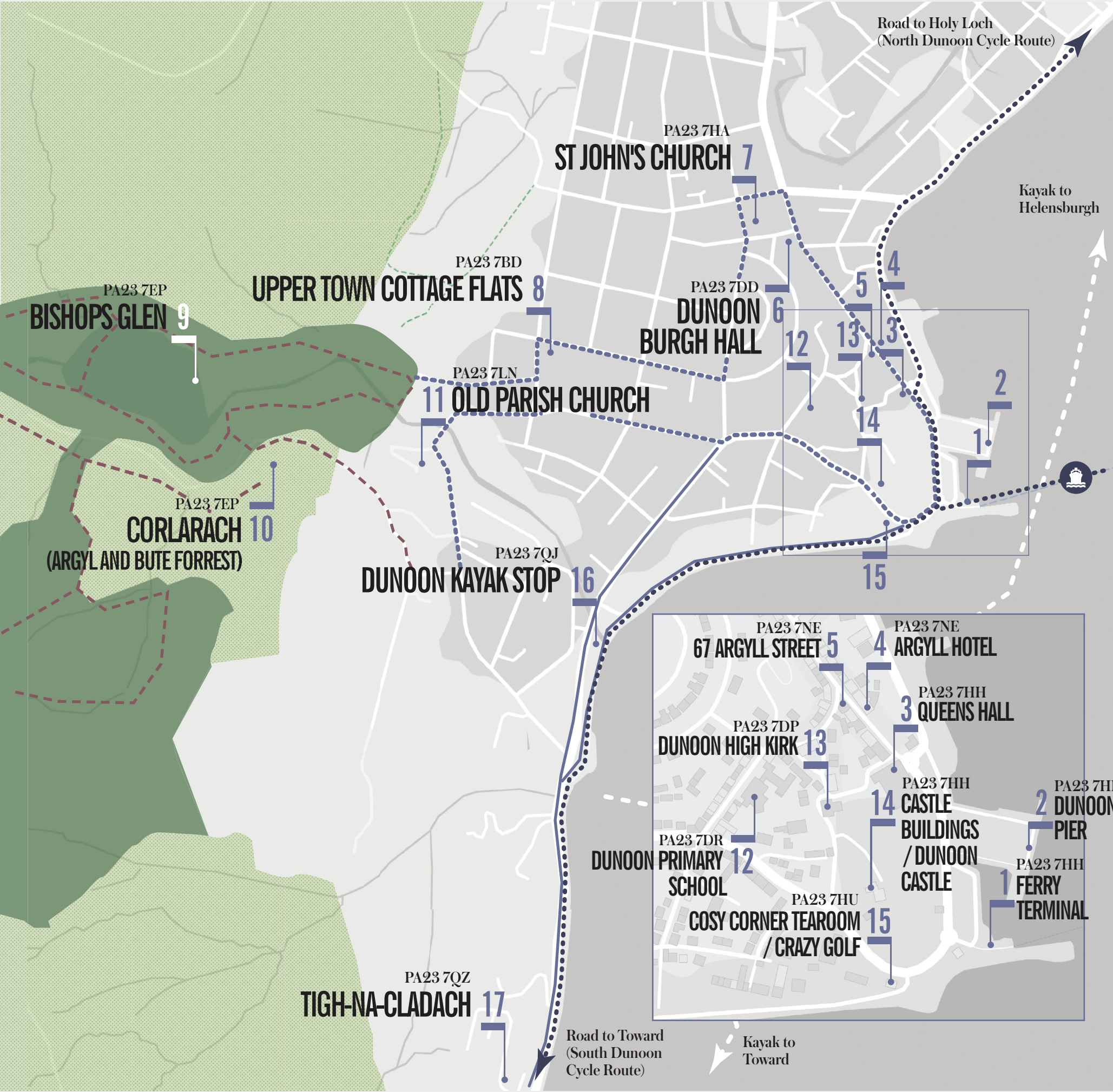
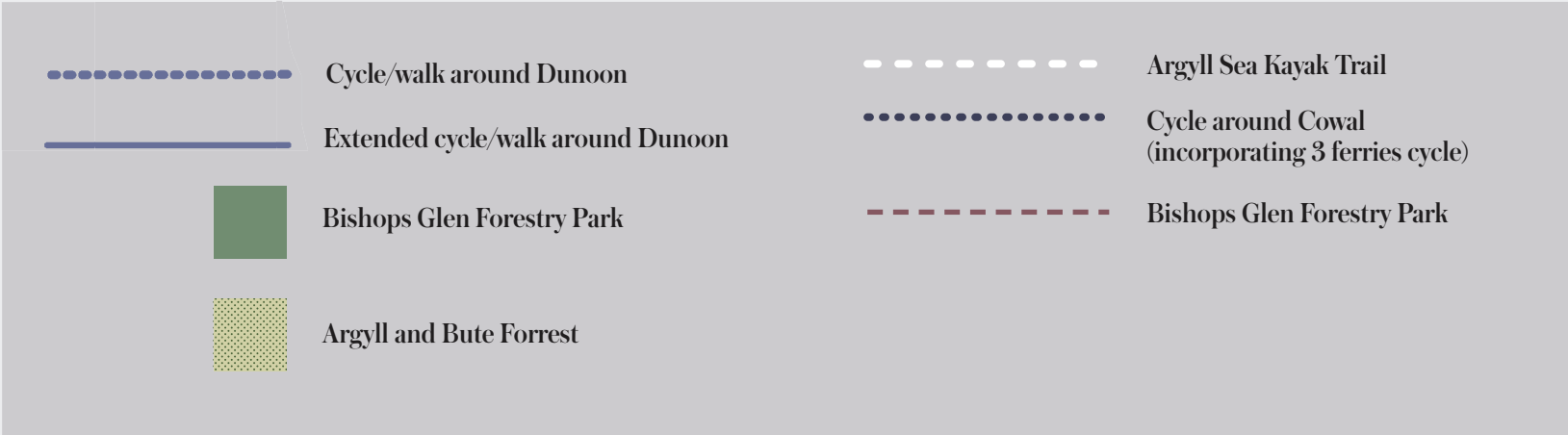


