



Argyll Sea Kayak Trail
Slighe Curcachan Earra-Ghàidheil

Toward

ADDITIONAL TRAIL ROUTES & DEVIATIONS

From Toward, you can further explore the Bute coastline, even completing a circumnavigation of the island. Lochs Striven and Riddon are in easy reach when heading up towards the North Bute site, as is a detour to visit Rothesay.

Great Cumbrae and Little Cumbrae are longer paddles from Toward, incorporating slightly longer crossings.

If aiming for Dunoon, Holy Loch and Loch Long are available to you a further 5km up the coast.

On the Inverclyde shoreline you will find Wemyss Bay and Inverkip, before coming across the lighthouse at Cloch Point, warning of the dangers of the Gantocks. From here, paddle across the Firth of Clyde to the Dunoon access point.

HAZARDS

The main hazard encountered on either of these sections of the Trail is other craft on the water. Numerous sailing vessels will be found in the Kyles of Bute, with more traditional shipping also found in the Firth of Clyde. It is advised to stay close to the shorelines to avoid unnecessary interaction.

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.

Strong tidal flows can be found in the northern channel through the Burnt Islands during spring tides, but the southern channel provides easier passage.

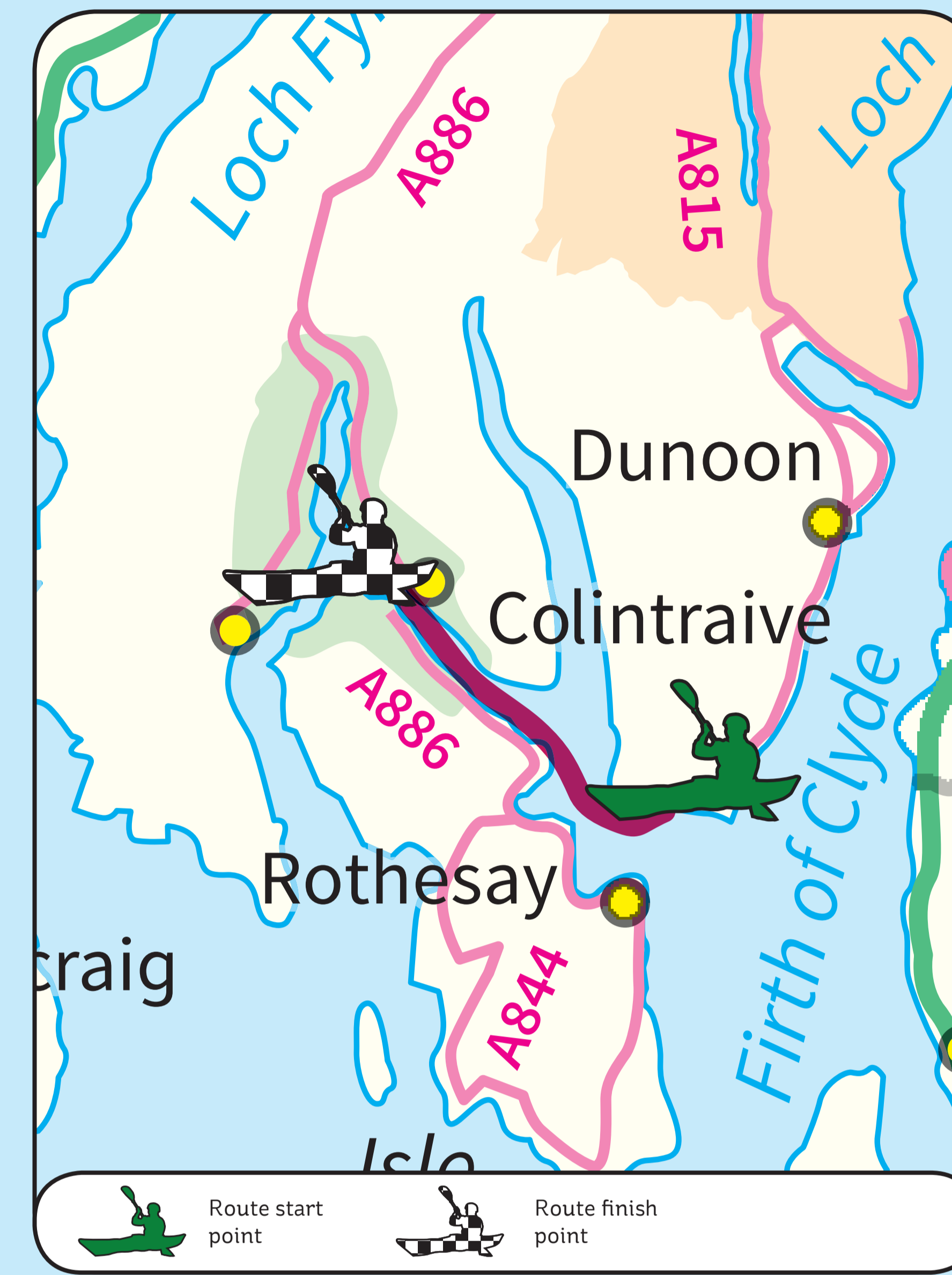
TOWARD TO NORTH BUTE - 13km / 7Nm

55°51.918'N 5°01.313'W to 55°55.460'N 5°10.816'W

Grid Reference 110677 to 014747

OS Landranger Map 63

OS Explorer Map 362



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sloping landscapes. Easy egress is available along much of this length for rest stops.

