



Argyll Sea Kayak Trail
Slighe Curcachan Earra-Ghàidheil

Ellenabeich

ADDITIONAL TRAIL ROUTES & DEVIATIONS

When leaving from Ellenabeich, you have the option of paddling south, navigating through Cuan Sound, and then heading up Clachan Sound to the Bridge over the Atlantic and re-joining the trail to Ganavan. Both Cuan Sound and Clachan Sound are subjected to fast tidal flows, so passage should only be attempted at slack water. [Please see Hazards section.](#) This route option does add another 6km to the leg distance, making it 27km overall.

If considering this as an out and back paddle on a single day, please pay particular attention to the tide times and plan extra carefully, as you need to ensure that you pass through Cuan Sound at slack water.

For the more experienced paddlers, the Garvellachs are an option, as are Belnahua, Fladda and the Sound of Luìng. Cullipool on Luìng can be reached by following the coastline south, with a more committed route down the southern end of Lunga and the Grey Dogs tidal race possible as well.

Journeys across to Mull are feasible, but extra attention must be paid to the expected weather, as this would be a very exposed crossing, and only for those suitably experienced.

HAZARDS

The Cuan sound is a tidal section that demands respect. The tide squeezes between Seil and Luìng at up to 6kn in spring tides. If intending to paddle this section, please make sure that you only do so at slack water.

The Cuan-Luìng ferry runs very regularly, and needs to be avoided. Please ensure your own safety and that of other paddlers, by only crossing the ferry route when safe to do so.

Clachan Sound can be subjected to 5kn spring tides, especially at the narrow section by the bridge. A low spring tide will leave some sections dry, so walking may be required if you paddle at these times

Oban Harbour sees regular ferry movements, as well as various sailing vessels and motor boats, so please stay vigilant and time your crossings accordingly.

ELLENABEICH TO GANAVAN - 21km / 11Nm

56°17.693'N 5°39.066'W to 56°26.272'N 5°28.228'W

Grid Reference 742174 to 862327

OS Landranger Map 55 & 49

OS Explorer Map 359



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DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

When leaving the access slipway at Ellenabeich, you have a choice as to which direction you take. Option one is to head north, working your way up the Sound of Insh following the western coastline of Seil. This will give views across the Firth of Lorn to Mull, but may be subject to choppy conditions if a south-westerly wind is blowing. When at the top end of the coastline at Rubha Garbh Airde, you can follow your own route through the numerous islets. If you wanted to see the Bridge over the Atlantic, then head for Eilean nam Beathach, where you will be able to see Clachan Sound, and the Bridge just a kilometre away to the south. [Please see Hazards section.](#)

The other option is to head south and navigate through Cuan Sound. [Please see Additional Trail Routes and Deviations section.](#) This route option does add an additional 6km to the total leg distance.

When continuing northwards, the isolated Barnacarry Bay provides an ideal rest location before the trail passes the entrance to Loch Feochan. Cross over to Minard Point, and then paddle round into Kerrera Sound.

You can choose which coastline you wish to follow, both offering pleasant views up to Oban. The lighthouse on Rubh'an Fheurain is easiest seen from the Kerrera-side, as well as Little Horse Shoe and Horse Shoe Bays. On the mainland-side of the sound you will see the site where the first transatlantic telephone cable came ashore at Gallanach. Further along you will encounter moorings as you pass the Kerrera ferry slipway, and again at the approach to Oban Bay.

There are numerous ferries leaving the terminal within Oban Bay, so please proceed with caution and always give way to other vessels. Following that advice, you can paddle up to the northern channel and then aim for Dunollie Castle up on the hillside.

