Compiled by Euan Armstrong, with help from Paul Whitefoot and Scott Armstrong

WALK 5: AN LEACAINN TRIGPOINT

Distance: 6km
Time: 1 hour 40 minutes
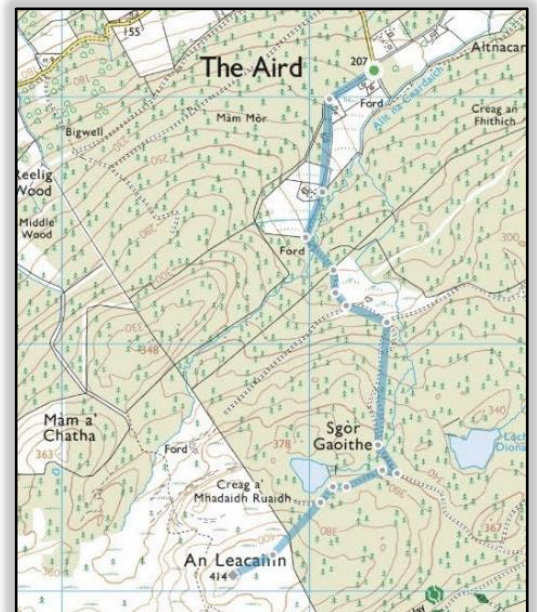**Ascent: 200m**
Map: OS Explorer 416
Terrain: Forest paths and tracks. Can be rough going near the top
Start Point: Parking at the top of Newtonhill minor road – 433582

> *A there and back hill walk which takes you to the summit of An Leacainn, where a prominent Trigpoint stands, offering expansive 360-degree views of the entire area*

STEP 1

To get to the start of the walk, turn off the A862 at the Old Church in Inchmore, following signs for Drumchardine and Newtonhill. Follow the single-track road as it climbs steeply for around 2.6km. At the road end there is ample parking space on the right with enough room for approximately 4/5 cars. To start the walk, turn right out of the car parking area and follow the track as it begins to gradually climb, passing by a few houses. At the last house go through a wooden gate, before coming to the track end.

STEP 2

Take a path on the left leading into the pine forest. Continue on the path as it starts to slowly climb through the forest. After approximately 0.5km the path splits, take the right option and continue to follow as it climbs uphill. The path soon reaches a junction with a larger path. Turn right, soon walking past a lovely wee picturesque lochan on the right.

STEP 3

Shortly after the lochan, around 100 metres, come off the main path onto a smaller less distinctive path on the left. The path starts to traverse the open heathery hillside and leads up to the summit of An Leacainn. The trigpoint becomes visible as you near the top. The views from the Trigpoint can be stunning in all directions, with the prominent hill of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh visible to the south-west, the Glen Strathfarrar and Glen Affric hills to the west and of course Ben Wyvis directly to the north.

STEP 4

As this walk is a there and back walk, retrace your steps back down the hill to the start. Make sure to take extra care after the lochan, looking out for the correct turn off on the left, as this junction can be very easy to accidentally miss.