PENINSULA EXPEDITION: DUNOON

Sustainable, Unsustainable and Historic walks and cycling in Dunoon



sponsored by the
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1 DUNOON FERRY TERMINAL

For further information regarding the ferries between Dunoon and Gourock including timetables and fares please refer to www.argyllferries.co.uk

2 DUNOON PIER

Pier Esplanade, Dunoon, PA23 7HH

Clarke and Bell in collaboration with R A Brydon and C J M Mackintosh

One of the town's most iconic structures and an extremely rare example of a timber ferry pier (A listed). Originally built in 1835 by architect Campbell Douglas, the pier was remodelled in 1896 by Clarke and Bell. It was then subjected to various alterations in the 1960s however gratefully has recently undergone extensive structural repair and refurbishment by Argyll & Bute Council. Incorporating a timber lined waiting room, a pier master's office and a signal tower, the structure with it's red tiled roofs and delicious chocolate and cream painted timber remains an important landmark.

3 QUEENS HALL

9 Argyll Street, Dunoon PA23 7HH

Ninian Johnston / Halliday Fraser Munro

The original Queens Hall Pavilion was constructed around 1905 by local architect William Fraser. His effort, arguably a more interesting structure, gave way in 1959 to a 'Festival of Britain' styled Queens Hall by architect Ninian Johnston. A feasibility study by Collective Architecture was commissioned through the CHORD initiative to consider how Queens Hall could be refurbished and improved, then developed in detail by Malcolm Fraser Architects before being picked up by architects Halliday Fraser Munro, the final outcome of which will be opened in the summer of 2018.

The 1950s structure attracted a number of well known acts to Dunoon including Pink Floyd who due to bad weather hired their own ferry from Gourock. The building contains an interesting mix of community and entertainment functions including the town library, gym, as well as the main 500 seat auditorium. The first act to perform at the new Queens Hall was ABBA Mania, a different type of show to Pink Floyd however I for one cannot wait.