When approaching Colintrave, exercise caution as there is a regular ferry crossing over to Rhudodach and back. When clear to do so, paddle directly past the ferry terminal and continue towards the Burnt Islands.

The southern channel is the easiest passage, as this is subject to lesser tidal flows, and is a shorter route to the access point. This is found around the spit of land after Balnakailly Bay, when you will come across the shelter and fire pit. Egress anywhere along the site.

TIDAL DIFFERENCES

HIGH WATER TIMES

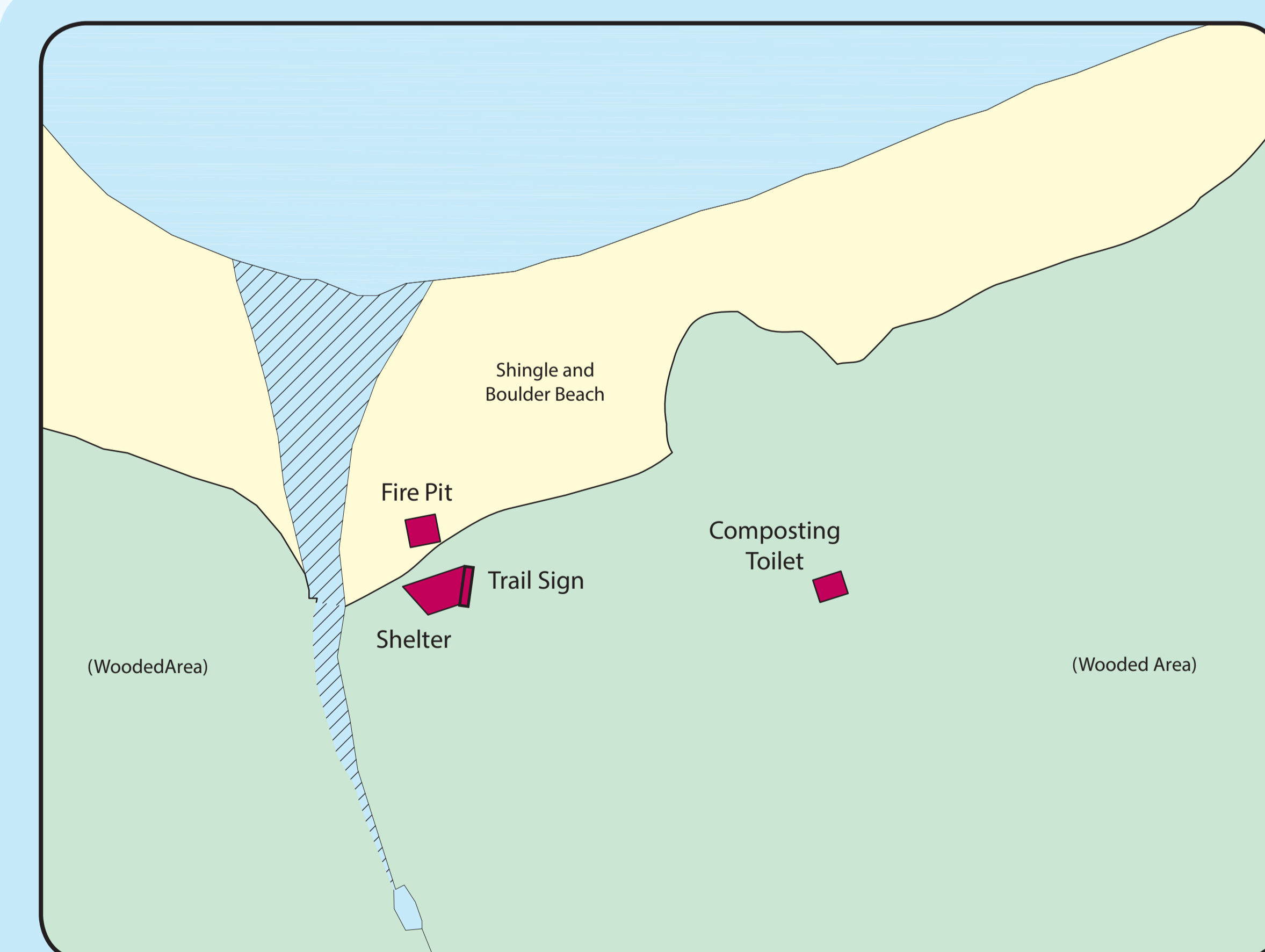
| | | |
|------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Rothesay Bay | High water | -0019 HW Greenock |
| | Low water | -0004 LW Greenock |
| Rubha ABhodaich | High water | -0018 HW Greenock |
| | Low water | -0007 LW Greenock |

