



Argyll Sea Kayak Trail  
Slighe Curcachan Earra-Ghàidheil

# Tarbert

## ADDITIONAL TRAIL ROUTES & DEVIATIONS

From Tarbert, the whole of the Inner Kintyre coastline is accessible. A journey can be made down to Skipness Point, with more committed routes available further down towards Carradale and Campbeltown. You can also access the Isle of Arran, but a longer open water crossing would be involved, so only suitable for those with relevant experience.

Another option is to explore West Loch Tarbert. This would take you out to Ardrpatrick Point, and onwards to the Sound of Jura, and opens up the possibility of paddling to Gigha. Again, this would be a committed paddle, and only for those with the relevant experience.

If you head eastward from Tarbert, you are starting the next section, which ends at North Bute. You could include a paddle down to Inchmarnock and St. Ninians Bay, and explore more of the western side of Bute.

## HAZARDS

Tarbert is a working harbour, so craft will be encountered here. Please follow the directions from the access pontoon carefully, so as to avoid any unnecessary contact.

Tide against wind conditions can make the section around Ardlamont Point challenging, as well as when heading up into Loch Fyne. If there is a northerly wind, hugging the east coastline can provide some shelter, but would add distance to this section of the Trail.

The Kyles are subjected to high usage by sailing craft, and there are a couple of popular anchorages at the northern end – Eilean Dubh, and in between Buttock Point and the Burnt Islands.

Ferries also run at numerous points on these two sections of the trail, so please be careful and avoid them at all times.

## TARBERT TO ARDRISHAIG - 19km / 10Nm

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

Grid Reference 871689 to 853856

OS Landranger Map 62 & 55

OS Explorer Map 357 & 358



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view. Pass this with care as well as the Ardrishaig Pier, as there will be activity from other water craft using the anchorage and entering/exiting the Crinan Canal.

The access point is past the oil depot and boat yard, next to the small slipway on the left, below the public gardens and car park – aim for the Trail Marker. The steps on the small beach can also be used.

Secure eye bolts are installed into the stone wall at the access point if required for your kayak to allow you to explore the area.

If you intend to continue on to the Crinan Canal, cross over the car park and the main road, and follow the path between the shop and the village hall up to the canal. Safely cross over the road and continue past Lock 4 to the second pontoon, where you will find the low-level access pontoon at the northern end.