4 ARGYLL HOTEL

54-56 Argyll Street, Dunoon, PA23 7NE

Unknown (extended by 1909, David Andrew)

Commenced in 1850 this B listed building forms a gateway to Argyll Street. The North Clyde Estuary Illustrated Architectural Guide suggests the hand of Greek Thomson on the strength of a classical portico, this suggested credit is worn thin by a Hammer House amalgamation of a Campanile, Barrel dormers and a curved arched extension added in 1909.

Adjacent to the Argyll Hotel are Architecture Practice ARCHITECO, SEDA members, RIAS Accredited Sustainable Designers and Passive House designers (Designer of Europe's smallest inhabited Passive House). Details as follows;

ARCHITECO,
43 Argyll Street, Dunoon PA23 7HG
<http://architeco.net/>
Sustainable Design & Low Energy Building Specialists

5 ARGYLL STREET

Argyll St, Dunoon, PA23 7NE

Argyll Street is the main commercial thoroughfare which similar to other coastal Scottish Towns is set a block back from the waterfront to enjoy protection from the climate. There are a number of interesting buildings which line the street including the curved category B listed Caledonian Hotel built in 1903 by that local architect William Fraser, an interesting gushet at 67 Argyll Street and lined at intervals with various strong tenemental forms.

6 DUNOON BURGH HALL

Argyll St, Dunoon, PA23 7DD

Robert A Bryden / Page and Park Architects

Designed by architect Robert Bryden in 1874, the Category B Listed occupies a key position within the town at the top of the main shopping street. The demolition of the Burgh Hall was suggested in 2008, and this energised local outrage. The John McAslan Family Trust

purchased the Burgh Hall from its previous owner, Fyne Homes, in early 2009, inspired by a vision of the building's potential for renewal and transformation.

Page and Park Architects of Glasgow were then commissioned to conserve and adapt the Burgh Hall for a sustainable future use, two new contributions emerged. They installed a new front entrance with disabled access and added a glazed, stepped cafe extension into the south-facing garden. The refurbished building provides the community with a variety of flexible, multi-functional event spaces, gallery spaces and workshops for artists with the result that the Burgh Hall has been returned to the heart of the community as a sustainable and accessible arts venue.

7 ST JOHNS CHURCH

Argyll Street, Dunoon, PA23 7HA

Robert A Bryden

The original building was erected in 1843 on the site of an older church, the present A listed church building was completed in 1877. Initially called simply Dunoon Free Church although was later renamed St John's Church. Built using dry stone masonry it stands on a steeply sloping site which dramatically affects the fenestration, tower and spire. The architecture is in the Normandy Gothic architecture style and the interior is laid out with a horse-shoe shaped gallery for the congregation and incorporates a number of details including stained glass windows and the original organ was installed in 1895 by Brook & Co. A striking and dramatic structure.

8 UPPER TOWN COTTAGE FLATS

Alexander Street, Dunoon, PA23 7BD

Alexander Street forms the Eastern edge of 'old' Upper Town and is home to a number of Victorian and Edwardian cottage flats, these examples incorporate external stairs reminiscent of Leith colonies. The cottage flat as a typology has become very popular in West Scotland, many were built in the 1920s and 1930s as part of the 'Homes Fit For Heroes' programme and examples are still being built today. A particular good example is Firth View on Alexander Street which boasts a curved glass enclosure.

9 BISHOPS GLEN

Dunoon PA23 7EP

Bishops Glen and Dunoon Woodland Park are a Millennium Forest project. It is one of over seventy such projects around Scotland established to commemorate the year 2000 and opened in 2001, they aim to restore and regenerate Scotland's native woodlands, to establish social, cultural and economic links between communities and their local woodlands. The glen is full of wildlife including herons, deer, tree creepers and buzzards (rarer red squirrels and pine martins may also be seen) which can be enjoyed via a network of paths. The reservoir collects water from the hills and used to serve Dunoon with drinking water, in itself a sustainable structure of it's time.

