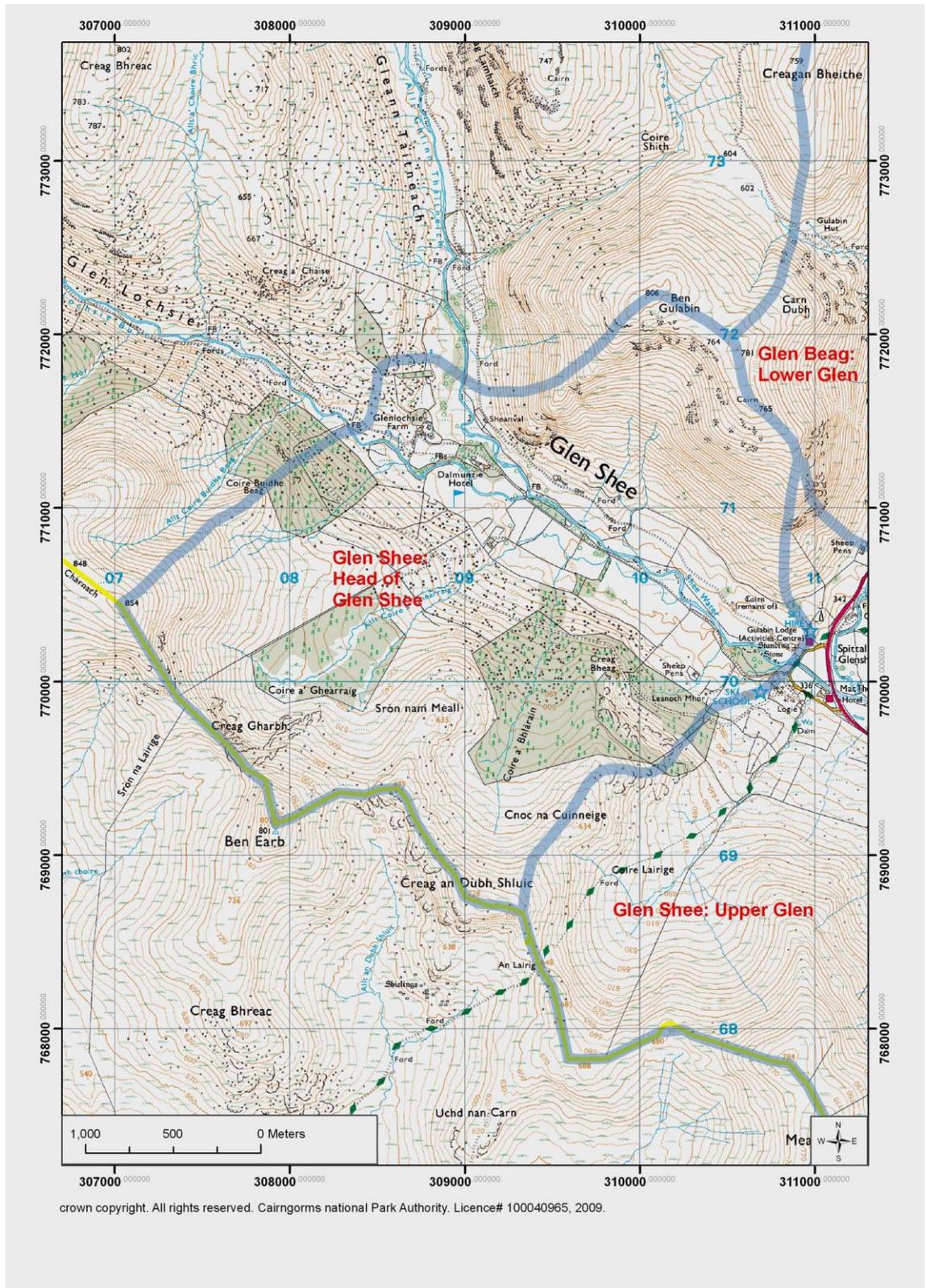


# I.1 Glen Shee: Head of Glen Shee



© crown copyright. All rights reserved. Cairngorms National Park Authority. Licence# 100040965, 2009.

### 1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

Extending north west from the main glen, this glen is accessed by passing through the Spittal of Glenshee, its entrance on the road indicated by a formal estate gateway

The relatively narrow glen floor is framed by steep sided, concave slopes, with a more complex topography of rocky spurs and shallow corries facing north east

The glen floor is hummocky, with glacial-fluvial deposits which extend along the lower slopes of the hills

The Shee Water is gravel-bedded, with occasional braided reaches, but is relatively straight, constrained by the hummocky terrain

18/19<sup>th</sup> century improved fields, containing improved grassland and fodder crops, are located on the well-drained, hummocky glen floor

There are several large areas of conifer woodland, including recent planting in a high corrie, and riparian woodland which blends with smaller shelter woods along the glen floor

A prominent head dyke separates the fields from the actively burnt heather moorland and grazing on the steeper slopes

Although past settlement, including numerous post-medieval farmsteads, has been widespread, evidence of this has largely disappeared

Dalmunzie Hotel, a former shooting lodge, and associated buildings of similar architectural style at Glenlochsie Farm cluster on higher hillocks at the junction of Glen Shee and the side glens of Glen Lochsie and Glen Taitneach

These buildings are also the focus of mature mixed woodland

A nine hole golf course occupies terraced, well drained land immediately adjacent to the hotel, and there is a dismantled railway, once used for transporting goods and people to an upper Lodge in Glen Lochsie, which is a quirky feature

The road to the hotel is single lane, and tracks, used for estate management as well as being signposted for public access, lead into the mountainous interior along the side glens

### 1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

The glen is secluded but not remote, although it forms a threshold to more remote country within the upper glens and mountainous hinterland

### 1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This character area is relatively self contained, although it provides a 'gateway' to the more mountainous interior of the higher hills and more remote glens.

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The settlement and field pattern demonstrates the establishment of an 'improvement period' sporting estate which has superseded 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads, overlaid on the distinctive, hummocky topography of the lower slopes and glen floor.



*The winding, braided, gravelly Shee Water*



*Glenlochsie Farm, perched on hummocky terrain, probably a moraine, at the very head of the glen*



*The prominent head dyke, with improved fields below, and conifer shelter woods.*



*Naturally regenerating vegetation along the riversides*