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

## TIDAL DIFFERENCES

HIGH WATER TIMES

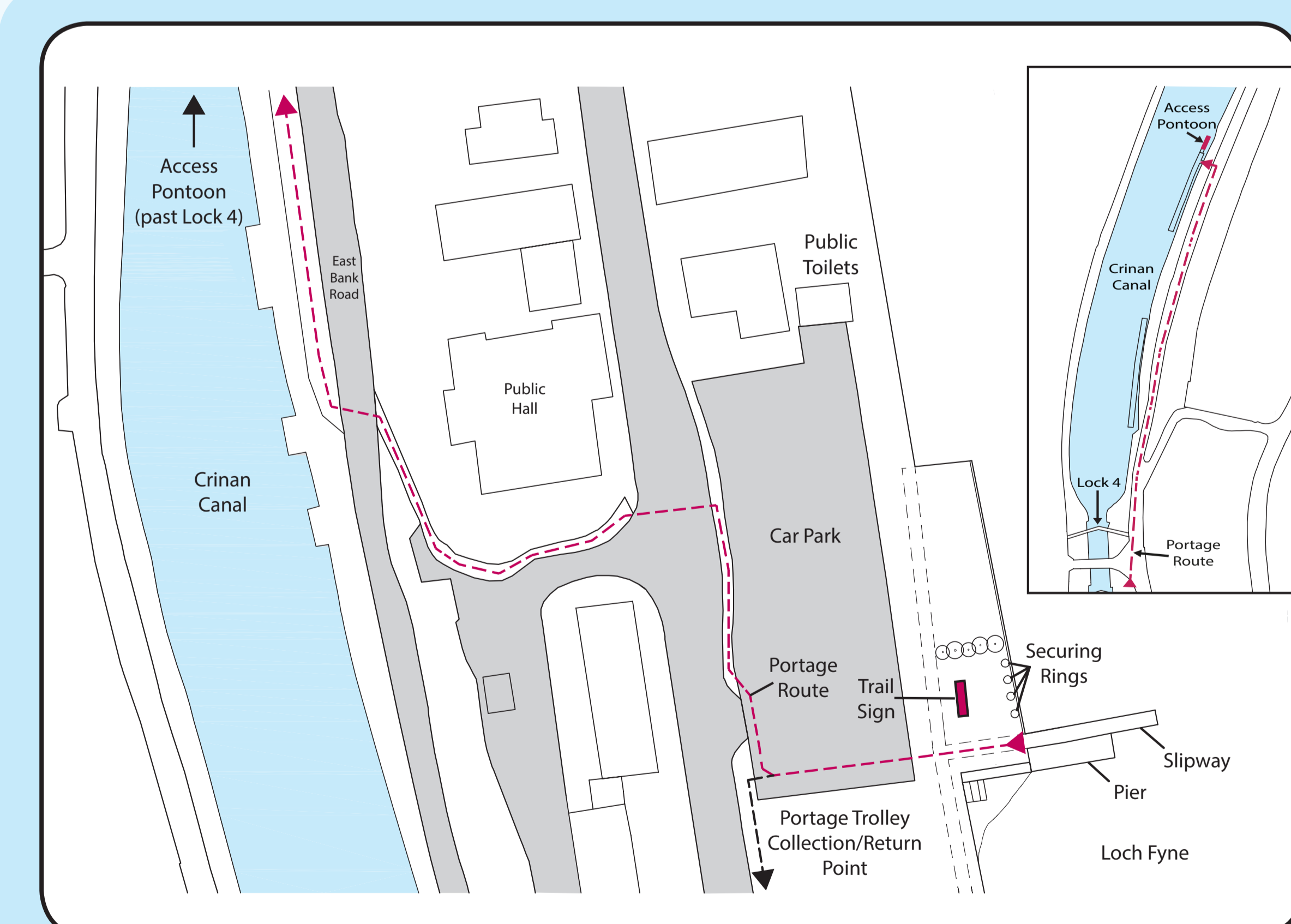
East Loch Tarbert	High Water	-0005 HW Greenock
	Low Water	-0004 LW Greenock

## DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

From the access slipway at the yacht club, make your way across the loch to the northern shoreline, thus avoiding the ferry terminal. Once at the mouth of East Loch Tarbert, turn northwards and begin following the coastline.

Pass the islets at Sgeir Port a' Ghuaill, and then Barmore Island which has a south and a north bay, providing a suitable location for stopping. At Sloc nam Fearna the coastline becomes steeper, and doesn't properly flatten again for another 6km when you reach Creagan Beag.

