



Argyll Sea Kayak Trail
Slighe Curcachan Earra-Ghàidheil

Crinan

ADDITIONAL TRAIL ROUTES & DEVIATIONS

Loch Craignish can be explored if leaving from Crinan, visiting the various islands and land features.

The northern end of Jura is accessible, including the Gulf of Corryvreckan, as well as the Grey Dogs tidal stream between Scarba and Lunga for those looking for a longer day.

Staying along the Kintyre coastline, Carsaig bay is a paddle south, and even the Island of Danna if looking for a couple of days out on the water.

HAZARDS

The tidal stream at Dorus Mòr is the main hazard on the Crinan-Arduaine section of the trail, and must be respected by all. Spring tides can generate tidal streams of 8kn, so careful planning is necessary to allow safe passage, aiming for just before slack water.

Large eddies form around Garbh Rèisa, which can hamper progress if caught in them, so constant vigilance will help to read the water ahead.

Please be prepared to delay your crossing until appropriate tidal and weather conditions are present.

Due to the nature of this hazard, only those with appropriate experience should attempt this section of the trail. The area between Lunga and Scarba, the Grey Dogs tidal race, should also only be accessed by suitably experienced paddlers, likewise the Gulf of Corryvreckan.

The main hazard on the canal section of the trail is the other traffic using the canal. As this is a short cut from the Sound of Jura to Loch Fyne (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.