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

DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

Setting out from the access point at Toward Quay, whilst avoiding any sailing craft, head west along the coastline to Ardyne Point – the site of a former oil rig construction yard. After exploring, you can make the crossing to Bute, either Port Bannatyne or Undraynian Point (the latter being slightly further, but more direct). The East Kyle is entered once you pass Ardmaleish Point, with Strone Point directly north at the mouth of Loch Striven. Be careful to avoid the sailing craft, as these are prime sailing waters – see [Hazards section](#).

You can navigate up either the Cowal-side or Bute-side of the Kyle, with both routes offering great views over the gently



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

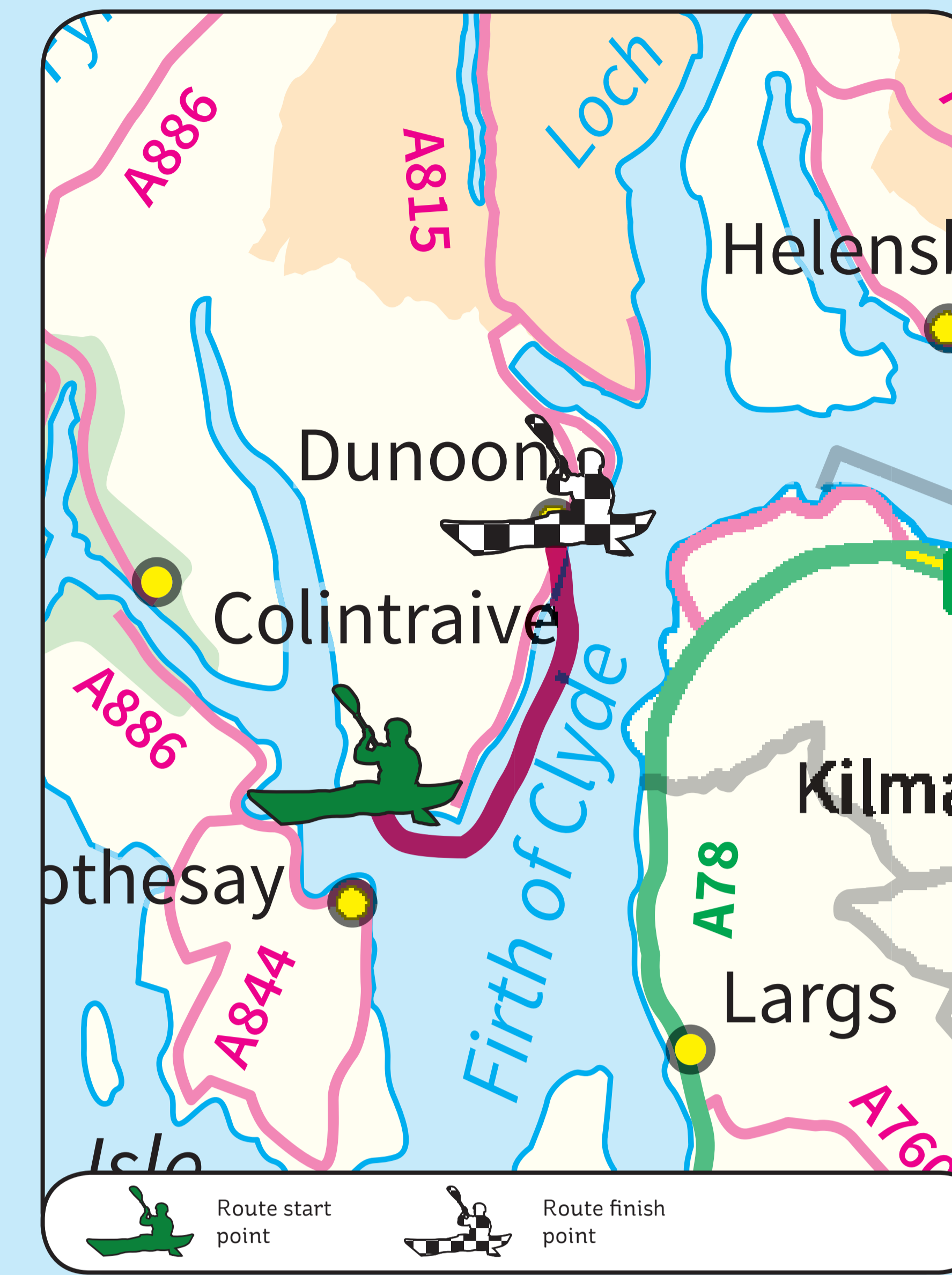
TOWARD TO DUNOON - 13km / 7Nm

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

Grid Reference 110677 to 169760

OS Landranger Map 63

OS Explorer Map 363



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drying rocks. Whilst these shouldn't pose any problems for a paddler, please do take care if deciding to paddle to them, if only to avoid damage to your boat.

The access point with slipway is directly to the west of this feature, and brings you out between the play park areas. There are various locations nearby where you can secure your kayak.

