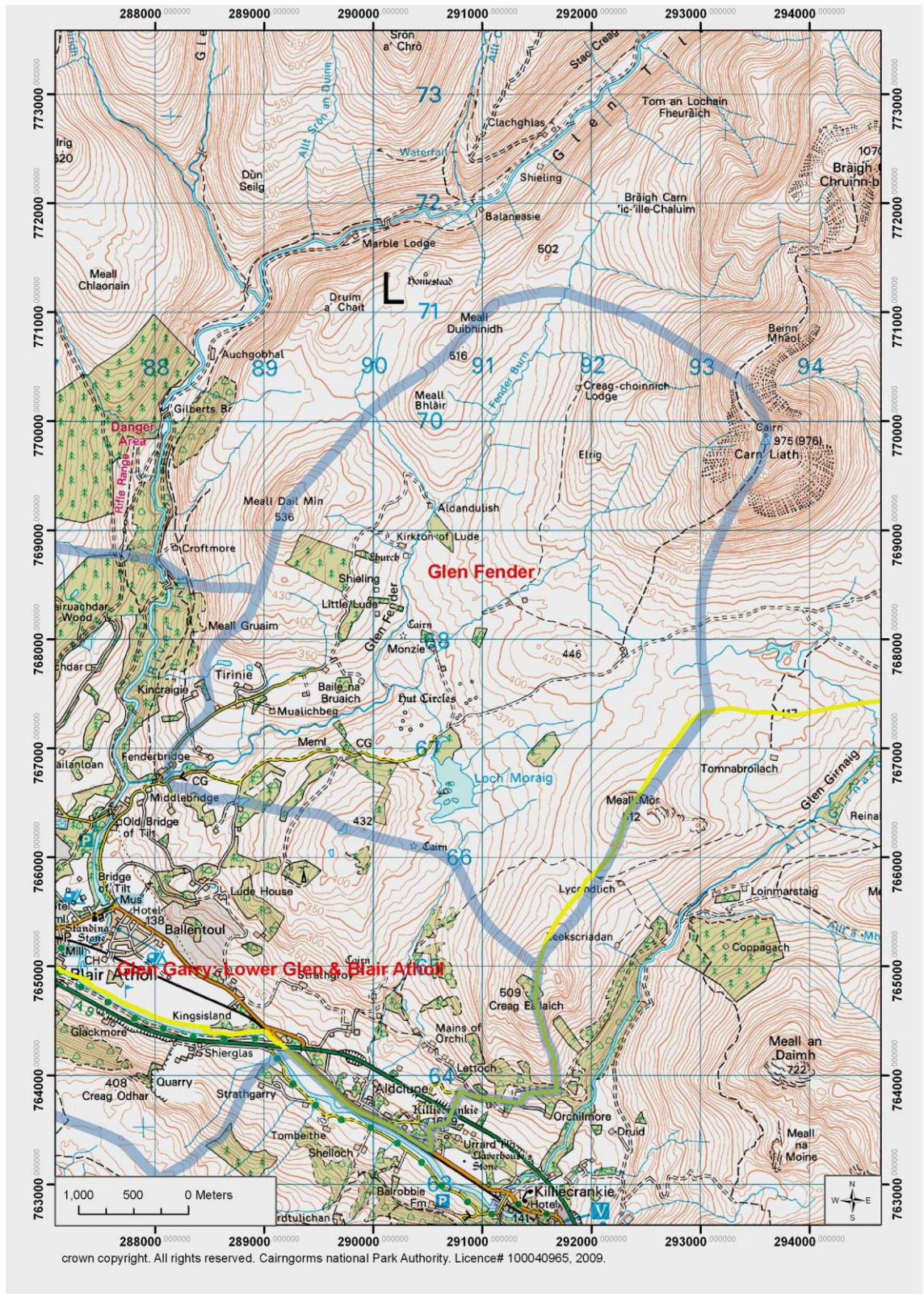


I.1 Glen Fender



1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

A wide, shallow upper bowl, with long undulating, gently graded slopes extending down to a narrow, steep sided river valley which is likely to pre-date the ice age

This landscape has not been heavily worked by rivers, and in places retains a deep layer of glacial deposit

The floor of the bowl is further diversified by alternating areas of rock ribs, mounded melt water deposits and drapes of glacial till

The shallow side slopes are barely contained, often extending between the low surrounding hills onto expansive reaches of wet moorland which extend to the foot of the steep sided ridge of weathered scree at Carn Liath

Orientated west/east, the long south facing slopes are farmed, despite elevations of between 350 and 400m, with 18th/19th century improved fields extending across the glacial till which is drained by a series of narrow tributaries to the main river

The fields, now fenced, are used for grazing and fodder crops.

Occasional conifer shelter woods are located around the farms or between fields, while the upper slopes of surrounding ridges are covered in moorland which has been burnt

Broadleaves, birch dominated, occupy the steep sided river gulleys, and then extend in scattered groups across the unenclosed north facing slopes, where there are also more extensive areas of conifer woodland

There is a head dyke of quarried stone and occasional individual specimen trees, reflecting the influence of the estate policies extending up from the lower land

The farms, placed at regular intervals across the wider terraces on the north side of the river, still retain the form and scale of the original 18/19th century architecture, and seem to be largely still in use

This pattern of 18th/19th century farmsteads is the most obvious contemporary evidence of a long history of past land use, but in the hinterland there are extensive areas of prehistoric hut circles and field systems, pre-improvement farmsteads and occasional abandoned 19th century farms

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

The sense of elevation – and a certain amount of surprise at seeing fields planned at such a high elevation within the Park – is reinforced by the extensive views north and across high plateaux to the mountain hinterland

The survival of the well defined pattern of the 18th/19th century distribution of fields and farms creates a landscape of relative historic integrity

The area is secluded, and feels 'set apart' from Blair Atholl below

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This shallow land form creates easy opportunities for 'borrowed' views into the mountainous interior north beyond Glen Tilt and westwards along Glen Garry. Most people would enter Glen Fender through Lower Glen Garry and Blair Atholl, reinforcing the sense of elevation.

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The elevated, improved field system and strong integrity of the 18/19th century pattern and form of the farm steadings are only the most recent manifestation of a long settled area, where people have taken advantage of the south facing, gentle slopes of deep, well drained deposits.



The gentle south facing slopes of deep glacial deposits have barely been eroded by rivers



North facing slopes are less enclosed, with rough grazing and scattered birch woodland



Moorland plateau and then the hills rise immediately from the elevated Glen Fender



Riparian woodland and a number of evenly dispersed 18th century farms across these elevated slopes