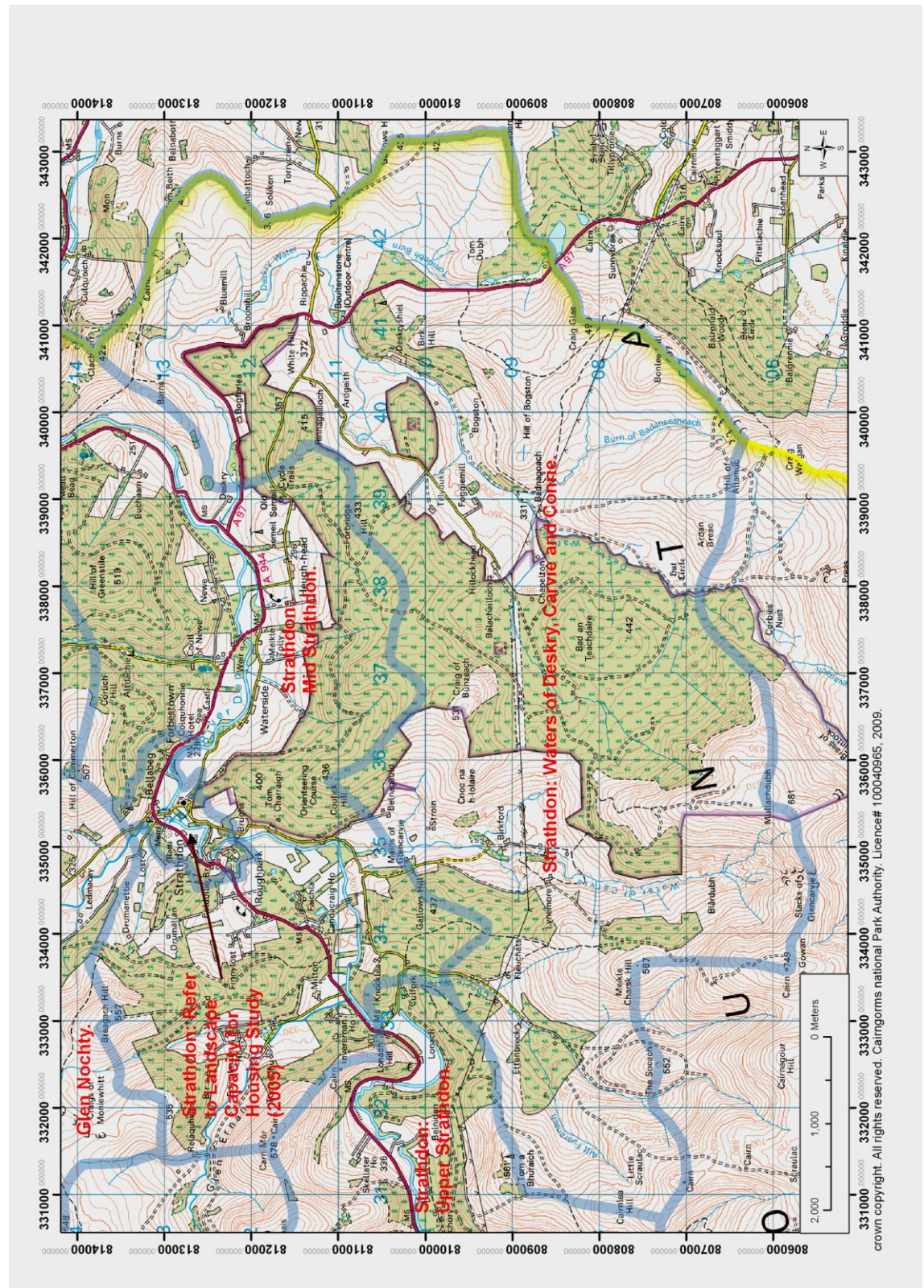


I.1

Strathdon: Waters of Deskry, Glen Carvie and Glen Conrie



1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

These three shallow valleys are elevated above the main valley of the Don, extending broadly south/south west from the main glen, contained by gently rounded hills and long ridges. This is a pre-glacial landscape, with little evidence of glacial erosion

The watercourses meander tightly through narrow floodplains of wetland, although the lower courses are more incised as they drop down to the main valley. Occasional small pools and lochans can be found on the glen floors.

There is extensive conifer forest on the side slopes and many of the hill tops, and smaller conifer woodlands and shelter woods in the glens

There are small patches of pine woodland, often encountered as mature stands on hill tops, supplemented by more extensive regenerating pine across the moorland and grassland on the remaining unforested upper slopes

There is extensive farmed land on the wide valley floors and gently graded lower slopes of these shallow glens

Small, straight edged, late 18th/19th century improved fields, some of which are enclosed with walls and some of which are now fenced, enclose grazing land with very occasional arable crops

Frequent small, generally vernacular 19th century farmsteads, arranged in no particular pattern, but often sited to avoid the best land, are linked to the public road by short farm tracks

There are several abandoned farmsteads within these glens, and some of the former improved fields are reverting to unimproved pasture

The narrow, winding public roads are 'dead ends', petering out to become forest roads and estate tracks. Several have stone retaining walls along the upside of the roadway

Although each glen is self contained, they are linked by a series of tracks and footpaths

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

The shallow landform generally limits enclosure, so that this landscape feels open, although the woodland creates some sense of containment, perhaps most obviously in Glen Conrie

The small scale of the fields and frequency of the farmsteads creates an impression of a landscape of some historic integrity, in places less affected by later field improvements

The glens feel secluded, although they are close to the Strath of the River Don, in part because of the narrow, dead end road which limits traffic

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

These glens are very self contained, with limited inter-visibility with other surrounding character areas, and a degree of detachment from Strathdon

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The secluded and marginal, upland character, and the apparent historic integrity of the small fields and pattern of dispersed but frequent late 18th/19th century farmsteads sets this area apart from the Strath of the River Don.



Wide, shallow valleys of farmed land



Watercourses in narrow, wet floodplains, and scattered pine regenerating on the upper slopes across moorland



Dispersed farmsteads, including abandoned buildings are scattered across the gentle slopes – hummocky deposit is revealed by the grassland in the foreground



Stone retaining walls along the 'upside' of the narrow roads