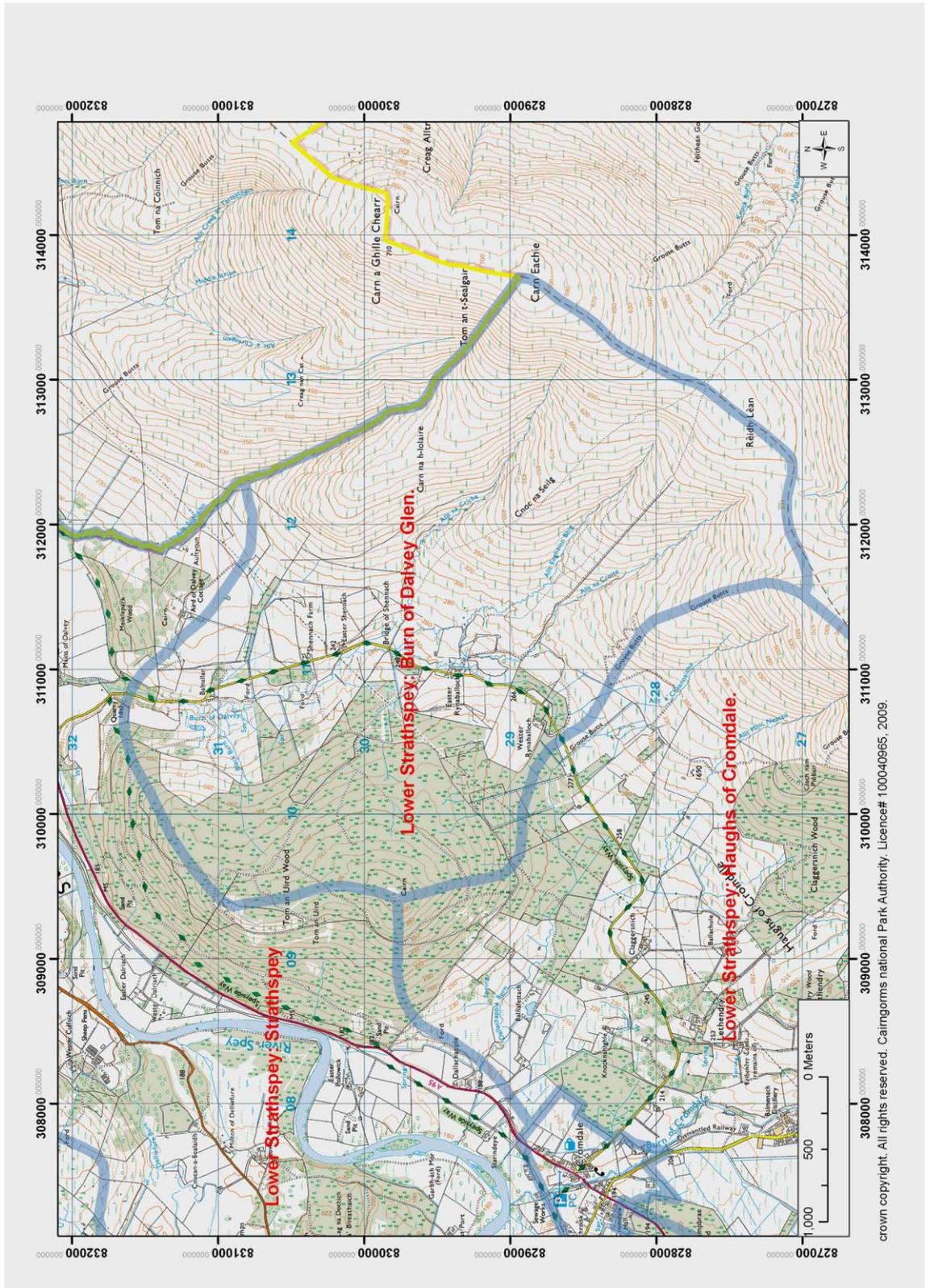


I.1 Lower Strathspey: Burn of Dalvey Glen



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1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

This relatively narrow, north/south winding valley sits between the steep sided, concave spurs which form the formidable north-western face of the Hills of Cromdale and the concave slopes of Tom an Uird Hill

The glen floor is a narrow strip of fluvial-glacial deposit which slopes down to the burn, while there are more gentle gradients across the glacial till on upper slopes. It may well be an ancient meander of the River Spey, and it has not been greatly affected by glacial erosion

The hill of Tom an Uird is entirely covered with conifer forest, which also extends in sporadic blocks down to the glen floor, creating shelter woods between farms and fields

In addition, there are occasional small woodlands adjacent to the road which further enhance shelter

The relatively flat, bulky face of the Hills of Cromdale is divided by a series of deep valleys cut by watercourses to form dry ridges which are covered in heather which is actively burnt to maintain grouse moor

Small fields sit on both the sides of the burn, sheltered in the narrow glen, and occupying better drained land

The broadly rectilinear, late 18th/19th century improved fields are larger on the more expansive flanks of hillside at the mouth of the glen
Crops include re-seeded grassland and unimproved grassland, but several have also reverted to heather and wetland, or have been planted with conifers, creating a diverse mixture of colours and textures

Late 18th/19th century farmsteads are frequently and relatively evenly dispersed along the narrow public road. Many, but not all, are still in use, and broadly retain their original compact architectural style

The narrow public road sits relatively high up the west side of this narrow glen, linking the farms

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

This area is secluded, 'hidden' away from the main roads and is not densely settled

The survival of the well defined, pattern of the late 18th/19th century distribution of regular fields and farms, as well as the period architectural style, creates a landscape of relative historic integrity

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This area is relatively self-contained, although the wide sweep of the Hills of Cromdale is a strong presence.

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The pattern of compact, late 18th/19th century farms and their associated relatively small fields along the length of the glen is a consistent and unifying characteristic. The small scale of the glen, fields and farm buildings contrasts with the looming presence of the Hills of Cromdale.



Small fields along the Dalvey Burn, partially enclosed by the conifer woodland extending down from Tom an Uird



Small farms close to the road



Fields fringe the edge of the moorland along the base of the Hills of Cromdale



The narrow road sits above the burn, overlooking the small fields