



Argyll Sea Kayak Trail  
Slighe Curcachan Earra-Ghàidheil

# Arduaine

## ADDITIONAL TRAIL ROUTES & DEVIATIONS

Numerous deviations exist for these sections of the trail. When leaving from Arduaine, you can head to Ganavan via Seil Sound and Clachan Sound, passing under Clachan Bridge, the Bridge over the Atlantic. Plan passage carefully here, as fast tidal streams run. Adding Luing, Shuna or Torsa into your trip is possible, but Luing is only for the more experienced paddler.

If heading for Crinan, you could include passage around Shuna through Shuna Sound, or even Torsa and Luing passing down through the Sound of Luing.

For a more committed route, perhaps as day trips, Scarba, Lunga or the Garvellachs are possible. If heading to Scarba, the Gulf of Corryvreckan and the famous whirlpool are accessible (although only in certain tidal conditions and for those suitably experienced) as well as the northern coast of Jura. **Please see Hazards section.** The Grey Dogs tidal race runs between Lunga and Scarba, so again avoid unless at slack water. **Please see Hazards section.**

Please plan accordingly for the extra time required, and the various tidal streams that will be encountered.

If wanting to avoid the Dorus Mòr section of the Trail, a portage is possible from Loch Beag to Bàgh Dùn Mhuilig, along the B8002. Find a suitable place to egress the water on the eastern shore of Loch Beag, and follow the road to Kirkton and the access to Loch Craignish. Once afloat, you could explore the various islands within the loch, before making your way to the mainland and then down to Eilean nan Coinean. Follow the main trail description from here.

Continuing to Ardrishaig along the Crinan Canal is possible, if planning a long, committed day. Check the website for details - [www.paddleargyll.org.uk](http://www.paddleargyll.org.uk) Further details of the canal can be found at [www.scottishcanals.co.uk](http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk)

## HAZARDS

The Cuan Sound is a tidal section that demands respect. The tide squeezes between Luing and Seil 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-Luing ferry runs at regular times, 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.

The tidal stream at Dorus Mòr is the main hazard on this 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/after 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.

When a spring flood tide and a north-westerly wind combine, rough water is produced, with many breaking waves.

**Please be prepared to delay your crossing until appropriate tidal and/or 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, is also only accessible by suitably experienced paddlers, likewise the Gulf of Corryvreckan.

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

## ARDUAINE TO ELLENABEICH - 11km / 6Nm

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

Grid Reference 801099 to 742174

OS Landranger Map 49 & 55

OS Explorer Map 359



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## DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

From the access point, paddle across Asknish Bay to the far point of the bay. You can now see Eilean Gamhna, your next target. From here, you choose to either paddle to the small islet of Scoul Eilean and then round the southern end of Torsa, or to Degnish Point and on around the northern end of Torsa - both are the same distance. The southern route squeezes between Luing and Torsa, whilst the northern route gives views up into Seil Sound.

You will now be approaching Cuan Sound, which has fast flowing tidal streams and ferry movements. **Please see Hazards section.** After carefully navigating this section, follow the coastline up past Henderson's Rock, before making for

Easdale Sound. Pass the old ruined pier, and turn in behind the ferry pier into a naturally formed bay. The gently sloping shoreline in the far corner provides the egress point.

