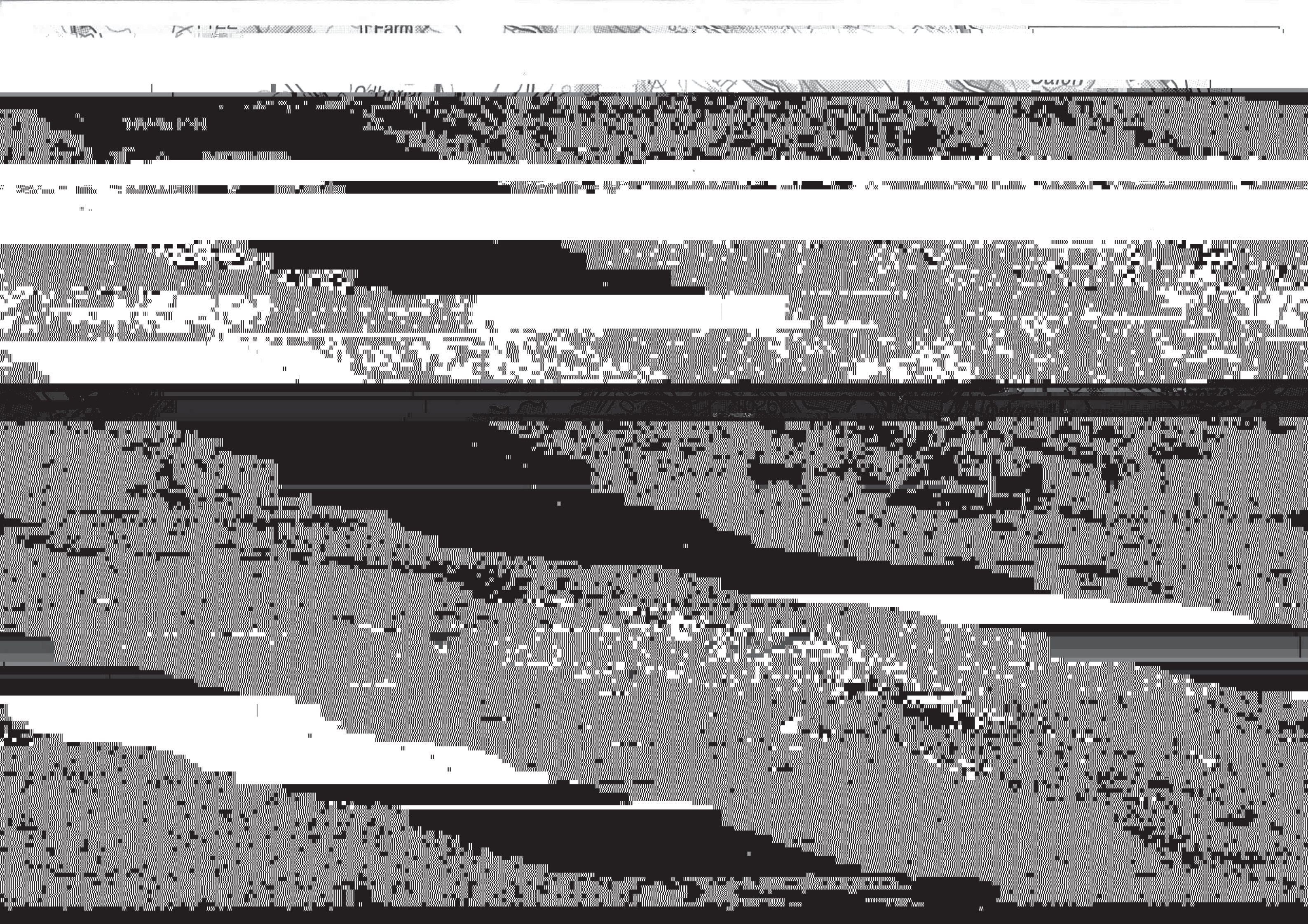


5 Loch na Keal NSA: Identifying Study Areas

Four main study areas were identified for Loch na Keal NSA:

- Inner Loch na Keal, which focuses on the inland reaches of the loch, where steep slopes give way to level land created by alluvial deposits
- Outer Loch na Keal, which focuses on the settlements overlooking Ulva and the scattered islands and skerries at the mouth of the loch
- Inner Loch Tuath, which focuses on the settlements along the inner northern shore of the loch
- Outer Loch Tuath, which focuses on the largely linear sporadic settlement at the very western end of the loch



