hrs 50 mins	2 hrs 10 mins
Dunoon/Helensburgh	16 km	5 hrs 20 mins	3 hrs 30 mins	2 hrs 40 mins
Total	154 km	51 hrs 20 mins	35hrs	25hrs 40 mins

### Safety

This site is provided as a coastal access point on the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail. Persons use this access point, and the trail, entirely at their own risk. The providers of this access point shall not be liable for any damage or injury occasioned to persons or their property by virtue of their use of this access point.

Please ensure that you have researched the sections of the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail that you are intending to paddle, including tide and weather information. Always undertake your own risk assessment based on the conditions before you. Wear a buoyancy aid at all times, paddle within your limits, let someone know where you are going and what time you are likely to return, and have another option in case of un-expected conditions. Anyone new to the sport, or indeed a beginner, is advised to seek proper instruction from a paddlesport club or a commercial paddlesport provider.

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Paddle Argyll is a web-based resource designed to highlight the world class paddling opportunities that exist within the region of Argyll & Bute. Providing details of paddling trails and routes, on lochs, rivers and the sea, as well as key information about paddlesports in general. This will allow paddlers, whether new or experienced, to be introduced to all that is available to them on the water.



Pleadhagaich Earra-Ghàidheil - [www.paddleargyll.org.uk](http://www.paddleargyll.org.uk)

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Working in Partnership with Scottish Canals. [www.scottishcanals.co.uk](http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk)

For more information about paddlesports in Scotland. [www.canoescotland.org](http://www.canoescotland.org)