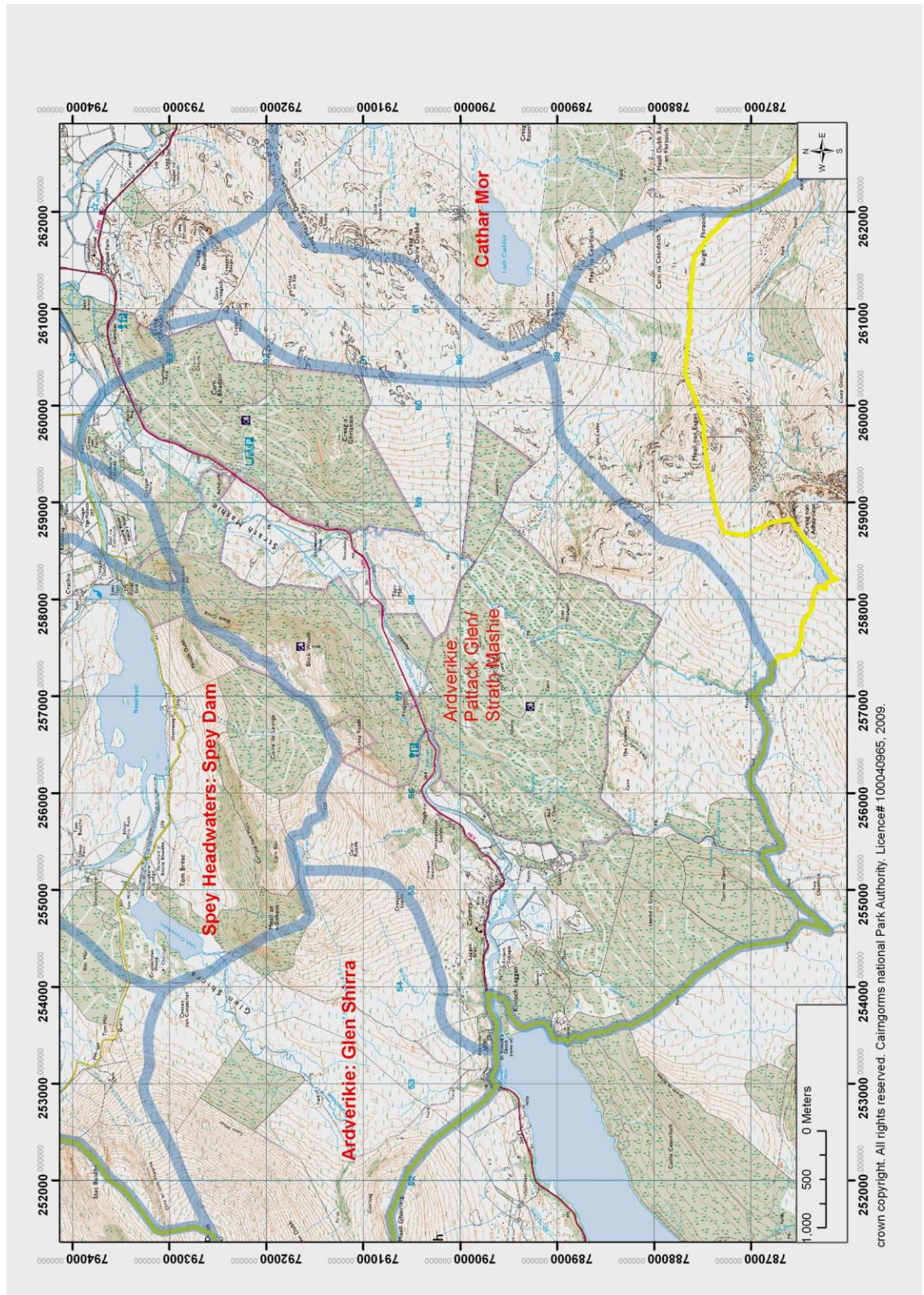


### 1.1 Ardverikie: **Pattack Glen/Strath Mashie**



### 1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

- Long, gentle slopes and rocky ridges to the south and hills to the north which have been steepened and roughened by glacial erosion contain this glen occupied by the meandering Rivers Pattack and Mashie
- The glen is generally orientated west/east, but then curves north eastwards to meet the Spey
- Bands and prominent outcrops of relatively erosion resistant rock, often partially covered by deposit, extend across the strath floor
- Glacial-fluvial deposits form ridges at the sides of the strath
- In places, the rivers meander across the glen floor, but the rivers are also in part canalised, and the glen floor has been partially drained
- This floor is grazed, permanent pasture, interspersed with wetter grassland and fenced, 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century improved fields, the latter particularly associated with settlement
- To the north the small hills support mixed conifer woodland which extends close to the summits
- Very extensive conifer woodland also dominates the broad, sweeping southern slopes, and in places also extends onto the floor of the strath
- Small groups of mature mixed broadleaved trees and pine occupy the well defined hummocks
- There is riparian woodland along the River Pattack
- Settlement, often sheltered by small woods, is limited to scattered estate-style housing, associated with road or along the woodland edge at the break in slope
- The gorge at Kinloch Laggan creates a dramatic pinch-point and acts as a portal to the sudden view of Loch Laggan when travelling west

### 1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

- The narrow road sits along slightly higher land, tucked hard against the break in slope, so that travelling on it reinforces the experience of the land form and the sense of 'winding' through the glen
- The sequence of spaces experienced from the road, created by moving between alternating open grazed pastures and enclosed woodland, reinforce the intimate scale of the glen
- 'Pinch points' created by narrow passes at Kinloch Laggan and at Feagour are key thresholds within the glen, emphasised by tall trees and the sense of enclosure created by topography



- Together these 'pinch points' also contribute to a sense of arrival to the National Park from the west, and the 'gateway' to Loch Laggan when travelling from the east.

#### 1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This area is largely self-contained, although there is occasional inter-visibility with higher hills to the south and glimpses of the Monadhliath to the north.

#### 1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

On the road, the experience of this area is dominated by travelling through an alternating sequence of open grazed land and enclosing woodland. As an important gateway to the Park, the way the A889 winds through the enclosure created by rock cliffs at the western end reinforces the 'threshold' experience. The erosion resistant rock underpins many of the striking smaller scale features along the floor of the strath.



*Extensive conifer woodland on the hill slopes, with hummocky terrain along the sides of Strath Mashie*



*Groups of trees on rocky outcrops overlain with deposit*



*Road and housing sits on a terrace above the flood plain*



*Open spaces, where the floodplain widens and there are areas of grazing, alternate with the enclosure of the woodland*