Pass between Maiden Island and Little Ganavan beach, then round Sgeir an Eitich before entering Ganavan Bay and the northern-most access point. [Please use the securing rings provided.](#)

TIDAL DIFFERENCES HW AND SPEEDS

Sound of Kerrera	Northern Stream starts +0430 HW Oban Southern Stream starts -0155 1.5kn springs
Clachan Sound	Northern Stream starts +0555 HW Oban Southern Stream starts -0025 5kn springs
Seil Sound	Northern Stream starts +0525 HW Oban Southern Stream starts -0055 0.5kn springs
Cuan Sound	Northern Stream starts +0420 HW Oban Southern Stream starts -0200 6kn springs
Torsa	Northern Stream starts +0415 HW Oban Southern Stream starts -0200 1kn spring

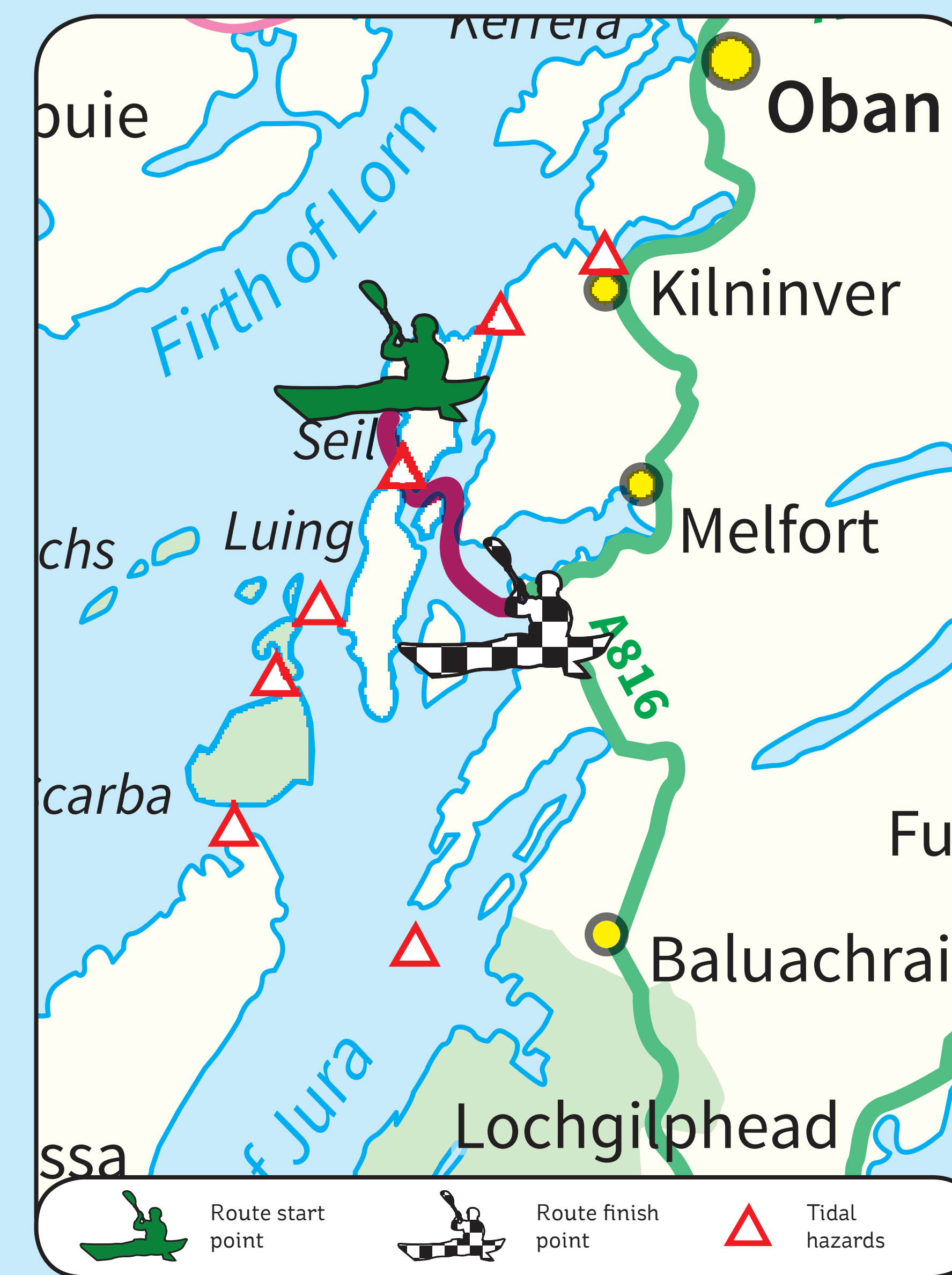
ELLENABEICH TO ARDUAINE - 11km / 6Nm

56°17.693'N 5°39.066'W to 56°13.841'N 5°32.937'W

Grid Reference 742174 to 801099

OS Landranger Map 55

OS Explorer Map 359



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DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

Once on the water at the natural rock slipway, make your way around the ferry terminal, and pass through Easdale Sound aiming towards the southeast. Follow the rocky coastline round to Henderson's Rock, and continue south until you reach the entrance to Cuan Sound. Care must be taken here due to the tidal flows and the ferry movements. [Please see Hazards section.](#)

The Sound brings you out looking straight at Torsa, and you now need to decide which way around you wish to travel. The route around the top gives better views up into Seil Sound, passing the remains at Caisteal nan Con, before you head down to Degnish Point. The route around the southern end of Torsa

squeezes between Torsa and Luìng – great with a helping flow from the tide! It is better to stay next to Luìng until ready to cross to Scoul Eilean.

From either Degnish Point or Scoul Eilean, it's a short paddle across to the small islet of Eilean Gamhna. Come around the headland into Asknish bay and then across to the access point at Arduaine (both routes are the same distance). [Please use the securing rings provided.](#)

