



Argyll Sea Kayak Trail
Slighe Curcachan Earra-Ghàidheil

Dunoon

ADDITIONAL TRAIL ROUTES & DEVIATIONS

On the way south, you could cross over to the Inverclyde shoreline, and paddle down from the lighthouse at Cloch Point, passing Inverkip and Wemyss Bay. This would leave an extended open water crossing to get across to Toward Point.

Alternatively, by continuing south, Great Cumbrae becomes an option.

From Toward Point, Rothesay Bay on Bute is a short paddle away, opening up an exploration of the isle.

When heading north, Holy Loch is an easy addition to this section of the trail, as it would only add an extra 7km to your journey if you paddle to its end.

Loch Long, as well as Loch Goil, would add a considerable distance if you wish to paddle them in their entirety, and would need to be attempted as part of a multi-day expedition.

Gare Loch, containing the Faslane Naval Base, is accessible to the north of Helensburgh, either for a quick visit or a more committed days paddling, as it would add another 20km to the journey.

The wreck of the Captayannis, commonly known as 'the Sugar Boat', lies directly between Helensburgh and Greenock, so easily visited before disembarking.

HAZARDS

The sea to the south of Toward can be subjected to considerable fetch due to the open nature of the water, as well as up in to the Firth of Clyde. Please adjust plans accordingly if these conditions are encountered.

More traditional shipping is found in the Firth of Clyde. It is advised to stay close to the shorelines to avoid unnecessary interaction.

Four separate ferry terminals are encountered on the northern section from Dunoon to Helensburgh, and therefore pose a considerable hazard to those paddling. Please ensure you only pass the terminals when safe to do so, keeping an appropriate distance between yourself and all vessels encountered.

A number of sailing vessels can be found in Holy Loch, with a marina and moorings present. Again, please keep a safe distance at all times.

