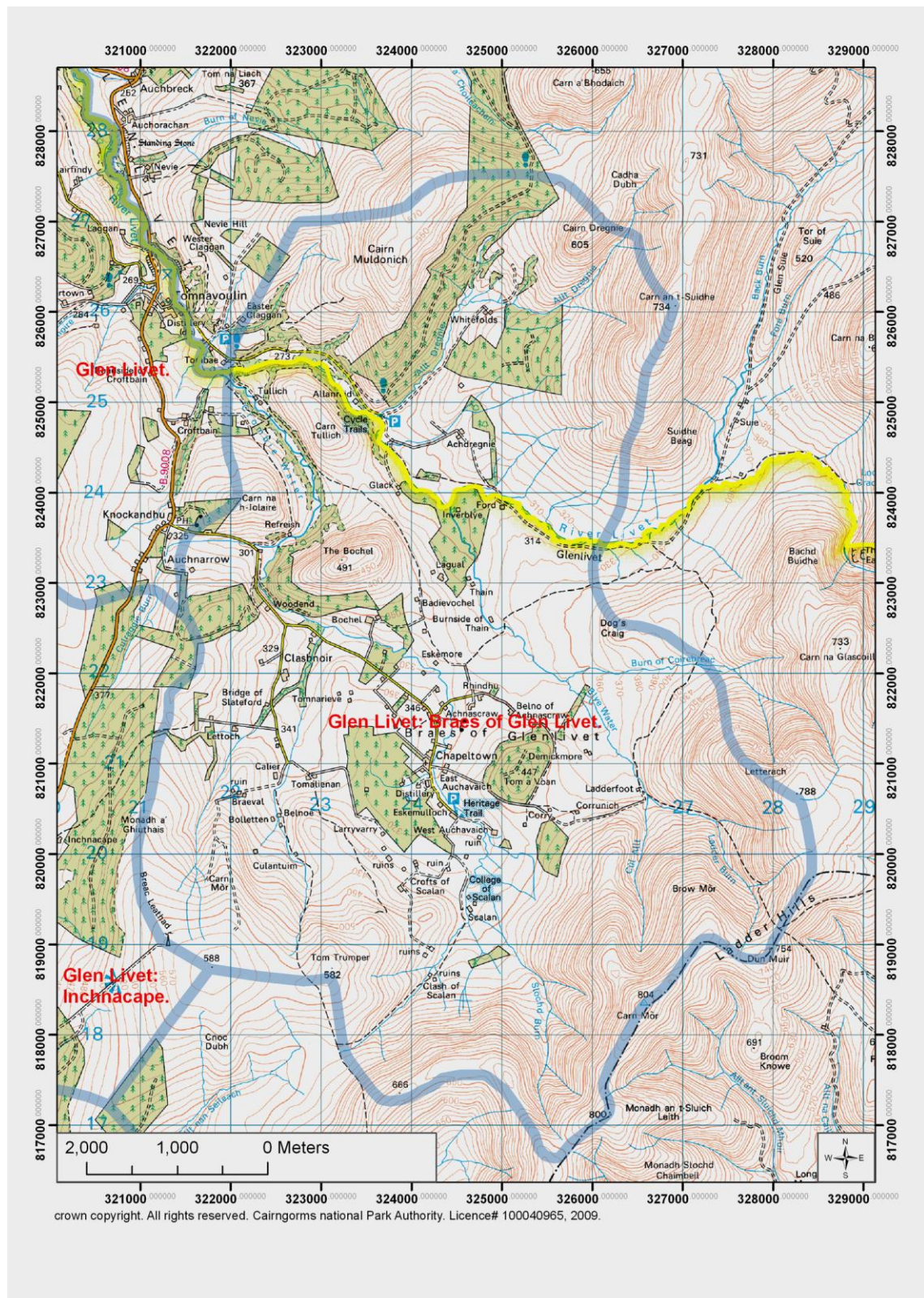


I.1 Glen Livet: Braes of Glen Livet



1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

This expansive howe or basin is developed in granite set amid metamorphic rocks, although a band of metamorphosed limestone forms Glen Suie to the north east

The basin floor retains a deep layer of poorly sorted fluvial-glacial deposit resting on glacial till. This creates elevated and gently graded terrain of smooth low ridges and low hills almost completely encircled by steeper, higher hills, including the Ladder Hills

The entrance to the Braes is marked by a narrower pass along the Crombie Water, which winds between steep sided hills forming a strong sense of 'threshold' between the Braes and Glen Livet

Many burns wind tightly on narrow floodplains and through wetland along the base of the subtle shallow valleys to converge with the River Livet

There are several areas of conifer woodland, on drier hills or on areas of peat within the basin, as well as smaller shelter woods

Conifer woodland has also been planted along the burnsidings, and there are clumps of trees, sometimes pine, associated with each individual farmstead

The steep hills form a relatively abrupt edge to the valley floor, and are clad in heather, the marks of management by burning clearly visible on the slopes

Extensive areas of late 18th/19th century improved fields, fenced and rectilinear in shape, and small or medium sized, are draped over the gently sloping land form

While most of the ground is used for grazing, there are also some arable and winter fodder crops

There is also extensive, still apparent, evidence of field systems which pre-date amalgamation of the late 18th century – where field shapes are narrow, long and smaller than later fields

There are many small, late 18th/19th century farmsteads, relatively evenly dispersed across the slopes, sometimes perched on the subtle ridges

Older farmsteads, including former crofts, possibly created in the 20th century, are scattered across the farmed land, but are most apparent at the peripheral edge of present-day cultivation, where buildings have been abandoned and their former fields have reverted to hill land

There is a cluster of buildings at the Chapelton distillery, located at the head of one of the shallow glens and surrounded by woodland

The College of Scalán – a seminary for Catholic priests during the 18th century – is located at the very end of a winding narrow road, tucked into the folds of the land form to keep its location discrete. Narrow, winding roads extend up the shallow glens and links to a network of smaller farm tracks which criss-cross the whole basin.

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

The narrow entrance to the Braes, along the Crombie Water, reinforces the sense of seclusion experienced in this self-contained area, which appears very 'cut off' from Glen Livet.

There is a sense of 'surprise' at the wide extent of the Braes, which only becomes evident after travelling through the narrow winding glen of the Crombie water.

This sense of secrecy is reinforced by the knowledge that the area supported the Catholic faith when it was oppressed during the 18th century.

The extent of the basin is very evident, with the low hills and ridges forming only subtle containment within the backdrop of steep hillsides.

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This area is very self-contained, with little inter-visibility with surrounding areas beyond the immediate Ladder Hills.

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The sense of seclusion is very pronounced, reinforced by the 'gateway' created by the narrow glen of the Crombie Water and the sudden revelation of the expanse of relatively fertile, gently graded terrain. The field systems today reflect a complex post-17th century history including, in the furthest reaches, abandoned small holdings. Much of the settlement and field pattern today follows patterns and forms laid down in the 18th century.



The approach to the Braes of Glen Livet is through a narrow glen.



The Braes are a series of gentle undulating ridges, encircled by higher hills. Farmsteads tend to be small and elevated.



Grass fields, established during the late 18th/19th century improvement period, across gentle gradients. Conifer woodland predominates, even planted along the sides of the watercourses



The distillery and settlement of Chapelton, set in woodland



Former crofts, now abandoned with the land reverting to rush pasture



The well hidden seminary of Scalan