



HEATHER BALES FOR BIO-FILTRATION

1 Background

- 1.1 A Dutch company that specialises in bio-filtration requires heather to use in the process. The supplier of the heather will be responsible for cutting, baling, stacking and loading onto a lorry; the Dutch company will provide the transport.
- 1.2 The Heather Trust has been asked to assist the Dutch Company with the search for suitable heather and is acting as an agent for the Company within the UK.



2 Likely Interest

- 2.1 The Heather Trust promotes burning as the best management tool for heather, but where burning cannot be carried out, cutting can be an effective alternative.
- 2.2 The cutting of heather for this purpose might be of interest to the owner of an upland or lowland heather moorland seeking to reintroduce management of the heather. Typically, the lack of recent management will have allowed the heather to grow rank. As well as being unproductive, an extensive area of heather of this type will also pose a serious fire risk.
- 2.3 Cutting can be useful on a stand of old heather to break it up, possibly as a precursor to further management. Even if it did not meet the full cost of the work, the payment from this proposal would provide a significant contribution.

3 Heather Specification

- 3.1 The requirement is for old, rank heather with a stem diameter in the region of 8 mm. It is the woody parts of the plant that are of interest, not the leaves.

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3.2 The heather should be growing as a pure or nearly pure stand, without significant amounts of grass or other vegetation growing amongst it. The inclusion of non-heather species will devalue the heather bales as a bio-filter.

3.3 To meet these specifications, it is likely that the heather will be growing on dry ground and it will not have been managed for at least 20 years.

4 Baling

4.1 The heather needs to be cut and baled using an agricultural round baler producing bales that are 1.3m in diameter.

4.2 The bales should be secured by mesh wrap.

5 Transport

5.1 Good access conditions are required on the moor to allow agricultural machinery to operate. A lorry loading area close to the area where the heather is cut is desirable as this will reduce carting costs.

5.2 The bales should be stacked alongside a hard road suitable for a large lorry and trailer to collect.

5.3 The lorry will travel on a ferry from an East Coast port and therefore the preference will be for moorland areas within easy reach of a suitable port.

6 Payment

6.1 The landowner will be responsible for all parts of the process up to and including loading onto the lorry.

6.2 A flat rate payment per bale will be made, typically about £6.50 + VAT. Normally, payment will be made in Sterling by the Dutch firm direct to the contractor who carries out the work. Other arrangements can be made depending on local requirements.

7 Further Information

7.1 For further information, please contact Simon Thorp, The Director of The Heather Trust. Tel: 01387 723201 e-mail: simon.thorp@heathertrust.co.uk