



THE HEATHER TRUST

Promoting Integrated Moorland Management

The Bracken Control Group

- 1 In response to the banning of Asulam, the principal bracken control agent, it was decided to form a Bracken Control Group, and The Heather Trust was asked to coordinate this.
- 2 The main aims of the Bracken Control Group are to:
 - 2.1 Embrace all parts of the bracken control industry;
 - 2.2 Provide a single point of contact for information about the use of Asulam for bracken control and other bracken control issues; and
 - 2.3 Submit the application for an annual Emergency Authorisation to allow the continued use of Asulam for bracken control.
- 3 Overview
 - 3.1 The licence to use Asulam for bracken control in Europe ended on 31 December 2011, although there was a use-up period for a further 12 months that expired on 31 December 2012.
 - 3.2 United Phosphorus Ltd (UPL), are the holders of the current registration of Asulam, which was the active ingredient of their product Asulox. UPL has applied for re-registration of the product, but it is unlikely that the re-registration process will be completed before 2016.
 - 3.3 While the re-registration process is continuing, applications will be submitted for an annual Emergency Authorisation (EA) to allow restricted use of Asulam.
 - 3.4 If approved, the period of use will be for a 120-day period, each year, which may be followed by a use up period.
 - 3.5 In recent years, the EA has been issued in late-May, application of Asulam has been authorised from 1 July. The EA period has ended in mid-September, but it has been possible to apply asulam until the end of the use-up period at the end of October. Exact dates will be published on the BCG website after the EA is issued in late-May.
 - 3.6 It is illegal to store Asulam outside the period covered by the EA, and any stock that is not applied to bracken during this period must be returned to the supplier.
- 4 To provide a focus for the activities of the Bracken Control Group, a group of representatives of the various sectors with an interest in the control of bracken has been established.

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- 5 Any requests to join the Bracken Control Group will be welcomed. There are no entry formalities and anyone joining the Group will be added to the distribution of the electronic newsletters. Anyone can subscribe to the newsletters by clicking on the sign-up option at the bottom of each one.

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Simon Thorp
Coordinator

13th May 2014