## TIDAL DIFFERENCES

FROM OBAN HW AND SPEEDS

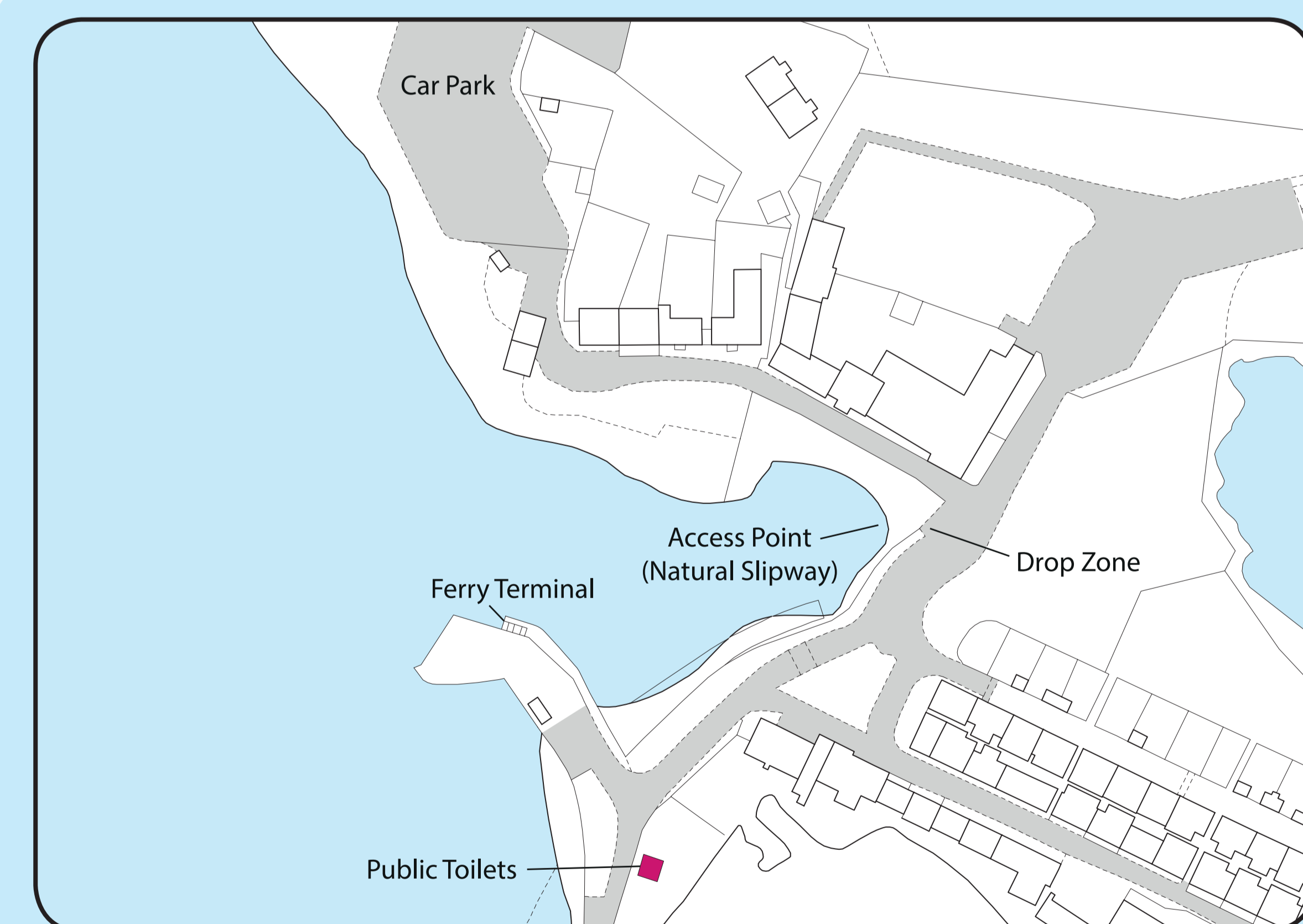
**Sound of Kerrera** Northern Stream starts +0430 HW Oban  
Southern Stream starts -0155  
1.5kn springs

