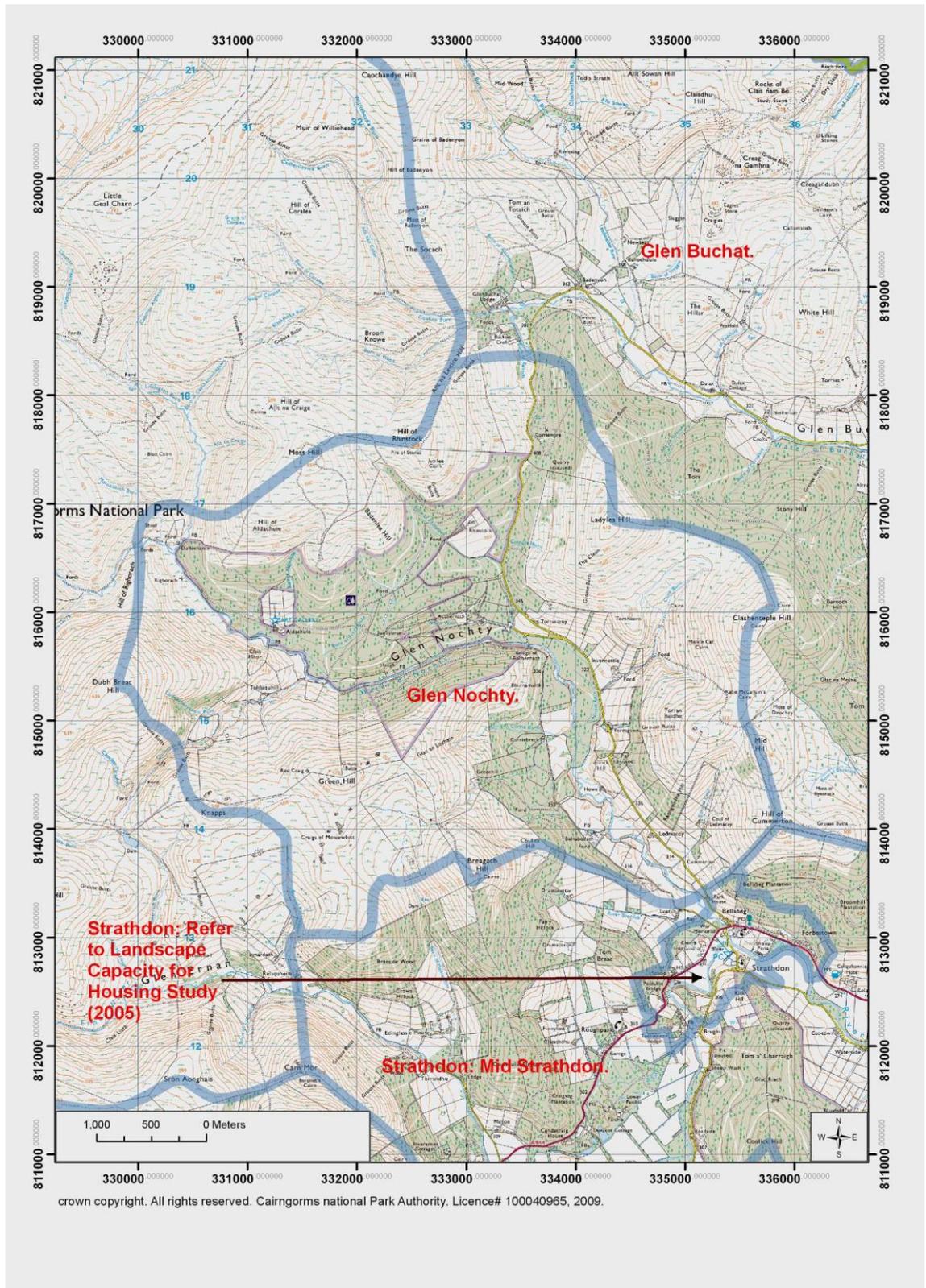


# I.1 Strathdon: **Glen Nocht**



### 1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

This steep sided glen is contained by low rounded hills and relatively even slopes divided by a series of small, quite deeply incised side valleys which are suspended above the main glen

The steep side slopes frame dramatic river terraces along the floor of the main glen, and the narrow, V-shaped valley of the Water of Nocht where it branches west into the Ladder Hills

The meandering Water of Nocht has carved river terraces into the deep deposit which fills this valley and which still fall away into the river after heavy rain

The glen is heavily wooded, with conifer woodland over many of the side slopes, occasionally reaching down to the valley floor or stopping at the upper edge of the fields. It also extends over and closes around former fields in the narrow upper glens

Small, fenced, late 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century improved fields, mostly under grass, lie across the more gentle gradients, particularly on the west facing slopes, and sit on top of the flat, well drained river terraces

The floodplain of the river is narrow, framed by the terraces and occupied by wetland as well as grassland

Dispersed farms are located prominently on the top of river terraces, or sit along the upper slopes, overlooking the mouths of the small, elevated side glens

The roads are narrow, and are largely perched on the valley sides, elevated well above the river, except at the most northerly reaches, where it winds along the valley floor, hugging the slightly sinuous landform

The 'motte' at Strathdon is a striking land mark feature at the foot of this glen

### 1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

The narrowness and containment of the glen is reinforced by the enclosure created by the extensive conifer woodland

The river terraces are dramatic, and, with erosion still taking place, dynamic features along the valley floor

The elevated roads offer fine views along the length of the glen and down to these features, as well as an elevated view of the dramatic 'motte'

The farmed land offers some relief to the extent of woodland enclosure along this glen

### 1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This area is relatively self contained and visually there is little relationship with any other character area.

#### 1.1.4 Assessment of distinctiveness

The elevated open views of the dramatic river terraces and the 'motte' are a striking contrast to the more densely wooded stretches of this glen. The consistent location of farms on either river terraces or at the mouths of side glens is a recognisable pattern.



Fields on the west facing slopes, with a farm located on the edge of a side valley



Woodland extends down to the upper edge of the fields, with a farm perched on the river terrace



There is extensive conifer woodland in this glen



The Water of Nochtly meanders through a narrow floodplain contained by dramatic river bluffs. The valley floor has been in filled by glacial deposits and then re-excavated.