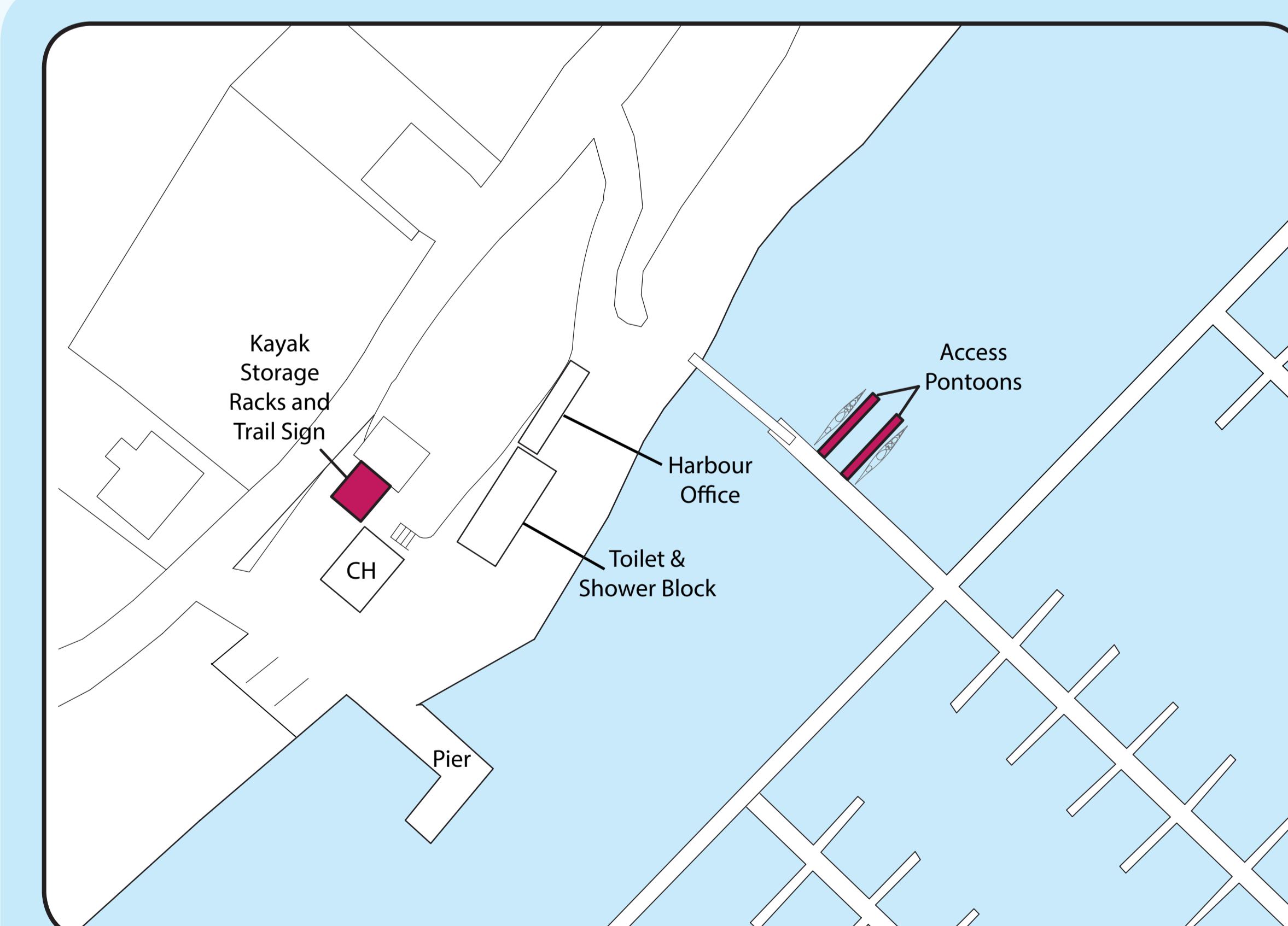
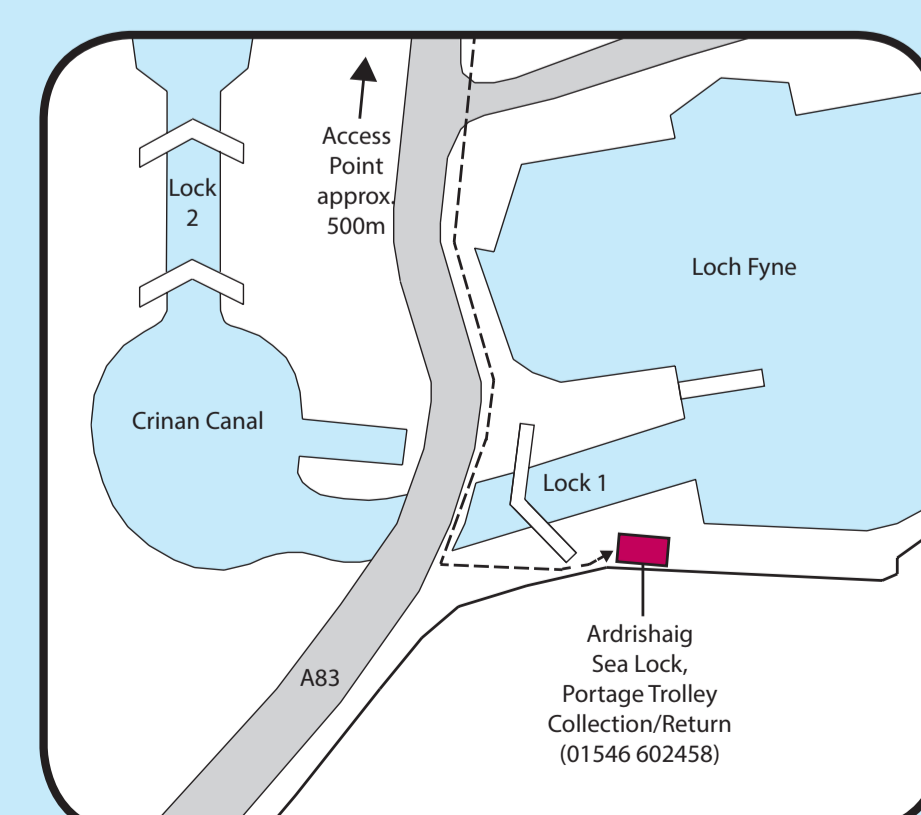
Inverneill soon arrives, and signals the last 4km of this section of the trail, after which the southern breakwater comes into