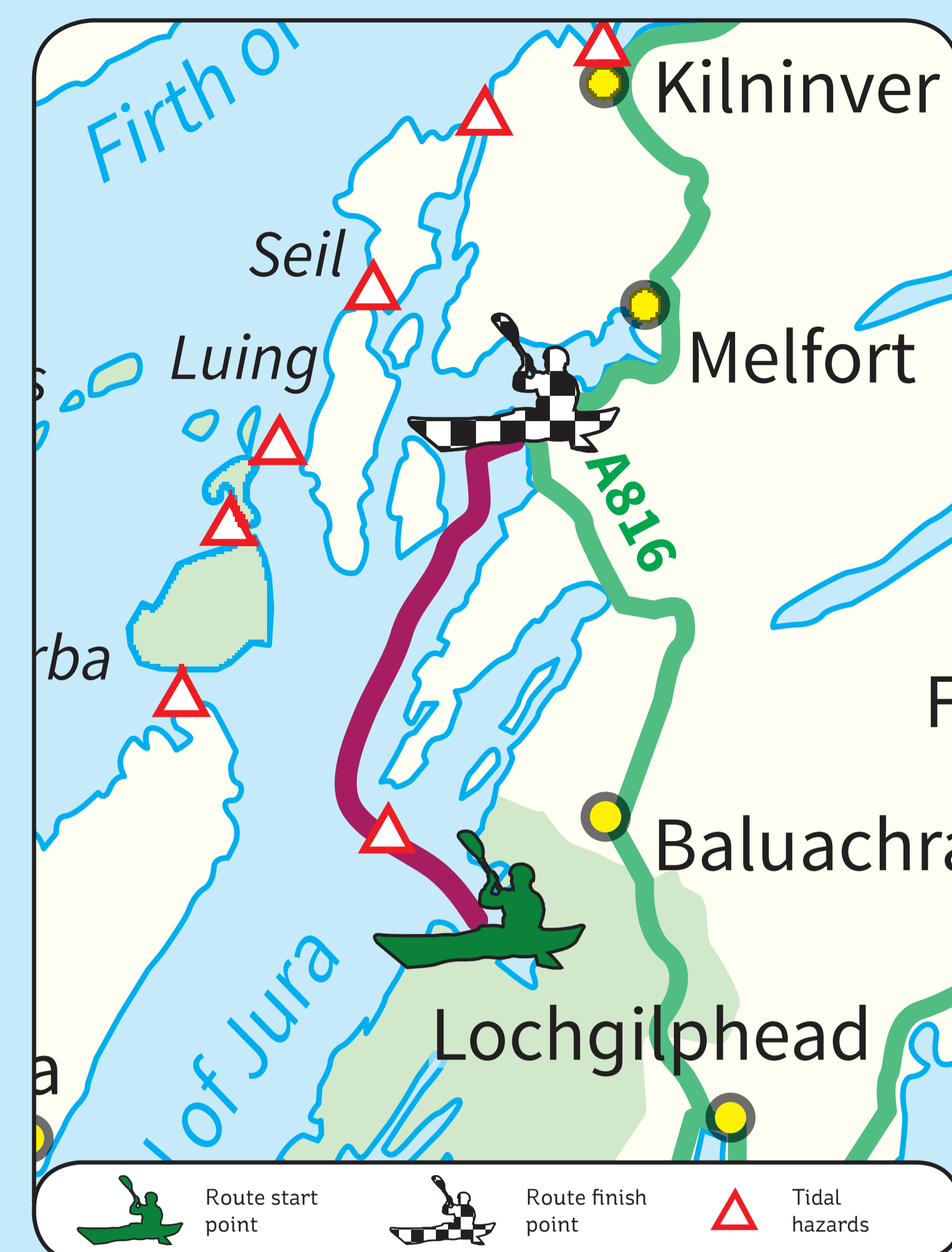
CRINAN TO ARDUAINE - 19km / 10Nm

56°05.186'N 5°32.848'W to 56°13.841'N 5°32.937'W

Grid Reference 794938 to 801099

OS Landranger Map 55

OS Explorer Map 358 & 359



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DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

The easiest access to the sea is from the slipway by Crinan Bridge opposite Crinan Ferry, Grid Reference 938794. If starting from Crinan itself, you have a short paddle (<1km) to the swing bridge and the portage down to the slipway.

Once on the sea, paddle across Loch Crinan, passing Duntrune Castle and the headlands of Rudha na Mòine and Rudha Garbh-Ard, and then pass behind Eilean nan Coinean. Head over to Liath-sgeir Mhòr, and prepare for passage through the Dorus Mòr (please see the Hazards section for further information). Once safely through, pass Craignish Point,

and head north along the coastline, taking in the stunning views across to the Gulf of Corryvreckan, and the islands of Jura and Scarba.

An alternative is to portage from Loch Craignish to Loch Beag. This is done by paddling into Loch Craignish to Bagh Dùn Mhuilig, where you can access the B8002, passing Kirkton, and on to Loch Beag. Find a suitable launching point to access the water.

Loch Beag and Achanarnich Bay provide some potential respite locations, before continuing past Luinig and Shuna up to Craobh Haven. Once here, you have the option of paddling directly to the Arduaine access point, or going via Eilean Creagach, or heading along the coastline. Use the access ramp to get to the car park.

Please note that securing rings are provided to attach your kayak to whilst you explore the area.

TIDAL DIFFERENCES FROM OBAN HW AND SPEEDS

Sound of Jura (South of Crinan)
Northern Stream starts +0400 HW Oban
Southern Stream starts -0205
4kn springs

Dorus Mòr
Western Stream starts +0330 HW Oban
Eastern Stream starts -0215
8kn springs

Shuna Sound
Northern Stream starts +0430 HW Oban
Southern Stream starts -0155
1kn springs

Sound of Luinig
Western Stream starts +0430 HW Oban
Eastern Stream starts -0155
4kn springs

Gulf of Corryvreckan
Western Stream starts +0410 HW Oban
Eastern Stream starts -0210
8.5kn springs

