1.1   Ardverikie: **Glen Shirra**
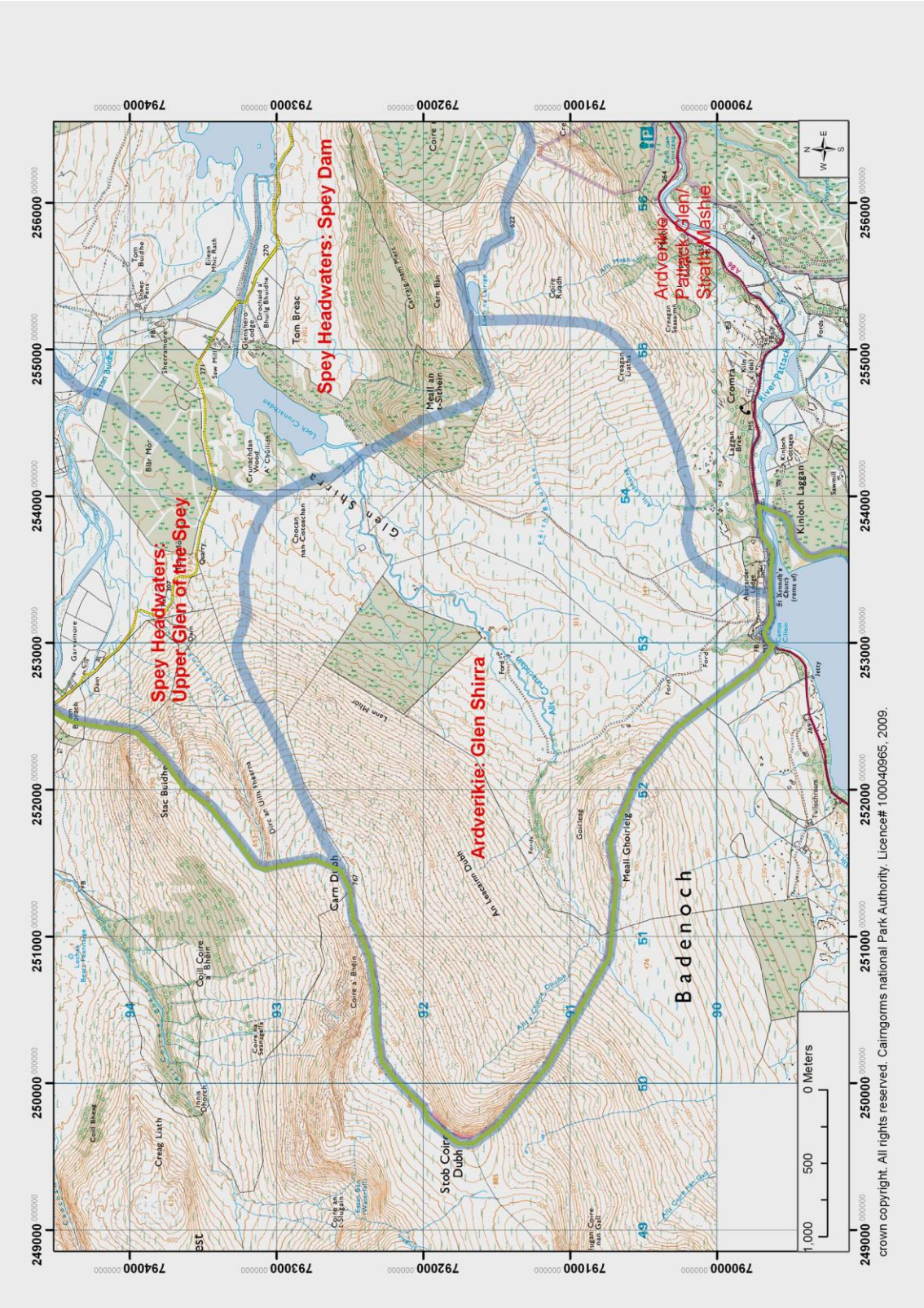
1.1.1   *Landscape Character*

- This wide glen, straddled between steeper slopes, is orientated broadly southwest to northeast
- The landform is dramatically sweeping, with even side slopes extending up to slightly craggy hill tops
- The valley floor is wet and drained by several small burns to Loch Crunachdan in the north and Loch Laggan to the south
- The vegetation is sparse and visually simple, dominated by wet pasture and wet heath, and with no distinct boundary between the valley floor and its sides
- Remnant birch woodland is associated with a steep-sided burn and less accessible crags
- There is one area of geometrically shaped conifer woodland, located on a gently rising, south east facing side slope
- There is evidence of pre-improvement farming along the middle stretch of the Crunachdan burn around Camas Cilean on Loch Laggan and on the slopes above this bay, although the remains are slight bumps in the ground and more obvious in winter
- Access is by tracks only, both of which are elevated above the wet glen floor

1.1.2   *Landscape experience*

- The area is relatively secluded, due to the lack of development, low key access and the perceived naturalness of vegetation, as well as its quiet, tranquil context.

1.1.3   *Relationship to adjacent character areas*
         This area is relatively self contained, but views north to the Upper Spey Valley, and
         extensive views south west across to Ardverikie estate and the Mamores enhance scenic
         quality and provide a contrast to the simplicity of this glen.

1.1.4   *Assessment of distinctiveness*
         This area is dominated by the sense of seclusion and the simplicity of the landform, which
         is reinforced by the apparent limited number of elements and visually simple vegetation
         pattern.

*Views south to Loch Laggan, illustrating the visually simple
vegetation pattern of wet grassland, and more dramatic
terrain to the west*

Views across the sweeping glen northwards

The openness of the landscape when viewed from the north