Appendix 4: Intensity of burning in North Pennines AONB by SSSI

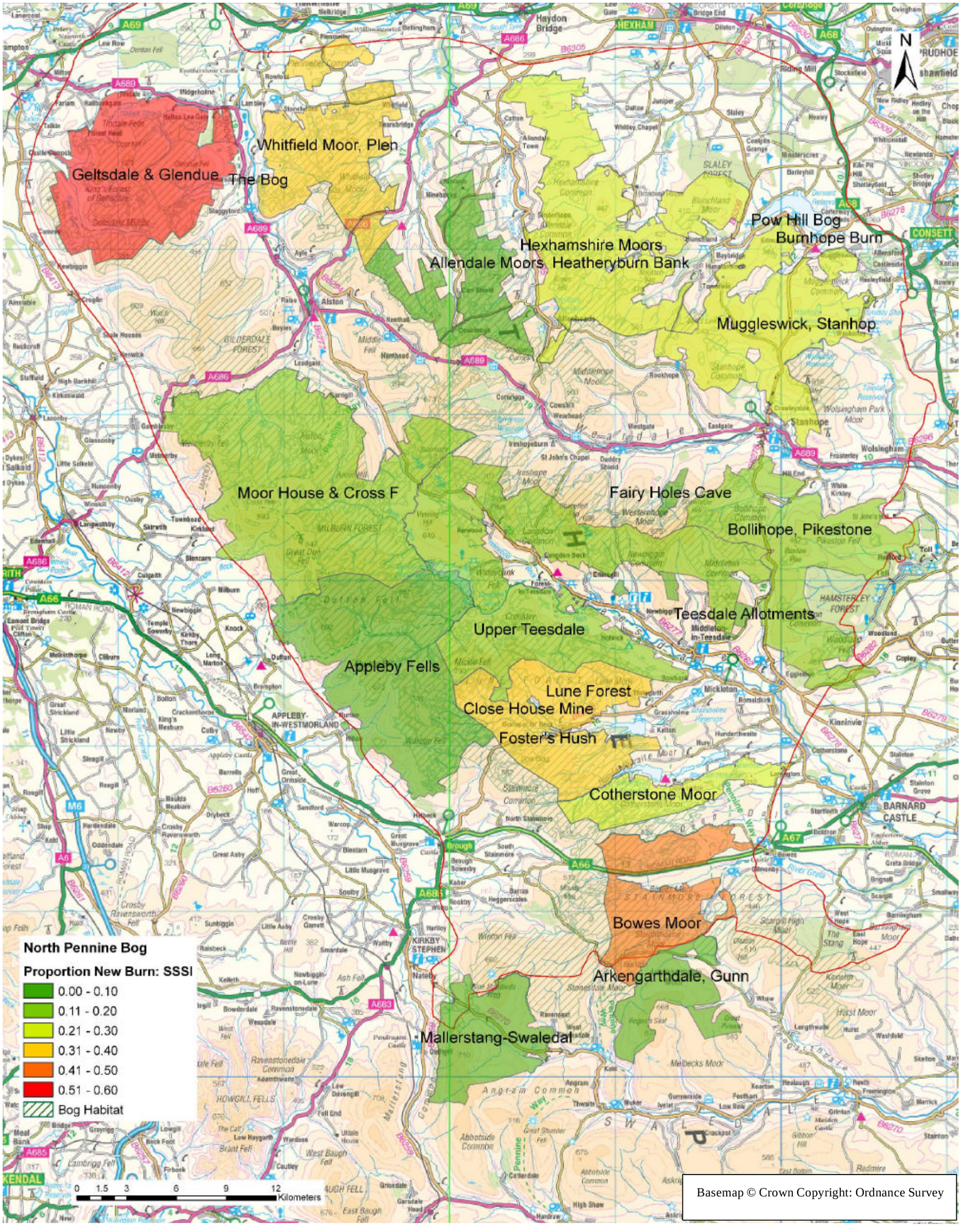

Figure A4.1. New Burn (Class 1 & 2) as proportion of Bog habitat within SSSI
see accuracy comments in 2.2