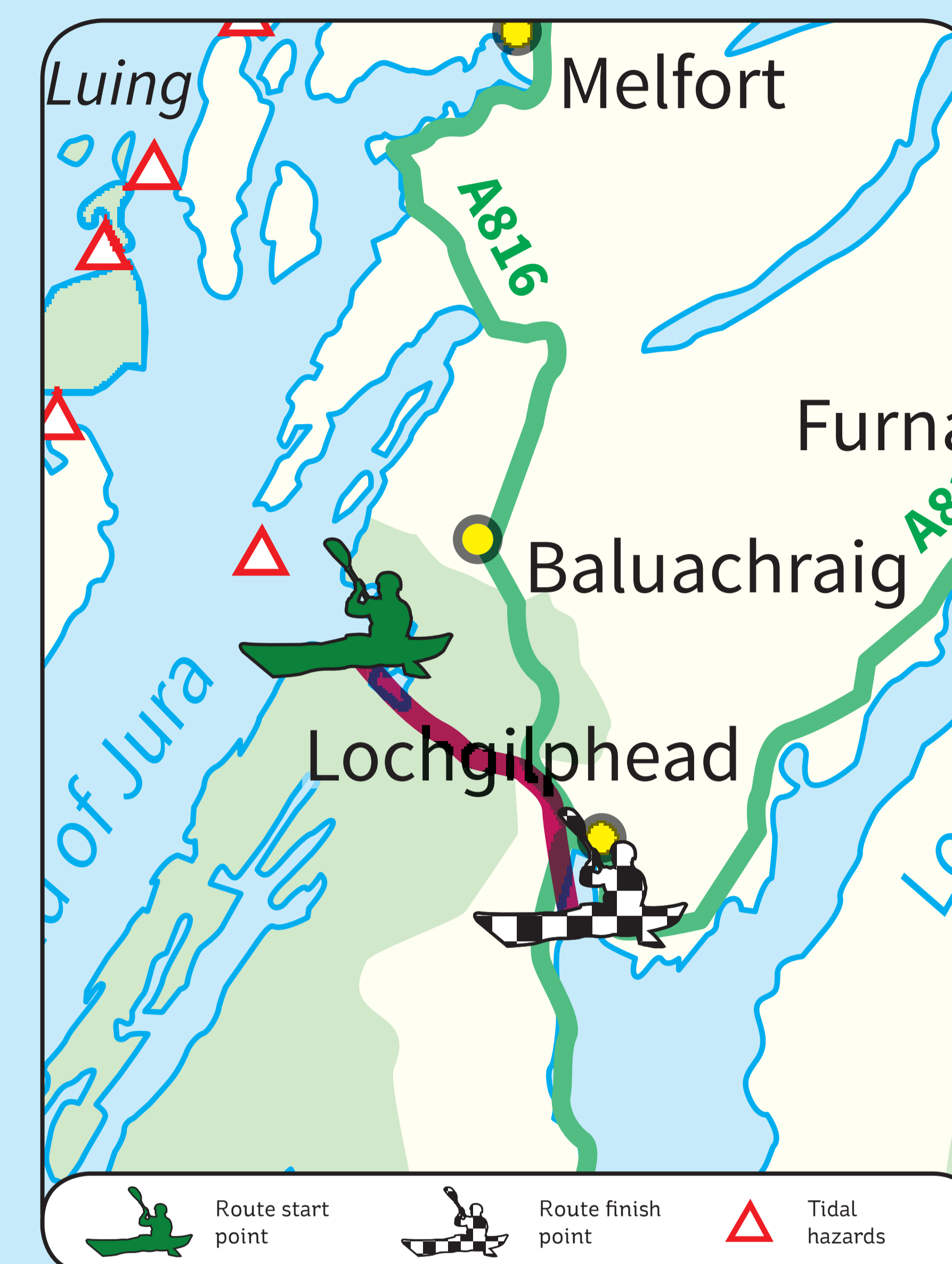
CRINAN TO ARDRISHAIG - 13km / 7Nm

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

Grid Reference 794938 to 853856

OS Landranger Map 55

OS Explorer Map 358



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DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

Leaving from Crinan Basin
If arriving from the car park, follow the trail leading along the southern edge of the locks. Once at Lock 14, continue along the woodland path to the purpose-built landing area (beyond the mooring berths). From here, you follow the canal south east towards Crinan Bridge.

Leaving from Crinan Bridge
After negotiating your way up the slipway from the River Add (opposite Crinan Ferry) you access the canal to the south of the swing bridge, from the purpose built jetty on the east bank.

Heading south along the Canal, you pass Bellanoch Marina, and then Bellanoch Bridge. Mòine Mhòr Nature Reserve is on the northern-side of the canal, giving an opportunity to stop and admire the wildlife.