## 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



## 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

## TARBERT TO NORTH BUTE - 29km / 16Nm

55°51.974'N 5°24.254'W to 55°55.460'N 5°10.816'W

Grid Reference 871689 to 014747

OS Landranger Map 62 & 63

OS Explorer Map 357 & 362



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Port Leathan, or Asgog Bay around the corner, provide an ideal rest place before the trail continues past Sgat Beag and the picturesque Kilbride Bay. After paddling across Ardlamont Bay, Ardlamont Point is reached. Cup and Ring markings are accessible from Port nam Muileach, before starting passage up the west Kyle of Bute. Once at Carry Point, at the end of Blindman's Bay, you can choose whether you stay on the western side of the Kyle, or head across to the eastern side.

Both sides of the Kyle can be paddled, although if you need supplies the western shoreline gives you access to shops at both Kames and Tighnabruaich. A more deserted feel would be gained from paddling the eastern shoreline.

If not already paddling up the Bute side of the Kyle, once at Rubha Bàn you should head across, thus avoiding the anchorage at An Caladh (behind Eilean Dubh). Then paddle past the Maids of Bute and round Buttock Point. The North Bute access point is situated after the wooded area, where a small burn enters the sea. The timber shelter at the western end of the site marks an ideal egress point.

## TIDAL DIFFERENCES

HIGH WATER TIMES

