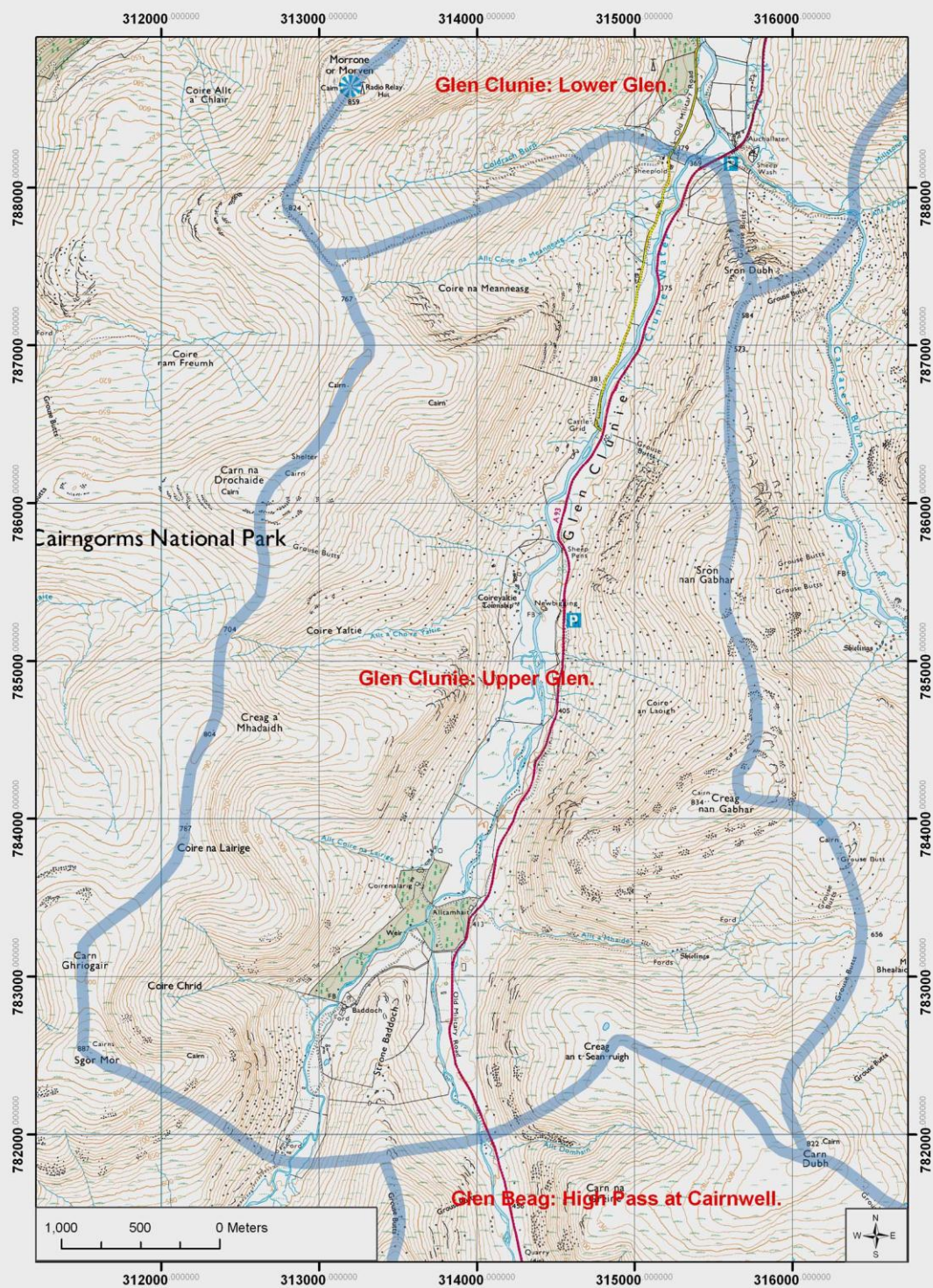


### 1.1 Glen Clunie: Upper Glen



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#### 1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

The north/south aligned Glen Clunie links the high pass of the Cairnwell and the wooded glens of Deeside

The upper glen is framed by sweeping, concave-shaped hillsides interspersed with rocky ledges created by a glacial valley sitting within a much older, broader valley – the cliffs are spurs of the older valley truncated by glacial action

The upper slopes of occasional screes of weathered quartzite sit below rugged summits

The glen floor is generally a well defined, level floodplain, with intermittent deposits of well drained glacial-fluvial deposits largely limited to the northern end of the glen

This upper glen is divided from the lower glen by the ‘threshold’ of a narrower section of glen just downstream from Newbigging

The floodplain is subdivided into improved fields, although these have largely reverted to unimproved grazing and some wetland, with only occasional, drier fields on well drained deposit, being still actively managed at Newbigging and Auchallater

The upper slopes are heathery, with actively managed grouse moor punctuated by shooting butts

Woodland occupies the prominent conjunction between Glen Clunie and Glen Baddoch, which is also the location of several remnant 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads, and evidence of both buildings and field systems is still readily visible

The road hugs the base in slope, often sitting very close to the glen floor, and it is only elevated when passing Newbigging

The bridge taking the old military road across the Clunie Water is a landmark feature, as well as offering a short but popular walking route which takes people past several ruined buildings

#### 1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

From the road, framed views north and south along the length of the glen reinforce the height and vertical drama of the hillsides

The slight evidence of past settlement, especially when juxtaposed with the lack of present day development, suggests abandonment

#### 1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This area is experienced very much as part of the transition of landscape character travelling between Glen Shee and Braemar.

#### 1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The sparse vegetation pattern and lack of present day settlement in this upper part of Glen Clunie are key characteristics, while the simplicity of the vegetation particularly reinforces the profile of the topography, which stands out in views framed by the sweeping concave side slopes in views along the length of the glen.



*Woodland straddles the conjunction of two glens at the southern end of Glen Clunie, where several improved fields are located on the glen floor*



*The glen is steep sided, but has a narrow level floor. The profile of the slightly concave side slopes formed by truncated spurs is easy to pick out*



*Remains of 18/19<sup>th</sup> century farms on the better drained, glacial/fluvial deposits*