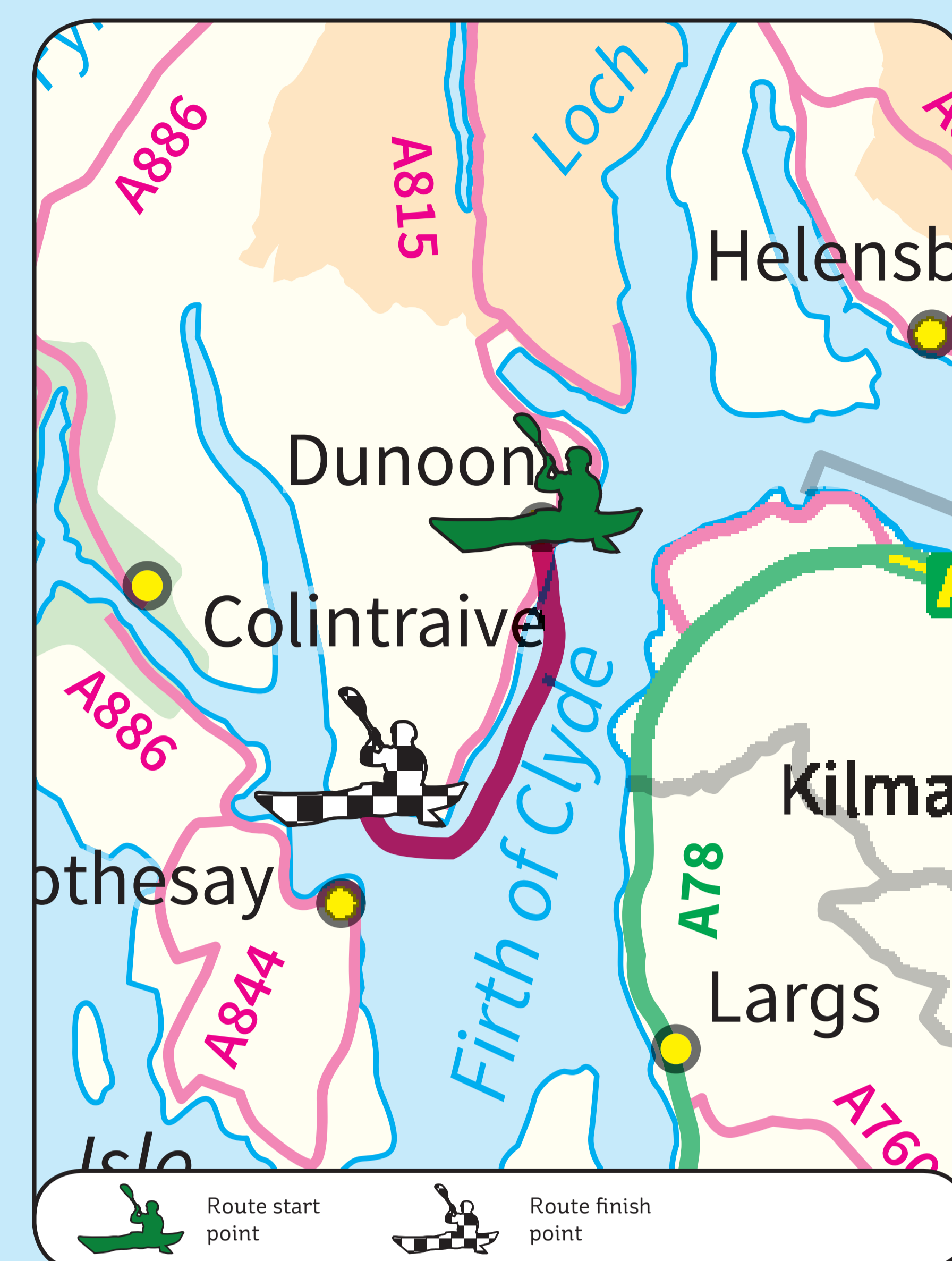
DUNOON TO TOWARD - 13km / 7Nm

55°56.534'N 4°56.002'W to 55°51.918'N 5°01.313'W

Grid Reference 169760 to 110677

OS Landranger Map 63

OS Explorer Map 363



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DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

From the access slipway, found beside the play parks, launch into West Bay. The Gantocks, a reef of drying rocks marked by a large beacon, are approximately 1km to the east if choosing to visit them. Although they shouldn't pose any problems for paddlers, please do be careful.

When heading south, follow the green hillside down to Bullwood Quarry. The first picnic spot is a further 1km further south. Running parallel with the road, you come to another potential rest stop at another picnic spot before you reach Innellan.

The sloping shoreline continues down to Newton Park, where you will come across a marker buoy for the shallow area. Here

you will also find picnic benches for a rest stop and a car park.

From here, the lighthouse at Toward Point is a couple of kilometres away. Built by Robert Stevenson in 1812, this is a worthwhile stop-off. Round Toward Point and follow the coastline along to Toward Quay, and the access point at the sailing club.

Kayak storage available by arrangement with Toward Sailing Club - www.towardsc.org.uk

TIDAL DIFFERENCES

HIGH WATER TIMES

Wemyss Bay High water -0005 HW Greenock
Low water -0005 LW Greenock

Rothesay Bay High water -0019 HW Greenock
Low water -0004 LW Greenock

DUNOON TO HELENSBURGH - 16km / 9Nm

55°56.534'N 4°56.002'W to 56°00.071'N 4°44.219'W

Grid Reference 169760 to 294821

OS Landranger Map 363 & 347

OS Explorer Map 63 & 56



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DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

Once past the play park, and launching from the slipway, veer north and follow the coastline along West Bay. When safe to do so, pass the Dunoon Ferry Terminal, and then the East Bay. Running parallel with the road, make your way to the next ferry terminal at Hunter's Quay. Once again, when safe to do so pass the terminal and head into the mouth of Holy Loch. From here you need to cross over to Strone Point. A slightly shorter crossing is possible between Lazaretto Point and Graham's Point if you head further into Holy Loch.

To the west of Strone Point you will come across an old pier, where the gently sloping beach provides an ideal rest stop.

Rounding the point, head into the start of Loch Long before diverting east and paddling across to Baron's Point (this can be done from the pier at Blairmore to south of Cove) and is the longest open water crossing of this section of the trail.

The coastline is rocky as you continue to Kilcraggan, with another ferry terminal to be negotiated. After this, continue to Portkil Point, paddle past Portkil Bay towards Meikleross Bay. Another rest stop is available before the rocky outcrops of this bay. At Rosneath Point, you can aim directly towards Helensburgh, passing Perch Rock on the way.

An alternative shorter crossing is available between Castle Point and Cairndhu Point, a paddle of approximately 2km into Gare Loch.

Once at the ferry pier in Helensburgh, paddle around to the back and aim for the slipway. There are various locations nearby where you can secure your kayak.

