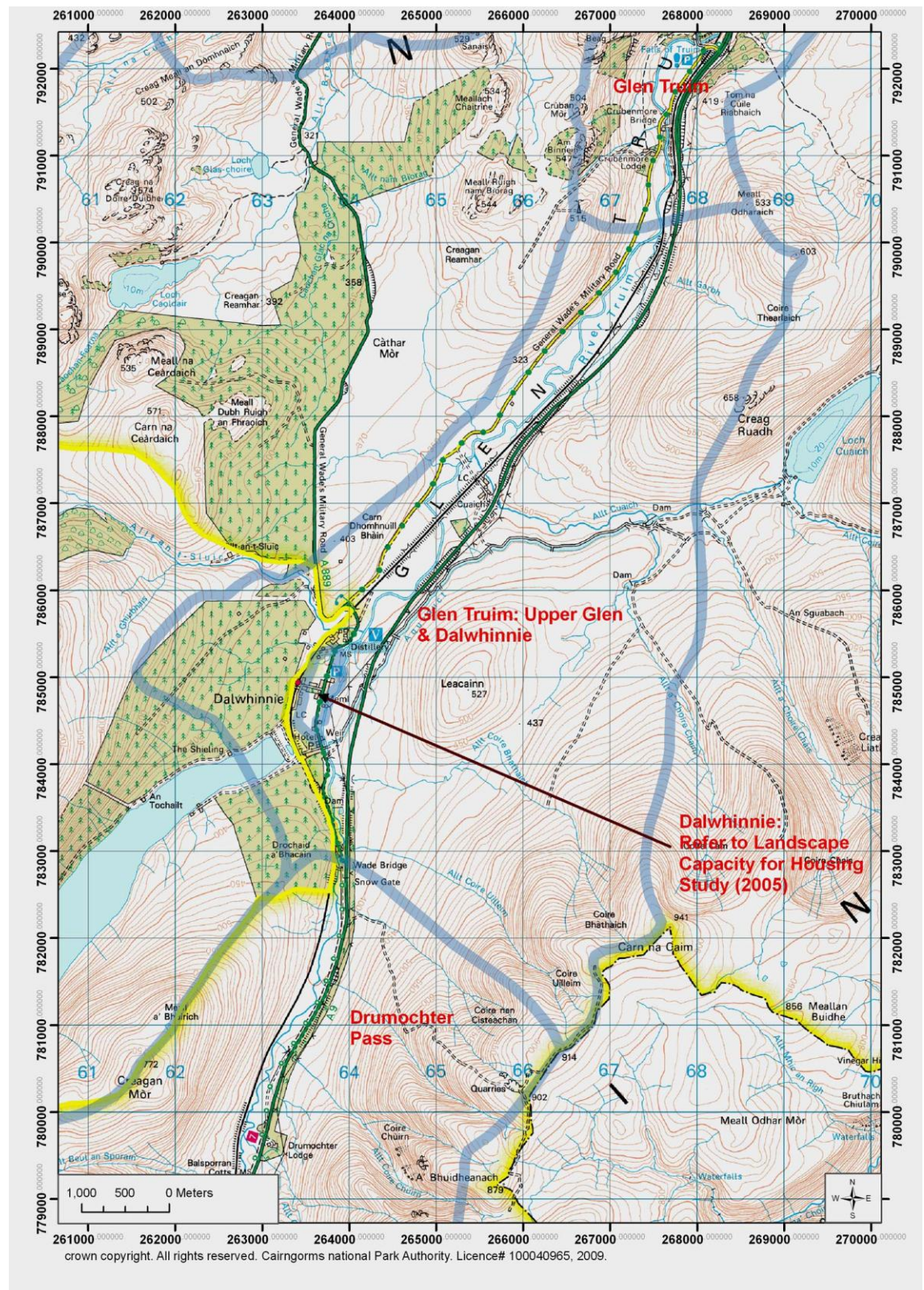


## Glen Truim: Upper Glen and Dalwhinnie



### 1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

A wide floodplain contained by the shallow side slopes of Cathar Mor to the west and elongated rounded hills which sit in front of the steep escarpment which forms the edge of the Gaick plateau to the east

The River Truim is fed by drains and tributaries as it meanders across the flat floor of this trench-like section of straight valley. It is prone to flooding and has braided reaches

Occasional gravelly glacial-fluvial deposits and terraces at the edges of the glen floor stand out as features

Sparsely vegetated, with little woodland – only scrubby willow and occasional broadleaves associated with the watercourses, as well as a single larger block of conifers – the glen floor is dominated by poorly drained grassland and wet heath, but is in part fenced into large fields

The gently graded side slopes are dominated by heather moorland, but there are conifer woodland shelterbelts planted in horizontal strips east of the A9, to provide shelter from snow

More extensive commercial conifer woodland extends over the east facing slopes to the south above Dalwhinnie and flanking either side of Loch Ericht, which is barely visible behind its dam face

The A9, the railway, the minor road along the west of the glen, as well as the overhead pylon line, are all elevated above the strath floor, aligned lengthwise along the glen

A series of rectangular settlement ponds, enclosed by embankments, are located towards the southern end of the glen and there are snow fences aligned parallel to the A9

There is very little existing settlement, or even evidence of pre mid/late 19<sup>th</sup> century land use until Dalwhinnie, where several distinct 'clusters' of development, including the prominent white painted distillery, are located on the A889

### 1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

The glen feels elevated, expansive, exposed and open, an impression emphasised by the sparse vegetation and lack of cultivated land from any period, as well as the shallow gradients of the side slopes and low relief of surrounding hills, especially to the west

The semi-natural vegetation pattern, the exposure and the powerful dynamism of the river all combine to create a sense that human intervention is easily overcome by natural forces at this elevation

The snow fences and shelterbelts add visual clutter to the otherwise sparse and simple landscape



Views to higher hills, including into the Cairngorms, are often framed by the mouths of side glens, or extend across the adjacent Cathar Moor

The openness also ensures that traffic and infrastructure is clearly visible

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

This character area is inter-visible with surrounding character areas, with 'borrowed' views of Glen Truim, as well as south towards the Drumochter Pass.

#### 1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The sense of elevation and openness, and the relative dominance of natural processes such as flooding, is pronounced, despite the presence of infrastructure and the settlement at Dalwhinnie. The simplicity of the topography is complemented by the lack of pattern in the vegetation cover.



*From the A9, the expanse of the strath is clearly visible and the openness is easy to experience*



*Relatively simple, semi-natural vegetation, dominated by wet pasture within a trench-like valley*



*Dalwhinnie is located between the River Truim and afforested slopes*



*The River Truim, here in flood, is dynamic and can be unpredictable*