**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

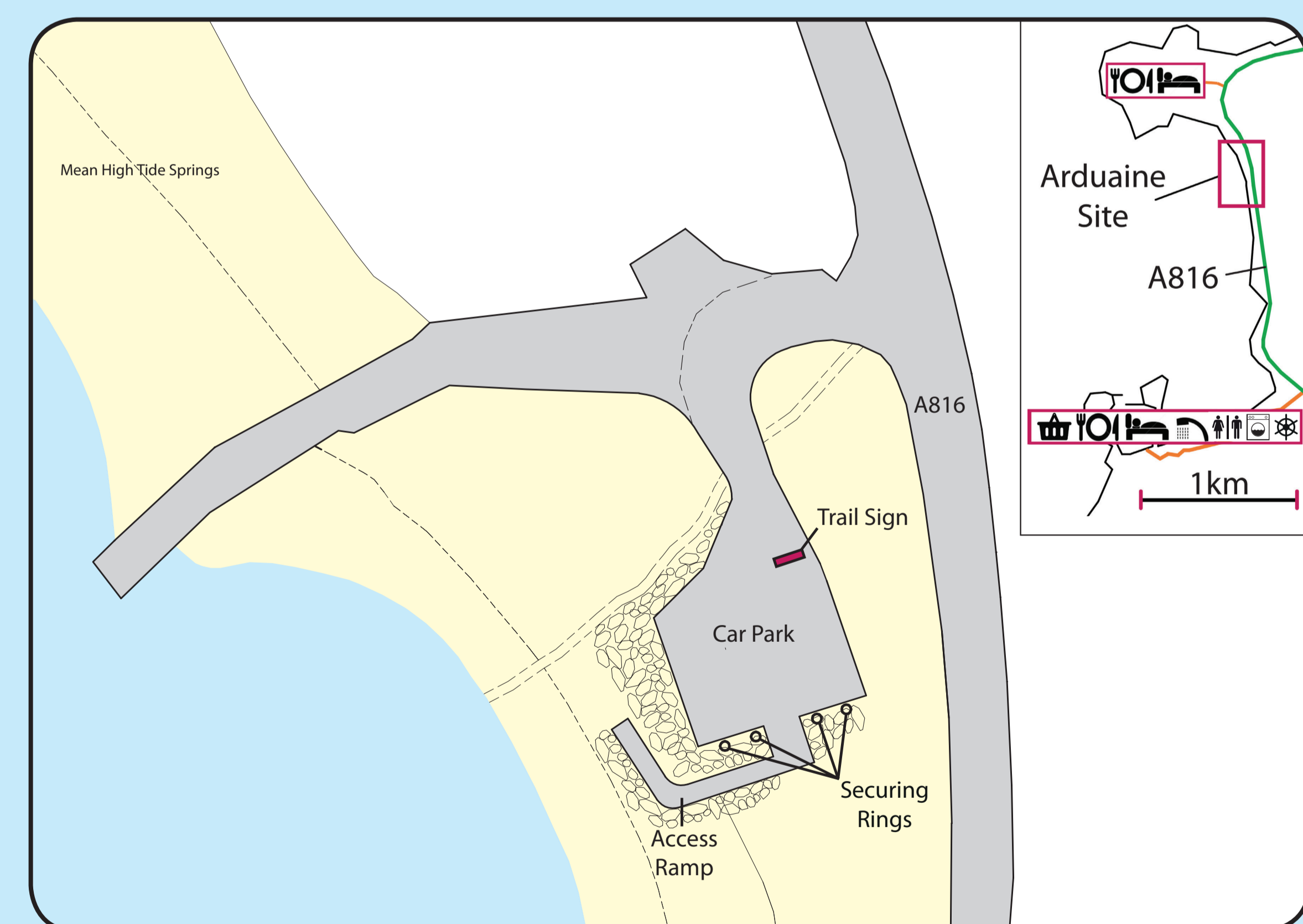
**Torsa** Northern Stream starts +0415 HW Oban  
Southern Stream starts -0200  
1kn spring



