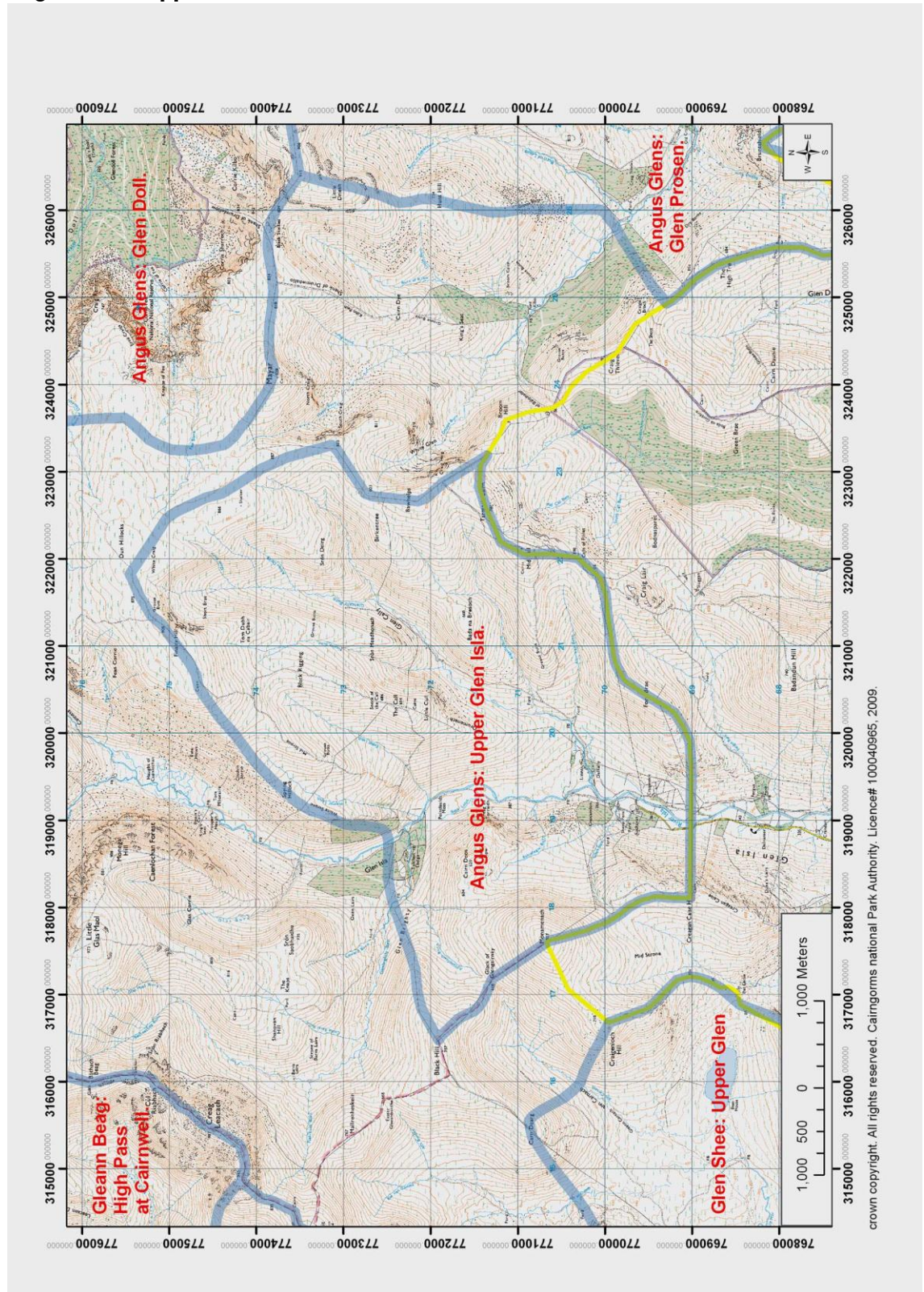


I.1 Angus Glens: **Upper Glen Isla**



1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

The narrow valley floor is contained by west facing side slopes which are smooth and often gently graded. The east facing slopes have been steepened and roughened by glaciers, resulting in craggy upper slopes above screes

A series of narrow side glens carved by tributaries of the River Isla converge at the junction of Glen Cally and the upper Glen Isla

The glacial-fluvial deposits along the glen floor have been worked into a narrow floodplain by the meandering River Isla

A mosaic of heather and grass moor extends over the hill slopes, with pasture on the well-drained and gentle lower slopes as well as the floodplain

There are shelter woods associated with the clusters of settlement, and a large area of conifer woodland surrounding Tulchan Lodge

The few buildings, including Tulchan Lodge, are located at the confluence of glens, on alluvial fans associated with tributaries of the River Isla

These well drained alluvial fans are the focus for the late 18th/19th century farmsteads, regularly shaped fields and small shelter woods

The floodplain is often less well drained, and in many areas is rushy pasture or wetland, partially enclosed by fences including deer fences

The well defined and striking pattern of dykes at the abandoned farm at Craigmekie, elevated on better-drained glacial-fluvial deposits, is a particular feature

The narrow public road is tucked in against the western flank of the glen just above the floodplain as far as Auchavan, from where most of this area is only accessible by paths and private vehicle tracks

The area is relatively popular for walkers, although there is little provision for parking or other facilities

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

The area is relatively open, with gentle gradients and views up side valleys limiting the experience of enclosure

The area is a transition between the more cultivated and settled southern parts of Glen Isla and the more remote head of the glen

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This character area is relatively self contained, but it provides a 'gateway' to the more remote and rugged head of Glen Isla, and therefore contributes to a gradual transition from a more settled and obviously managed landscape to a more remote hinterland.

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The abandoned, but nevertheless prominent, field system at Craigmekie is a distinctive singular feature in this area, although not a widespread characteristic. There is a strong

relationship between the settlement, farmland and the well-drained deposits at the convergence of the two main watercourses.



Buildings sheltered by woodlands at the end of the narrow public road



Gentle side slopes, especially those facing west



Fields and pasture on better drained deposits the abandoned farm at Craigmackie sits on these slopes



Settlement and shelter woods associated with the well drained alluvial fan and watercourses