

Reasons for Designation as a Special Area of Conservation

Area name: **Montiaghs Moss**

Administrative area: **Antrim**

Component ASSI: **Montiaghs Moss**

This area has been recommended as a candidate 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. 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 recommended 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: UK0030214

Date of Registration 13 May 2008

Signed by: E Diane Stevenson

on behalf of the Department of the Environment