TIDAL DIFFERENCES

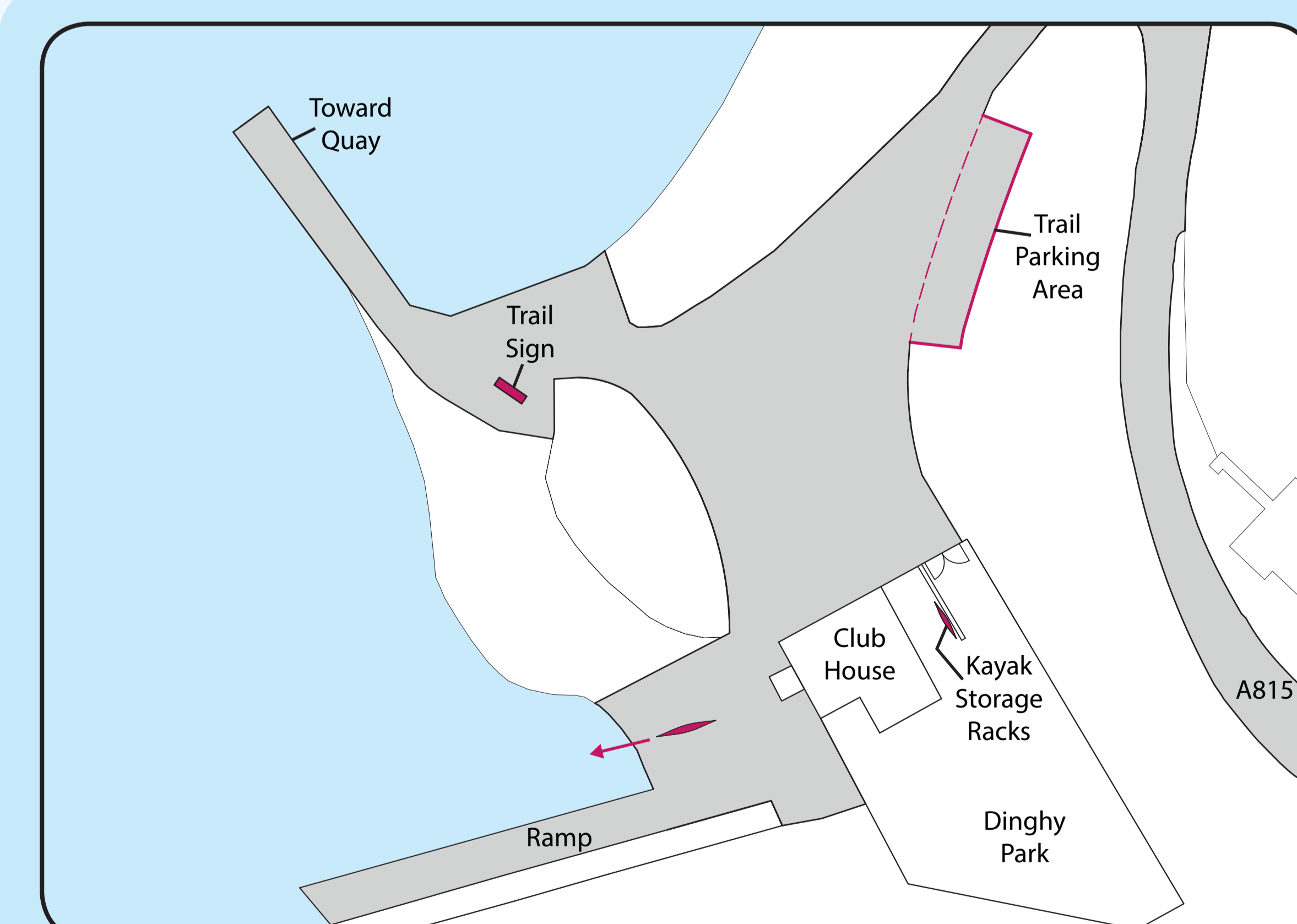
HIGH WATER TIMES

Helensburgh & Gareloch - Same as Greenock

Rhu Marina High water -0007 HW Greenock
Low water -0007 HW Greenock

Rosneath & Arrochar High water -0005 HW Greenock
Low Water -0005 LW Greenock

