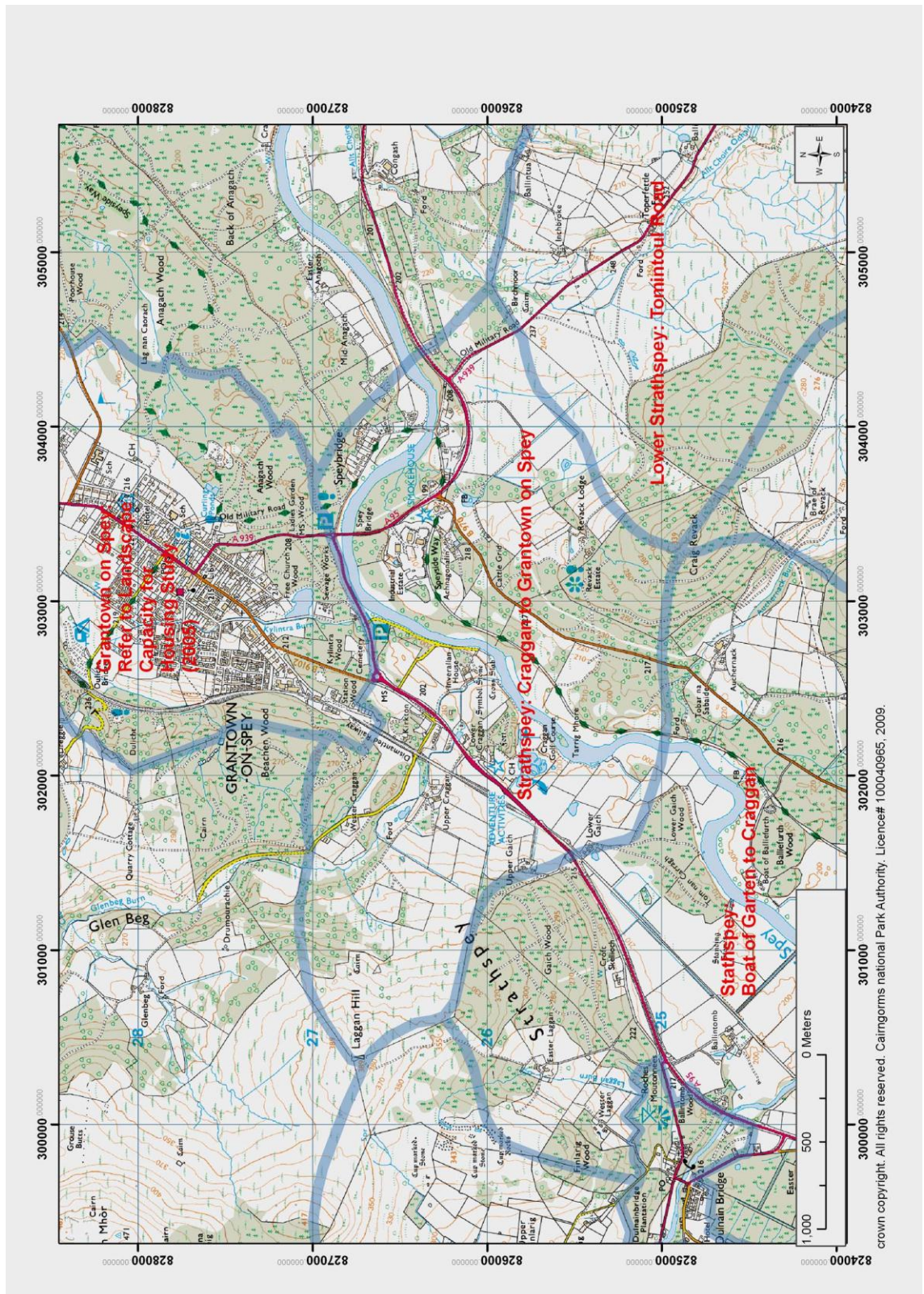


## 1.1 Strathspey: Craggan to Grantown on Spey



### 1.1.1 *Landscape character*

The River Spey swings in a wide curve just south of Grantown on Spey, contained by a narrowing of the flat floor of the strath between Craig Revack and the mouth of Glen Beg

Extensive glacial-fluvial deposits create irregular terrain, including eskers, hummocks and terraces on the lower slopes above the narrow floodplain

The hills are low but well defined summits, framing this focal point in the strath, where several side glens meet with Strathspey and major roads converge near to the crossing point of the River Spey

There is extensive conifer woodland, especially across upper slopes and hill summits, although pine wood is a particular feature on the free-draining and gravelly, hummocky glacial-fluvial deposits on the outskirts of Grantown on Spey

Large areas of broadleaved woodland extend along lower slopes and up the valley sides of Glen Beg

There is almost continuous riparian woodland along the River Spey

Mature pine are a specific feature often associated with hummocks and eskers along the strath floor

The open land is largely divided into straight sided, late 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century improved fields, currently growing improved grassland and fodder crops

There are a number of key archaeological features in this area – including a prehistoric fort – which although not key characteristics, perhaps indicate the importance of this area as a junction point in the strath

Settlement is scattered, following no particular pattern except that it avoids the floodplain and is largely associated with the fields, with small farms located on the upper slopes around the mouth of Glen Beg

There are several major developments in this character area, perhaps because of its proximity to road junctions and Grantown on Spey, including recreational development at Craggan and Revack, the industrial estate at Achnagonalin and Station Road, and the Spey Valley Smokehouse

The A9 is partially elevated and relatively open, but other roads are largely hidden in woodland

The Speyside Way passes through this area on a disused railway line

### 1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

This area is experienced as a junction point, with glens converging on the main valley from several directions, and roads converging on both the former and current crossing points of the Spey



The area is heavily wooded, with both broadleaved woodland and pine forming a unifying element in what can be quite a confusing pattern of development and infrastructure

There are views along the River Spey from the bridge and walking routes

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This area forms a gateway between the lower Spey and the main Spey valley, and so sits at the conjunction of several other character types.

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The area is dominated by the scale and diversity of the woodland, which provides a setting for the numerous and diverse developments which have taken advantage of the conjunction of glens and roads at this point on Strathspey.



*Extensive areas of birch woodland extend along the lower slopes of the strath and up Glen Beag, around improved grassland fields*



*There is a fort hidden in woodland on this hummock, adjacent to the golf course at the outdoor centre at Craggan*



*The River Spey and associated riparian woodland*



*Mature pine associated with well drained gravelly deposits*