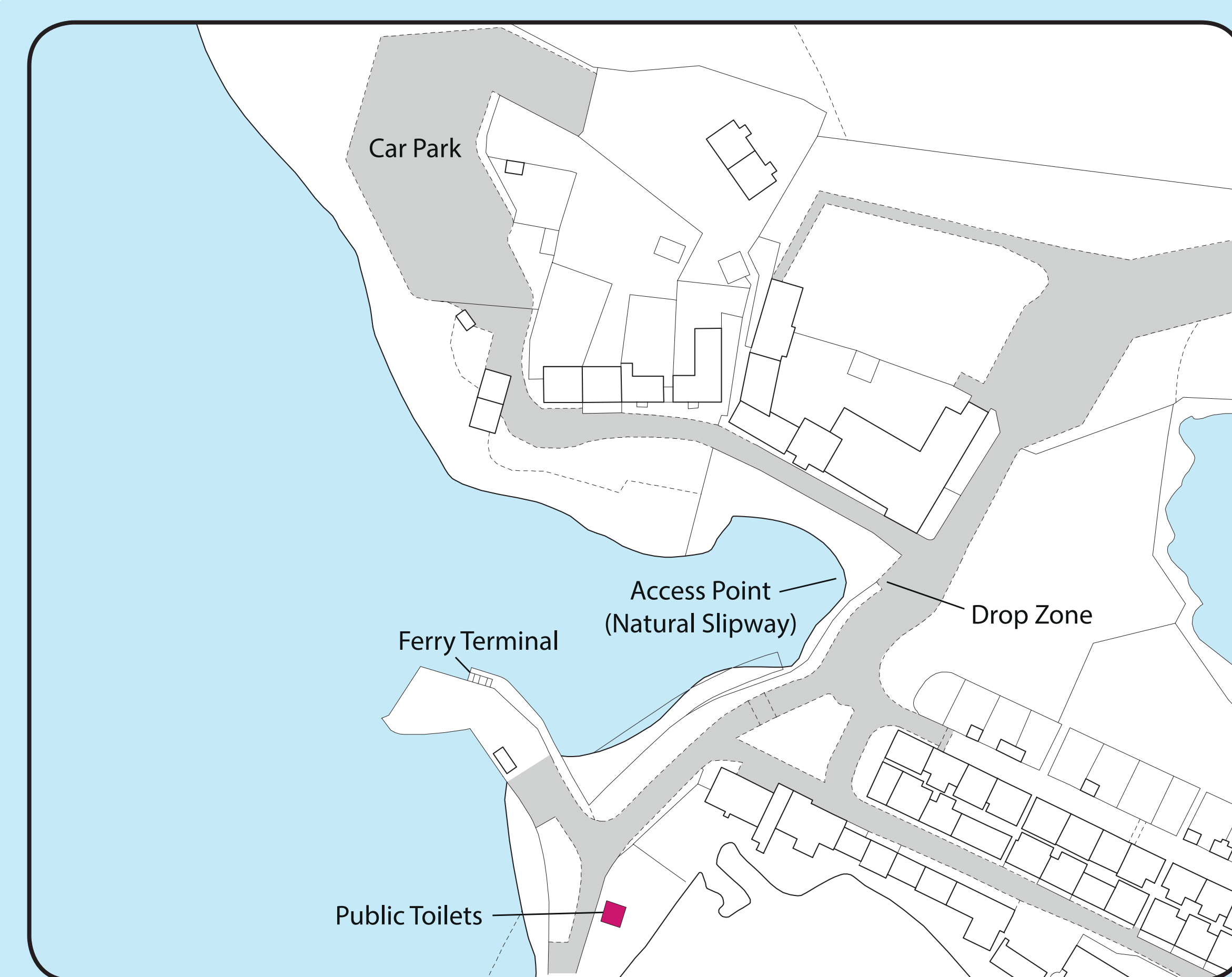
TIDAL DIFFERENCES HW AND SPEEDS

Cuan Sound	Northern Stream starts +0525 HW Oban Southern Stream starts -0200 6kn springs
Seil Sound	Northern Stream starts +0525 HW Oban Southern Stream starts -0055 0.5kn springs
Torsa	Northern Stream starts +0415 HW Oban Southern Stream starts -0200 1kn springs
Shuna Sound	Northern Stream starts +0430 HW Oban Southern Stream starts -0155 1kn springs



