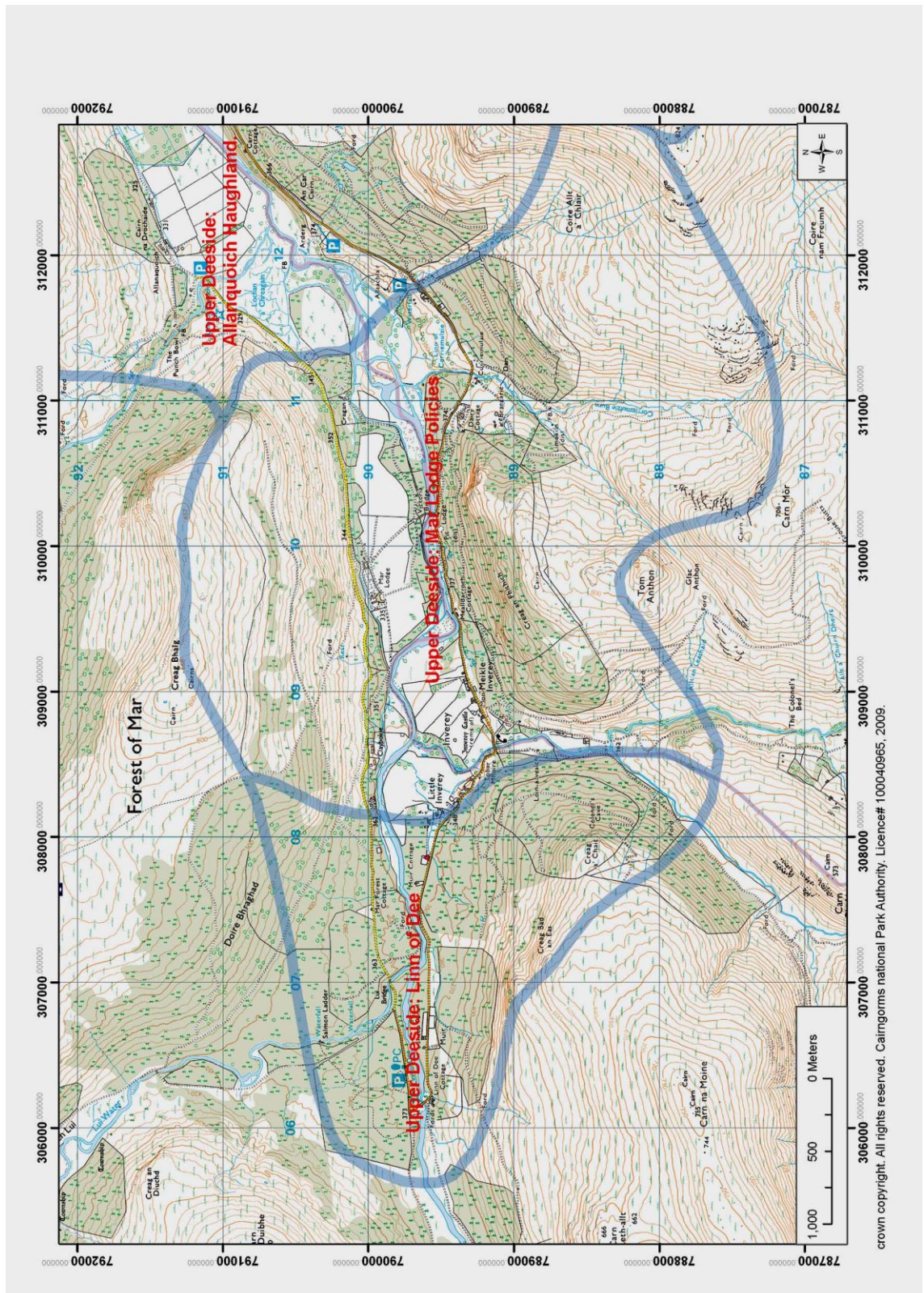


## I.1 Upper Deeside: Linn of Dee



#### 1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

This character area sits at the westerly end of Deeside, at the junction between Glen Lui and the main glen, just as the valley of the Dee narrows into a steep sided glen which then broadens again as it extends west into the interior of the Cairngorms

The fan of glacial-fluvial and alluvial gravels at the mouth of the River Lui, framed by steep hillsides at the mouth of Glen Lui, spills onto the floor of the west/east orientated glen of the Dee, which is contained to the south by the steep hillside of Carn na Moine

The River Dee thunders through a narrow, rocky gorge at the Linn of Dee to become a fast flowing, broad, but shallow, river with many small rapids and falls. Fractured rocky shelves and projecting boulders extend from its banks

Conifer woodland at the mouth of Glen Lui extends across the hummocky terrain and then rises up the hillside of Doire Bhraghad. Dense stands of mature, predominantly native pine cover the narrow floor of the glen and the steep banks of the River Dee. Small grassy glades occur within the woodland on the river banks

A small number of individual estate cottages lie adjacent to the minor roads. The 19th century Linn of Dee Bridge forms an impressive gothic-arch of well-dressed granite.

The narrow public road loops tightly over the bridge and provides access to an extensive network of well-used tracks leading north and west from upper Deeside into the mountain interior of the Cairngorms, as well through to Speyside and Atholl

The Linn of Dee is a popular scenic destination attracting many visitors. A public car park is located within plantation woodland

#### 1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

A predominantly wooded area with a strong sense of containment. Overhanging mature pine and larch accentuate the intimate scale of the Linn of Dee where the focus is the dramatic rocky gorge and pounding water of the Dee

This area lies towards the edge of the high Cairngorm plateau with its remote upland landscape of the upper Dee and Glen Geldie to the west.

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

The strong enclosure of this wooded character area limits the influence of adjacent landscapes although long views are possible into the broad, open upland strath of the upper Dee to the west.



#### 1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The River Dee is a key focus, lying close to the public road, and dramatically funnelled through a rocky gorge. This area lies at the transition between settled Deeside and the more remote uplands and interior glens to the west and north.



*Woodland encloses the narrowing glen of the Dee west of Mar Lodge*



*Extensive regeneration of pine on the hill slopes*



*The dramatic deep chasm of the Linn of Dee*



*The Gothic style bridge of the Linn of Dee*