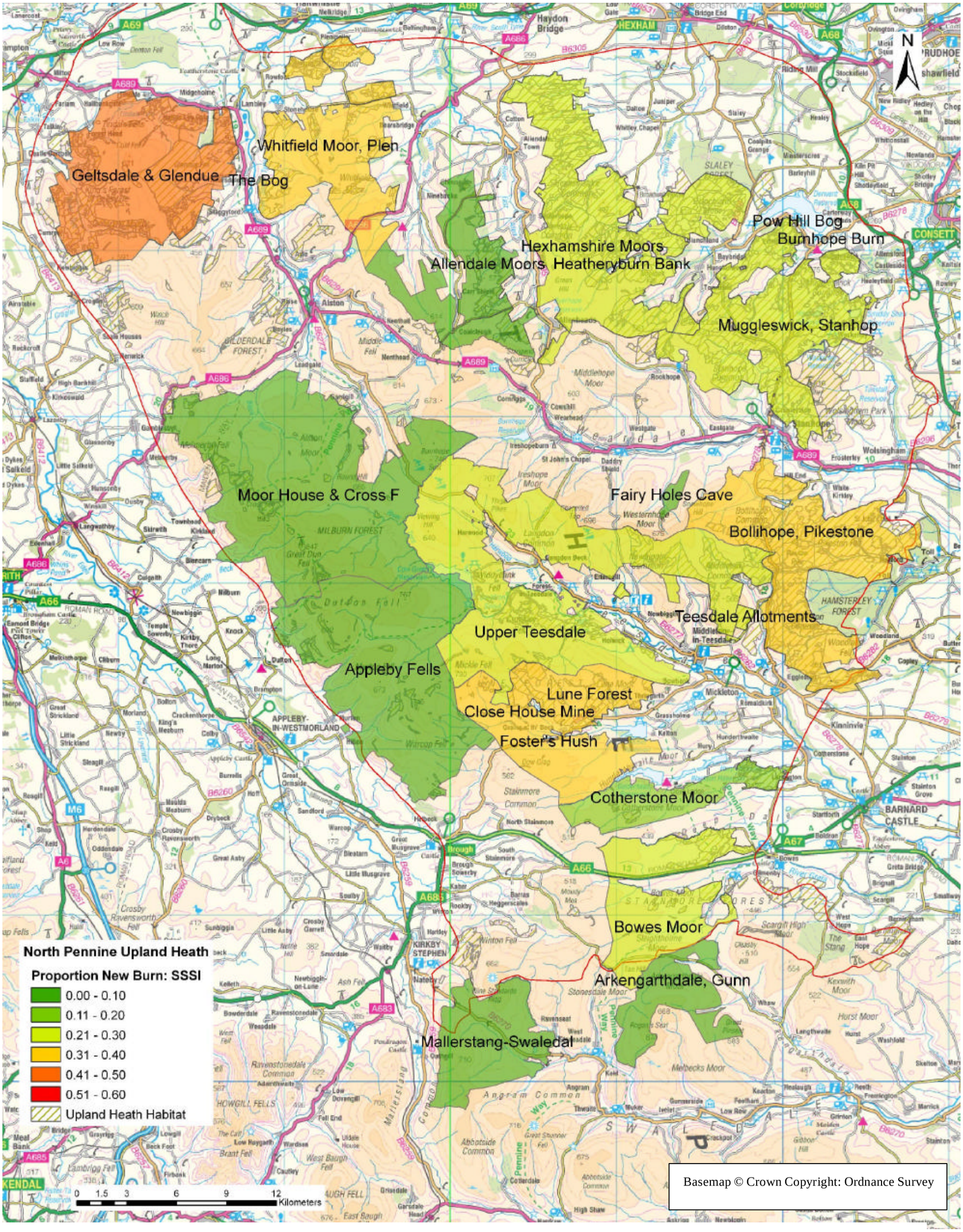

Figure A4.2. New Burn (Class 1 & 2) as proportion of Upland Heath habitat within SSSI.
see accuracy comments in 2.2

ENGLISH NATURE

Research Information Note

English Nature Research Reports, No. 698

Mapping extent of burn management in the North Pennines: Review of extent years 2001-2003

Report Authors: A.R.Yallop, J.Thacker, B.Clutterbuck Date: July 2006
Keywords: Burning, Uplands

Introduction

Burning has been used as a management tool from the time of the first forest clearances. Within the last two hundred years, advances in game and livestock husbandry (coupled with agricultural subsidy) have resulted in the intensification of management of many upland areas. One of key areas has been the intensification of burning to promote a flush of growth for both red grouse and sheep. In an attempt to understand the intensity of burning as a management tool, English Nature commissioned work to investigate the scale across the English uplands (Yallop and others 2006). This contract aimed to follow up this earlier work by looking at one area in greater detail.

What was done

Aerial photography was used in conjunction with habitat boundaries (provided by English Nature) to identify areas that had been burned within the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Results and conclusions

Estimates have been provided for the area of blanket bog and upland dry heath that have been burned within the period 2001-2002 by area of the AONB and by SSSI within the AONB.

The report concludes that burning of upland dry heath appears to fall within recognised repeat times but that this is not the case for blanket bog. At least 30% of the blanket bog within SSSIs in the AONB is under intensive burning management with repeat times of less than 20 years.

The extent of burn average values for the whole of the upland dry heath found within the AONB suggests that very little of this habitat is not managed.

Continued……

English Nature's viewpoint

This work was commissioned in response to the lack of information available on burning patterns and repeat times within the English uplands. It is concentrated upon one upland area and may not be representative of other upland areas within England.

The finding that 30% of blanket bog within SSSIs is being burned with repeat times of less than 20 years is a cause for concern. English Nature will seek to work with moorland managers to achieve the appropriate management for all habitats for which SSSIs are notified.

Selected references

YALLOP,A.R., and others. 2005. A history of burning as a management tool in the English Uplands. *English Nature Research Reports*, No 667.

Further information

English Nature Research Reports and their *Research Information Notes* are available to download from our website: www.english-nature.org.uk

For a printed copy of the full report, or for information on other publications on this subject, please contact the Enquiry Service on 01733 455100/101/102 or e-mail enquiries@english-nature.org.uk

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Top left: Using a home-made moth trap.
Peter Wakely/English Nature 17,396
Middle left: Co_2 experiment at Roudsea Wood and Mosses NNR, Lancashire.
Peter Wakely/English Nature 21,792
Bottom left: Radio tracking a hare on Pawlett Hams, Somerset.
Paul Glendell/English Nature 23,020
Main: Identifying moths caught in a moth trap at Ham Wall NNR, Somerset.
Paul Glendell/English Nature 24,888