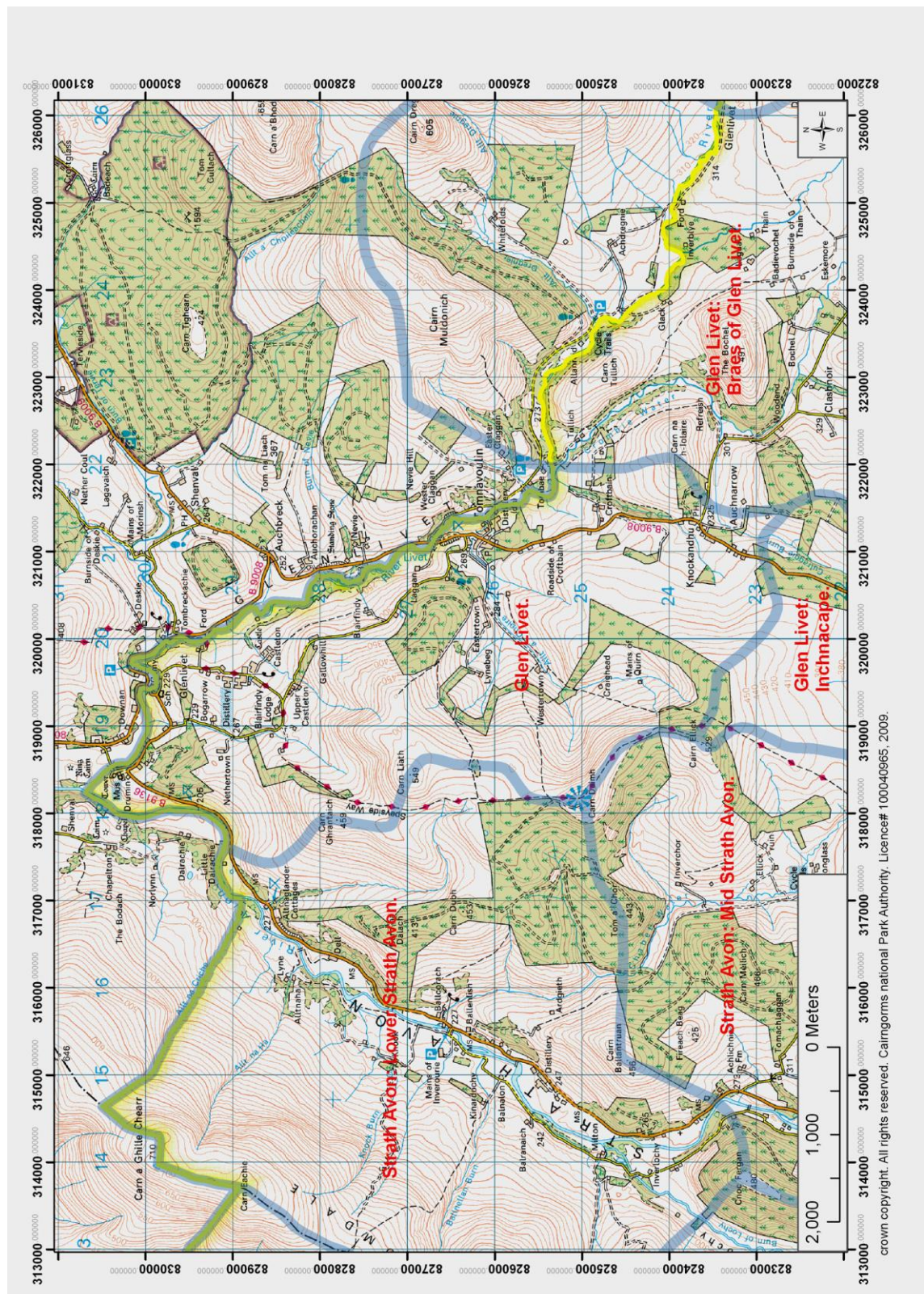


Glen Livet



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1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

This wide, deep river valley, which includes the valley of the Cattach Burn and the middle reaches of the River Livet, is oriented south/north, enclosed by the relatively gentle, sometimes convex shaped flanks of dome-shaped hills

The Cattach Burn tumbles down a narrow, steep sided upper valley to join the River Livet where three valleys converge within complex, rolling land form of glacial-fluvial deposits

The River Livet meanders across a floodplain within the trough of the river valley

There is extensive birch woodland in these river valleys, which sometimes extends up the lower flanks of the hills and along burn-sides well up the valley sides

There is some conifer woodland on steeper slopes, as well as many linear conifer shelter woods, some of which are strung horizontally round the hill slopes

Many lines of broadleaved trees and hedges of hawthorn and beech, some of which are overgrown, reinforce the pattern of the fields and linear form of the watercourses. The line of the River Livet is also picked out by alder to the north

Whin and juniper also extend along the river valleys or on disturbed ground – juniper most obvious in the less grazed side valleys

Late 18th/19th century improved fields, their large regular shapes enclosed by fencing and hedges, contain grassland and arable crops, and extend far up the hillsides on the gentle gradients – particularly across the west facing slopes, which are outwith the Park but easily visible from it

In the more elevated side valleys, the improved land is in part reverting to more open grazing

Farms are dispersed across the slopes, but are often located on small, natural terraces, on a tiny ridge or at a subtle change of gradient across the relatively even slopes. Within the elevated side valleys, there are some abandoned farmsteads

There are two clustered settlements linked to the distilleries at Glenlivet and Tomnavoulin

There is a cluster of historic sites overlooking the confluence of the Livet with the Tervie and the Avon, where there is also a convergence of long-established routes through accessible passes

These include the ruins of Drumin Castle, overlooking the dramatic confluence of the Avon and the Livet and the remains of Blairfindy castle, as well as older sites, such as the Doune of Dalmore

The B9008 is tucked against the break in slope above the steeper valley sides or on a terrace above the floodplain, while the narrower side

road adheres strictly to a break in slope, elevated above the glen, at the point where the fields stop and more open grazing land starts
There is an extensive network of waymarked footpaths

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

The complexity of the landform where the Livet is joined by tributaries adds considerable to the diversity of this glen, as the form and intimate scale of the interlocking folds contrasts with the more straight form of the valley overall

The upper side glens are relatively secluded

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This area is relatively self contained.

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The lines of trees, narrow woodlands and in particular, hedges, reinforce the pattern of the fields and the watercourses within this landscape. The complexity of the topography where the glens converge creates areas of land form diversity which are complemented by the small scale pattern of lines of trees, hedges, woodland and scattered settlement tucked in and around the land form.



The lines of hedges and trees, associated with the field boundaries and the watercourses, extend across smooth, rounded, sometimes convex slopes



Complex landform where three valleys converge near the Cattach Burn



In elevated side valleys, the pattern of fields is less distinct as the land has in part reverted to unimproved grazing around some abandoned farmsteads



A hedge – no longer in leaf – in the foreground, with improved grassland adjacent to moorland



The linear network of trees and hedges associated with field boundaries and watercourses, with farms set on natural ledges within the rounded land forms



The distillery and settlement at Tornnavoulin, tucked into the valley floor in a wooded setting