TIDAL DIFFERENCES

HIGH WATER TIMES

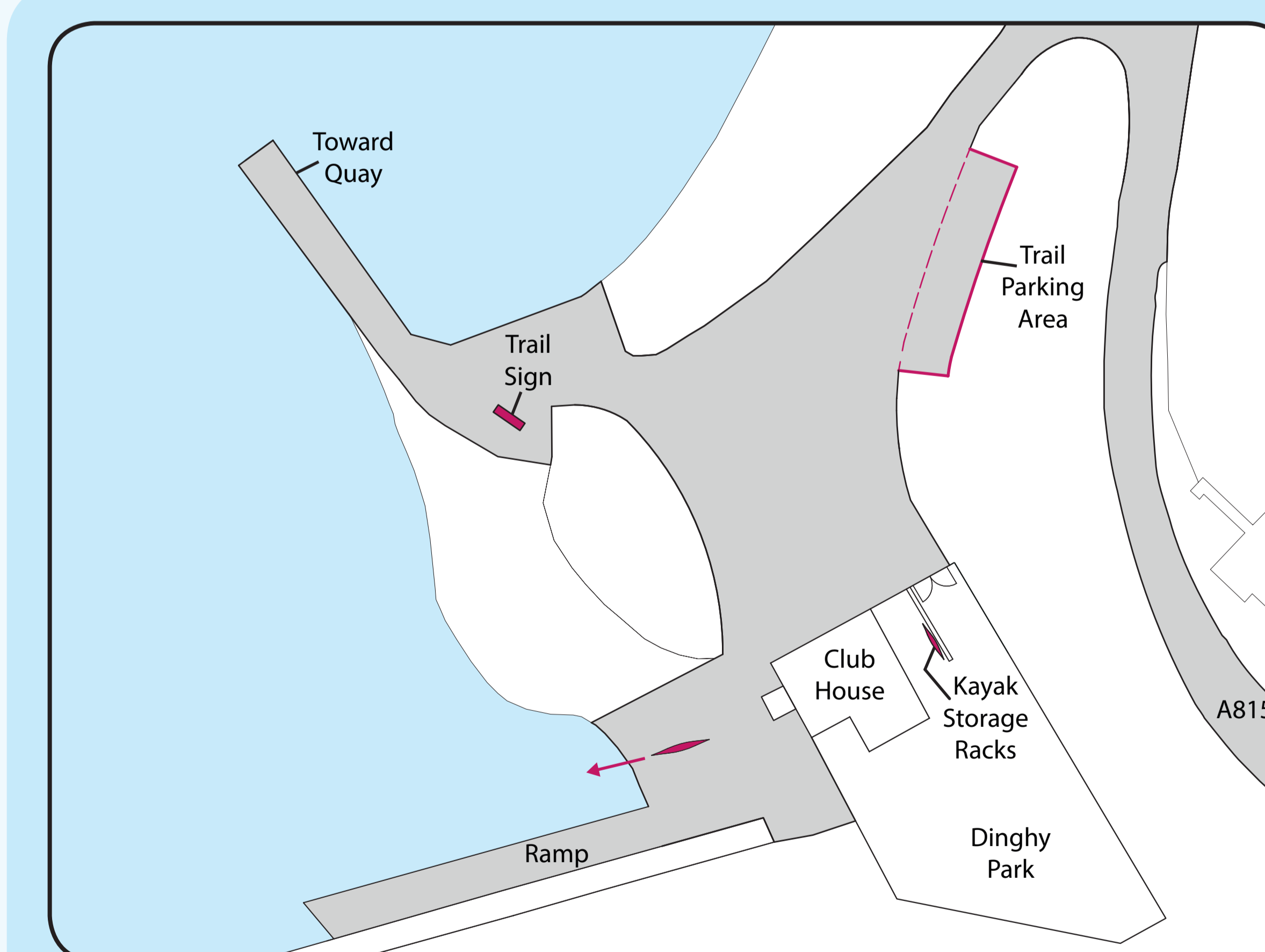
| | | |
|---------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Rothesay Bay | High water | -0019 HW Greenock |
| | Low water | -0004 LW Greenock |

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

DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

From the Quay, begin your passage east, aiming for Toward Point, and the Toward Point Lighthouse. Built by Robert Stevenson in 1812, this may be an early stop, but nonetheless worthwhile. Once around the point, follow the coastline north. You come across a marker buoy for a shallow area at Newton Park, where there is also a car park and a picnic area. All along this section of the trail the shoreline is gently sloping, allowing for easy egress from the water. Innellan is the first village encountered, after which a number of possible stopping points are passed along the way to Bullwood Quarry.

As you get closer to Dunoon, you will see the large beacon approximately 1km offshore marking the Gantocks, a reef of

