

## Reasons for designation as a Special Area of Conservation

Area name: **Ballykilbeg**

Administrative area: **Down**

Component ASSI: **Ballykilbeg**

This area has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) because it contains habitat types and/or species which are rare or threatened within a European context. The ASSI citation describes the special interests for which the site was notified in the Northern Ireland context. [NB: not for marine interests below mean low water mark]. The interests for which the site was selected as ASSI may differ from the interests selected in a European context

The habitats and/or species for which this area has been designated as a SAC are listed below. The reasons for their selection are listed, together with a brief description of the habitats and species as they typically occur across the UK. This area contains the interests described although it may not contain all the typical features.

### European interest(s):

#### 1. *Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia*

- **for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.**

Marsh fritillary butterfly. The marsh fritillary butterfly frequents damp meadows and, more rarely, chalk grassland, where its larvae feed on devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*. It has declined and is now extinct from the eastern half of its former range in the UK (except where it has been reintroduced) and has shown a similar decline throughout Europe. The UK, Ireland and the Iberian peninsula are now its most important strongholds.

### The Register of European Sites in Northern Ireland

Register reference number: UK0030319

Date of Registration 30 March 2006

Signed by: G R Seymour

on behalf of the Department of the Environment