Lochgoilhead High Water +0005 HW Greenock
Low Water -0005 LW Greenock

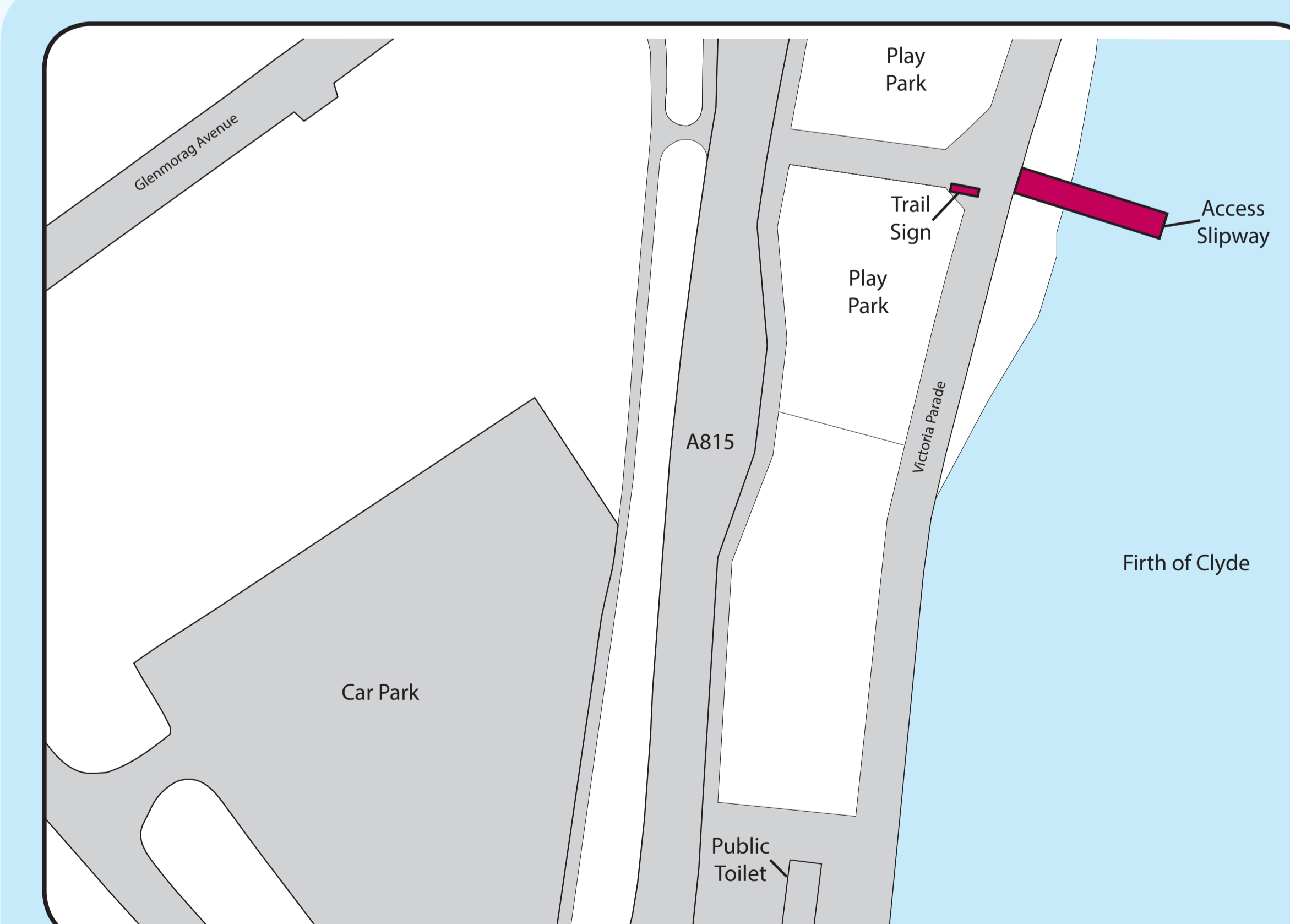


Toward

LOCAL FACILITIES

- Toilets & Showers available when club house open
- Kayak storage available by arrangement with Toward Sailing Club

