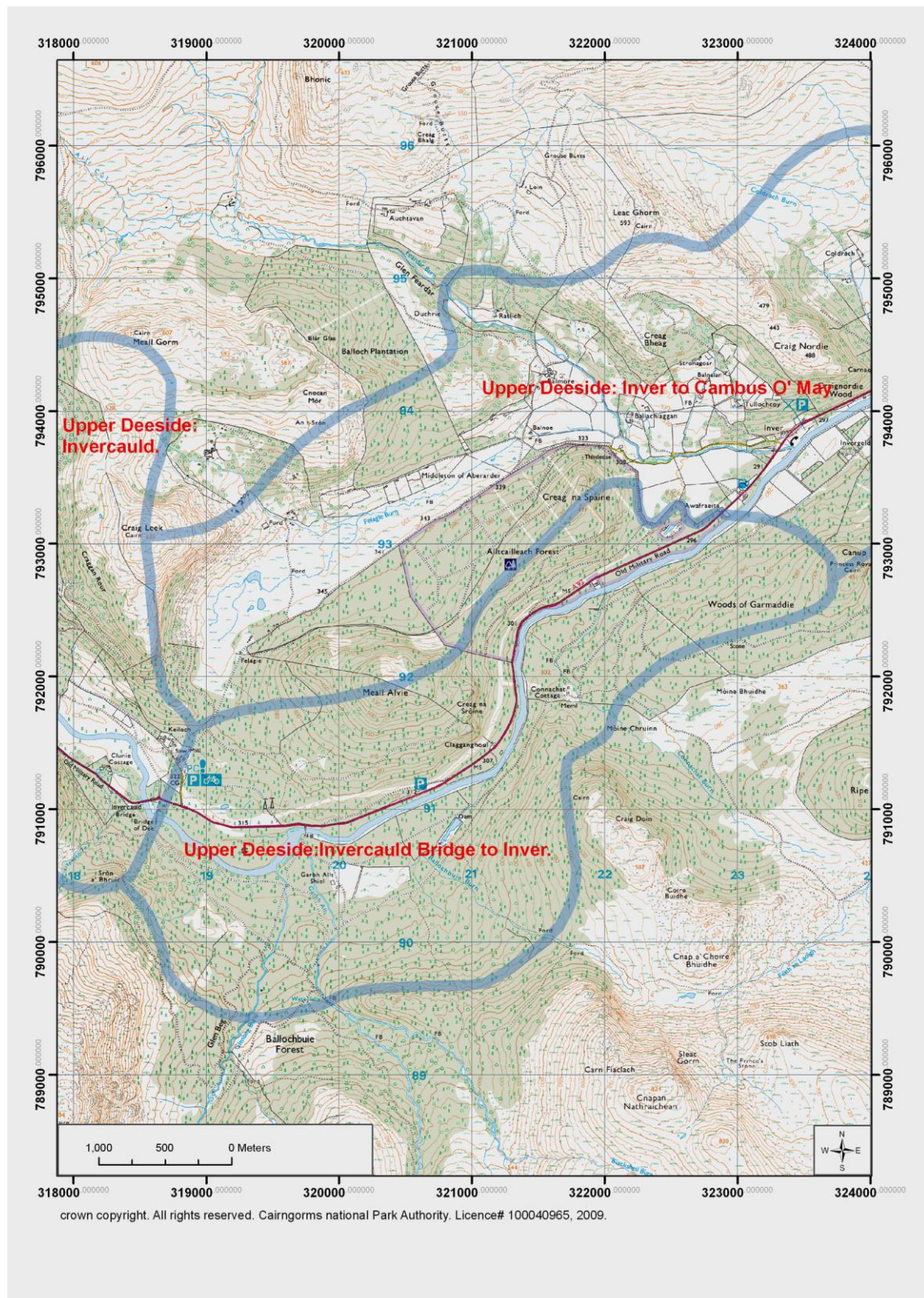


I.1 Upper Deeside: Invercauld Bridge to Inver



1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

The Dee valley is constrained by steep granite hill slopes east of Invercauld Bridge. The valley floor is often narrow, broadening only where alluvial outwash from rivers in side valleys join the Dee Meall Alvie, a curving elongated hill, contains the valley to the north while the southern hills form an arc of rocky summits rising from more gentle slopes south of the river

The River Dee swings in a series of curves to orientate south west/north east. It is broad and fast flowing, the meanders alternating with straight stretches edged by occasional rocks and boulders

Conifer woodland covers much of this character area, extending along the floor of the valley, over low hills and up into the side glens Scots pine trees, in thinned plantations, are notable for their straight, tall form and even spacing

The gnarled spreading trunks of older pine feature along river banks, interspersed with birch, larch and rowan

Only sporadic, small pockets of grassland occur within this predominant woodland; these mainly lie adjacent to the Dee.

This area is very sparsely settled with just occasional estate cottages set in woodland

The A93 is located very close to the River Dee through this area, although there is often woodland between the road and the river

An extensive network of estate tracks is located through the native pine woodland of Ballochbuie Forest on the south side of the Dee.

A white suspension bridge provides access for walkers and cyclists over the Dee to this area

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

The stands of tall, straight pine are an interesting feature seen in close proximity from the A93. The combination of the comparatively straight stretch of road and river and upright trees gives a simple and ordered visual effect, yet an imposing experience, when travelling through this area

This strongly enclosed wooded character area contributes to the pattern of light/shade and openness/enclosure experienced from the A93 within Upper Deeside

A strong sense of seclusion and naturalness can be experienced in the extensive native pine woodland within Ballochbuie Forest to the south of the Dee

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This is a strongly contained forested landscape with no inter-visibility with adjacent character areas.

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

This is a very simple landscape with few components. The extensive native and well-managed pine woodlands give it a strong sense of order.



The River Dee runs a straight and even course and is fringed by more naturalistic woodland of mature pine and birch



Managed stands of pine lend a distinctive character to the woodlands seen from the A93