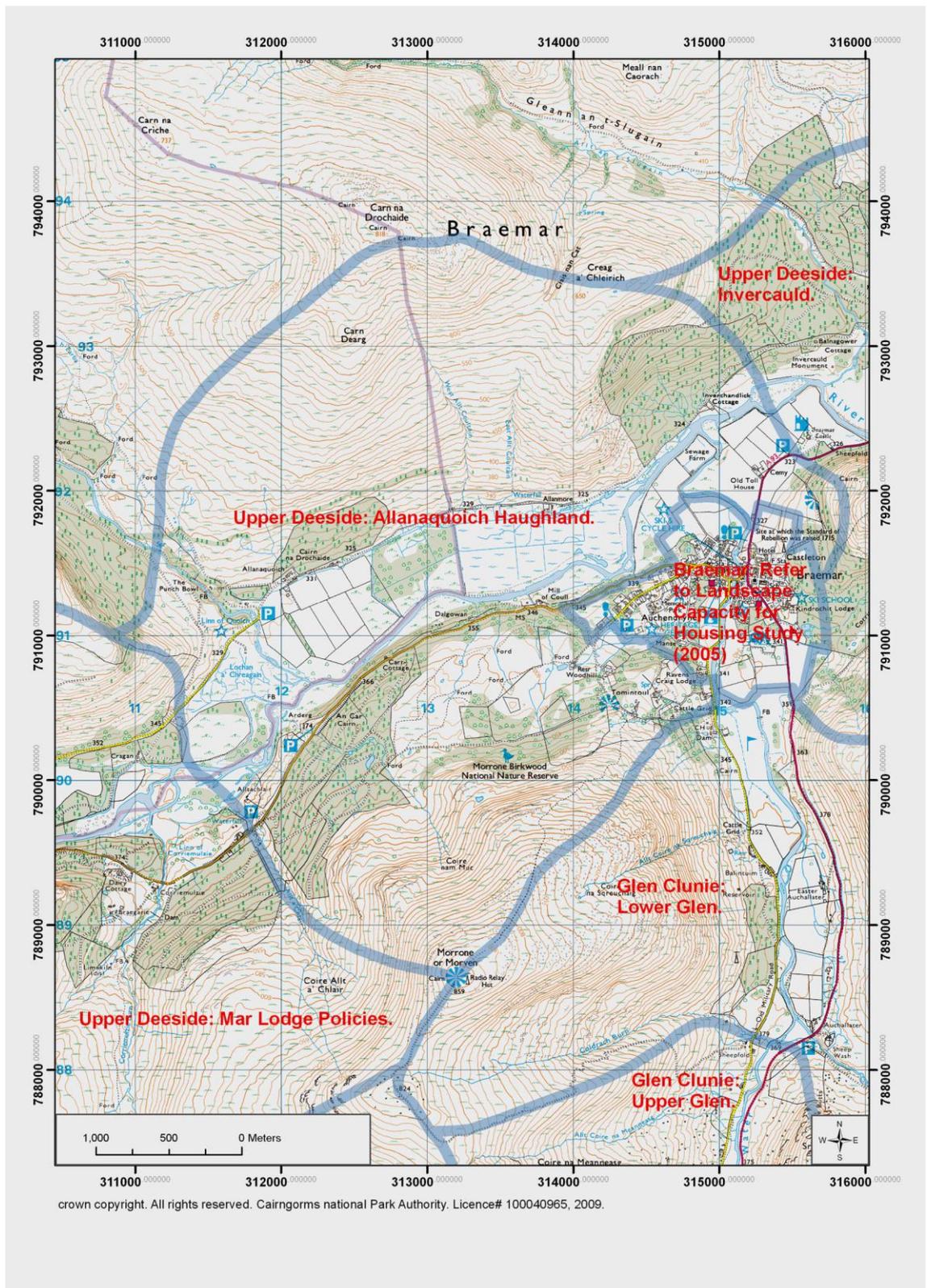


I.1 Upper Deeside: Allanaquich Haughland



1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

Bounded by the pivotal hill of Morrone or Morven at the junction of Glen Clunie and Deeside to the south and Carn na Drochaide to the north, this is where Glen Quoich joins the valley of the Dee

The complex slopes of Morrone (Morven), which have been steepened and roughened by glacial erosion, rise above extensive slope deposits which sit on a rock bench elevated above the floodplain

The broad, uniformly flat flood plain forms a sharp juxtaposition with the steep slopes which contain the trench-like inner valley

The River Dee has a wide, meandering channel in this area. It is edged by gravel bars and small isolated pools. Numerous linear drainage channels criss-cross the valley floor

The Quoich Water tumbles through the gorge of the Linn of Quoich before dividing into a braided channel where it crosses the valley floor to meet the Dee. These are conspicuous in this open landscape

In the west the glen floor is largely open with extensive boggy, unimproved pastures. Areas of wetland and open birch and willow scrub increasingly cover the valley floor towards the confluence of the Dee and the Quoich

Rectilinear 18th/19th century improved fields, south of the settlement of Allanaquoich, extend across the floodplain, contrasting with the more naturalistic pattern of the wetland. At Allanmore, formerly drained fields have already reverted to wetland

The containing hill slopes to the north are covered with heather moorland with sporadic deciduous woodlands and coniferous plantation on lower slopes.

Extensive birch woodlands cover the lower slopes of Morrone (Morven) to the south

Allanaquoich, a complex of various white-painted former farm buildings, forms a prominent feature on the north side of the Dee

A number of individual cottages and houses and the narrow public road are elevated on a steep terrace set above the floodplain

There are several laybys created from the loops of an earlier road

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

There are striking views from the elevated public road across this area, and down onto the floodplain, where the openness of the extensive wetlands and pastures can be appreciated.

The braided reaches of the dynamic Quoich Water are particularly prominent, and reinforce the sense that natural forces still have an important role in shaping this landscape

These views also stretch to Mar Lodge and its designed landscape which provides a distinct contrast to this character area

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

There is inter-visibility between the Mar Lodge Policies and this area particularly in elevated views from the public road. Glimpsed views are also possible up Glen Quoich to Beinn a'Bhuird in the high Cairngorm mountains, south and south east to Lochnagar.

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The area is distinctive for the openness, the extensive scale, and the dynamic, semi-natural character of its wetlands, braided reaches of river and pasture and is unlike anywhere else in Upper Deeside.



Managed pine woodlands covering the south-facing hill slopes which delimit the haughs



Flat drained pastures and wetlands have an open and expansive character



Braided reaches of the River Quoich in the middle of the haugh as it joins the Dee in the foreground



Glimpsed views to Beinn a Bhuird through Glen Quoich from the public road