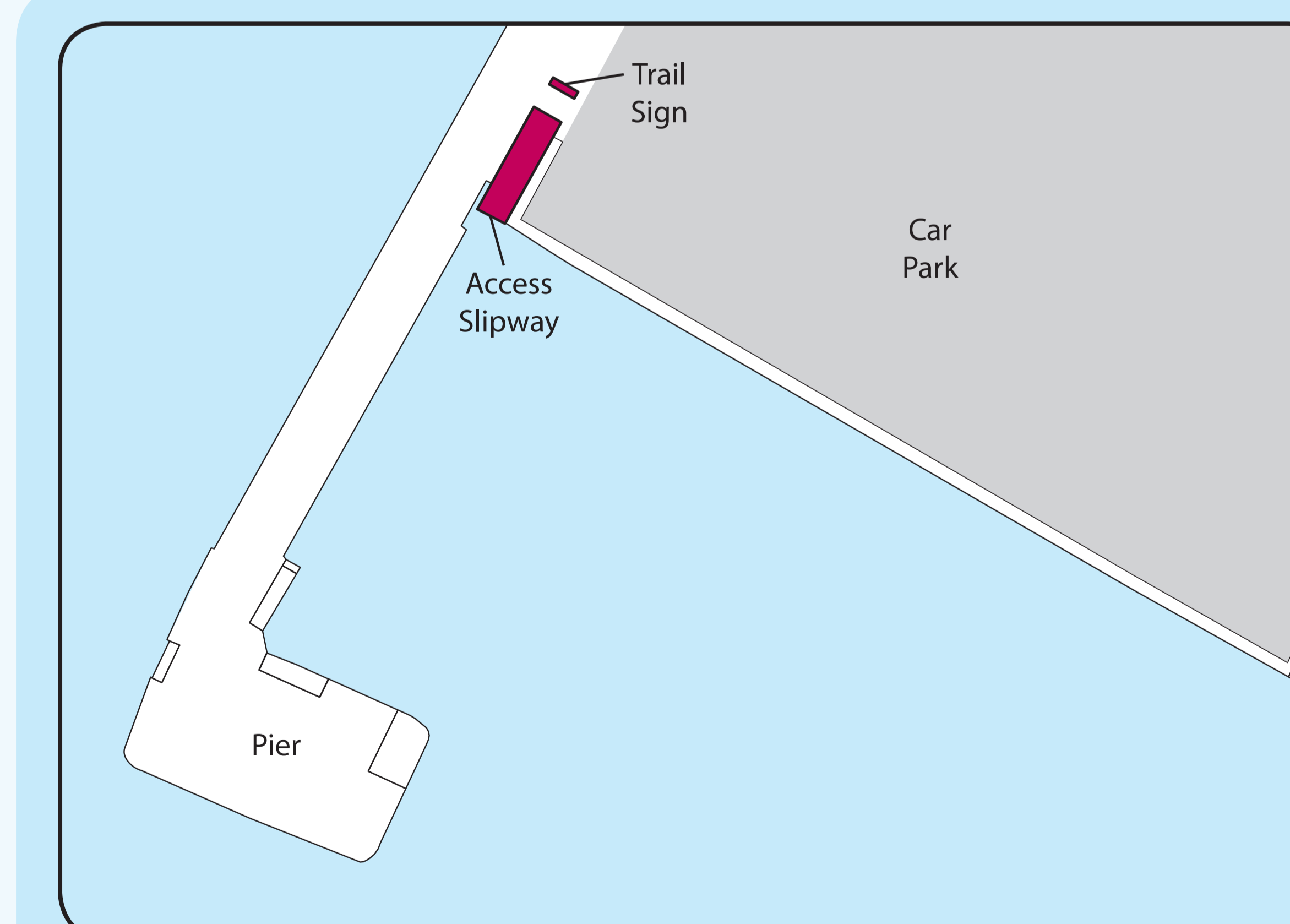
Working in partnership with Toward Sailing Club - www.towardsc.org.uk



Dunoon

LOCAL FACILITIES

- Accommodation
- Bank/Cash Point
- Food & Drink
- Public Toilets
- Shops & Supermarkets
- Tourist Information



Helensburgh

LOCAL FACILITIES

- Accommodation
- Bank/Cash Point
- Food & Drink
- Public Toilets
- Shops & Supermarkets
- Showers (available for a fee in swimming pool)
- Tourist Information

PARKING

Parking is available in Toward at the sailing club, and in Dunoon and Helensburgh in the public parking areas.

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

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, Luing 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

