

## Wood Crane's-bill

### Description

This wild geranium has a very restricted range as a native in Ireland, being confined to hazel scrub, lightly shaded woodland or woodland margins and meadows about Glenarm, County Antrim. The leaves are deeply-lobed on long stalks; the flowers are mauve in colour.



The plant is a perennial, herbaceous species, spreading locally by its rhizome; longer-distance dispersal is by seed, but there is no evidence now of any such spread of the plant within Northern Ireland. Flowers are normally hermaphrodite, but with male and female stages: this is a device which inhibits self-fertilisation. Pollination is by insects. Female-only flowers, on separate plants from hermaphrodite flowers, and flowers in which there are no separate male and female stages are known from studies on populations outside Ireland.

### Distribution

The plant is known from post-1970 reports at four sites of which one is the Ulster Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve at Feystown where the plant is easily visible from the public road.

### Action

One of the three populations of the species is in Glenarm Wood ASSI

Feystown Nature Reserve is managed by the Ulster Wildlife Trust

Survey and monitoring work is carried out by the Ulster Wildlife Trust on Feystown Nature Reserve and by EHS at Glenarm Woods ASSI

Implementation of the Northern Ireland Habitat Action Plans for Mixed Ashwoods and Lowland Meadow.

### Further Information

<http://www.habitas.org.uk/priority/species.asp?item=3148>

### MLA Species Champion