East Loch Tarbert	High Water	-0005 HW Greenock
	Low Water	-0004 LW Greenock

Tighnabruaich	High Water	+0003 HW Greenock
	Low Water	-0014 LW Greenock

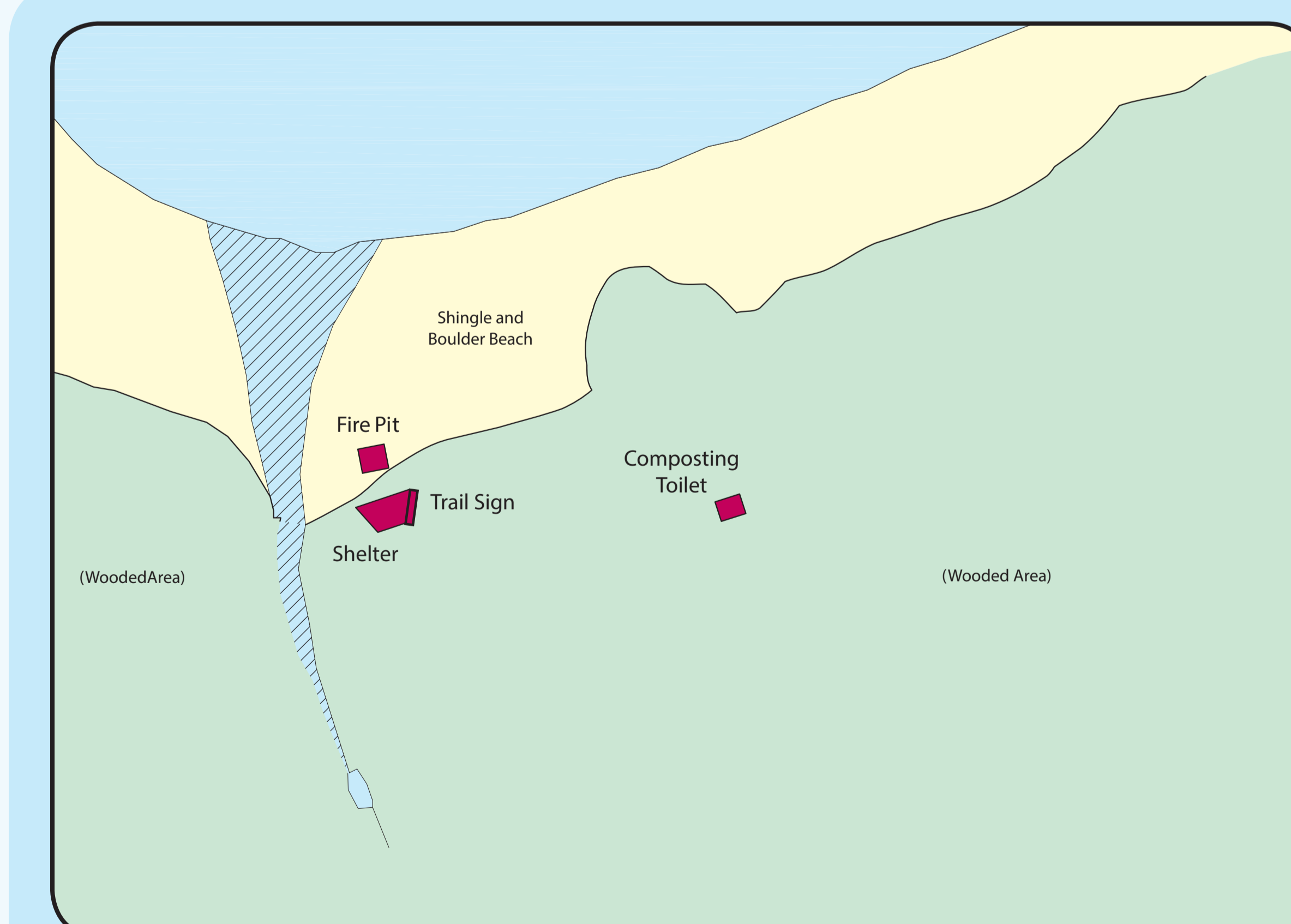
Rubha ABhodaich	High Water	-0018 HW Greenock
	Low Water	-0007 LW Greenock

Burnt Islands	North Channel	- 5kn springs
	South Channel	- 3kn springs

## DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

This is the longest section of the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail, so could make for a long day out on the water – please ensure you are carrying sufficient supplies.

From the access point, paddle round the yacht club towards the ferry terminal. When safe to do so, pass the terminal, and continue along the shoreline down past Mealdarroch Point. You will need to paddle across Loch Fyne towards Port Leathan on the Cowal Peninsula, with the point at Rubna Clach an Tràghaidh being the shortest crossing at approx. 3km when aiming for Rubha Stillaig.



## North Bute

### LOCAL FACILITIES

- The North Bute site is a remote wild camping area, and therefore no facilities are available other than those provided on site.
- Situated within a Site of Special Scientific Interest, so no felling of trees allowed for fire wood (Bute Forest will seek to maintain a supply for visitors to the site).

Working in partnership with Bute Forest

## PARKING

Public parking is available at Ardrishaig and Tarbert. The North Bute site has no vehicular access.