Dunardry is reached next, and the first portage. This is to avoid locks 13 to 9, and is approximately 750m in length. Kayaks and canoes are not allowed to pass through the locks, so a walk is necessary. The next portage is 1km further along the canal, this time negotiating locks 8 to 5. This is also approximately 750m long and finishes at Cairmbaan, where eye bolts are present in the stone walls adjacent to the canal for those wishing to secure their kayak to explore the area.

Specific access pontoons for kayaks and canoes have been installed above locks 8 and 13, and below locks 5 and 9, 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 back on the water, continue to follow the canal. At Oakfield Bridge there are a number of eye bolts in the wall for securing kayaks and canoes if visiting Lochgilphead.

Above Lock 4 you will find the access pontoon, on the northern end of the first mooring pontoon. This is the start of the portage to the slipway on Loch Fyne. Follow the towpath, continue past the lock on to East Bank Road, and take the path on the left down to the main road. Carefully cross over to the car park, where you will find the slipway on the other side. Portage trolleys are provided to assist with the portage, with storage sites at both ends - see maps for locations.

Postage trolleys are provided to assist with the portages, with storage sites at both ends of the canal - see map for locations.

Please note that securing rings are provided to attach your kayak to whilst you explore the area.

More information on the Crinan Canal can be found at www.scottishcanals.co.uk

PARKING

There is a designated car park for users of the trail at Arduaine, as well as public parking available in Crinan and Ardrishaig (next to Lock 14, and the access point slipway onto Loch Fyne respectively).

Please park responsibly at all times, paying extra care when at Arduaine to allow full use of the car parking spaces available.

Under no circumstances should any person park overnight in Arduaine unless making use of the trail.

LITTER

Paddlers visiting any of the access points on the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail are asked to follow the Leave No Trace principle. There is no litter bin provided at the Arduaine site, so all litter must be removed by paddlers and disposed of responsibly.

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

HM Coastguard

Maritime & Coastguard Agency - www.dft.gov.uk/mca

Stornoway 01851 706796

Operational Area: Cape Wrath to Ardferrn (Mainland) including South to and including Isle of Mull, Luinig 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

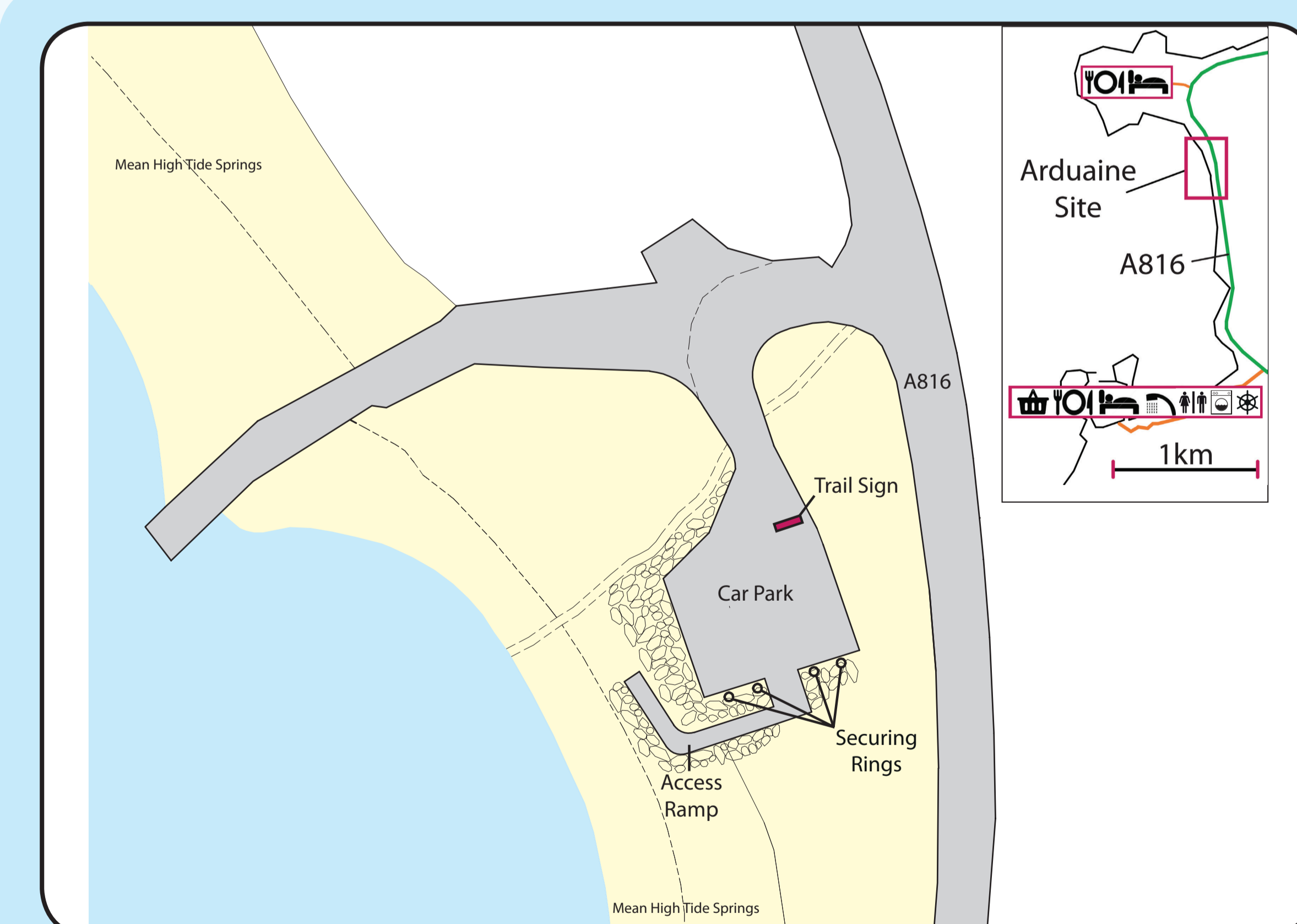
Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code - www.marinecode.org
Providing guidelines and advice when watching wildlife in Scotland.