6.1 Inner Loch na Keal Strategy Areas

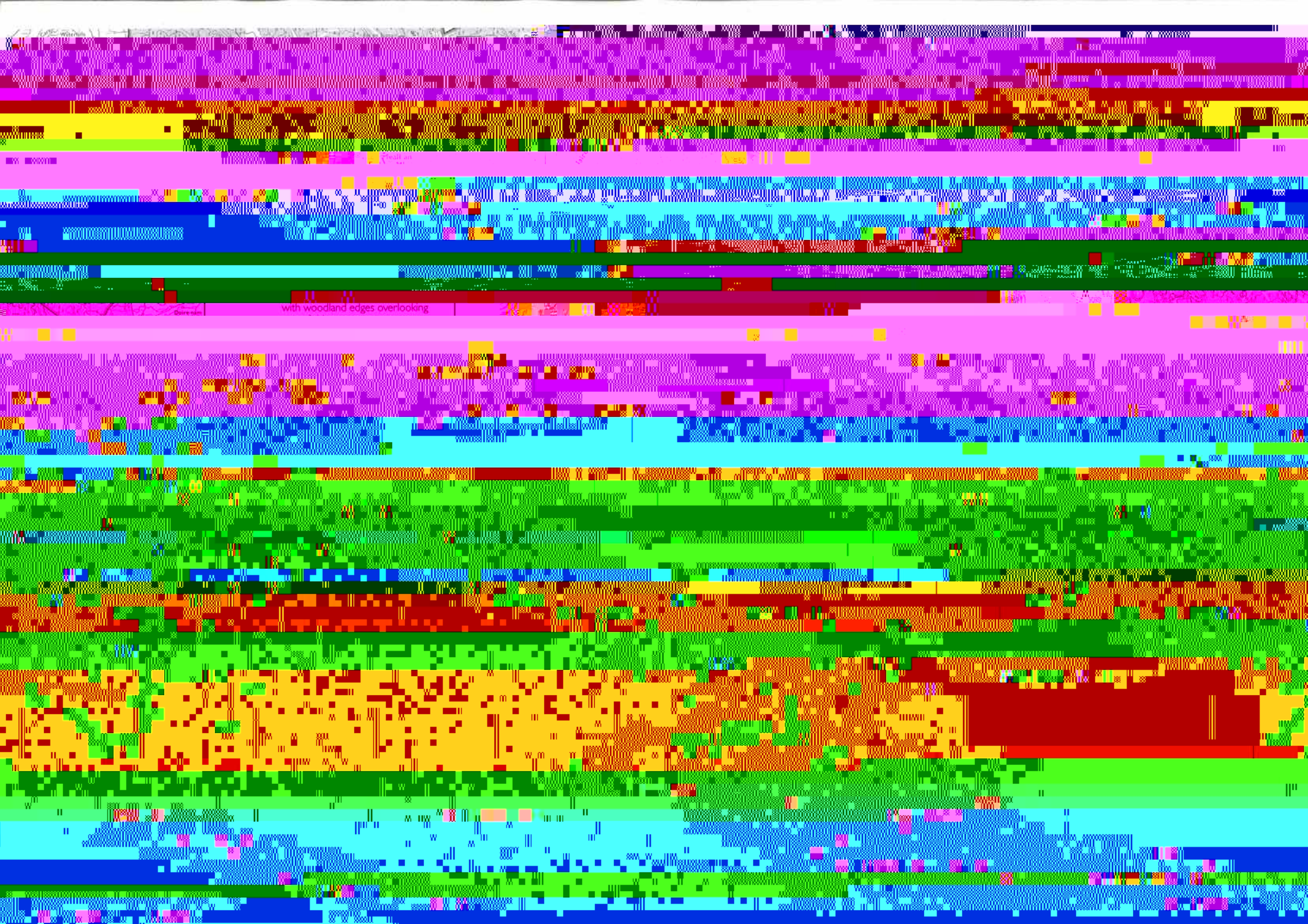
Three strategy areas were identified in Inner Loch na Keal. Each has its

6.1.3 Steep South Facing Slopes

These largely undeveloped steep slopes are characterised by relatively rugged terrain and occasional rocky outcrops clothed with semi natural vegetation, including some scrub and woodland. Some remnant field boundaries on a more level terrace are associated with the farm of Killiemor, but the fields are relatively indistinguishable from the surrounding unimproved grazing land. The landscape is relatively exposed.

From the road there are extensive views across Loch na Keal to Ben More, to the islands of Eorsa and Ulva and the skerries and islets which are scattered across the bight.

Existing dwellings are associated with very specific landscape opportunities: the mill is tucked into the gulley of a watercourse, the farm at Killiemor in the sheltered lee of a knoll adjacent to a level terrace of fields and the buildings at Cnoc nan Cearc are elevated above the road, semi hidden by rising ground, back against a sloping hillside.



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