## 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)

Stomoway 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](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)

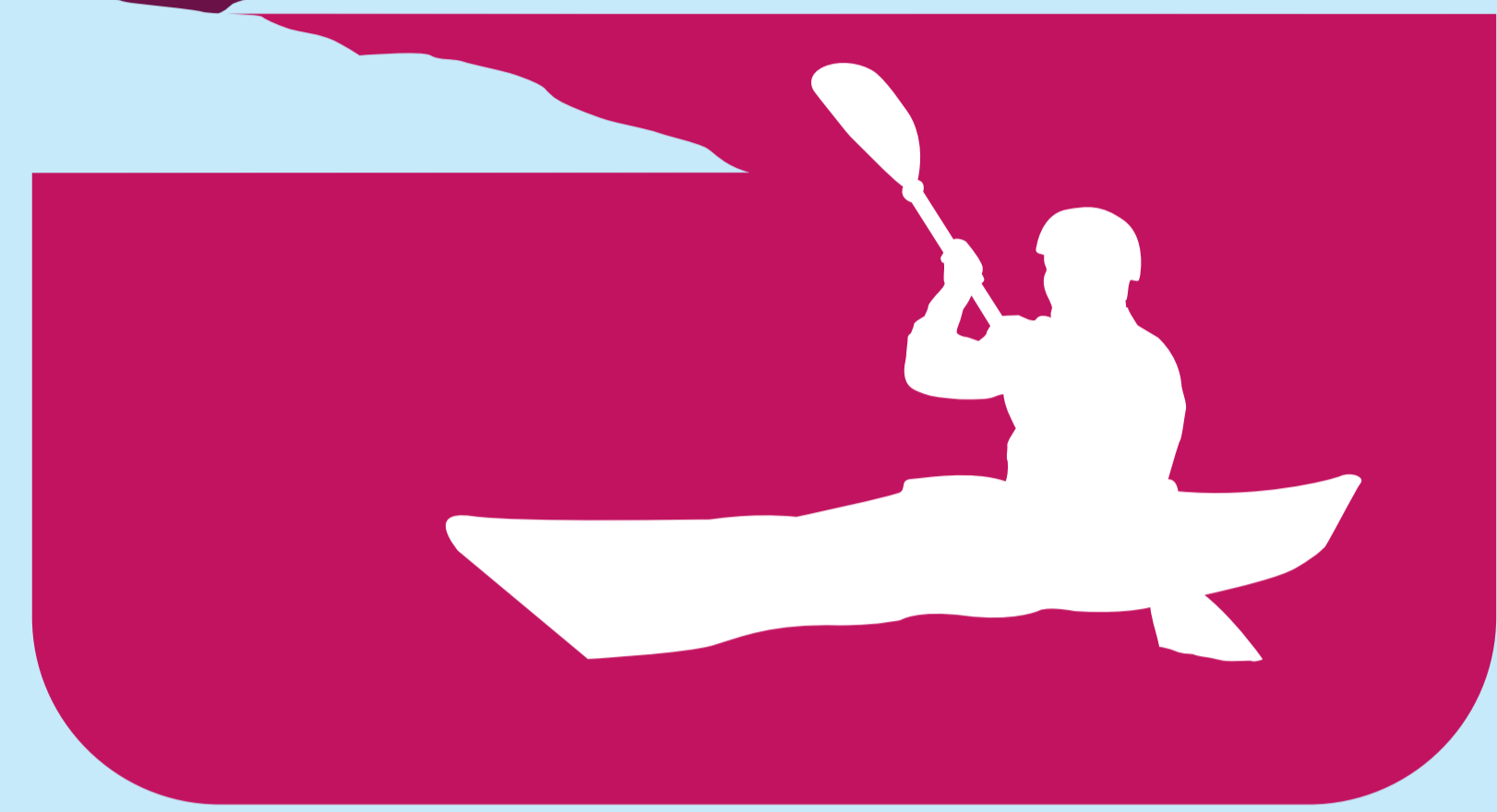
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, pollution hotline  
0800 80 70 60  
[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)



Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment.

# Argyll Sea Kayak Trail



## Tarbert

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)

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](http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk)

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