

## 12.4 Control of Bracken

Bracken is a very invasive weed on agricultural land and can be damaging to conservation interest of wildlife habitats such as heather moorland, rough moorland grazing and lowland raised bogs. Bracken spreads by way of underground stems or rhizomes. Ease of access determines the methods of control and either manual knapsack sprayer or tractor boom sprayer can be used. Method of control must be agreed in advance with DARD.

### Conditions and standards

- Use Asulam (trade name Asulox) for the control of bracken. It gives good selective control with little long-term damage to most plants except ferns.
- For dense stands, follow up treatments after the first spray treatment, will be needed to give a complete kill.
- Protective clothing should be worn during spraying operations and manufacturers instructions followed at all times.
- Grant aid is available for the control of bracken by either manual knapsack sprayer or tractor boom sprayer

### Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs)

**Note: Consent must be obtained from the Environment & Heritage Service (EHS), Department of the Environment before any works are carried out within or along an ASSI boundary. The EHS contact telephone number for further information is 028 9054 6595.**

Management plans are provided for participants in the Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Management Schemes