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

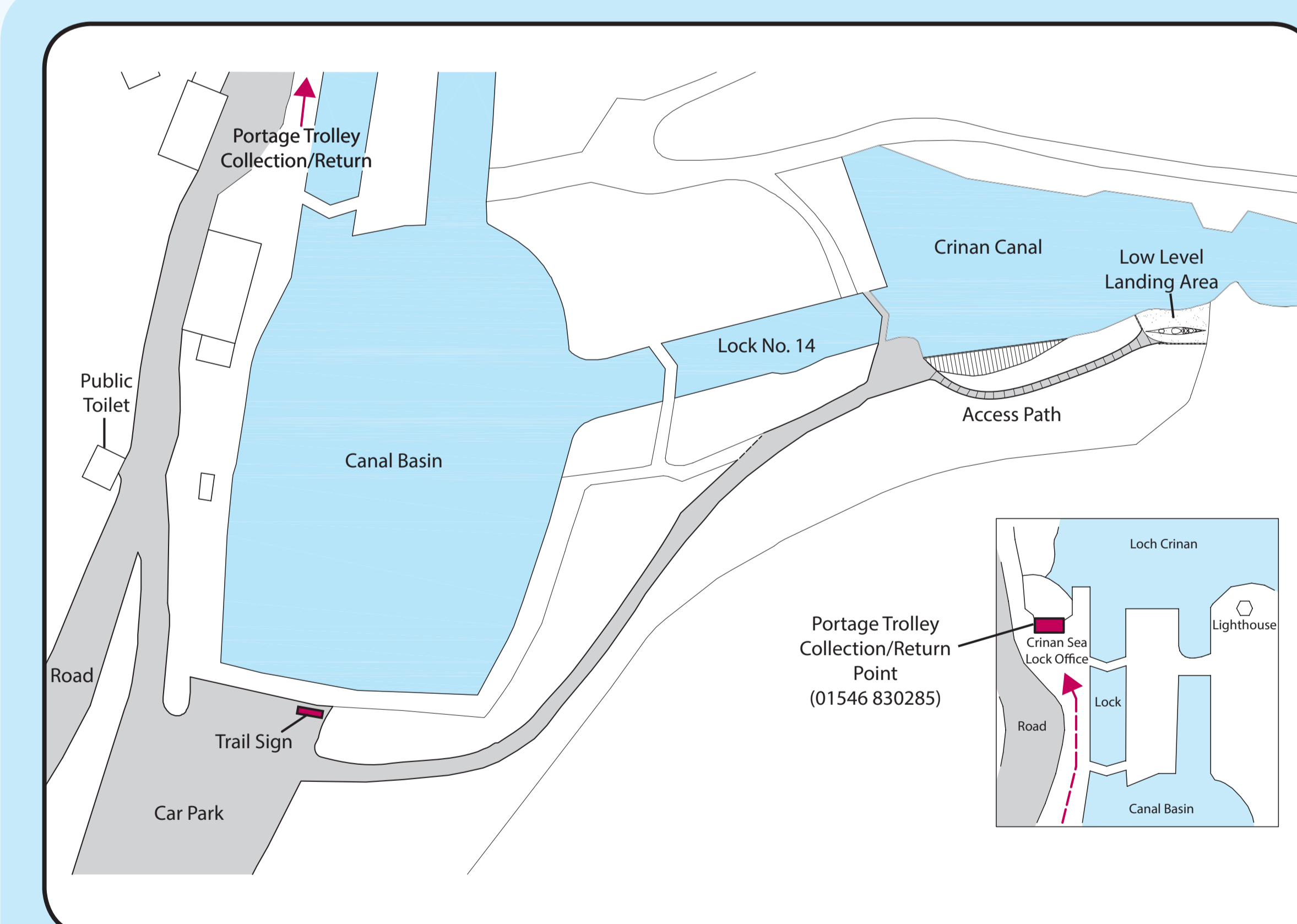
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, pollution hotline 0800 80 70 60
www.sepa.org.uk