10 CORLARACH (ARGYLL AND BUTE FORREST)

Dunoon PA23 7EP

Corlarach forms part of the Argyll and Bute Forrest, the first forrest park in the UK which covers 211 sq km. Much of the forrest forms part of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National park however Corlarach Forrest falls just out-with the national Park but forms part of the Forrest Park. The forrest is owned by the Forestry Commission and was controversial in it's time, being a result of timber shortage following WWI with the outcome that most trees planted are non native conifers. These left an industrial landscape which has decimated Scotland's natural environment. Unhelpfully after WW2 many more these forests were planted, funded through tax incentive schemes by celebrities such as Cliff Richard, Terry Wogan and Nick Faldo.

That history is now behind us and the Forestry Commission are making steps to remedy this past. Corlarach offers up a number of walks centred around the Berry and Balgaidh Burns.

11 HOLY TRINITY, DUNOON (B LISTED)

Kilbride Rd, Dunoon PA23 7LN

John Henderson, Alexander Ross

Even to this day described as the 'Church of England in Scotland' originally it did not form part of the Episcopal Church of Scotland. Built on a Celtic well dedicated to St Brides in 1845 by John Henderson, the church was consecrated in 1850. It was quickly deemed to small and in 1894 architect Alexander Ross of Inverness was asked to draw up plans to extend the church. Stained Glass windows in the East are by Franz Mayer a Munich based stained glass

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company and the stained glass windows of St Margaret and St Andrew are by Alf Webster, a well known and respected stained glass artist trained at Glasgow School of Art.

Between 1961 to 1992 while the US Submarine base at Holy Loch was operational, the Church was used by many Episcopalians from the US Navy, reaffirming this historical link between Scottish and American Churches. Within the graveyard is a monument to artist historian Alexander Reid and watercolorist Sir Francis Powell.

12 DUNOON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hillfoot Street, Dunoon, PA23 7DR

Formally Dunoon Grammar School originally founded in 1641, the existing version was built in 1907 and forms an abrupt end to the delightful organic plan of Georgian buildings and streets which form the old town around Kirk Street. In true Dunoon style the school building displays an assortment of styles, incorporating chequered windows, chequered quoining, a bartizaned tower, Gothic tracery and unusual vertical glazing in an arched entrance. The Grammar School moved out in the 1960s leaving this Victorian pile to the youngsters.

During 2017 - 2019 the school is undergoing a major refurbishment and extension by Ryder Architecture.

13 DUNOON HIGH KIRK

Kirk Street, Dunoon, PA23 7DP
J Gillespie Graham

Originally the cathedral church of both the Roman Catholic and Episcopalian Bishops of Argyll, Dunoon High Kirk peers down from its North Western perch over Castle Gardens. Designed by J Gillespie Graham in the Late Decorated Gothic in 1816, the category B church was lengthened in 1834 by architect David Hamilton. Additions shortly after including crenellated parapets and a belfry tower adding to the strength of the buildings appearance which allows it to compete as part of the composition made up of Dunoon Castle, Castle Buildings and young upstart Queens Hall.

14 CASTLE BUILDINGS / DUNOON CASTLE

Castle Gardens, Dunoon PA23 7HH
David Hamilton

The Castle Buildings 1822, sit next to the 14th century ruins of Dunoon Castle which sits on the militarily strategic Castle Hill. The Castle Buildings were built by James Ewing, Lord Provost of Glasgow whose relationship with the local community could have been better. A pioneering romantic form created using crenellations, arches and hood mouldings, the building inspired many a local villa around Cowal from Toward to the Holy Loch. One of the buildings features is a fine rubble wall built by James Ewing to enclose his grounds, much to the distress of the local community who each night demolished what Ewing and his workers managed to build each day. Although interned in Inveraray Jail, the protestors won the day and the wall was never completed. The stone which built Castle Buildings is recycled or plundered from Dunoon Castle depending on your views. A favourite landmark is the statue to commemorate Mary Campbell who was born near Dunoon and involved with Robert Burns, she died at the age of 23 from nursing her brother who had typhus and allegedly pregnant from her affair with Burns, the romantic poet and author of 'Welcome to a Bastard Wean' or the dissolute, serial womaniser depending on your views.

