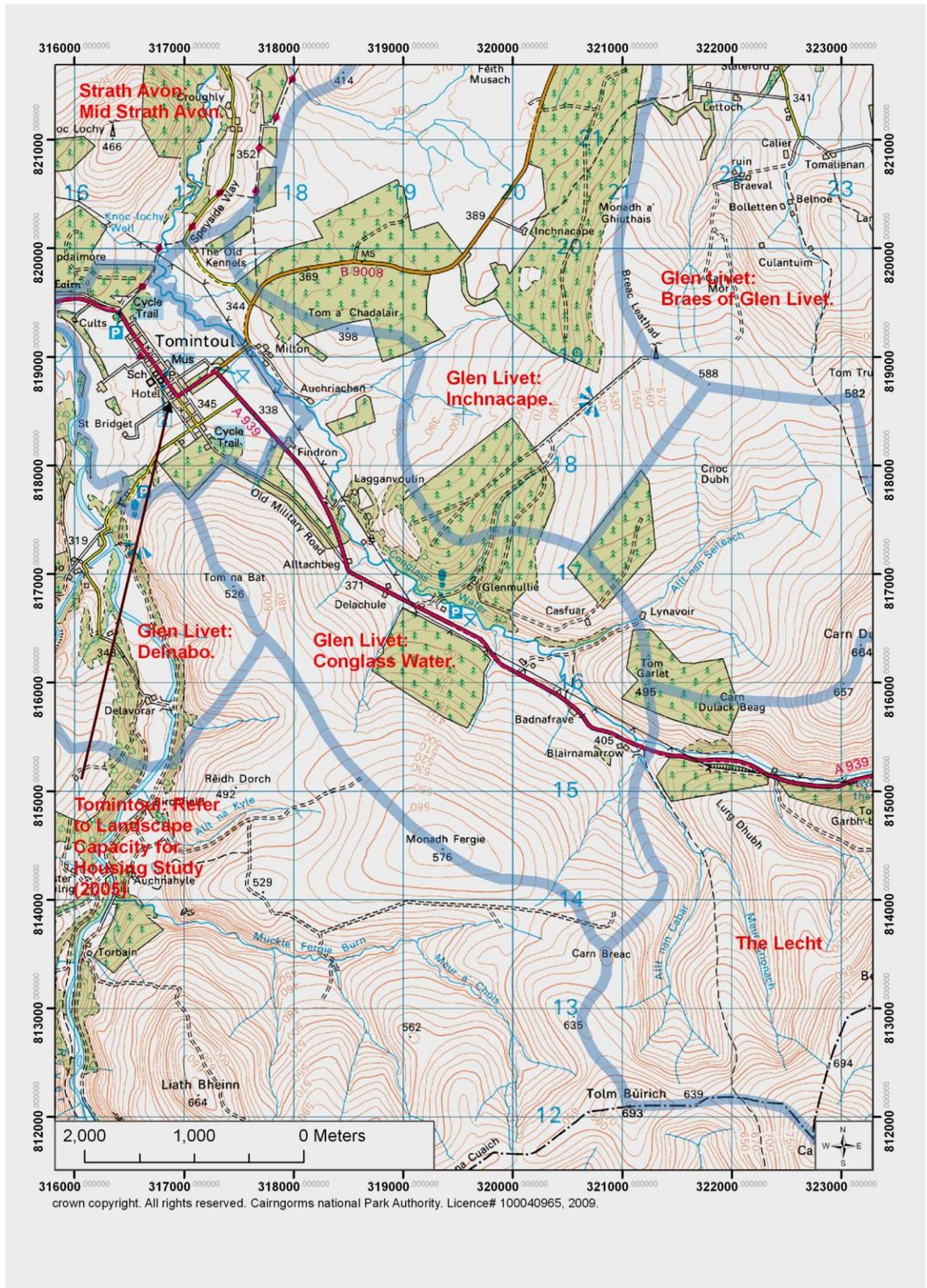


I.1 Glen Livet: Conglass Water



1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

This elevated, broad, flat bottomed glen, orientated north west/south east sits framed by well defined valley sides carved out of deep deposit by the Conglass Water. The valley narrows, and the sides become steeper, as it extends south east into the hills

Although the domed hills with gently graded side slopes provide very little containment, several deep side valleys, with much steeper slopes, have been formed by tributaries to the main river

The Conglass Water meanders across the floodplain, although to the north it sits firmly to the north east side of the valley, leaving a wide stretch of level valley floor available for cultivation

There are several blocks of conifer woodland, not clearly associated with any particular land form feature, and some broadleaved, semi-natural woodland along the river valleys and steep valley sides

The remaining hill sides are heather moor with some upland grassland

The valley floor has been subdivided into 18th/19th century improved fields, now fenced, around each of the farms, alternating with stretches of unimproved grazing and wetland

The former pattern of long, narrow, linear fields around the planned village of Tomintoul is now barely visible as the fields are reverting to unimproved pasture, or being managed more extensively

More extensive, linear fields on the flat river terrace behind Milton take advantage of well drained deposits

Farms are clearly located at the mouths of the individual side valleys, above small alluvial fans, and fields sometimes extend up onto higher hillsides close to the farmsteads

There is a tiny linear settlement, perched on the top of the river terrace, at Milton, set in sheltering woodland

The A939 is relatively straight, generally following the line of the old military road, usually located at the break in slope, elevated above the lower valley and floodplain

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

There is a sense of openness in this relatively expansive landscape, which feels exposed despite the conifer woodland and the well-defined river terrace providing some containment

Despite the cultivated fields, there is a perception of being in an upland area, with marginal farmland, at the edge of cultivation

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This landscape forms a transition between Strath Avon/Glen Livet and the high pass at the Lecht, and reflects this transition, with cultivation and fields extending into an elevated river valley which narrows to become a pass.

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The elevated glen floor, with its profile of a level floodplain contained by steep sided river terraces forms the context for marginal farmland which creates a sense of being at the transition between sheltered lowlands and exposed uplands.



The relatively level, broad valley floor of the Conglass Water



The settlement of Milton, set on a river terrace above the floodplain, with fields on the elevated terrace behind the settlement