## Ellenabeich

### LOCAL FACILITIES

- Accommodation
- Food & Drink
- Public Toilets
- Shop



## Arduaine

### LOCAL FACILITIES

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

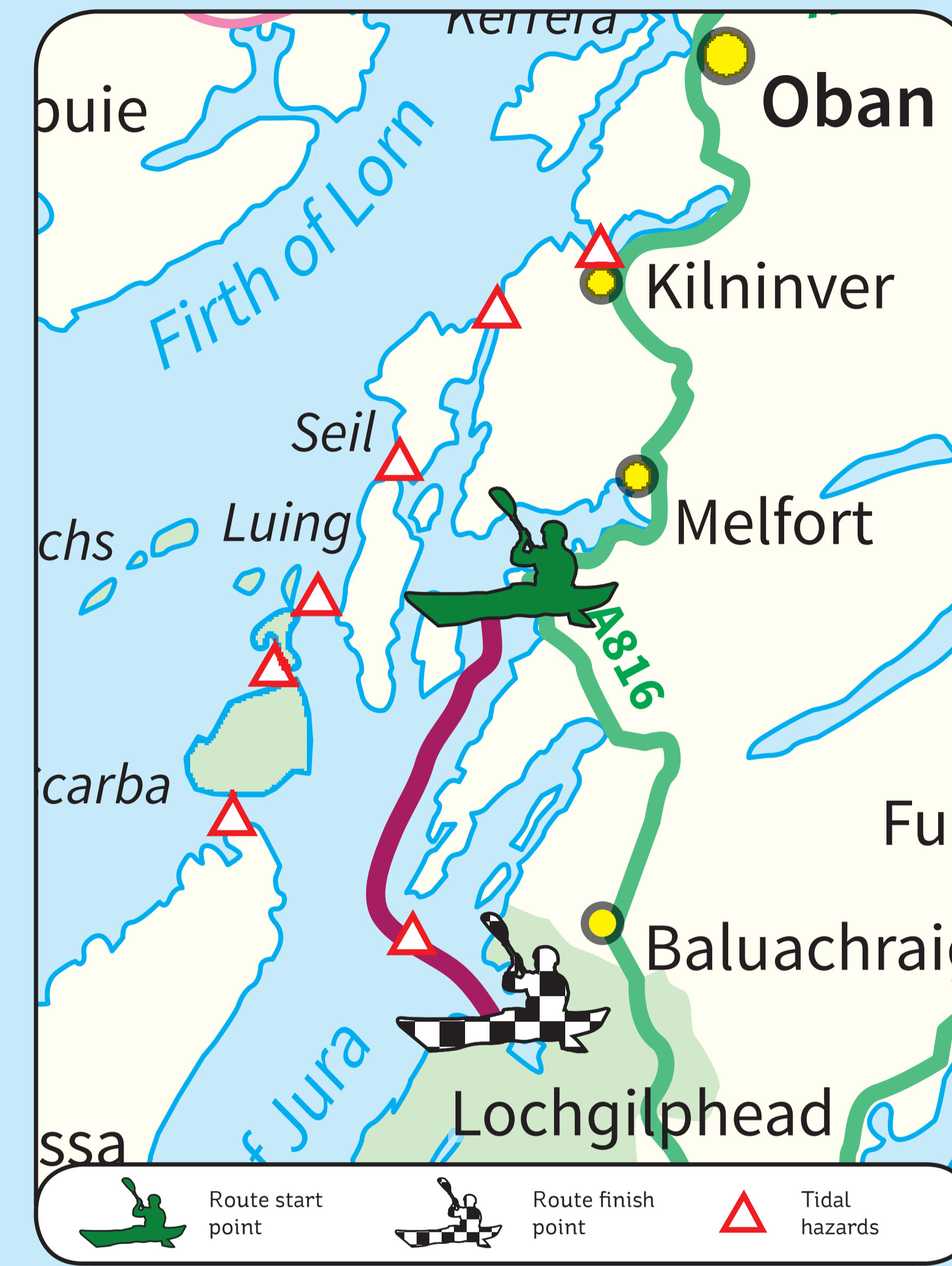
## ARDUAINE TO CRINAN - 19km / 10Nm

56°26.274'N 5°28.228'W to 56°05.186'N 5°32.848'W

Grid Reference 801099 to 794938

OS Landranger Map 55

OS Explorer Map 358 & 359



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## DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

Starting off in a southerly direction, the trail follows the coast down to Craobh Haven, past a number of bays and potential rest stops down to Eilean Ona, Achanarnich Bay and Loch Beag. Continuing further, Craignish Point is soon reached, with the infamous Dorus Mòr round the corner.

This stretch of water is subject to very strong tidal flows, and can be very dangerous. Passage should only be attempted by those suitably experienced, and at slack water. **Please see Hazards section.** An alternative route is to portage from Loch Beag to Bàgh Dùn Mhuilig, see Additional Trail Routes & Deviations.

Once successfully navigated through, a course is set towards Liath-sgeir Mhòr, then passing between Eilean nan Coinean and the mainland, the longest stretch across open water. Continue into Loch Crinan, past Rubha Garbh-ard, Rudha na Mòine and the stately Duntrune Castle into the mouth of the River Add.

The egress point is a slipway (Grid Reference 794938) opposite Crinan Ferry, giving an easy portage up to the Crinan Canal. Aim for the Trail Marker sign. Follow the grassy path up to the canal, where you can launch directly from the purpose built low level access jetty, south of the swing bridge.

From here you can head north into Crinan to the main access point, or continue south to the Ardrishaig access point (approx. 12km).

To get to Crinan, and the main access point, follow the canal to the north, and disembark at the trail landing area. Follow the path through the woodland, and join the main path that heads down to the car park.