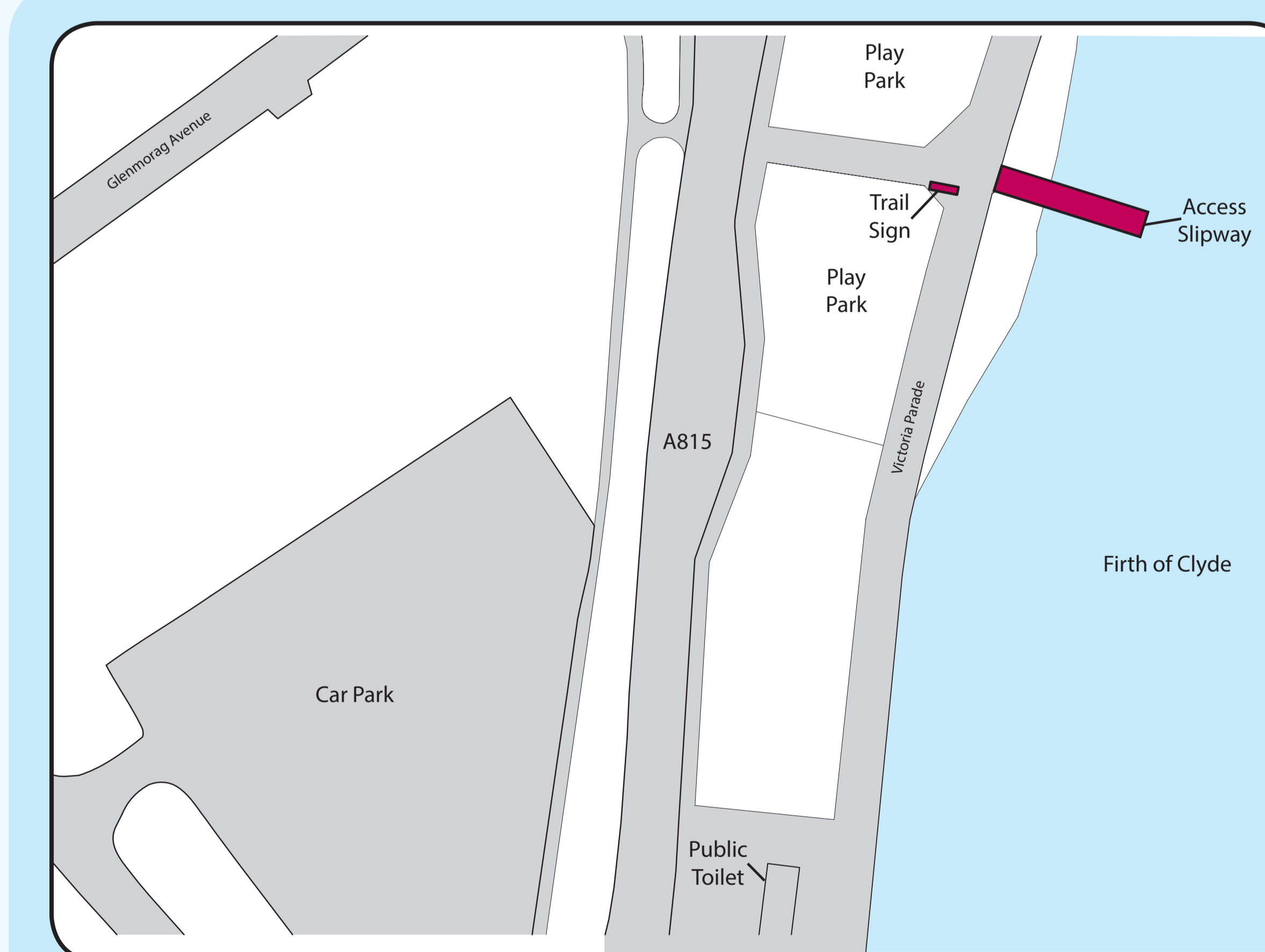


Toward

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

PARKING

Parking is available in Toward at the sailing club, and in Dunoon in the public parking areas. North Bute is a remote site with 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

