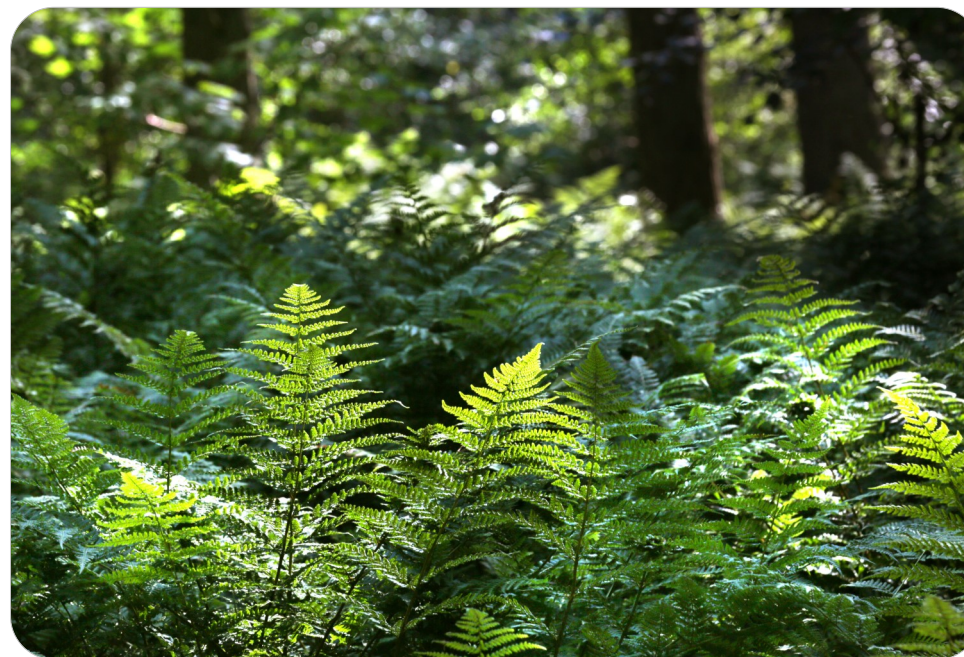


Bracken - *Pteridium aquilinum*



Description

Bracken is a fern that produces fronds from a single stem up to 2m tall. They die back to their roots in the winter and create a mat of brown leaf litter.

The plant can cover large areas in moist, acid to neutral soils in W10, 11, 14-17 woodlands, on heaths and grasslands. They form a key part of U20 NVC communities.

Despite the plant's association with poorer soils, generally the presence of bracken indicates sufficient soil fertility for a wide range of tree species.

Where bracken is vigorous, young trees may require weeding to aid their establishment.

Soil regimes

<i>Soil reaction (R)</i>	3
<i>Nitrogen availability (N)</i>	3

Acknowledgements:

Forestry Commission