Arduaine

LOCAL FACILITIES

- Accommodation, Food and Showers available locally (see insert map)

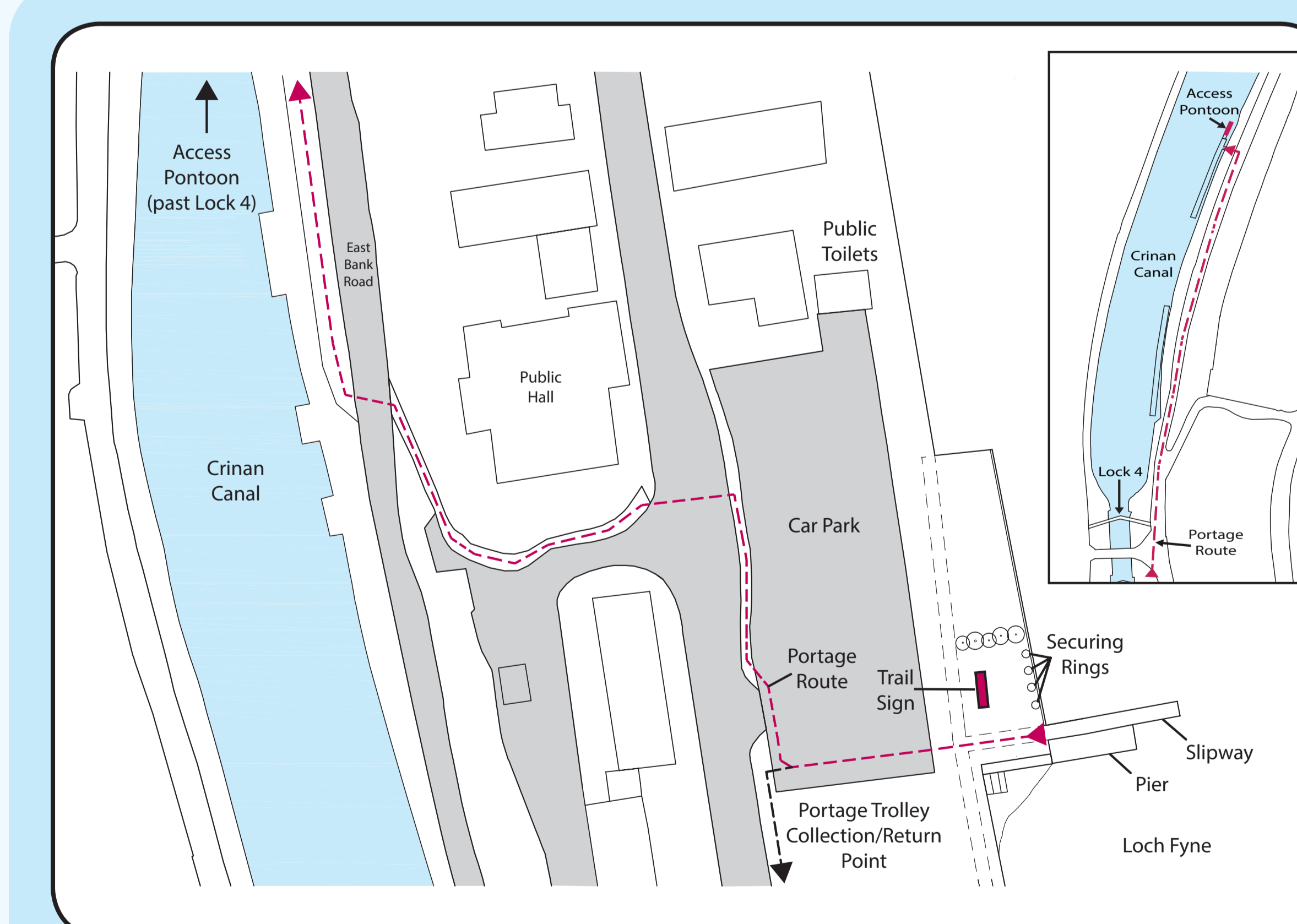


Crinan