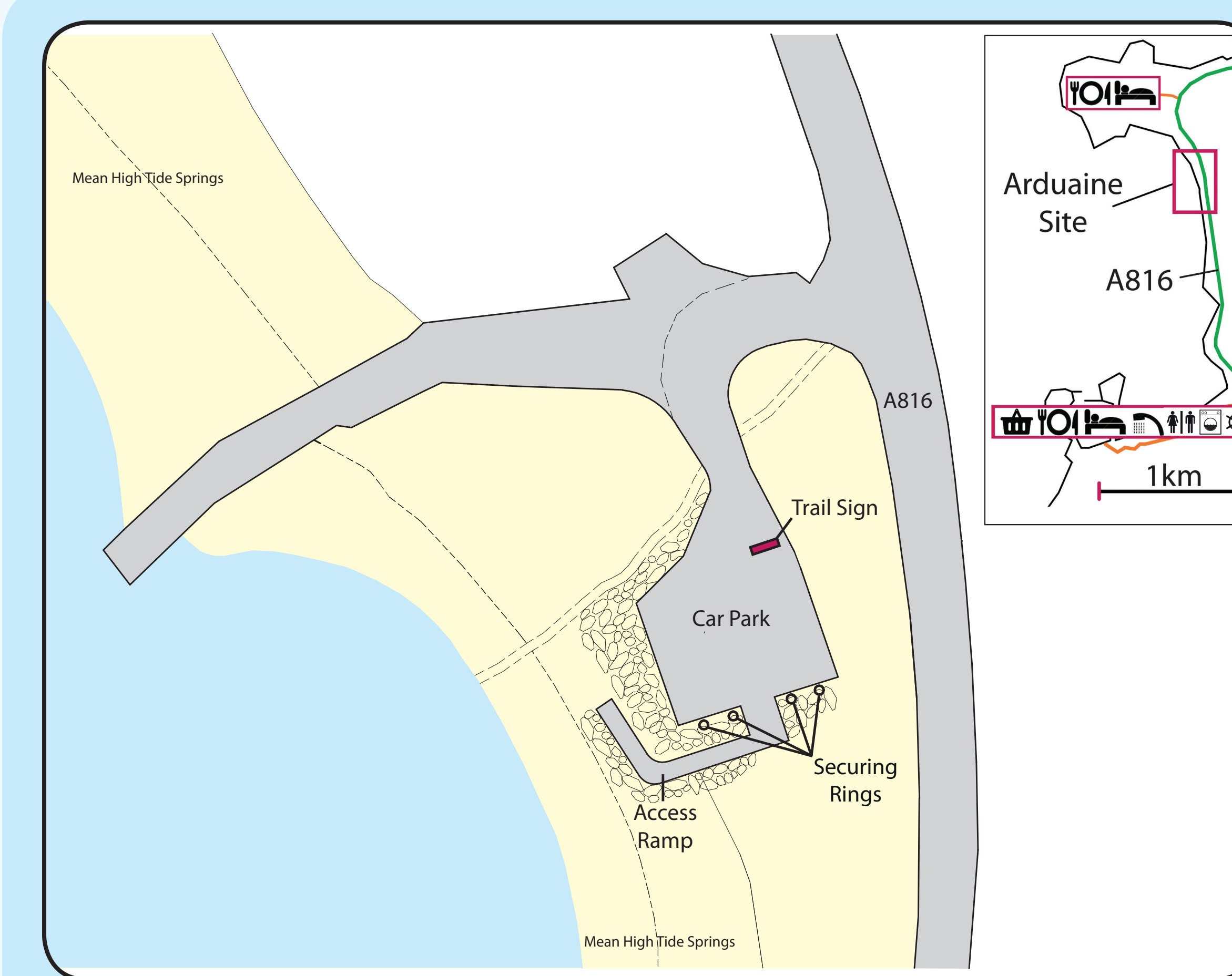
Ganavan LOCAL FACILITIES

- Accommodation
- Bank/Cash Point
- Food & Drink
- Public Toilets
- Regular Bus Service into Oban
- Shops & Supermarkets
- Tourist Information



Ellenabeich LOCAL FACILITIES

- Accommodation
- Food & Drink
- Public Toilets
- Shop



Arduaine LOCAL FACILITIES

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

PARKING

There is a large car park at Ellenabeich. Continue right to the end of the village, following the signs, until you come to the car park at the western end. Please avoid parking in the small car park close to the ferry terminal.

Ganavan also has ample parking, although a fee is required from 1st April to 30th September.

Arduaine is a sensitive access site, and respect must be shown for both the parking spaces available and the local residents.

Under no circumstances should any person park overnight, 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 Ardfern (Mainland) including South to and including Isle of Mull, Luìng and Scarba. Barra Head to Butt of Lewis and St Kilda

Belfast 02891 463933

Operational Area: Mull of Galloway to Ardfern, 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 you 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

