

Wood Crane's-bill



Scientific Name:
***Geranium sylvaticum* L.**

Current factors causing loss or decline

Although occurring at a number of scattered sites, Wood Crane's-bill cannot now be described as frequent within the Glasgow area and, as noted above, the current sites appear to support only small populations (and it has not been seen at some in recent years). Loss of the woodland habitat is presumably the key reason for the decline (e.g. at Kenmuir Wood), although unsympathetic management, such as planting of heavy shading trees (usually exotics) and grazing pressure can also impact.

Current action

Wood Crane's-bill receives no specific conservation action at present. The surviving populations all occur within the Important Habitat Corridors associated with their respective rivers, although additionally Kenmuir Wood is identified as a City-wide Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and Netherton is part of the Cart and Killoch Valleys SSSI.

Current status

Wood Crane's-bill is a perennial with palmately (hand-like) divided leaves and showy blue-violet flowers, often with a reddish tinge. It is a plant of woodlands and hedges, also occurring locally in wet meadows; it is also found on rock ledges in mountain areas. Wood Crane's-bill is a northern species in Britain, with few records south of Yorkshire (mostly introductions), but quickly becoming locally common in upland areas of northern England and Scotland; it becomes rare north of the Great Glen.

Main Locations of Wood Cranes-bill in Glasgow



Today, in the City, Wood Crane's-bill is known from four scattered one kilometre squares with populations along the Clyde at Kenmuir, the Kelvin at Garscube, the White Cart at Netherton and the North Calder at Newton. At all of the locations it is only recorded as scattered individuals. It has been known in the local area since Thomas Hopkirk's time (1813) and Roger Hennedy (1891) described it as frequent from "woods, thickets and sides of rivers"; he also names Kenmuir Wood as a locality. Lee (1933) also describes it as frequent and notes woods and riverbanks as typical habitats.



Objectives and targets

A key priority is to gather accurate information on the distribution and populations sizes of Wood Crane's-bill. Increasing the awareness among landowners, managers and users about presence and habitat preferences will help to encourage effective management.

Object 1: Establish current distribution and population status of Wood Crane's-bill.

Target 1: Survey and monitor existing populations and identify new sites.

Object 2: Maintain the current distribution and population sizes.

Target 2: Ensure no further loss or damage to the surviving populations.

Object 3: Ensure appropriate habitat management to encourage viable populations.

Target 3: Introduce sympathetic management and prevent disturbance.

Object 4: Encourage the spread of Wood's Crane's-bill at known sites and to new sites.

Target 4: Investigate vegetative and seed propagation at known sites and suitable new sites.

Proposed Action with Lead Authorities

Action	Lead	Delivery	Objective
Policy and Legislation			
Ensure protection of known sites in any developments subject to Planning Applications.	GCC-LS	GCC-DRS, SNH	2
Ensure woodland populations are recognised during any woodland grant applications.	GCC-LS	GCC-LS, SNH, FWAG, FC	2, 3, 4
Site Safeguard and Management			
Encourage landowners, managers and users to implement sympathetic habitat management.	GCC-LS	GCC-LS, FWAG, SNH, FC	2, 3, 4
Species Management and Protection			
Introduce sympathetic species management at existing sites.	GCC-LS	GCC-LS, SNH	2, 3, 4
Collect seeds for use on-site and for nursery propagation.	GCC-LS	GCC-LS	3, 4
Advisory			
Ensure information and guidance on conservation management is available.	GCC-LS	GCC-LS, SNH, SWT, FWAG	2, 3, 4
Advise relevant landowners and users on the presence of Wood Crane's-bill and its conservation management.	GCC-LS	GCC-LS, SNH, FWAG	2, 3, 4
Future Research and Monitoring			
Sample populations for monitoring and management assessment work.	GCC-LS	GCC-LS(CG)	1, 3, 4
Survey suitable areas to identify new populations.	GCC-LS	GCC-LS, SWT, SNH	1, 4
Establish suitable sites for potential reintroduction.	GCC-LS	GCC-LS(CG)	4
Conduct literature searches to discover information on former distribution.	GCC-LS	GCC-LS(CG), GCC-CLS	1, 4
Communication and Publicity			
Use Wood Crane's-bill as an attractive plant in events and displays to promote species and habitat conservation.	GCC-LS	GCC-LS(CRS)	1, 4
Links with Other Plans			
Co-ordinate with management for Broadleaved Woodland action plan.	GCC-LS	GCC-LS, FC	1, 2, 3, 4
Review plan in 2010.	GCC-LS	GCC-LS	1, 2, 3, 4

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Glasgow City Council: Development and Regeneration Services(**GCC-DRS**), Glasgow City Council: Land Services(Conservation Group) (**GCC-LS(CG)**),

Glasgow City Council: Culture and Leisure Services (**GCC-CLS**), Glasgow City Council: Education Services (**GCC-ES**), Glasgow City Council: Land Services Countryside Ranger Service (**GCC-LS(CRS)**),

Scottish Ornithologists' Club (**SOC**), Greenspace for Communities(**GJC**), British Waterways(**BW**), Forestry Commission (**FC**), Farming Wildlife Advisory Group (**FWAG**), The WISE Group (**WISE**),

Glasgow Natural History Society (**GNHS**), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (**RSPB**), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (**SEPA**), Scottish Natural Heritage (**SNH**), Scottish Wildlife Trust (**SWT**),

Clyde Amphibian and Reptile Group (**CARG**), Butterfly Conservation (**BC**).