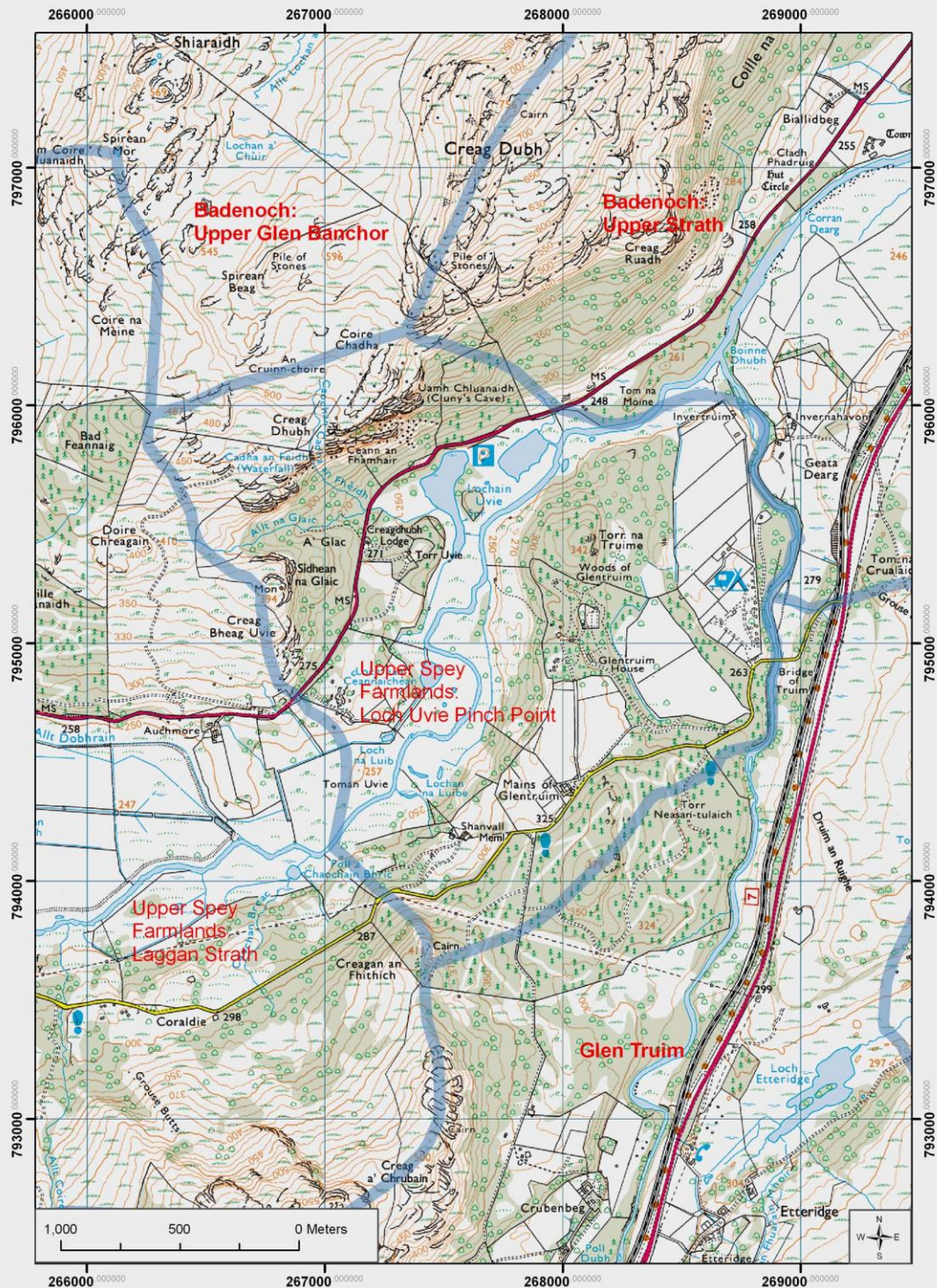


I.1 Upper Spey Farmlands: **Loch Uvie pinchpoint**



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1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

- This narrow, contained 'pinchpoint' between two sections of wider strath is located close to the confluence of the River Spey with the River Truim
- Dramatic, exposed steep cliffs, shattered rock faces and block slopes, especially to the north, were quarried by a huge glacier which exited northwards from the much wider Laggan strath
- To the south, there is a high terrace, backed by further rocky slopes
- The strath floor is narrow, occupied by the meandering Spey and a sequence of sheltered lochans lying within kettle holes and contained by gravelly deposits, many appearing as sinuous ridges
- Swathes of semi-natural mixed broadleaved woodland extend across the steeper slopes and terraces, and the upper slopes around Glentruim are occupied by fine stands of well thinned Scots pine
- Mature policy woodland and parkland are associated with two large houses and their designed landscapes – at Glentruim House and Torr Uvie
- There is a relatively seamless transition between the semi-natural woodland, the policy woodland and the managed Scots pine which is achieved by 'merging' one into the other
- The remaining land is grazed pasture across the parkland, subdivided into straight-edged 18th/19th century improved fields on the flat, elevated terraces around Glentruim House, Mains of Glentruim and Invertruim
- Settlement is strictly associated with the estates, with the main houses occupying well defined topographical features
- The roads generally follow the break in slope, hugging the base of steeper slopes
- There is a caravan and campsite at Glentruim

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

- The dramatic sense of 'pinchpoint' is emphasised by the towering rock features especially as experienced from the A86. The vertical scale is further reinforced by travelling between the tall, narrow conifer trees adjacent to the road at Torr Uvie, which reinforces the sense of arrival both into and from the neighbouring Laggan strath.
- The drama of the topography and setting contributes to high scenic quality and the lochans, dramatic cliffs, well-thinned woodland and policies combining to create a unified, well-composed landscape.

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This area is small and is very much a 'threshold' between different character areas, being at the juxtaposition between three other character areas.

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The sense of a 'pinchpoint' is overwhelming, with tall trees reinforcing the enclosure created by the topography. Every element has a clear link with the landform or topography – fields on level land, lochans contained by sinuous terraces, woodland located on steeper slopes, settlement sited on elevated hillocks – all of which create a unified landscape character.



The 'pinch point' seen from Laggan strath – the floor of the strath becomes more hummocky as it extends east towards the pinchpoint



Kettle holes filled with lochans



Rocky hills and crags create dramatic enclosure



Parkland at Truim house