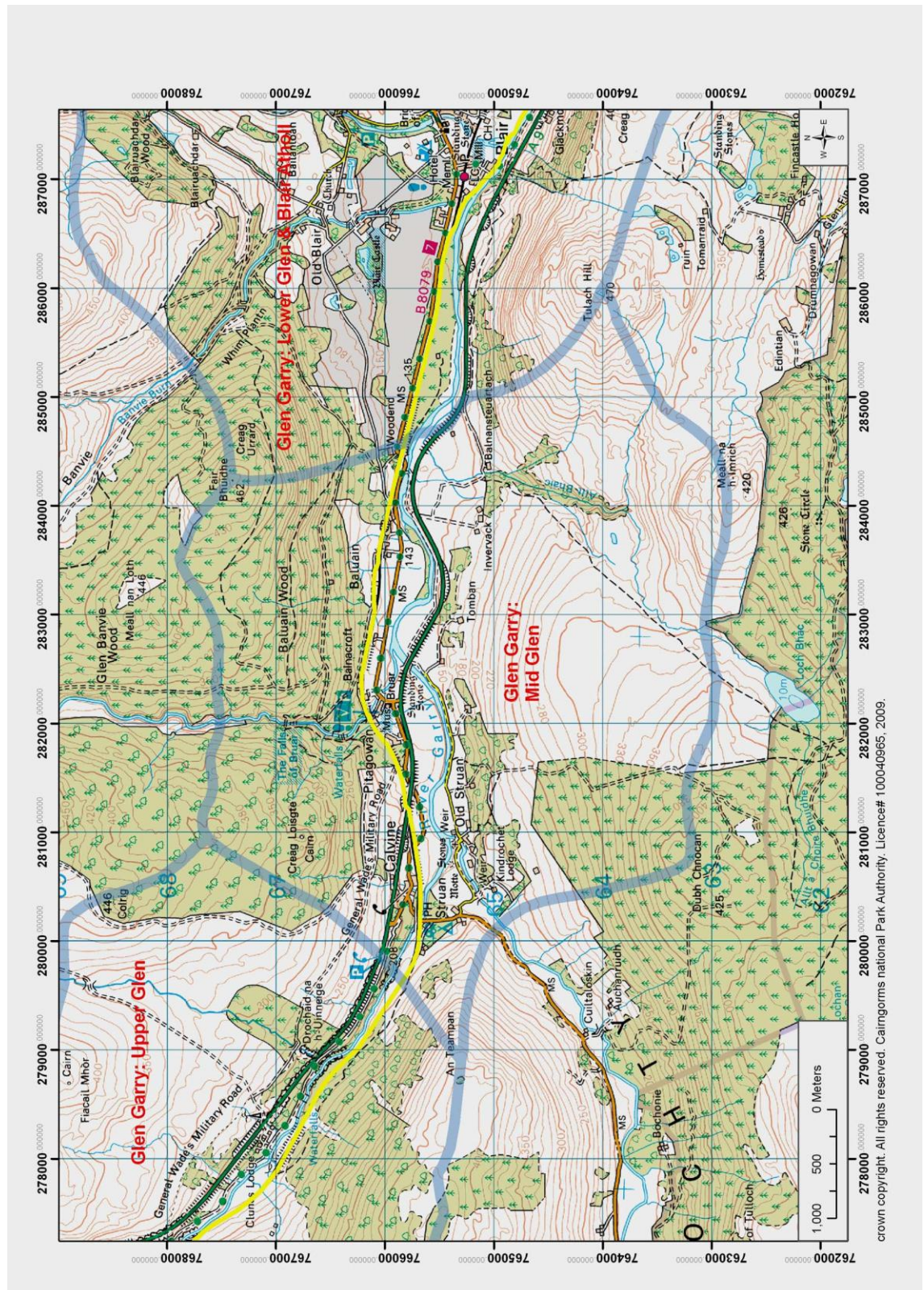


## Glen Garry: Mid Glen



### 1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

- Two large glens – Glen Garry and Glen Errochty – merge to form a wide strath floor in this part of Glen Garry, aligned east/west, the confluence being marked by a striking medieval motte
- The side slopes of the glen are relatively evenly graded and simple slopes, extending down from ridges smoothed by glacier erosion which has also deepened the main valley
- Terraces and mounds of glacial-fluvial deposit sit along the edges of the strath floor
- The River Garry swings in wide meanders and has worked the gravelly deposits of the glen floor to form a relatively level floodplain
- Gravel builds up on the outer banks of the river, and the water flow is reduced by abstraction to reveal the gravelly riverbed
- Well established commercial conifer woodland extends along the south facing slopes of the glen, while the northern slopes are dominated by unimproved grassland and some heather, with naturally regenerating birch along the very lower slopes
- The level land along the strath floor, along with the most accessible gently graded lower slopes, are occupied by drained 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century improved fields
- These fields are fenced, with occasional sparse hedges or scant lines of trees reinforcing the regularity of the field pattern
- The line of the river and its tributaries stand out clearly as riparian woodland along the full extent of the glen
- Policy woodland around Kindrochat Lodge near Calvine and all the tiny settlements, as well as specimen trees of copper beech, ash, oak and sycamore reinforce the lowland character of this area
- Well settled, many of the regularly spaced farmsteads occupy sites likely to have been settled in an earlier periods, while the key villages – Calvine, Old Struan and Pitagowan/Bruar – are located at crossing points on the rivers which have been used for centuries
- The roads and railway converge at Calvine to crowd their way through a narrow part of the glen. Elevated on bridges and overpasses, these structures create some confusion and clutter, although this is partly absorbed by extensive woodland
- The visitor complex at Bruar offers an additional focal point for development, as well as provision for visitors to the Falls of Bruar, a spectacular gorge which has developed along a fault where the river drops steeply to the valley floor
- The glen is scattered with archaeological features, although they are only visible on close inspection



### 1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

From the elevated A9, there are views across the strath to the north facing slopes, from where the regular spacing of the farmsteads is very easy to pick out

The tangle of road and rail lines is most clearly experienced from more minor roads, from where the A9 seems out of scale with the detail of earlier settlement pattern and road network

### 1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This area is largely self-contained, although it is partially inter-visible with the Lower Glen Garry character area, and provides a threshold to Upper Glen Garry when travelling north.

### 1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The coherence of the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century field pattern and associated regularly spaced farms, particularly on the north facing slopes, reinforces the historic character of this area. This is further emphasised by the clusters of small houses which are characteristic of the villages.



*Terraces of gravelly deposit at the edges of the strath, and birch woodland on north facing slopes.*



*Extensive woodland on the south facing slopes overlooks the strath floor, worked level by the river*



*The River Garry, within riparian woodland, its gravel river bed revealed by the abstraction of some of its water*



*A 'motte' near the confluence of the rivers – one of a number of archaeological sites*