Today the buildings are used as a museum more information about which can be obtained at <http://www.castlehousemuseum.org.uk>

15 COSY CORNER TEAROOM (CURRENTLY THE BOATHOUSE BISTRO), CONCRETE CRAZY GOLF AND WEST BAY ESPLANADE

Victoria Parade, Dunoon, PA23 7HU

The former Cosy Corner Tearoom pavilion with its two storey pyramid tower marks the commencement of West Bay however has unfortunately been much altered. Adjacent to the tearoom is a concrete crazy golf course which sits on the site of WW2 fortifications which incorporated gun batteries, searchlights and submarine netting. These far from sustainable but interesting landmarks form part of the West Bay esplanade with its mix of historic and poor quality mid century hotels. The impression of these buildings all seem symbolic of the demise of the British tourist industry however offer up a pleasant enough walk around the bay. During the walk the reality of towns such as Dunoon kicks in and with a sad heart we harbour a hope that future lifestyle changes driven by the internet will change things.

16 DUNOON KAYAK STOP

Victoria Parade, Dunoon, PA23 7QJ

Lying within West Bay the stop off point is for kayakers using the Argyll Kayak Trail. The trail is provided by Argyll and Bute Council and comprises a route of 150km which starts in Ganavan Sands and finishes in Helensburgh. For more information please refer to the Paddle Argyll Website as per the link below for further information <http://www.paddleargyll.org.uk>

The kayak stop is situated in the centre of West Bay. There are 9 launch points along the trail (including Toward) and allows experienced paddlers and beginners alike to get into the water.

17 TIGH-NA-CLADACH

Dunoon, PA23 7QZ
Gokay Deveci Architect / John Brown (Strone) Contractor

Site of a former children's home owned by Argyll and Bute Council, a local group (the Bullwood Group) used the site on the hill above the home where they managed the trees to make various timber products. This included a small base half way up the hillside where the group worked with young adults with additional needs. Following the closure of the children's home the local group were allowed the opportunity to occupy the site although the council had to retain ownership. Working with Fyne Homes, the Bullwood Group and Argyll and Bute Council were able to create an ownership plan which suited all parties.

Award winning architect Gokay Deveci was appointed to the project with the brief to provide high quality energy efficient family housing that respected the location by the sea. Shared Equity housing to a mix of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom were created within a multi coloured 'beach hut' design. The end of the terrace home furthest away from Dunoon was built to full passivhaus standard with solar panels and a heat recovery system, it is Scotland's first fully accredited passivehouse.

The Bulwood Group continue with their project on the hillside and Fyne Homes managed to provide them with an exhibition space in the final development where they display their products. Tigh-na-Cladach won various design awards including the Architectural Grand Prix Award in 2011.

Much of the above owes credit to the publication North Clyde Estuary an illustrated architectural guide by Frank Arneil Walker with Fiona Sinclair who is a former president of the Glasgow Institute of Architects who kindly funded this map.



These cycle rides/walks are on public roads and cycle tracks so participants must exercise sound, mature judgement and be responsible for their own and others safety. It is your responsibility to carry out manoeuvres safely and adhere to the rules of the road. The cycle rides include sections of A roads and we recommend that you wear a helmet. Under 18s must be accompanied with a parent or guardian.

For additional information on the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail and the Sea Kayak Safety Code please refer to <https://www.visitscotland.com/blog/active-sport/argyll-sea-kayak-trail/>

SEDA was formed in 1991. Our primary aim is to share knowledge, skills and experience of ecological design. SEDA is a network and links those seeking information and services with those providing them. Members include academics, architects, artists, builders, planners, students, ecologists, landscape designers, materials suppliers, woodworkers, and many more whose work or interest is concerned with design for a sustainable future. SEDA is a charity and is run by a Board of Directors, who are elected at Annual General Meetings. The Board meets 4 times a year for discussion and for planning the activities of the Association. All members are welcome to take part in these meetings. SEDA registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee in February 2011. For more information and how to join please visit our web site at www.seda.uk.net