

# Ecology

## From dusk 'til dawn – site ecology is thriving!

You may have seen several reports from around the world on the positive impact that the lockdown has had on the environment, including clearer skies and wildlife returning to bustling cities and suburban areas.

Whilst we can't say for certain the impact the lockdown has had on Dargavel Village's wildlife, we recently completed our first every dusk survey and the results show that our wildlife and ecology is thriving even more than we thought.

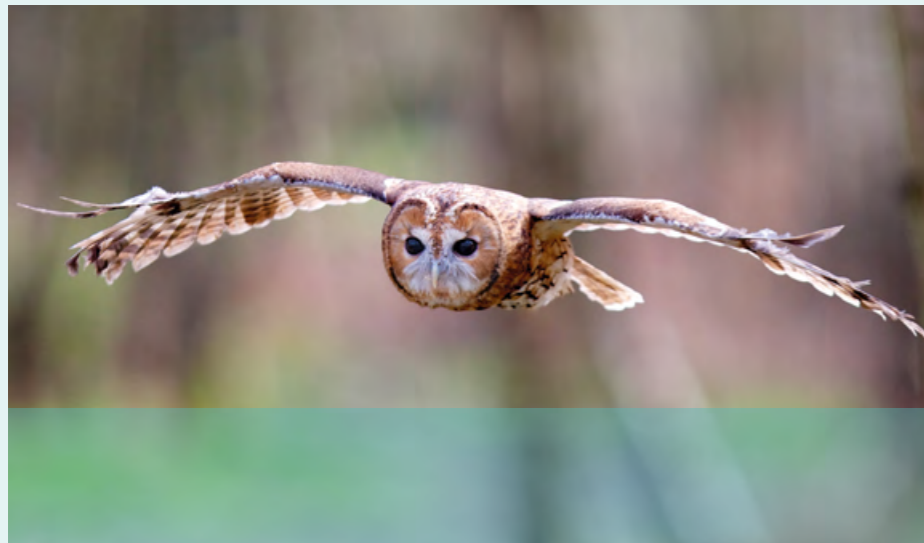
### In 2020 alone, we have found:

**Mammals:** Moles, shrews, rabbits, hares, otters, foxes, badgers, hedgehogs, minks, deer and multiple species of bat.

**Birds:** A wide array of birds, including cuckoos, tawny owls, yellowhammer, kingfishers and woodpeckers. We've also found an additional pair of nesting barn owls!

There's also a healthy population of the Dargavel Hornbeam (a hardy, local tree that provides a lot of wildlife with much needed cover in the winter) and we have some ancient Yew trees that are of particular ecological interest too. EADHA (leading experts in Aspen conservation and developing Aspen woodlands) has noted that some of our work on reforestation has given Dargavel Village one of the highest densities of region-specific Aspen anywhere in the UK, as well as a wide variety of fungi across the site.

Amongst the fungi varieties, there are many nationally rare species and also some samples are first finds in Scotland – including the *Pluteus Aurantiorugosus*, a rare orange wood-rotting fungus and a small black fungus called *Bombardia Bombarda*, named because it resembles a bomb in shape. Rather fitting given Bishopton's history.



## Did you know?

Samples of rare fungi found on site at Bishopton have been sampled by the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, London which has enabled them to propagate these fungi for the national collection.

# Community

## Public consultation over Dargavel Village road speeds



Following continued discussions held with local residents as part of the Community Liaison Group, we have been working with Renfrewshire Council to reduce speed limits on roads throughout Dargavel Village.

It is our understanding that Renfrewshire Council will soon be posting the formal notices for the Traffic Regulation Order that, following statutory consultation period, will see all roads in Dargavel Village (from the four way junction at Barrangary Road to Slateford Road's boundary) have a 20mph speed limit – including future roads that are to be built.

## Play parks open again

Don't forget, our play parks opened for the village's children on 10 July – but it's really important that young children are kept supervised and that social distancing practices still remain in place, including sanitising little hands before and after play.

## Community Police on hand

We're aware that there have been some recent incidents involving graffiti within Dargavel Village on road signs, bridges and up on the cannon at the viewpoint, as well as the dumping of garden waste whilst local recycling centres have been closed.

We've been actively addressing the damage, but the Community Police are on hand to help, so if you see anything, we encourage you to alert them by calling 101.

# Have your say

### Contact us any time

We are keen to hear your views on the Dargavel Village development.

