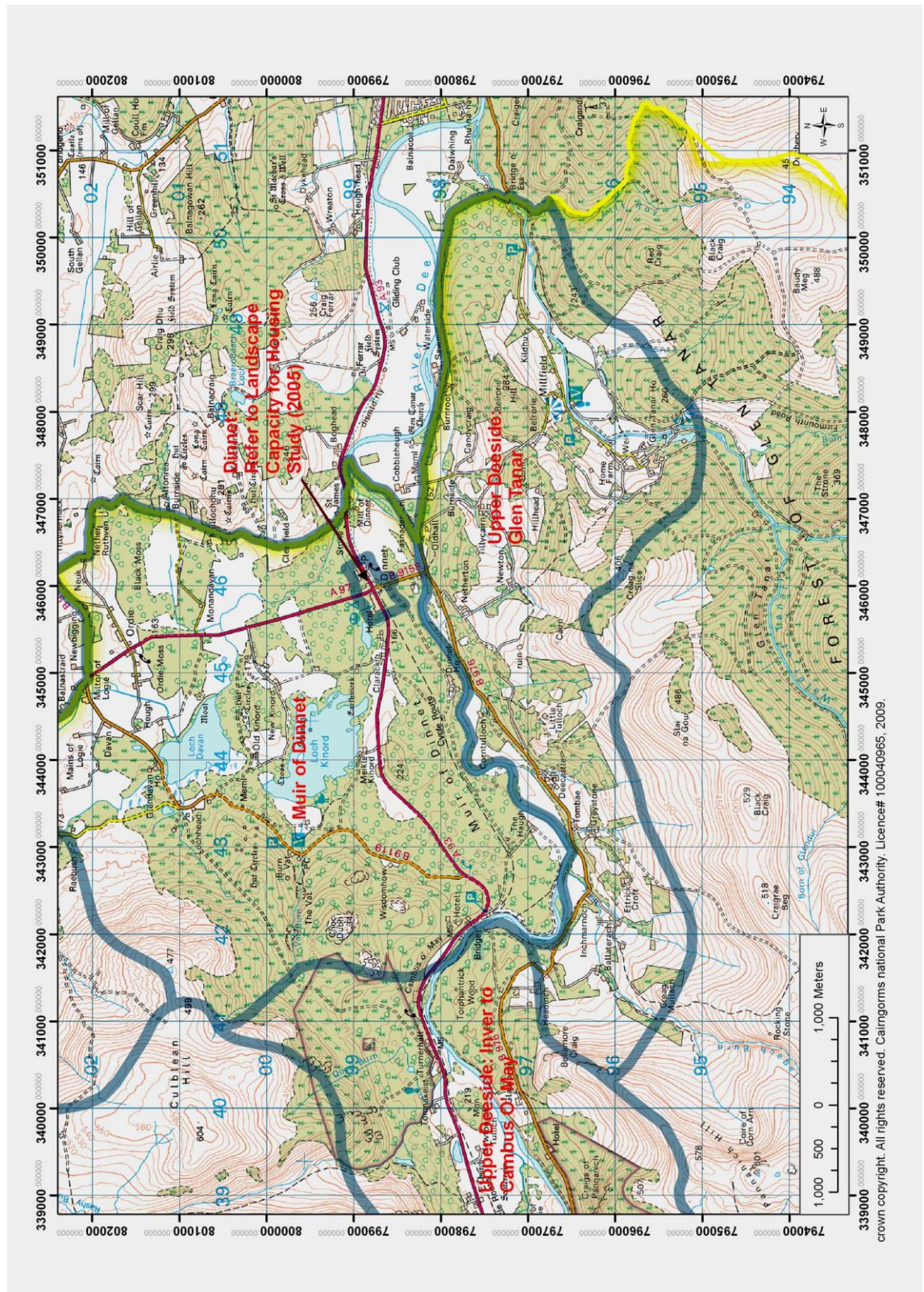


## I.1 Upper Deeside: **Glen Tanar**



### 1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

The flat valley floor and steep sides of Glen Tanar extend to a distinct 'pinch point' south of Glen Tanar House where the glen constricts to form a wooded 'V' shaped valley

The valley has a flat floor and steep sides

A line of low hills and north-facing slopes divides Glen Tanar from the Muir of Dinnet to the north. The complex topography of spurs and side valleys, long undulating lower slopes and irregular ridges reflects both the diverse bedrock and the varied effects of glacial and fluvial erosion

The Water of Tanar cuts north-east from the uplands to the Dee then winds across a floodplain in the lower reaches of the glen. A number of tributaries flow into the Tanar from the branching side valleys at the head of the Glen

This is an extensively forested area with mixed conifer woodland of managed pine, spruce and larch

There is also oak and scattered birch woodland on the north facing Deeside slopes

Flat pastures on the valley floor are enclosed by woodlands and occasional stone dykes. Linear fields also extend up the south facing hill slopes

This pattern of small, broadly rectilinear late 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century improved fields on the flood plain extending up the more gentle hill slopes also occurs along the north facing slopes above Deeside, where they are often enclosed by stone walls

These hill side Deeside pastures appear as if they have been carved out of woodland on the hill slopes, creating a complex mosaic of interlocking fields and woods

A group of reed-fringed small shallow lochans border the River Tanar within the once extensive designed landscape of Glen Tanar House. Walled gardens and ornamental plantings of conifers are concentrated around the house while avenues and pockets of mixed policy plantings occur north-west of the Bridge of Tanar

There is a strong estate influence in the use of local pink and grey granite, ornate detailing and dark green paint colour in the cottages, lodges and farmhouses within this character area

A metalled road in the lower part of Glen Tanar sits against the foot of the wooded hill slopes

A network of rough tracks criss-cross the lower gently rolling north-facing slopes above Deeside providing access to estate houses and farms, and linking to Glen Tanar over the low ridges.

A road and network of estate tracks provide access for walkers and cyclists. The historic drover's route, the Firmounth Road, links Glen Tanar to Glen Esk within the Angus Glens

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

The extensive, interlocking pattern of fields and small woodlands, and the network of small roads and tracks, creates a landscape of surprising intimacy both in lower Glen Tanar and along the south side of the Dee

The distinct architectural integrity gives a feeling of unity to the landscape, creating a fleeting impression of the landscape as it might have been a century ago

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

Glen Tanar is self contained with little visual connection to adjacent character areas, but the north-facing slopes above Deeside form the backdrop to Muir of Dinnet to the north.



#### 1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The intimate scale and interlocking pattern of small pastures, mixed woodlands, designed landscape features and strong architectural integrity of estate buildings contribute to the rich diversity of the area.



*Flat valley floor pastures are fringed by hummocky lower slopes colonised by birch and pine*



*The hill slopes of the lower glen are covered with managed woodlands*



*Glen Tanar house surrounded by policy woodland*