LOCAL FACILITIES

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

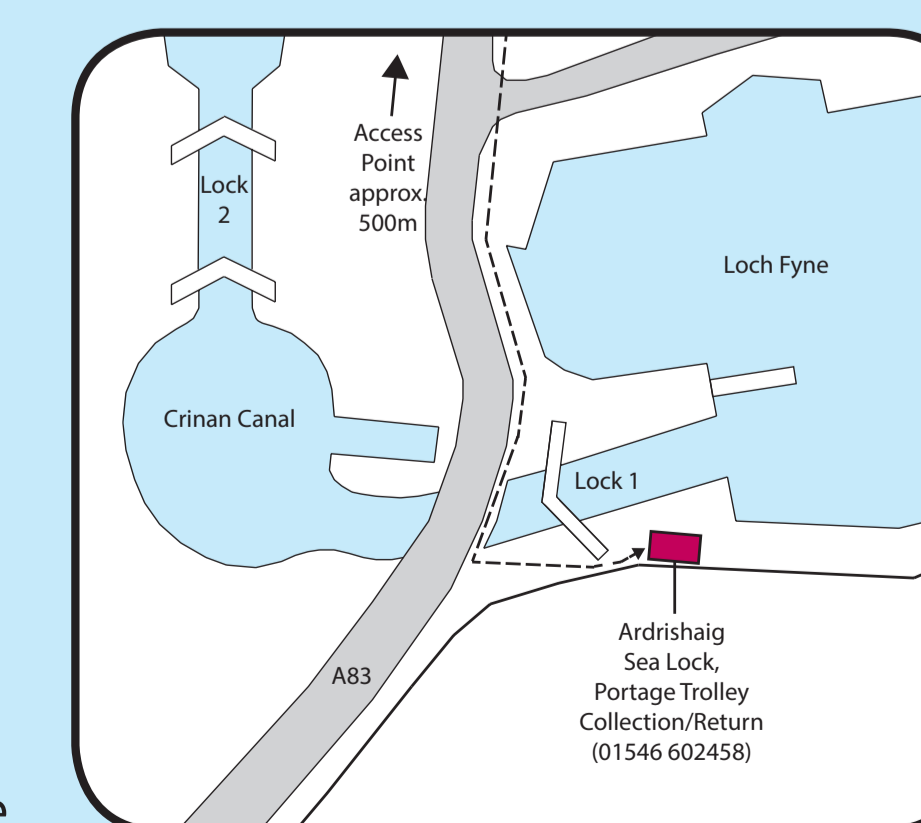
Working in partnership with Scottish Canals



