

## **WALK 9: PHOINEAS HILL AND IRON AGE HILLFORT**

**Distance:** 5.3km

**Time:** 1 hour 25 minutes

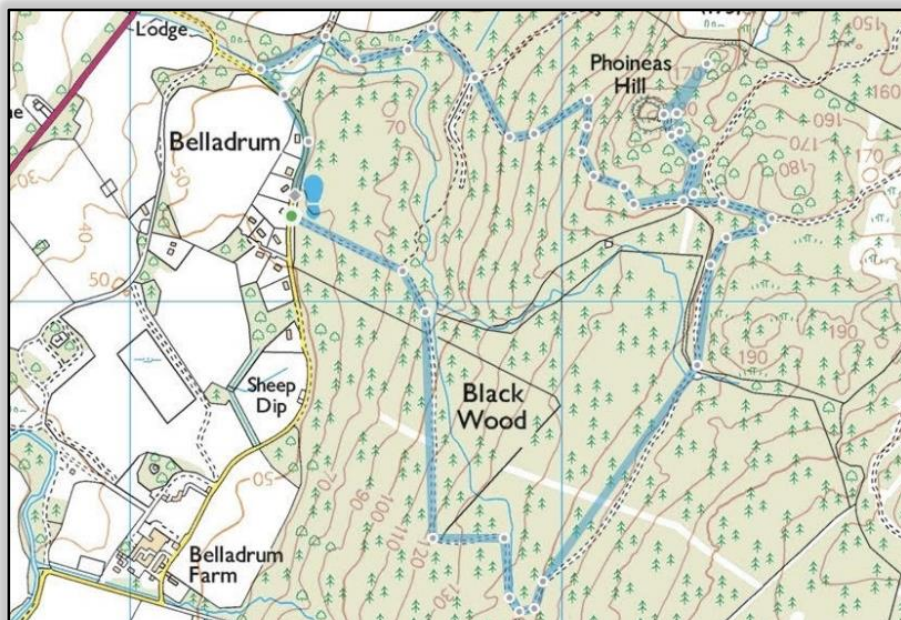
**Ascent:** 154m

**Map:** OS Explorer 431

**Terrain:** Majority of the walk is on large well-maintained forestry track. Section to the hillfort is rougher going.

**Start Point:** Parking space opposite metal gate, near Belladrum – 424523

*Phoineas Hill offers a hilly but enjoyable forest walk, and with the addition of visiting an iron age hill fort, makes this a great outing*



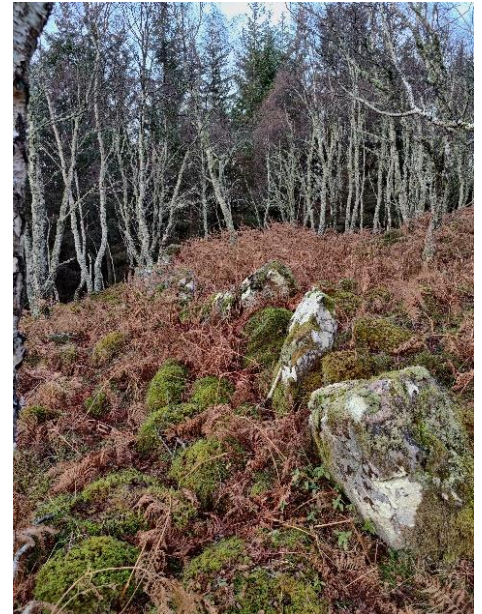
### **STEP 1**

This walk starts from the minor B road at Belladrum off the A833. There is parking space on the left side (Beauly direction) at a metal gate opposite a passing place sign and a house called 'Balgair'. To begin the walk, head through the metal gate onto a wide forestry track. Continue along the track, as it begins to gradually climb with some superb views opening up, for 1.3km to a junction. At the junction turn left and follow for a further 1km to another junction. The tracks starts to bear north and begins to level off slightly, before climbing up once more just before the next junction. At the junction turn left again.



## **STEP 2**

Ignore the first track to the right after the junction, and instead continue for 100 metres further along the main track and take the second track on the right. The track climbs gently through denser forest to the top of Phoinneas Hill, where there is a large telecommunications mast. To head to the hillfort, go round the left of the mast and take a small faint path on the right side of the rocky summit, leading steeply downhill. Follow the path for less than 0.5km to the iron age hill fort, where there is a clear outer wall still visible. To continue the walk, retrace your steps back to the junction with the main track.



## **STEP 3**

Back at the main track, turn right. The track slowly winds its way down the hill towards Belladrum Estate, with some fantastic views to the north opening up. At the bottom, the track reaches a small lane, turn left before shortly arriving at a minor B road. Turn left again and follow for 0.5km back to the start of the walk.