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

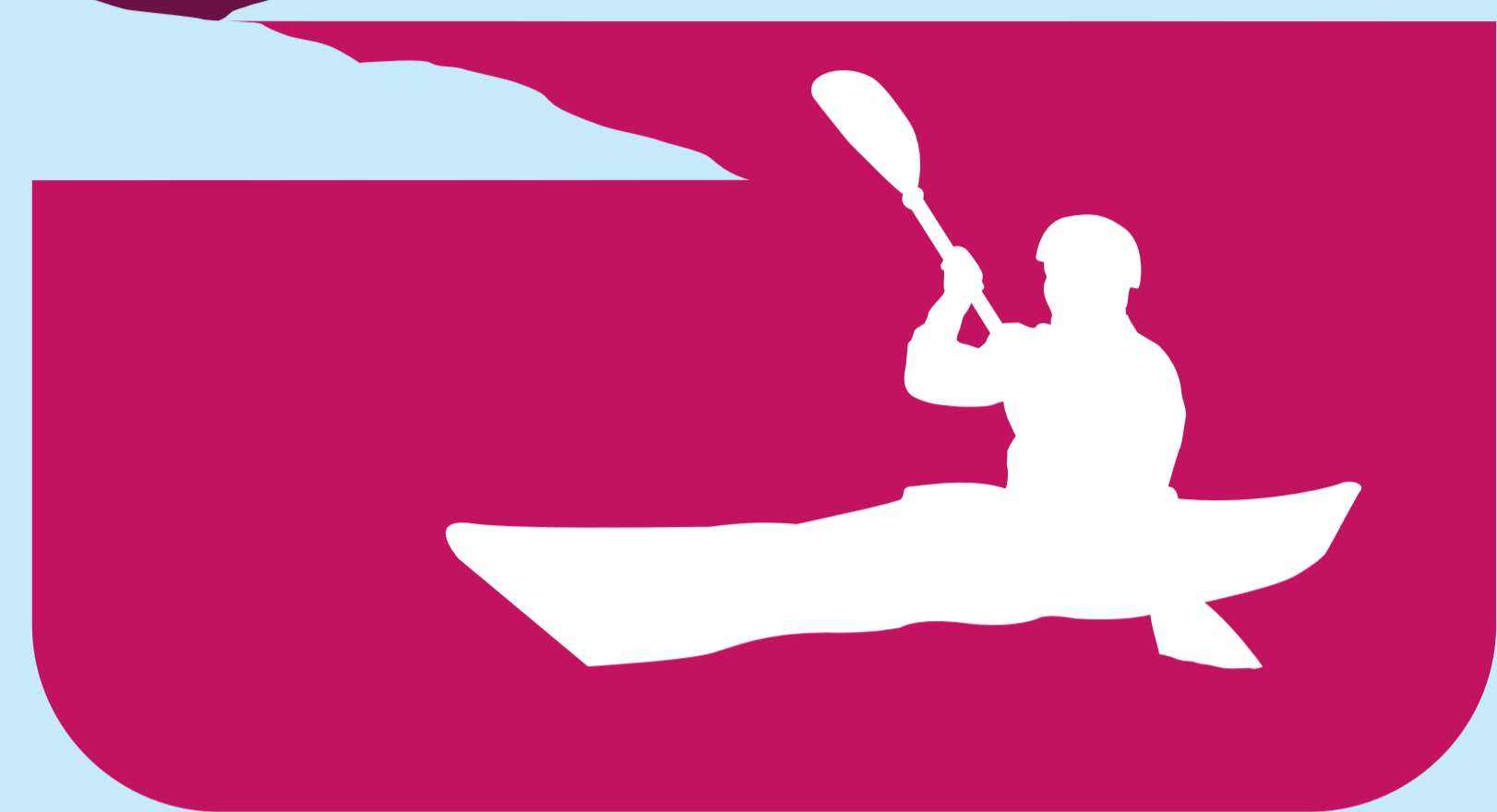
Marine Conservation Society, the UK charity for the protection of our seas, shores and wildlife
www.mcsuk.org

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, pollution hotline
0800 80 70 60

www.sepa.org.uk



Argyll Sea Kayak Trail



Toward

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.

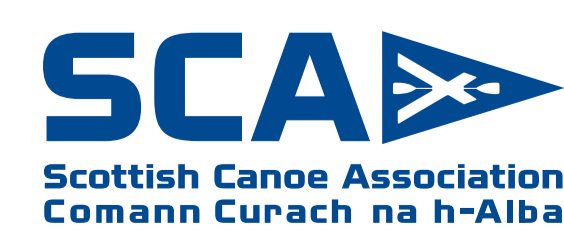
| Route | Distance | Beginners | Intermediate | Advanced |
|----------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Ganavan/Ellenabeich | 21km | 7hrs | 5 hrs 15 mins | 3 hrs 30 mins |
| Ellenabeich/Arduaine | 11km | 3 hrs 40 mins | 2 hrs 50 mins | 1 hr 50 mins |
| Arduaine/Crinan | 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