### Send your thoughts to us at:

Georgetown Reception Centre,  
Houston Road, Houston PA6 7BG

T: 0800 130 3302

[www.boesystems.com/bishopton](http://www.boesystems.com/bishopton)



# Update

Welcome to the autumn issue of the Bishopton regeneration newsletter

[www.boesystems.com/bishopton](http://www.boesystems.com/bishopton)

Since the issue of our last newsletter at the end of 2019, there has been what feels like a seismic change to how we all work and live.

Construction at Dargavel Village stopped on Monday 23 March 2020 in response to the Government's COVID-19 guidance. Then, at the end of May, a route map to the phased restart of construction works was agreed between Construction Scotland and the Scottish Government. Our site operations and control measures were aligned to this enabling us to restart works in June 2020.

Whilst out and about in Dargavel Village, you may have seen what will become Dargavel Primary School starting to take shape just off Barrangary Road. It really is amazing how things can progress week-on-week, so keep your eye out as the building's steel frames are erected and the shape of the school becomes clear in the coming months.

This is a very exciting part of the development and I know there are a lot of prospective pupils and their parents looking on with eager eyes. The positive impact that the school will have on the community goes without saying, and it's something that we are proud to be working on to deliver in partnership with Renfrewshire Council and Robertson Construction Central Scotland Ltd.

In addition, we continue to support the Bishopton Community Development Trust with their strategy to deliver Holm Park. Our team have been providing commercial and technical support to the Trust with their initial works to improve drainage of the park.

One of our key milestones for 2021 is the development of the masterplan for Central Park. We are well underway with its design, and will be submitting our planning application for this in October. We'll give you more information about the park and our designs in our next edition.

Jon Gettinby  
Head of Bishopton Programme

# Development news



## Primary school construction making progress

We resumed construction work on the primary school on 15 June in compliance with Scottish Government COVID-19 guidance.

In order to do this, we needed to make some changes to the way we work on the site, but overall we're pleased that progress has been able to continue on building the community's new school following lockdown restrictions in March.

Good progress has been made on the extension of Craighton Drive which gives access to the new school and all of the foundation works for the school site are completed. In the coming weeks you will start to see much more visible construction work taking place. At the end of August we took delivery of the school's steel frames, which have started to be erected and now the structure of the school is starting to really take shape.

In other primary school news, following consultation carried out earlier in the year, it was confirmed on 20 August at the Education and Children's Services Board that the new school will officially be called Dargavel Primary School!

## Our pumping stations need your help!

One of the site's sewerage pumping stations has recently had a number of technical issues due to the machinery becoming clogged up with non-disposable wipes, such as wet wipes for children and general use disinfectant wipes, which reduces their capacity and how effectively they work.

Non-disposable wipes are made of materials that do not readily degrade and cause serious issues to drainage systems. We ask that all wipes are disposed of in a proper and responsible manner and not flushed down the toilet.

## Infrastructure being prepared for new development

In addition to the extension to Craighton Drive, enabling access to the new Dargavel Primary School, construction work is well under way for the new road to enable access to the Robertson Homes and David Wilson Homes developments, as well as future access to Dargavel House and Dargavel Country Park.

This new road will connect to the four-way traffic lights that currently sit on Barrangary Road opposite Forge Crescent and will be in place by December.

Work has already been started by both Robertson Homes and David Wilson Homes, with some foundations being laid ready for new housing to be built in the coming months.

Robertson Homes will also be building 58 socially rented properties with a view to being available from summer 2021.

## We're going digital!

We're planning on building on the important ecological and environmental work that we've done over the years by making future editions of this newsletter digital. By doing this, we'll be stopping printing thousands of copies of this newsletter annually and reducing the development's carbon footprint.

We're planning on publishing the next edition on [www.baesystems.com/bishopton](http://www.baesystems.com/bishopton) and there will be a limited number of print editions available in key community locations throughout Bishopton and Dargavel Village.

We'll make sure that we spread the message about when the next edition has been published using some of our community contacts and social media, as well as notice boards and posters in community locations.

## Look out for our new heritage board!

We've installed a brand new heritage board in the village, which looks back at one of the most important buildings at ROF Bishopton – the huge munitions factory that once stood on the site of what Dargavel Village is today.

It's been installed in one of the village squares on Craighton Drive, opposite where the ROF Bishopton admin building once stood.

Our heritage boards feature some interesting snippets of information about the area's heritage, including some old photographs and facts. Have you been to look at the board at the cannon on the hill, or the wildlife boards by the Dargavel Ponds? If not, why not go and take a look?