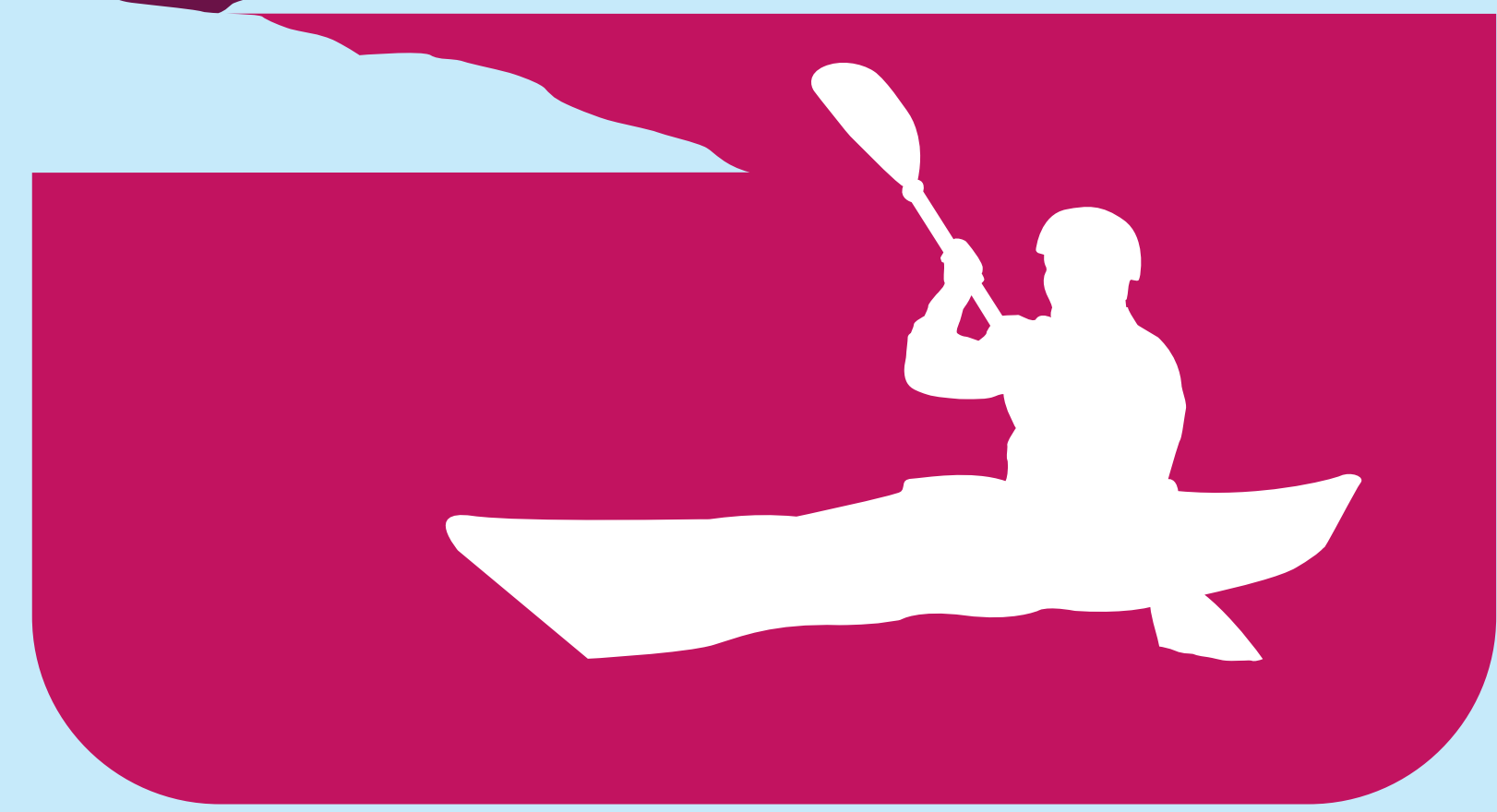
www.mcsuk.org

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, pollution hotline
0800 80 70 60

www.sepa.org.uk



Argyll Sea Kayak Trail



Ellenabeich

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.

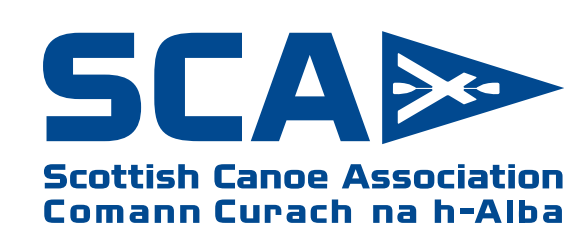
Route	Distance	Beginners	Intermediate	Advanced
Ganavan/Ellenabeich	21km	7hrs	5 hrs 15 mins	3 hrs 30 mins
Ellenabeich/Arduaine	11km	3 hrs 40 mins	2 hrs 50 mins	1 hr 50 mins
Arduaine/Crinan	19 km	6 hrs 20 mins	4 hrs 15 mins	3 hrs 10 mins
Crinan/Ardrishaig	13 km	4 hrs 20 mins	2 hrs 50 mins	2 hrs 10 mins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