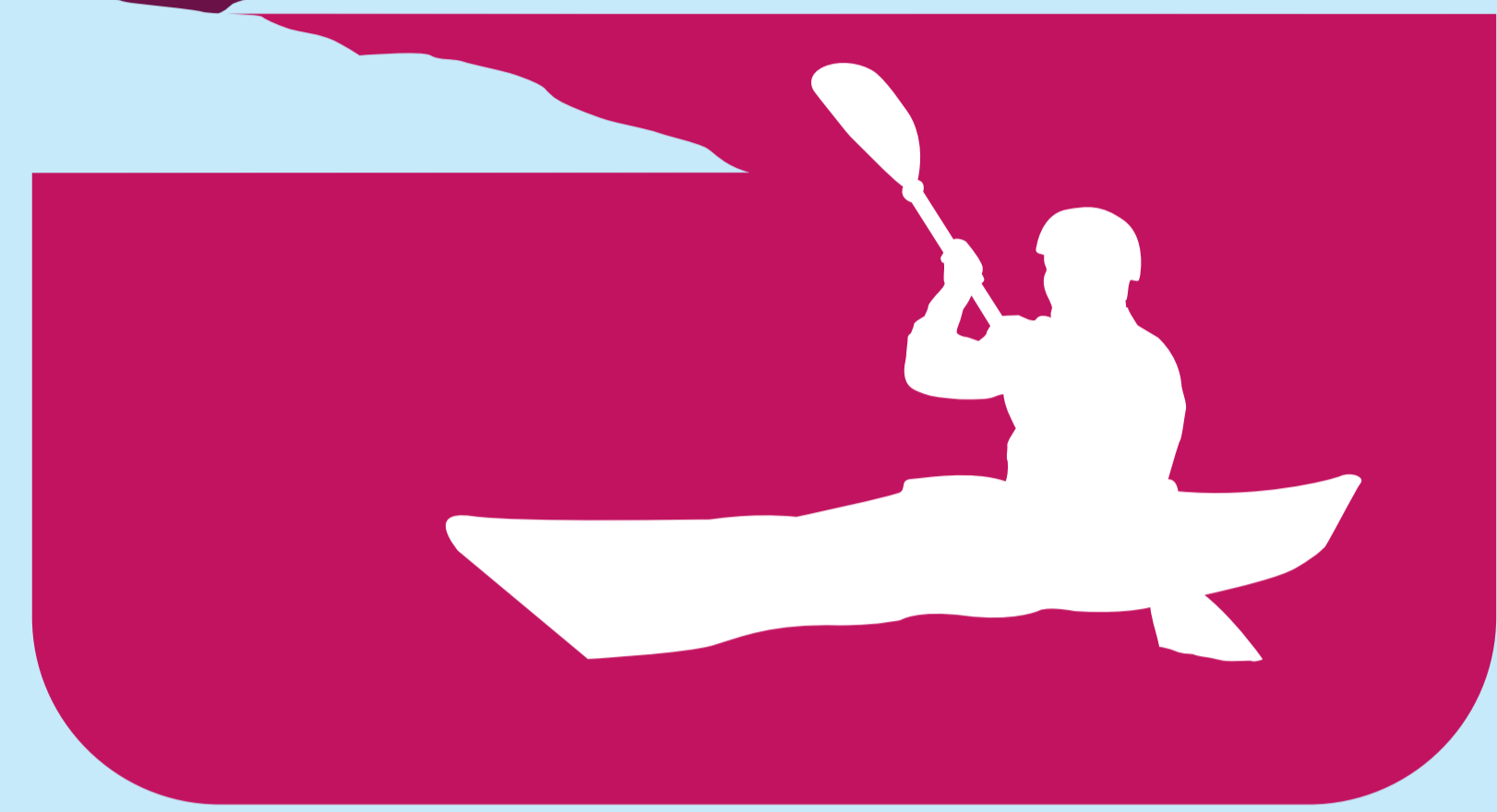
Ardrishaig

LOCAL FACILITIES

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



Argyll Sea Kayak Trail



Crinan

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. 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

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Working in Partnership with Scottish Canals. www.scottishcanals.co.uk

For more information about paddlesports in Scotland. www.canoescotland.org