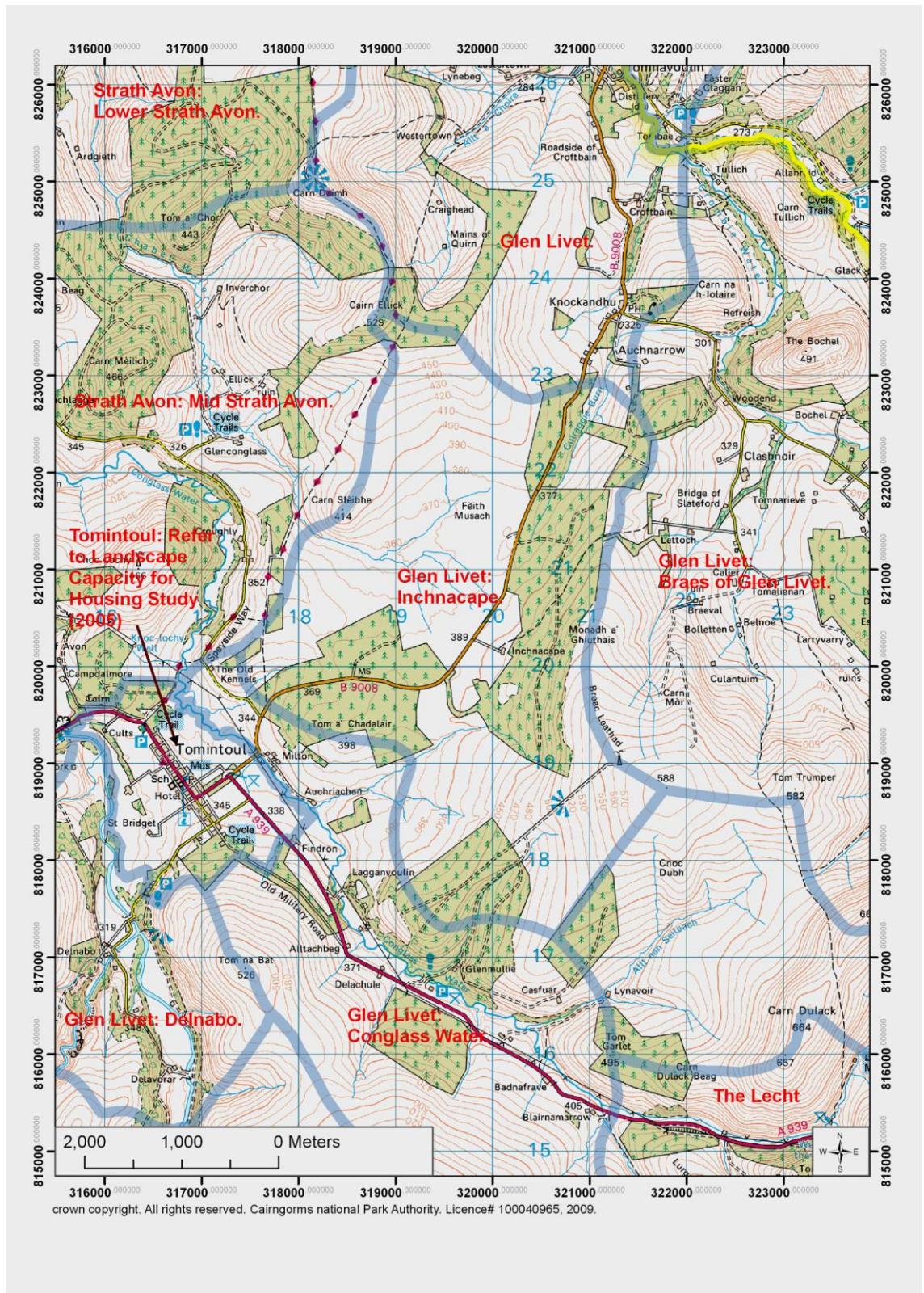


I.1 Glen Livet: Inchnacape



1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

This elevated expanse of blanket peat covers a broad, shallow valley, aligned south west/north east, straddled between higher hills with elongated, gently sloping flanks and domed summits

The area is largely wetland, with upland grass and patches of heather moor across the east facing hillsides

Extensive areas of conifer woodland, mostly spruce with some pine, extends over the steeper west facing hill slopes and where the land falls away towards Glen Livet in the north and Tomintoul in the south

Regenerating pine on the moorland to the north, along with scattered birch and juniper, create a more natural character

A couple of mature pines are all that remains of old roundels, or small shelter woods on the tiny area of farmed fields

A line of rectangular, presumably 19th century improved fields, now reseeded and fenced, sits on slopes sheltered by woodland adjacent to the B9008 overlooked by the small farm of Inchnacape

Peat extraction on the moss reveals the dark brown worked layer of peat. The machinery and stockpiles of excavated peat are highly visible in the open landscape

The B9008 is a series of long straights linked by sweeping bends

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

The openness and expanse of this landscape is fully revealed when emerging from the forest onto the elevated moss

The landscape is relatively simple in structure, although the peat works and conifer woodland in particular break up the uniform expanse of the moor

The sense of elevation is reinforced by views of the tops of surrounding hills, appearing over the edge of the moor

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This area provides a contrast to the much more complex and diverse landscape of Glen Livet to the north. Its elevation encourages views to the surrounding mountain areas.

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The contrast between the enclosure of the woodland at the edges of the moor and the openness of the highest section of the moor reinforces the sense of elevation. The relative simplicity, and extent, of the mosaic of moorland vegetation reinforces the upland character.



Conifer woodland on the lower slopes on the approach to the upper moorland of this area



The open moor, with excavated peat in the middle distance



The farm of Inchnacape, set above a line of improved fields and back against woodland



Machinery and stockpiles of excavated peat



Regenerating pine and birch across the moorland to the north



Views of the tops of high mountains appearing over the edge of this elevated valley