## TIDAL DIFFERENCES

FROM OBAN HW AND SPEEDS

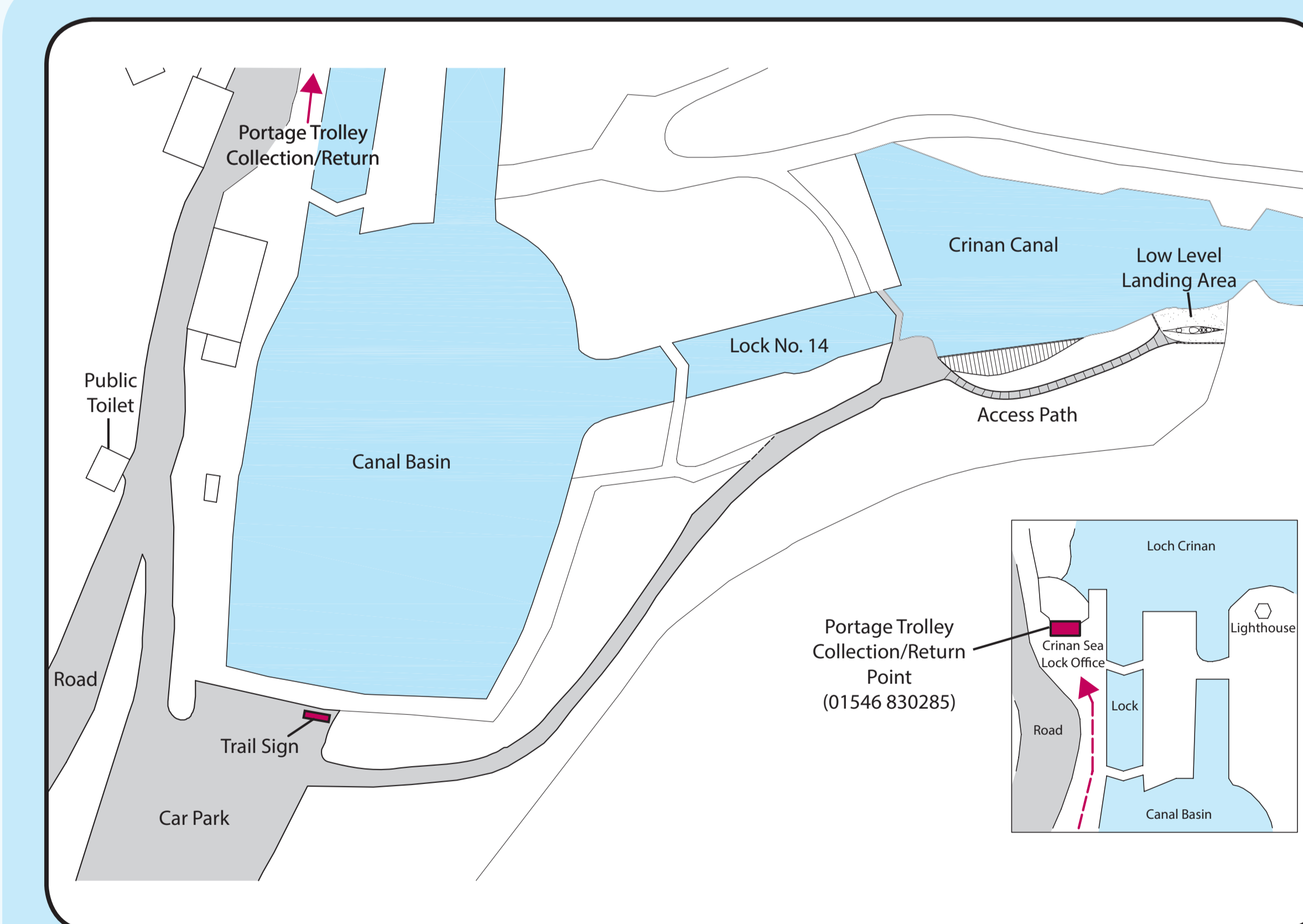
**Sound of Jura (South of Crinan)** Northern Stream starts +0400 HW Oban  
Southern Stream starts -0205  
4kn springs

**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 Luing** 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

### LOCAL FACILITIES

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

Working in partnership with Scottish Canals

## PARKING

The parking area provided at Arduaine is intended solely for paddlers making use of the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail.

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.

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.

## 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](http://www.LNT.org)*

## HM Coastguard

Maritime & Coastguard Agency - [www.dft.gov.uk/mca](http://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](http://www.marinecode.org)  
Providing guidelines and advice when watching wildlife in Scotland.

