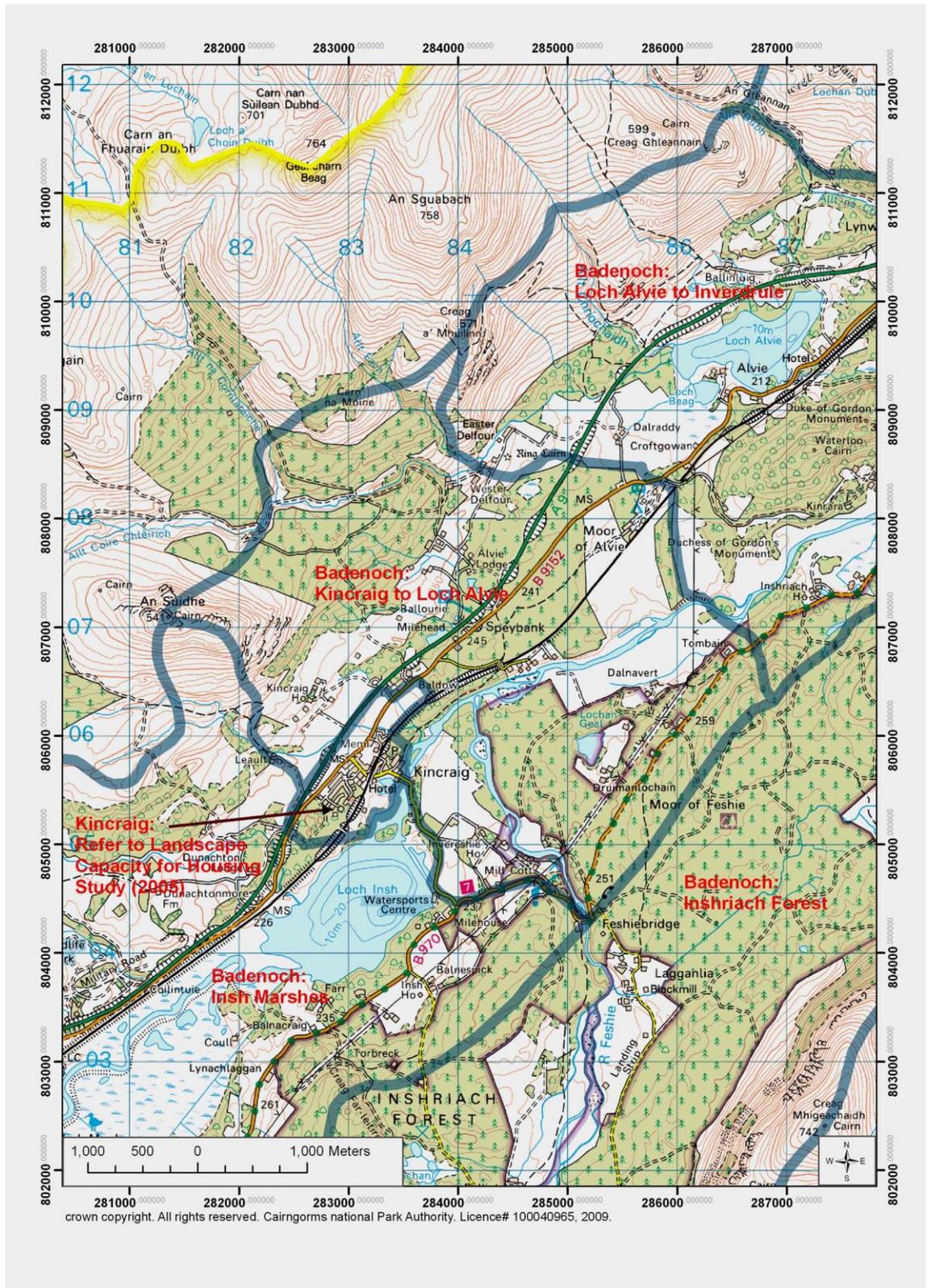


I.1 Badenoch: KinCraig to Loch Alvie



1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

This area is contained to the north west by hill slopes which have been steepened by the flow of ice along the strath to form the edge of the Monadhiath

Containment to the south east is dominated by the densely wooded slopes of Inshriach Forest, which sit below the ice roughened crags of Creag Mhigeachaidh.

Gravelly glacial-fluvial deposits underpin a series of well-drained ridges and terraces stepping up from the floodplain of the Spey.

Extensive commercially managed pine forest planted either side of the river conceals the hummocky landform of dips and knolls.

Farmland occupies a long, level terrace at the foot of the Monadhiath and on open land south of the Spey. The rectilinear, late 18/19th century improved fields are enclosed by fences, although dykes are a particular feature across farmland around Kinncraig House.

Wetter un-grazed fields and areas of scrub fringe the meandering River Spey in places

Roundel plantings and richly diverse woodlands of the Allt an Fhearna are evidence of a formerly more extensive designed landscape associated with Alvie Lodge, with further designed landscape at Invereshie House.

A fragmented pattern of development is a feature of this character area. Gravel extraction, estate sawmill and fish farming activities are well-screened by terraces in a dip at the foot of the Monadhiath while a chalet park and quarry are located within the forested areas but more visible from elevated areas and transport routes.

Estate farms and cottages are located at intervals possibly associated with former settlement and elevated above the farmland along the foot of the Monadhiath, buildings often set on localised hummocky terrain

Two small linear settlements of mainly newer bungalows are located on terraces either side of the Spey floodplain at Speybank and Dalnavert.

Communications are relatively close together within this character area. The A9, B9152 and railway pass through dense woodland on the north side of the Spey while the B970 takes a more circuitous route on the edge of Inshriach Forest.

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

Transport routes, and much of the development, are frequently enclosed by dense woodland and hummocky landform, which also limits views of the River Spey and floodplain farmed areas.

The A9 emerges into open, grazed land at KinCraig, which contrasts with the generally enclosed experience from the road. The Alvie Estate and the deeply cut valleys and craggy hill slopes of the foothills to the Monadhliath is more secluded.

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

Extensive forestry restricts the visibility of adjacent character areas from low level viewpoints although views over Strathspey, Inshriach Forest and the western edge of the Cairngorms massif are possible from the slopes of the Monadhliath.

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

Dispersed development, including industrial and chalet development and several transport routes, can give this area a slightly cluttered character in some places, although it is not always highly visible. The presence of extensive commercial woodland extending onto the floor of Strathspey is an unusual feature. This hides the subtle undulations of the landform and inhibits views of the River Spey and its more open floodplain.



Elevated view from above Alvie Lodge illustrates the dense expanse of woodland in this area, and farms tucked along the better drained land at the foot of the Monadhliath



Development is often hidden by land form and trees



Farm located on hummocky terrain, surrounded by fields enclosed with walls on slopes near KinCraig house



The A9 emerges from woodland near KinCraig, but is largely enclosed in cuttings. Hummocky terrain is revealed across grazing land around KinCraig