

KYLES OF BUTE

Most Clyde yachtsmen feel they know the Kyles of Bute like the back of their hands. It is, however, an unfortunate fact that thousands of pounds worth of damage have been incurred every year for the last few years due to the facts being just a little more complicated than the inherited wisdom...

Following a survey completed for Clydeport plc in May 2001, the Hydrographic Office has published (in January 2003) a revised chart no 1906, Kyles of Bute, and the inset from that is reproduced below.

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However, attention is drawn to the following points in respect of the channel south and west of the Burnt Isles:

1. the flood stream starts to set south-easterly before LW, and so the Wood Farm Rock buoy (no 43, green conical) is understood to lie at that time very close indeed to the rock which it marks. As indicated in the CCC Sailing Directions, yachts should aim to pass close **BUT NOT TOO CLOSE**, to this buoy particularly at or near LW.
2. for yachts drawing 2 metres or more, it should be noted that there are two relatively shallow patches approximately 60 metres NW and 100 metres WNW of buoy no 43. There is an easy passage between these, but once again the CCC Sailing Directions should be heeded – “close but not too close” to buoy no 43.
3. the rock less than 100 metres NE of buoy no 44 has been re-plotted as somewhat larger than in previous editions of this chart. **THIS ROCK IS A SERIOUS HAZARD, AND YACHTS BEATING THROUGH THE SOUTH CHANNEL SHOULD TAKE PARTICULAR CARE.**
4. all other hazards should be noted, and due care taken in navigating this channel.

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