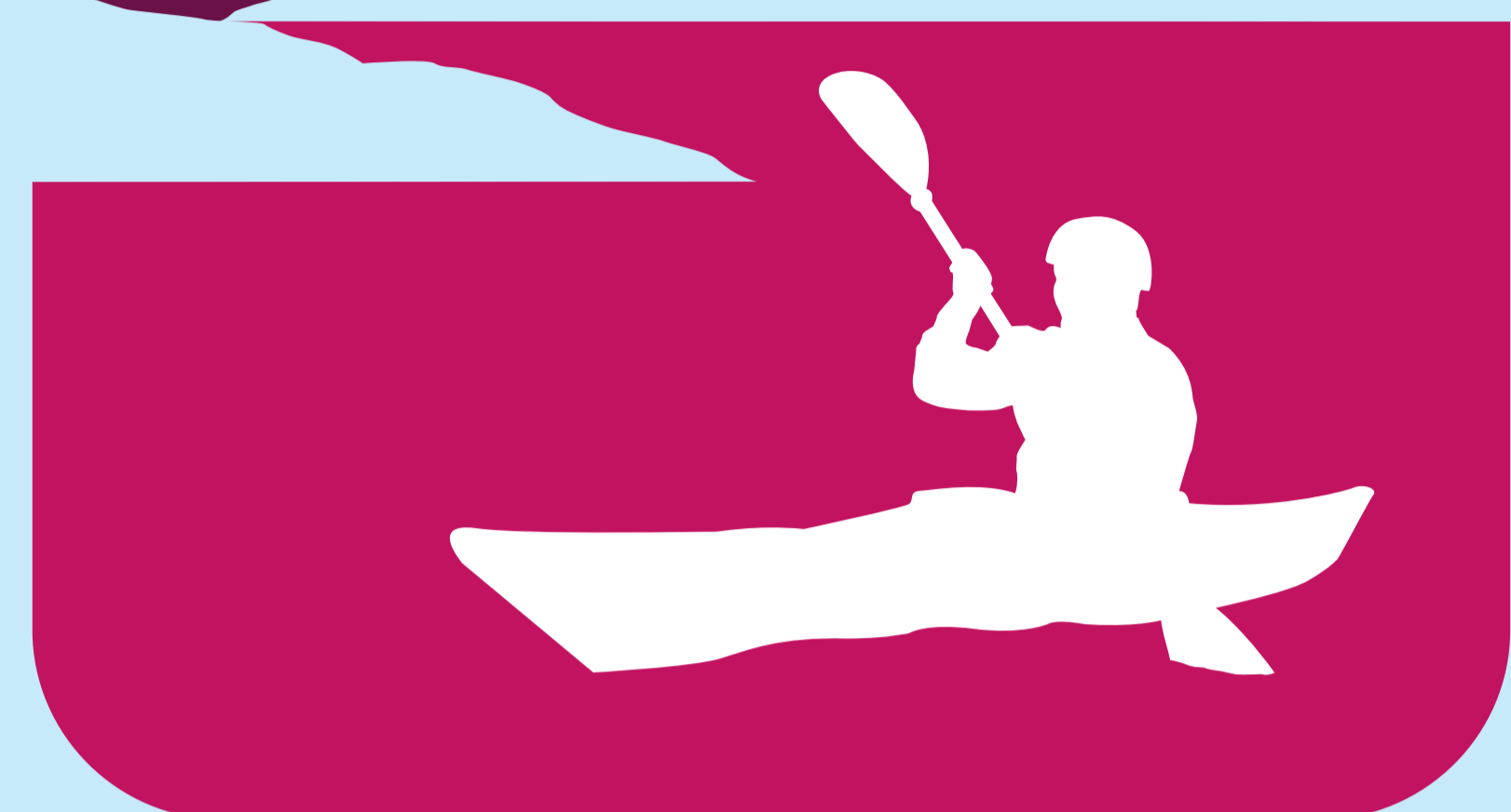
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, pollution hotline

0800 80 70 60

www.sepa.org.uk



Argyll Sea Kayak Trail



Dunoon

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.

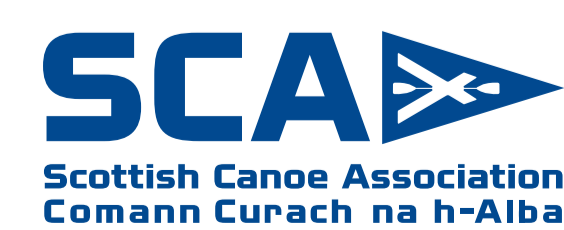
Route	Distance	Beginners	Intermediate	Advanced
Ganavan/Ellenabeich	21km	7hrs	5 hrs 15 mins	3 hrs 30 mins
Ellenabeich/Arduaine	11km	3 hrs 40 mins	2 hrs 50 mins	1 hr 50 mins
Arduaine/Crinan	19 km	6 hrs 20 mins	4 hrs 15 mins	3 hrs 10 mins
Crinan/Ardrishaig	13 km	4 hrs 20 mins	2 hrs 50 mins	2 hrs 10 mins
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

THIS PROJECT WAS PART-FINANCED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ARGYLL AND THE ISLANDS LEADER 2007-2013 Programme.

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

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