### THE THREE PRINCIPLES

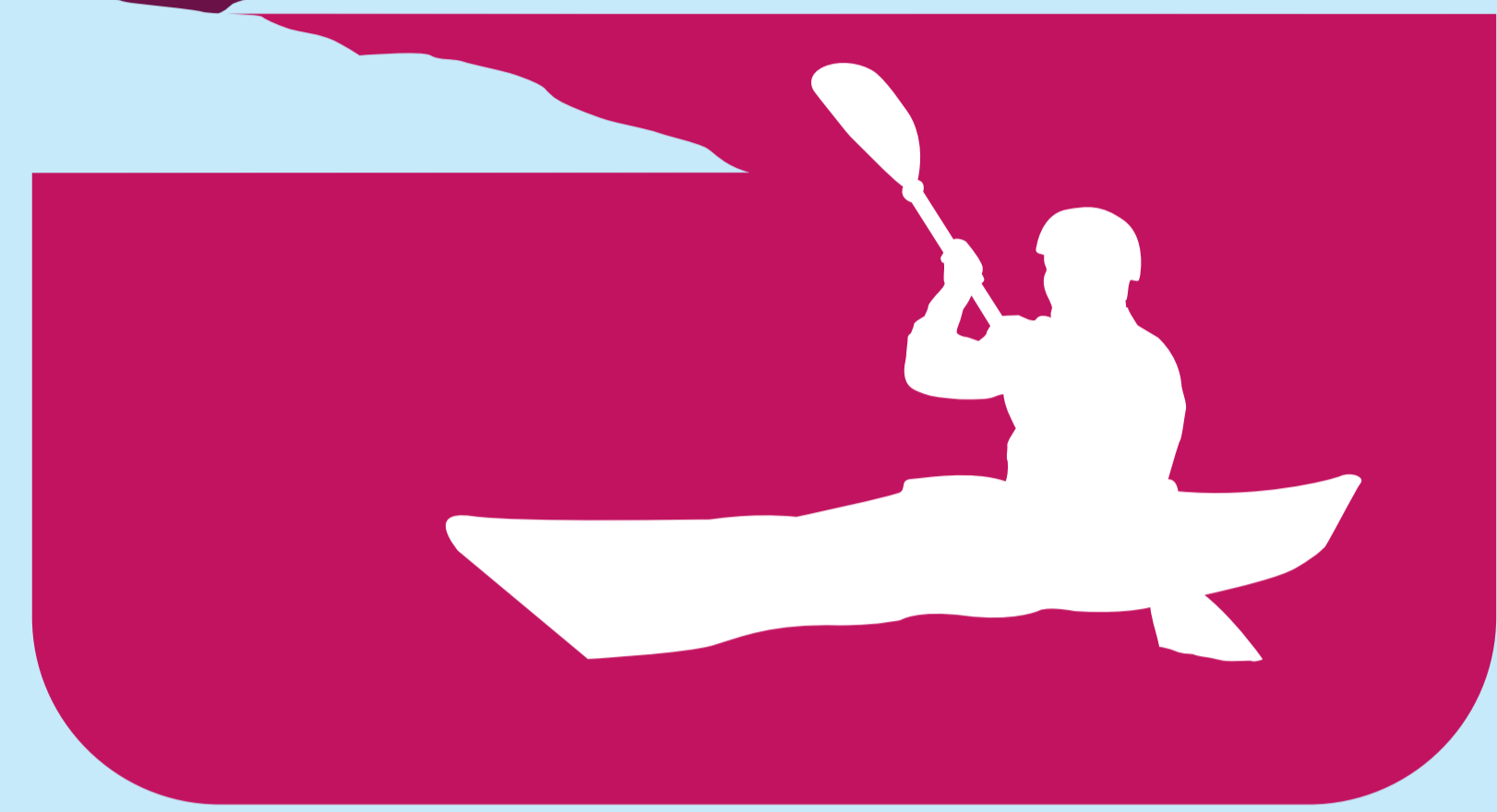
- 1 **Be Aware** by learning as much as you can about the animals
- 2 **Take Responsibility** for you actions
- 3 **Have Respect** for other people, wildlife and the environment

Marine Conservation Society, the UK charity for the protection of our seas, shores and wildlife  
[www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)

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

**KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO**  
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



## Arduaine

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

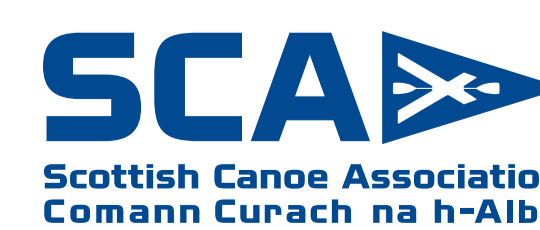
This site is provided as a coastal access point on the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail. Persons use this access point, and the trail, entirely at their own risk. The providers of this access point shall not be liable for any damage or injury occasioned to persons or their property by virtue of their use of this 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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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)



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.